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Official Report

DAY 27

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Tony Akoak, MLA

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)

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Development and Transportation; Minister of
Energy*

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(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Karen Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible
for Immigration; Minister responsible for the
Indigenous Affairs; Minister responsible for the
Utility Rates Review Council*

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Hon. Pamela Gross
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Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. John Main
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for Suicide Prevention*

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

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(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield
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(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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Solomon Malliki
(Aivilik)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Pangnirtung)

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Minister responsible for the Status of
Women; Minister responsible for the
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Hon. David Joanasie
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Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Hon. David Joanase, Mr. Joelle Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurto, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>> *House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak) (interpretation): Before we proceed, Ms. Killiktee, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>> *Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to all Nunavummiut who are following the proceedings.

(interpretation ends) Good afternoon, colleagues and to all Nunavummiut who are watching our proceedings.

Speaker's Statement

It is great to be back in our Chamber as we last met here on November 8, 2022.

Before we commence our proceedings, my sincere congratulations to Team Nunavut...

>> *Applause*

...who participated in the 2023 Arctic Winter Games in Alberta. Team Nunavut brought home many medals due to their great performance.

The focus of this session is the Government of Nunavut's 2023-24 operations and maintenance budget.

I know that at moments there will be tensions and frustrations, but as in the past, we show respect for each other, for this institution, and for our rules, and when we do that, it shows respect for those who have elected us to represent them here in this Chamber, the people's igloo.

It is a fact that we will not always agree. Disagreement is part of your job. However, when we do disagree, we do so with the dignity and respect that our constituents expect from us.

Colleagues, due to weather issues in Cambridge Bay, we will have no Inuinnaqtun interpretation today and tomorrow.

Also, the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes, will be absent from the House today.

I am pleased to welcome Michael Ball from the Clerk's Office of the NWT Legislative Assembly, who will be assisting us over the next eight sitting days.

(interpretation) I also wish to voice this statement based on being a resident of Gjoa Haven since we just lost a beloved resident of our community who served on various boards and committees, as well as representing our community in meetings throughout Nunavut, hence I

believe many Nunavummiut will be familiar with this person, Ralph Qayalik Porter. He just passed away recently. That's for your information and I send my condolences to his family.

(interpretation ends) Members, it is my duty to advise you that I have received the following message from the Commissioner of Nunavut.

Money Message

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the Second Session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 16, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2022-2023*;
- Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2023-2024*;
- Bill 18, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2023-2024*; and
- Bill 21, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2022-2023*.

Sincerely, Eva Qamaniq Aariak,
Commissioner of Nunavut.

Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 131 – 6(2): Notice of Budget Address

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I welcome Clerk Ball to the Assembly. I look forward to working with you during this session.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues that on Thursday, February 23, 2023, I will introduce the proposed 2023-24 budget on behalf of the Government of Nunavut. This budget will outline our government's financial priorities for the fiscal year 2023-24. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. P.J. Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 132 – 6(2): Nunavut Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Newfoundland and Labrador

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. I also wish to warmly welcome and look forward to working closely with Mr. Ball during his temporary replacement assignment in this House.

(interpretation ends) Good afternoon, colleagues and Nunavummiut who are listening.

Mr. Speaker, on February 8 I was honoured to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The long-standing relationship between our regions is founded on common values, culture and heritage, northern

and arctic geography, and a shared maritime history.

We also face very similar challenges as governments, Mr. Speaker. This renewed partnership will help us to jointly advance innovation, enhance responsible economic and social development, and promote diversity as well as inclusiveness to create and maintain robust and vibrant communities.

Mr. Speaker, as coastal regions, this partnership of government allows us to work together to diversify our economies in areas like fisheries, tourism, and modern Internet connectivity. Together we can strengthen our skilled labour force by partnering in education and training that is relevant and accessible to our remote communities. We can also collaborate on infrastructure that promotes growth for housing and health care and contributes to Canadian sovereignty.

Our governments have agreed to establish a Cooperation and Implementation Committee. The committee will jointly develop a framework for cooperation and coordination at the governmental level in areas of mutual interest.

I would like to thank the Hon. Andrew Furey, who was a dear friend, for having signed the MOU at the Northern Lights Conference while we were in Ottawa. It was co-signed for us by our Deputy Premier, who is right next to me, Minister Gross, as well as the provincial Minister responsible for Labrador Affairs, the Hon. Lisa Dempster. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Minister's Statement 133 – 6(2):
National Day of Remembrance
and Action on Violence Against
Women**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues and the people of Pangnirtung. I also welcome the visitors in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform my colleagues about the events that took place in Iqaluit on December 6 on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. December 6 is a painful day for many Canadians, as we honour the 14 women who were murdered at Montreal's L'École Polytechnique in 1989.

Every year on this date, the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council recognizes women in Nunavut who are victims of violence. Qullit also uses this day to promote ways to end gender-based violence. This year, Qullit and our partners hosted two very successful events. The first event was held at Inuksuk High School, where partners provided lunch and a safe space for students to ask questions and talk about their fears, thoughts, and ideas on how to prevent gender-based violence. The council will use the feedback to develop a more targeted outreach to teens and young adults.

Mr. Speaker, the council also held their annual community walk and vigil in

remembrance of victims and in solidarity to end violence against women. The event was the most highly attended in the council's history and the passion and support of participants was evident.

I would like to thank our partners from the departments of Family Services and Health, as well as the Nunavut Law Society, the RCMP, Pauktuutit, and the YWCA. We are stronger together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Minister's Statement 134 – 6(2):
Mental Health Resources**

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to improving the mental health of all Nunavummiut. We all know that mental health issues contribute to many of the social and health issues that affect the lives of individuals, families, and communities. My department is committed to working towards change. That is why our mandate focuses on supporting mental health across the territory.

To achieve this important goal, we are increasing our mental health services for Nunavummiut, recruiting more Inuktitut-speaking counsellors, while focusing on ensuring more Inuit are employed within the health department and enhancing partnerships with Inuit organizations. Working in collaboration will improve the level of care available and ensure

services are culturally relevant and trauma-informed.

Another priority of our mental health mandate is reducing the rate of suicide in Nunavut. To do this, we must address the root causes that increase the risk factors that lead to many in Nunavut taking their own lives; factors such as exposure to trauma, bullying, discrimination, and the sexual abuse of children.

Through partnerships with other levels of governments, non-profits, and our care partners, we will develop the resources to meet the mental health needs of Nunavummiut.

I know that mental health is hard to talk about, but we must continue to shed light on this topic and speak openly about the needs, the issues, and the resources available. I want everyone to know that if they are struggling, help is available.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. John Main (interpretation): There is help available for any difficulties that we might face.

(interpretation ends) The Department of Health and partners across the territory have a variety of resources available. These include the Healing by Talking Program, Nunavut Kamatsiaqtut Help Line, counselling programs, the Atii Angutiit men's program, and others. Information is available on the Embrace Life Council website at InuusiQ.com. Those who need immediate support or are in crisis should call their health centre.

Mental health is just as important as physical health, and I believe we must continue to work together and give hope to each other and our communities through difficult times. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

**Minister's Statement 135 – 6(2):
QEC's Cybersecurity Incident**

Hon. Craig Simailak: Good afternoon and thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, all.

As many of us know, the Qulliq Energy Corporation was targeted in a cybersecurity incident on January 15. That same day, the Qulliq Energy Corporation immediately detected the unusual activity and took quick action to contain the situation. I stand here today to extend my immense gratitude to my colleagues and their departments, as well as the federal government and outside cybersecurity experts that have been quick to support the corporation while its teams work tirelessly to bring its information technology systems back online.

Currently the Government of Nunavut and cyber experts continue to work alongside the Qulliq Energy Corporation's information technology department to recover, restore, and rebuild the information technology network. The Government of Nunavut has generously offered infrastructure, equipment, expertise, and personnel resources to support further

strengthening network security with increased bandwidth and updated financial and operational applications. Implementing significant upgrades will require more time. However, these measures ensure that the Qulliq Energy Corporation will be even better equipped and more secure to withstand future attempts to attack its network.

While timelines for restoration and investigation currently remain unclear, I am confident that the corporation's careful and concerted efforts in responding to this incident will provide enhanced services to its customers, employees, and overall operations. I am grateful for the corporation's staff, who continue to support each other and repeatedly do exceptional work in implementing contingency plans. The Qulliq Energy Corporation is actioning best practices and strategies to guide response tactics and transition smoothly to the new system.

Cyber-attacks are criminal and malicious cyber activity has surged in recent years internationally. Critical infrastructure and utilities are increasingly being targeted, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation is taking these threats seriously and using this as an opportunity to upgrade our information technology systems. The Qulliq Energy Corporation is also regularly coordinating with the appropriate reporting authorities and thoroughly examining the cause and scope of the attack.

At this stage it is too early to determine if any information may have been compromised. We understand this attack may be a cause for concern, and I appreciate our customers and the public

for their patience. The Qulliq Energy Corporation's operations staff have taken necessary precautions to safeguard power plants so that they continue to function as normal. Customer care and administrative offices have begun returning to normal operations.

The protection and service of our customers remain our focus as we work toward restoring and rebuilding our network. The Qulliq Energy Corporation is committed to communicating progress updates as they become available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Minister's Statement 136 – 6(2): Team Nunavut – Arctic Winter Games

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the members and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all Team Nunavut athletes, coaches, cultural performers, youth ambassadors, and mission staff who have returned from the very successful 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

>> *Applause*

You represented our territory well and should be very proud of your accomplishments.

I also wish to thank Premier Akeeagok for being able to attend the celebration event that was held for Team Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Team Nunavut brought home 51 ulus, 12 of

which are gold. A special congratulations go to the under 19 Team Nunavut men's hockey team for winning Team Nunavut's first gold ulu at an Arctic Winter Games in hockey.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, Davidee Kudluarok from Sanikiluaq led Team Nunavut into the closing ceremonies after assisting Team Nunavut in securing three gold ulus in badminton.

>> *Applause*

An Hon. Member: A special shout-out to Davidee.

Hon. David Joanasie: Mr. Speaker, in closing, the 2023 Arctic Winter Games will be a lasting memory and gives us the momentum to start preparing for the 2024 Arctic Winter Games that will take place in Mat-Su, Alaska. The 2024 Games will be here before we know it, so I encourage athletes planning to try out for Team Nunavut to start their passport applications now.

Congratulations Team Nunavut. *Atii aksut!* Let's go, Team Nunavut.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Congratulations to the athletes. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Minister's Statement 137 – 6(2): Pink Shirt Day and Anti-bullying

Hon. Pamela Gross: Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, those in Cambridge Bay, and a special welcome to Mr. Ball.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on Pink Shirt Day to provide an update on the work the Department of Education has been doing to prevent bullying in Nunavut's schools.

Mr. Speaker, bullying can have serious repercussions, and we must work together to maintain positive school communities. By increasing awareness and equipping school leaders, school staff, students, and families with the tools they need, we can nurture safe and caring schools. The Department of Education has undertaken several initiatives to address bullying. For example, we partnered with the Red Cross to provide bullying prevention training programs for staff and youth in schools and sent bullying prevention pocketbook guides to all schools which helps school staff define bullying, how to recognize bullying, and offers tips to address bullying.

The Department of Education has also developed a series of social-emotional learning resources ranging from developing vocabulary to express emotions, building healthy relationships, respecting personal boundaries, and asking for help. These resources are supportive of authentic messaging about emotions and will equip our students with tools they can use to strengthen their mental health and advocate for their well-being.

Mr. Speaker, because everyone deserves to feel safe and be safe, the Department of Education will continue our efforts towards bullying prevention. One way we can all raise awareness about bullying is to participate in Pink Shirt Day. Pink Shirt Day is a great way to remind all of us of Inuuqatigiitsiarniq,

the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principle of respecting others, building relationships, and caring for people which sets the foundation for successful and welcoming schools. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Minister's Statement 138 – 6(2):
Nunavut 3000 Training Agreement**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Family Services, along with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Nunavut Arctic College, is working with NCC Development Limited to support construction related training for the Nunavut 3000 housing strategy.

Nunavut 3000 is an opportunity to scale up community-based trades training in communities. A memorandum of understanding was recently signed to help guide collaboration for the training initiative and to outline the joint commitments regarding implementation.

Trainee recruitment and community outreach is expected to occur this spring and will create training opportunities for up to 80 Nunavut Inuit in 2023-24. The agreement will maximize training investments, align curriculum and training resource development, support recruitment efforts, foster the development of a local labour supply, and explore other areas of mutual interest.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The minister is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her ministerial statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

Training is a key component of the *Katujjiluta* mandate. The Nunavut 3000 training initiative supports our efforts to develop a learner and community-focused approach to training to develop an inclusive labour market economy that distributes the territory's wealth for the benefit of all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, this training agreement represents the government's continued commitment to empower Inuit by creating opportunities and collaborating with our partners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements.
Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 173 – 6(2): Tribute to James Eetoolook

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge and Mr. Speaker, I cannot go on without acknowledging a great individual and most Nunavummiut are aware of James

Eetoolook, who retired last year from many years in politics.

Mr. Speaker, it all started off when I was able to know what was going on in life and it is a privilege to say that Eetoolook is my uncle and watching Eetoolook on his travels and I had the privilege to go out hunting with Eetoolook and he was always an inspiration to me in how he helped Nunavummiut on his travels out on the land or whether he goes out for his meetings.

He has been an inspiration to me and for that reason I feel that I am here today because of what I have seen what Eetoolook has done in his lifetime and it's great and with people like Eetoolook, it's the reason why we're here today. He wanted to see Inuit govern their own lands and he has done great over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I am very privileged to be here to acknowledge James Eetoolook of his retirement last year, and not only that, he is my uncle. It's a privilege to acknowledge him and I hope nothing but the best for Eetoolook in his retirement. Not only that, Mr. Speaker, Mr. James Eetoolook has a boat and it's called Netsilik, and I'm very honoured to be the Netsilik MLA. It's an honour.

I wish you nothing but the best, Eetoolook, and I know for a fact that you enjoy your time out on the land. Nunavut is beautiful; it's our land. With people like you, you make it possible for us to be here today, governing our own land in Nunavut. It's great. It's what he envisioned and it's a reality today.

Mr. Speaker, I think Eetoolook was always an inspiration to me and I want to

continue his legacy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Member's Statement 174 – 6(2):
Happy Anniversary to Wife**

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the residents of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet.

My wife and I recently celebrated our wedding anniversary. I was not able to be with her at that time because I had to come here. I just want to celebrate our wedding anniversary with my wife. If it wasn't for my wife, I don't think I would be able to be here. Thank you, wife; I love you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

**Member's Statement 175 – 6(2):
Congratulations to the New
Members of the Coral Harbour
Housing Authority**

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my colleagues and my constituents in Coral Harbour and Naujaat.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a number of my constituents who were appointed as members of the Coral

Harbour Housing Authority under the *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act*.

Mr. Speaker, the new members of the Coral Harbour Housing Authority are:

- Hannah Angootealuk
- Emily Eetuk
- Monica Emiktowt
- Kidlapik Nakoolak
- Johnny Ningeongan
- Dayna Ottokie
- Loretta Pee

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the members of our local housing organizations work with limited resources and face difficult challenges regarding such matters as housing unit allocations. I would like all of you to support them, as it is very hard to serve on a housing board.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of these individuals for putting their names forward to be members of the housing board and I look forward to working closely with them in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

**Member's Statement 176 – 6(2): Pink
Shirt Day**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join my fellow colleagues in recognizing Pink Shirt Day.

Mr. Speaker, every year on the last Wednesday of February, we celebrate

the Canada-wide event known as Pink Shirt Day.

Mr. Speaker, Pink Shirt Day reminds us to consider the impacts of bullying in our communities, our schools, and to share innovative ways to support our children and youth in becoming positive role models for themselves, their peers, and their communities. It's important that victims of bullying know that they're not alone and that there is help and support available.

Mr. Speaker, we all have a role to play in anti-bullying and stand up against it when we see it happening in and around us.

Mr. Speaker, today I'm happy to join members wearing pink shirts to show that we all stand up to bullying at work, at home, and in our communities. Together we can send a united message that violence does not belong in our families, our communities, and in our territory.

I would also like to add, to all those victims, boys, girls, men and women that feel the impacts of bullying to remind you to stay strong and be brave, and most importantly, never give up because you are loved, not just on Pink Shirt Day but every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

**Member's Statement 177 – 6(2):
Congratulations to Lucassie
Arragutainaq for receiving the
2022 Northern Science Award**

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, and I say "good afternoon" to my constituents in Hudson Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Lucassie Arragutainaq of Sanikiluaq, for being awarded the Polar Knowledge Canada's 2022 Northern Science Award for advancing Inuit research and scientific knowledge.

Mr. Speaker, the Polar Knowledge Canada is a federal agency and one of its responsibilities is to "advance knowledge of the Canadian Arctic in order to improve economic opportunities, environmental stewardship and the quality of life of its residents and all other Canadians."

Mr. Speaker, Arragutainaq was presented the 2022 Northern Science Award, the Centenary Medal, and a \$10,000 prize at the ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting on December 8, 2022.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 30 years, Arragutainaq has made countless contributions in various projects and research efforts across the Hudson Bay area. He has documented Inuit ecological knowledge and participated in a number of scientific studies regarding the changing environment of Hudson Bay. Arragutainaq ensured community voices and community priorities were incorporated into the research process.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize Lucassie Arragutainaq for his valuable contributions to Inuit research and environmental stewardship. His important efforts are beneficial for Inuit and the wildlife we have always relied on.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Lucassie Arragutainaq on his wonderful achievements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

**Member's Statement 178 – 6(2):
Support for an Elders Facility in
Pond Inlet**

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Pond Inlet and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituents to advocate for an elders facility in the community of Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, the elders have expressed a strong desire to have a local elders facility that they can move into and so that they will not be required to leave the community and their family as they age and require more support.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtittijii*, Pond Inlet is the largest community in the High Arctic. However, family ties with the communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, and Clyde River are still very strong and connected. We need more infrastructure in the High Arctic to support and benefit these

communities as well as the community of Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, the elders have indicated that they would also like the High Arctic elders facility to have extra beds to provide shelter for elders who, from time to time, are not safe in their own homes. Such a facility could also be a gathering place to socialize with other elders throughout the week.

Mr. Speaker, a number of our elders are desperately longing to come home and not be transferred to a foreign place. Their families and friends miss them and wish for them to be closer.

I understand that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has been working with a consultant to develop an elders strategy for our government and that they are consulting with elders across the territory. I truly hope that the needs expressed by Pond Inlet elders will be given serious consideration.

(interpretation) I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtittijii*, I have written to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to ask for their support and assistance. I call upon the Government of Nunavut to work towards making the dream of a High Arctic elders facility a

reality for our elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

**Member's Statement 179 – 6(2):
Celebrating Our Arctic Winter
Games Athletes**

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise today in recognition of my constituents from the communities of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq who participated in the recent Arctic Winter Games.

Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud to recognize Tina Kooneeliusie Kudlualik, who attended the Arctic Winter Games and came home with a bronze medal for her success in the girls' badminton event.

When Tina returned to our community of Qikiqtarjuaq, practically the entire community welcomed her upon her arrival, as I happened to be scheduled to fly out on that same flight, and so many people were there that even the windows had people peering in as it was completely full. The people completely obliterated any view of her as the youth swarmed around, both her fellow athletes and fellow youth, and some of her friends and family, including many of our families came to attend this event. I was quite proud to witness that as we also had an event that was previously only witnessed on television which occurred in Qikiqtarjuaq.

Further, upon her arrival, Mr. Speaker,

since the community came together to celebrate, the mayor, hamlet council and various parties united to celebrate and welcome Tina, and that was how it ended up being organized. The fire truck was even there and Tina was paraded around town and escorted to the community hall for a feast in her honour.

I am immensely proud of you, Tina Kudlualik, for your successful initiation to the winter games, as it impacted many local youth who were inspired. I urge you to continue to work hard to represent us in this field of athletic competition. I would like to encourage all youth to work towards these athletic events and congratulate all the athletes and representatives from Nunavut who attended the Arctic Winter Games.

We here in this House will also work hard to try to provide venues to play in and we will continue to voice our needs and ask you to take advantage of all facilities. I wanted to speak to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

**Member's Statement 180 – 6(2):
Happy Anniversary to
Constituents**

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my fellow MLAs, as well as Nunavummiut and the people of Kugluktuk.

The first item I wish to voice is in expressing my appreciation to my daughter, as she continues the tradition of our Coppermine calico parkas, and I

wanted to identify that sewing group locally.

Also, this couple just recently celebrated their 60th anniversary, Charlie and Jane Hinanniq. I wish them a happy 60th anniversary and also congratulate them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Member's Statement 181 – 6(2): Black History Month

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to Nunavummiut and welcome our members back to our beautiful community of Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, February is Black History Month and every February, people across Canada participate in Black History Month events and festivities that honour the legacy of black people in Canada and their communities.

The 2023 theme for Black History Month is “Ours to Tell.” This theme represents both an opportunity to engage in open dialogue and a commitment to learning more about the stories of black communities in Canada and what they have to tell about their history, successes, sacrifices, and triumphs.

Mr. Speaker, the African and Caribbean Association of Nunavut and the Black History Society of Nunavut have many events planned to celebrate the diversity of black Nunavummiut and their very important contributions to our society in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all Nunavummiut to learn more about our fellow community members and how they continue to contribute to shaping Nunavut's history. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Member's Statement 182 – 6(2): Youth Ambassadors at Arctic Winter Games

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the most recent Arctic Winter Games. Although the participants did not come from my constituency, I would like to acknowledge three young people who took part in the Arctic Winter Games as youth ambassadors.

The three people from Cape Dorset are Manumikallak Ashoona, Andy Saggiatok, and Katsua Saila. Other young people came from Nunavut and they represented the territory during the Arctic Winter Games. They were able to talk about Nunavut also during the Arctic Winter Games and other events.

We were also able to work with the volunteers to make sure that the Arctic Winter Games can proceed. I am very proud to acknowledge the volunteers for the Arctic Winter Games. I was seeing myself, as I was young once. I used to do volunteer work at other venues, but I would like to encourage the young people to volunteer during the Arctic Winter Games and to practise sports so that they have positive effects. They have positive events and the outcomes

are usually positive. You can meet new people and make new friends from different communities.

These are happy events and I do would like to acknowledge and be proud of the young participants from Kimmirut. I urge Kimmirummiut to get into sports and to take part in the game events.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank one of the teachers, Mitchell MacDonald, for chaperoning these youth ambassadors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 183 – 6(2):
Arctic Bay Participants at Arctic
Winter Games**

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start, I want to wish a big happy birthday to my youngest daughter, Hope Inuralaaq Akeeagok.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I also would like to rise today to acknowledge the young people from Arctic Bay to take part in the Arctic Winter Games. There are many participants in the Dene games and I'll try to mention all of their names.

Winning the first gold ulu for Nunavut, I would like to congratulate Lloyd Willie. Just prior to his return, he earned three different ulus, and I am extremely proud of his success in adapting the Dene games into exercises local Inuit can undertake, and they had success with these indigenous games.

I would also like to thank Thomas Levi and Roxanne Willie. I would also like to especially thank Cheryl Tilley, Horizon Willie, Elaine Tunraq, Lorna Kalluk, Levi Natanine, Lionel Willie, Noah Qaunaq, Logan Willie, Ragilee Oyukuluk, Collin Tilley, Adam Muckpaloo, Lorianne Akikulu, Gloria Arnauyumayuq, and Katelyn Akittirq.

They adapted to play these traditional Dene games and quite a few athletes were able to get medals, and I believe they were able to garner the most medals in these games from any community participating from Nunavut, and they got quite a few.

There were also two participants who played in the Inuit traditional games, Aiden Qaunaq and Donovan Qaunaq. I apologize for almost forgetting Joy Attagutaluk, who was also a participant.

Many residents feel quite proud of their success, and during their return from the Games they were acknowledged for their endeavours by the hamlet. They provided a tribute to welcome home the participants. It was completely overflowing with residents wishing them congratulations.

I urge the community participants of the High Arctic in Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord to take part in all future Arctic Winter Games categories, especially the 2024 games for our youth. Please chase your athletic dreams and work towards success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

**Member's Statement 184 – 6(2):
Arctic Fresh Food Hampers****Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the people of Igloolik and Nunavummiut.

I stand today to share in my appreciation of the following: Arctic Fresh. This company, Arctic Fresh, just recently provided needed food hampers to the many residents of Nunavut in various communities, and the food distributed provided over 3,000 families with much-needed sustenance in many homes. I want to share in voicing my gratitude on behalf of my constituents and this Legislative Assembly. I thank them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 185 – 6(2):
Pangnirtung Participants at Arctic
Winter Games**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to grab a rare opportunity this afternoon to congratulate the young people who partook in the various events at the Arctic Winter Games from Pangnirtung.

I would like to acknowledge Terrence Lawson, who won the gold medal in the 19 and under badminton category; Martha Joy Qaqasiq, who received the silver medal in the 19 and under girls' badminton doubles; Iris Sowdluapik, who got the bronze in the 16 and under girls' badminton doubles.

I was especially ecstatic of Jonah Kooneeliusie, who garnered three medals, with two gold medals in freestyle wrestling, Inuit wrestling, and a bronze in the team competition for wrestling.

As well, Nate Dialla got the bronze in the 16 and under boys' hockey category. I would also like to acknowledge the participants in this field: Jordyn Machmer, who is 11 years old, participating in the 19 and under girls' hockey category, as well as Jeanine Nakashuk, Samuel Nookiguak, Benjamin Alivaktuk, and Aaron Akulujuk.

They were provided good support by Barry Mason, who was a coach and one of the teachers in Pangnirtung.

The community of Pangnirtung welcomed the participants when they went home and they held a parade, and the whole community visibly expressed how proud they were of their athletes. They had coffee and tea together to acknowledge the young people.

I have now mentioned their names and acknowledged them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

**Member's Statement 186 – 6(2):
Cambridge Bay Participants at
Arctic Winter Games**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good day to everybody who is

listening and those who are here with us today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge our Arctic Winter Games athletes who are from Cambridge Bay that had a really great time participating at the events, which I know all Nunavut athletes were very happy to participate in as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Kiana Aqpik, Jiusipi Dimitruk, Kiana Ekpakohak, Reagan Evetalegak, Kirsten McCallum, Jaiden Maksagak, Lex Klengenberg, Aislyn Omilgoetok, and Deanna Taylor, as well as coaches, Gavin Greenley, Zack Cziranka-Crooks, and Chris Crooks, and also our Nunavut youth ambassador, Sienna Aitaok.

Mr. Speaker, Cambridge Bay brought home four ulus and I would like to acknowledge Kiana Aqpik for her bronze medal; Jiusipi Dimitruk for his silver medal; and Kiana Ekpakohak for her silver and bronze medals, all in wrestling.

Congratulations, and I wish all of the athletes all the best as they continue to train and inspire our youth to take part in these activities that are so exciting to be in, and we look forward to the next one next year. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeagok.

**Member's Statement 187 – 6(2):
Congratulations to Akutaq
Bathory-Williamson**

Hon. P.J. Akeagok (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to my constituents in Iqaluit-Niaqunngu who are listening, and to those who are present here in the gallery, welcome.

Mr. Speaker, my voice is not quite back to normal yet, as I was yelling and cheering very loudly for the athletes during the Arctic Winter Games. It was wonderful to see so many of our youth with such bright futures ahead of them. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude for the instructors and coaches that were working with our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this was the first time that many of the athletes travelled to southern Canada to participate in the Canada Winter Games in PEI. I am especially proud of one particular constituent of mine and would like to acknowledge Akutaq Williamson-Bathory. I was fortunate enough to be able to watch her skate and she was incredibly fast. In fact, she was so fast that I couldn't keep my eyes trained on her.

Akutaq was awarded the role of the flag bearer during the Canada Winter Games and was able to represent Nunavut. This made me incredible proud, so I wanted to acknowledge that here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Member's Statement 188 – 6(2): New
Constituency Assistant in Whale
Cove**

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the people of Whale Cove that a new staff member, Jenny Enuapik, will be joining our office, and I would like to welcome her. She has agreed to work with us and I would like to thank her for that.

I would also like to thank Susie Kritterdlik for being my constituency assistant in Whale Cove. She was working in my office for a year.

I wish the people of Whale Cove a good day. I will make sure to come and visit as soon as the opportunity arises. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I have no more names for members' statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Ball.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 210 – 6(2):
General Rate Application Process**

**Return to Oral Question 234 – 6(2):
Chesterfield Inlet Community
Learning Centre**

**Return to Oral Question 260 – 6(2):
Property Tax Rates**

Mr. Ball: I am tabling the following returns to oral questions which were asked during the fall 2022 sitting of the House: No. 210 – 6(2), No. 234 – 6(2), and No. 260 – 6(2). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

**Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the
Gallery**

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize one of my constituents from Coral Harbour who is here in the gallery today. Angela Gibbons, I would like to welcome you to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Paul Aarulaaq Quassa and his wife, Elizabeth Quassa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My representative has moved here to Iqaluit and I am very pleased that our *ukuaq*, Carla Oyukuluk, is here and I would like to recognize her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly.
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to
welcome Paul Quassa and Elisapee
Quassa. I also wish to state that I have
now succeeded you in the role of
representative in your stead. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly.
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
I wanted to recognize my best friend, my
son, Clarence Taylor Quqqiaq.
(interpretation) That's my son.
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the
Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-
Niaqunnguu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. I, too, rise to wish to recognize
the incredible people that have made
huge contributions, who sat right here in
this room as well. It's my honour to be
able to recognize my aunt, Pat
Angnakak, who is here in her House.
(interpretation) Welcome to the
Assembly.

>> *Applause*

As well as Paul and Elisapee Quassa,
who are here as well, (interpretation) I
would like to welcome them to their
House.

My constituents were already
recognized, but I would like to welcome
them all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly.
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
I would also like to recognize a city
council member, Mr. Paul Quassa and
his wife, Elisapee, as well as my former
minister, Patikuluk Angnakak.
Welcome. I am happy that you're all
here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly.
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.
Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr.
Speaker. Welcome to all of our visitors
in the gallery. I would like to pay special
acknowledgement to our Coalition of
Nunavut District Education Authorities
who is here with us.

We have Vivian Braun, DEA Officer.

>> *Applause*

Carla Oyukuluk, DEA Officer.

>> *Applause*

Angela Gibbons, Office Coordinator.

>> *Applause*

Amanda Marchand, Finance Manager.

>> *Applause*

And Pat Angnakak, Executive Director.

>> *Applause*

Quana, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. I have no more names. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 267 – 6(2): Water Infrastructure

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I often ask you to let me go last because it's so nerve-racking.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, the very first question that I asked in the Legislative Assembly concerned the critical issue of water infrastructure. At that time I noted the paramount importance of taking decisive action to address Iqaluit's aging and inadequate water infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, the events of the past few weeks have been difficult for many residents of the city. We are all aware of situations where residents have gone for significant periods of time without water.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the frontline municipal staff and private contractors who have been working incredibly long hours in incredibly challenging circumstances. However,

they can only do so much with the community's aging infrastructure.

Can the minister confirm what assistance and support his department has been providing to the city during this recent wave of shutdowns and freeze-ups? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, my department staff have been in ongoing communication with City of Iqaluit officials over the last two and half weeks and there has been ongoing monitoring of the status of repairs and service interruptions.

I would also like to take the time to appreciate and thank all the staff and contractors that have attended to these freeze-ups, and it has been a very tough go at it. The frigid temperatures haven't helped one bit, but I give them my hats off to be working in this environment.

Mr. Speaker, my department has supported the city to date on two specific requests for assistance in providing bottled water for residential use. This is basic support, but unfortunately it is for those that are facing interruptions on water services. Mr. Speaker, in discussing with the city, we are prepared to consider additional requests for support as identified by the city. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that response. When I raised the issue of water infrastructure during our most recent spring sitting, I congratulated the city for having successfully achieved over \$214.0 million in new federal funding to “ensure the safety and long-term sustainability of Iqaluit’s water supply system.”

At that time the minister indicated that although his department would not be directly managing the project, it would be prepared to support the city. The minister just mentioned the most recent support and what I would like to know is: can the minister provide an update today on the status of the ongoing, overall support for this major project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the recent issues that are faced by the city and the water distribution system here just highlight the importance of continued investment into water and wastewater and critical infrastructures, not just here in Iqaluit but also other communities.

As the member pointed out, the city has pursued the funding through the federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund that was announced recently. This is to ensure long-term sustainability of the city’s water supply system and increasing the capacity for growth. At this time we know that this project is being planned and managed by the city and questions would be better directed to the city themselves.

However, I can confirm that the city and the contractors are underway in planning the preliminary stages. It is a big, multiyear, multi-million-dollar project, so it’s going to take some time to get to the end result, but it can’t come soon enough. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, his department’s current business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the current 2022-23 fiscal year is to “work with partners and stakeholders to develop and deploy the Drinking Water Strategic Framework Action Plan.”

Mr. Speaker, the current fiscal year ends just a few weeks from today. Can the minister assure this House that he will be tabling the government’s Drinking Water Strategic Framework Action Plan before the end of our current winter sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately I can’t commit to that at this time, but the strategic framework draft has been completed, we know, and we expect that the framework and action plan would be completed by the end of this fiscal year, March 2023, and this is an ongoing priority area for my department among others. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Question 268 – 6(2): Child Care
Centre in Sanirajak**

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good day to the people of Amittuq.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education in regard to child care in Sanirajak.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the community of Sanirajak currently does not have a licensed child daycare centre.

Looking at the letter from February 2023, Sanirajak is listed as having no availability for child daycare and two other communities, but specifically focusing on Sanirajak, can the minister provide an update on what steps her department is taking to assist the community of Sanirajak to establish and open a licensed child daycare centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* for the question. In terms of child care in Sanirajak, I know there are a number of our communities that the Department of Education is working to support child care in our communities. If there are communities that don't have child care currently, like a facility, then the department has staff that work directly with the hamlet or the non-profit organization to support the creation of the facility.

In terms of Sanirajak right now, as the member stated, there is no child care

centre, but we are working to talk with the hamlet. I know there have been discussions with the hamlet on that space and we hope that we can help them to the best they can to start up a new daycare in their community. There are challenges sometimes logistically when it comes to daycares, but we're always happy to provide that support to support those that want to open up a daycare in our communities.

The Department of Education does provide operations and maintenance funding and we just received last year the Canada-wide early childhood agreement, which is \$66.1 million, to support child care in our territory, which is an amazing contribution to our territory and the needs of our youngest population.

We're working to solve issues and I would be happy to further discuss with the member on the next steps that are being taken when I can get that information. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, on the information that you provided, that you're working with the hamlet to work with the community.

As you are aware, back in November, our federal counterpart with the federal minister went to Igloolik to announce the \$10 daycare in Nunavut and it was first announced it is Nunavut and it was great that Nunavut was the first one to get the \$10 daycare.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that establishing a child care centre is not simply about finding a building and opening the doors for daily child care. The building needs to be safe and secure and staff need training in early childhood education.

Can the minister describe how she works with her colleagues in Community and Government Services to assist the community in finding a space? The minister just led me to the question that she raised. How is the department working with Community and Government Services and how she will work with the board of Arctic College to ensure that Sanirajak residents have opportunities for training and certification in early childhood education? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I believe there were a couple of questions in the member's question, so I'll work to answer. The first one was about how the Department of Education works with Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of capital funds, the department isn't able to build daycares, but we do support, as I mentioned, other entities who do work on capital projects or able to use a building, like hamlets sometimes give a building to a non-profit organization for a dollar in some instances for child care needs and there are other entities that are building daycares in Nunavut.

The department does work with Community and Government Services

when we go through the opening of our child care facilities with the inspection process, working with the fire marshal and other personnel who help to support the opening of the building to ensure that they're safe and that they're safe for our youngest population to be there.

The second question, Mr. Speaker, maybe he can ask that in his next question, as I can't recall exactly what he was asking. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be honest; it pretty much covered the whole question that I had, Mr. Speaker.

Now, under the Nunavut *Education Act*, section 17, early childhood programs, let me go straight to that:

- “(a) shall provide an early childhood program that promotes fluency in the Inuit Language and knowledge of Inuit culture; and
- (b) may provide other early childhood programs.”

In saying that, Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide early learning programs in schools through agreements with third parties, such as and probably hamlets? Can the minister provide an update on how many agreements she has entered into with third parties to provide early learning programs in Nunavut communities and specifically in Sanirajak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* for the question. That's pretty detailed information that the member is requesting, but the Department of Education has supported in 2022-23 three district education authorities to run ELCC programs. The communities of Nauyasat, Sanikiluaq, and Igloolik are the three communities that the department has supported and we also have 19 third party ELCC programs that we have assessed for funding.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education does support early learning and child care for our district education authorities and each year we contribute under the *Education Act* \$1 million to the district education authorities to use for enhancement of Inuit language programming and to acknowledge Inuit culture through the early childhood programs.

People who are able to apply, we encourage people to apply for this fund and we have applicants, as I said, the communities, and we look forward to those programs being offered in our child care facilities across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

**Question 269 – 6(2): Kugluktuk
Airport Terminal Building**

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are regarding the Kugluktuk Air Terminal Building. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister is aware, the community of Kugluktuk is in urgent need of a new airport terminal building.

Although the Legislative Assembly has previously approved millions of dollars in funding towards this project, the government has cancelled a number of airport-related tenders because of high bids.

The most recent tender for this project closed earlier this month. Information published by the government indicates that only one bid was received.

Can the minister clarify the status of the tender award process for Kugluktuk's new airport terminal building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These tenders recently closed and we went through the bidding process for the Kugluktuk Air Terminal Building. At this time, we don't have details due to the recent closure of the tenders and while in session, this government will request additional appropriations and this request will be presented to this House soon, probably during this week. This is the current status of this measure, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department's request for tenders indicated that the Inuit labour requirement for this project

is 40 percent. Can the minister confirm if this requirement is still in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, this requirement for 40 percent Inuit labour is set and is still a basic requirement under this process, and we anticipate more Inuit working as a result. We hope the proponents will take that into consideration, but that is one of the many details listed in the process and we still have no idea how this will play out. We hope this will be finished. During the bidding process, we already envisioned and realized 40 percent Inuit labour force in Kugluktuk could be achieved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. Can the minister clarify the current timeline for the opening of Kugluktuk's new airport terminal building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, during our sitting this week, the request for appropriation of funds will be discussed regarding the airport terminal buildings to be constructed in five communities. I very much look forward to that and I will seek your

support for the request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Question 270 – 6(2): Kugaaruk Power Plant

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, Kugaaruk's current power plant is almost 50 years old and in need of replacement, much older than me and the minister. Mr. Speaker, in June 2022 the Utility Rates Review Council submitted its report to the minister concerning the Qulliq Energy Corporation's proposal to construct a new power plant. Mr. Speaker, the Utility Rates Review Council recommended that the project be approved.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update today on the Qulliq Energy Corporation's timeline for the design and construction of Kugaaruk's new power plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. With regard to the Kugaaruk power plant replacement project, it is still on the list. Currently we do not have a timeline as to when that will be going to tender for design and construction. There are a few power plants that are

older than the Kugaaruk power plant. Kugaaruk is on the list for a replacement, but at this time, we do not have a timeline for design and construction for Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Utility Rates Review Council's report indicated that the Kugaaruk power plant project is eligible to receive federal funding under the Arctic Energy Fund. Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm the status of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's application for funding under this federal program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the federal funding for the Kugaaruk power plant, it may qualify for the Arctic Energy Fund. It will depend on the power plants that will be constructed before Kugaaruk. At this time, we do not know if that will fall under the Arctic Energy Fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Information contained in the report of the Utility Rates Review Council indicated that the Hamlet of Kugaaruk made a formal submission. In its submission, the hamlet indicated that "...in order for diesel reduction, local supply security, cost effectiveness and

sustainability objectives to be achieved, renewable generation and energy storage need to be part of the new Kugaaruk Power Plant design."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify how the design of Kugaaruk's new power plant will meet these objectives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the design phases, we take anything and everything into consideration. If we can make it fit, then we would make it fit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Question 271 – 6(2): Status of Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Many residents, including my constituents, want to hear directly from the horse's mouth, so to speak, and Qikiqtarjuarmiut wish to hear either now or further down this session. This is the first question I wanted to start off with.

Mr. Speaker, the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre is the oldest health centre in Nunavut now. It's the oldest of all the health centres and it no longer meets the needs of the community. I'm talking about the one in Qikiqtarjuaq.

Can the minister provide an update on the current status of his department's plan to replace the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre with a new facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. We are aware of the dilapidation of this facility serving as the local health centre in Qikiqtarjuaq due to its immense age and it was recognized in past assessments. Nonetheless, we also need to search for funding related to the construction process. Due to missing some details, it has led to the delays and we have requested further details from the Department of Health several times, but we haven't been able to secure the funds up to now. In our planning process from 2025 to 2026, in this fiscal year, the funding will begin to be placed to fund the project, starting with \$2.2 million, and as the detailed design phase starts, we will go and then construction would proceed in the following years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is very unfortunate. Nonetheless, it showcases the difficulties we run into when public funding is restricted. Albeit with proper substantiations, the lack of funding is still the deciding factor and with our observations of limited funding, however, we must keep trying to push hard for it, even though it's in that situation.

Mr. Speaker, to say it in English, (interpretation ends) the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on many areas, including the construction industry.

Can the minister describe how his department's plan to replace Qikiqtarjuaq's ancient community health centre with a new facility has been impacted by delays in construction and specifically, can he tell us how the timeline for the completion of this project has been affected?

(interpretation) Although we just heard previously that this matter requires further work, I ask that more details be provided forthwith, hence my further question on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the question, we haven't necessarily seen delays in the project due to COVID specifically. As I mentioned, the project has been awaiting for funding and so that has been the principal reason for the long build-up towards building the health centre.

As I mentioned in my previous reply, detailed design would commence in 2025-26, construction would be 2026-27, with substantial completion in 2028. That's our current plan and I should note that the budget for the project is roughly \$40 million, but there's a big asterisk next to those numbers because those are pre-COVID estimates and, as we know, the cost of construction has risen considerably in the past few years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also appreciative of the further clarification provided by the minister, which is clearly understandable, hence our comprehension.

Yes, a lot of projects have been delayed due to COVID-19. I know a bottleneck exists somewhere due to the many delayed projects, obviously. I am also aware of prior projects abandoned and left, but I feel that the minister can encourage further development, at least a pre-planned design that can be done. I would further like to ask the minister to keep pushing for this project and to make sure that it's well known that we really need to replace the ancient health centre in Qikiqtarjuaq. It's extremely old now and they have needed a new health centre for a very long time and they have been patiently waiting for it.

I have been directed to ask you to make sure that this work proceeds as soon as possible and all the planning that has been done for the project be adhered to and it should be made one of the priorities of this government. There have been problems with the deliverance of health matters. I want to make sure that there are no more delays to the project and that it proceeds. Can you commit to that, minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to relate the details for this enterprise, as we have ascertained certain details related to the dates of construction. Indeed, we can

also revisit the idea of providing a ready cache of funding and whether we could move forward, and that is our goal.

(interpretation ends) We would be looking for opportunities if there was additional funding that became available, let's say, from our federal partners, for example. There may be opportunities to move the timelines up because we really do want to make progress on getting Qikiqtarjuaq replaced.

We know that there are other communities awaiting facilities: Kugluktuk, Baker Lake, Arviat is awaiting an expansion. There's a long list of communities that are waiting for this critical infrastructure and it's something that we're working on quite hard at the department in terms of pushing and looking for partners as well in terms of the infrastructure needs under health.

Thank you very much for the member's questions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Question 272 – 6(2): Chesterfield Inlet Airport Terminal Building

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

During the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly, I tabled photographs which clearly showed the poor condition of Chesterfield Inlet's airport terminal building.

Although the Legislative Assembly has previously approved millions of dollars in funding towards this project, the government has cancelled a number of tenders because of high bids.

The most recent tender for this project closed earlier this year. Information published by the government indicates that two bids were received.

Can the minister clarify the status of the tender award process for Chesterfield Inlet's new airport terminal building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The five terminals that we put out for tender have closed and we are exercising our 60-day period, as we will make the decision within those 60 days. At this point the tenders have closed, but we have not made a decision in terms of whether we award it or not. During this session, we will be seeking for more money towards this and I will ask members for your support on these very important projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department's request for tenders indicated that the Inuit labour

requirement for this project is 35 percent. Can the minister confirm if this requirement is still in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member mentioned, there are two bids that are on the table right now. Until we award those, we won't know what the percentage that they have put in. During the bidding process, we have indicated that there could be 35 percent Inuit labour content. That's a standard practice with our tenders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify the current timeline for the opening of Chesterfield Inlet's new airport terminal building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the exact timelines. That's all part of the tender or part of the proposals that are going to come. Once we award them, we will have a timeline. The timelines are built through those tender processes and that's when I would know exactly when we anticipate to be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 273 – 6(2): Community Wellness Funding

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say “good day” to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to question the health minister.

I’m in receipt of a copy of a letter that was written to the Minister of Health dated February 15 from the Mayor of Arviat concerning the community wellness plan funding. This all stems from when the Hamlet of Arviat received an email on February 14 and I’ll just read part of the email concerning the community wellness plan.

“We have decided to seek other sponsoring agencies to take on community wellness program funding. Starting April 1, 2023, the Hamlet of Arviat will no longer be receiving funding specifically for local community wellness programs.”

Mr. Speaker, the hamlet does great work in Arviat for the youth. There are over 1,100 youth in Arviat. This funding that is going to be taken away from the Hamlet of Arviat is used to fund two programs in particular. One is the summer camp program, which had on average 180 youths enrolled in the seven-week program when school is out to give these kids a safe, supervised place to spend while they’re not in school, and the other one is a youth drop-in centre which is open six days a week and 70 to 100 youths come there every day, every single day.

To have the funding pulled out of nowhere also goes against the minister’s statement that he just said about mental health, “...we must address the root causes that increase the risk factors that lead to many in Nunavut taking their own lives; factors such as...trauma, bullying, discrimination, and the sexual abuse of children.”

Mr. Speaker, these two both programs provide safe, supervised places for these children to be so that stuff like this does not happen. I would like to ask the minister: why has the department pulled the funding for the Hamlet of Arviat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) First of all, I guess I’ll mention that in terms of the high-level summary, Health has a 10-year territorial health plan that was developed with Health Canada and it’s now with Indigenous Services Canada that provides funding through a single contribution agreement for community-based health promotion and disease prevention programs in Nunavut, and the effective dates are April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2027. The current total 10-year funding for the Nunavut Wellness Agreement, which is the agreement between our government’s departments, is \$272.6 million. The average is \$27.2 million per year.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of the \$27 million per year that is coming into the department, it’s handed out to hamlets and it follows their community wellness plans. Health is the administrator of the funds, but we don’t set the terms of the

funds and how they need to be used. That's the responsibility of the organizations receiving the funding to follow the terms of the agreements in place.

In terms of Arviat and the work with our staff, there's quite a lot of detail there that I think is probably best not discussed here in the House, but the conversations are ongoing with my staff and the hamlet in terms of any potential changes to the flow of funding. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to hear that there are conversations going on because the email from one of the health officials says that the funding is stopping. Starting April 1, 2023, there is no more funding. It's very clear in the email.

Mr. Speaker, not only that, but they're also saying that they're looking for other sponsoring agencies to take on this wellness program. The Hamlet of Arviat has the facilities. They have the drop-in centre, a structure, a building where the program is run. They have a summer camp, buildings, structures, and a safe swimming area where the kids can swim safely and supervised.

Can the minister just clarify that the funding may still go ahead? Because what the minister is stating and what the email says are two different things, will the funding stop on April 1, 2023 for Arviat or are there talks going on and the funding will continue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) At this point all I can say is that conversations are continuing.

In terms of determining the flow of specific pieces of funding, those are not ministerial decisions. These allocations of funding that go out to every community in Nunavut are in place. The agreements are in place. In most cases, they're going to the hamlets. However, there are other funding organizations that may be receiving funding.

In terms of a response, the conversations are ongoing and I'm unable to say whether or not that funding will indeed cease. In any case, the funding that's allocated for Arviat will remain allocated for Arviat. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What's more troubling and what's quite troubling here too is this: in the email it says, "We have decided to seek other sponsoring agencies to take on community wellness programs..." Even before that, they have asked for more clarification. I know that part of the process is community consultations.

The Hamlet of Arviat emailed on December 12 to ask if a radio show and that all the council members are voted on by the Arviat community, if that is considered community consultations, monthly radio shows that are reflective of what Arviarmiut want. They phone in and they tell their concerns and what

they want. The Hamlet of Arviat did not receive a reply until February 14, when they were told that the funding is cut off.

Can the minister clarify what the minister just said, that the funding that Arviat is getting will continue? Can the minister clarify what that means? Will it continue after April 1, 2023? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of a clarification, under the Nunavut Wellness Agreement, there is funding that's allocated on a community-by-community basis and so there is no intention that I'm aware of to change the allocation that's going to Arviat, currently to the Hamlet of Arviat, that that would be redirected anywhere else. It will still go earmarked for the community of Arviat.

As part of the 10-year Nunavut Wellness Agreement, the first evaluation of the agreement was recently completed, with a final evaluation report and accompanying action plan provided to Indigenous Services Canada in September 2022. This was a five-year evaluation and basically my understanding of the evaluation is that it was looking at the effectiveness of the funding and making sure that the government and the people of Nunavut are getting the best bang for their buck in terms of this wellness funding and how it's being spent across Nunavut, and also looked at compliance with the funding terms and conditions and made sure we are responsible to make sure that all the terms and conditions under the Nunavut Wellness Agreement are being followed.

That's part of our ongoing work at the staff level and work with many organizations across Nunavut, including the Hamlet of Arviat. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Question 274 – 6(2): Seasonal Time Changes

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to revisit the issue of seasonal time changes. Every spring and fall, Nunavummiut join people across Canada and North America to curse and complain about the disruption caused by time change. Mr. Speaker, I can sympathize with my fellow Nunavummiut for I believe that any justification for "spring forward and fall back" are either outdated or are outweighed by the serious health and economic impacts we know are associated with time change.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, a significant number of Canadian jurisdictions agree with me and are moving away from the practice of seasonal time changes and adopting a year-round standard time.

Mr. Speaker, when this issue was raised during our last spring sitting, the minister indicated that he had no position on the issue. Now that the minister has had sufficient time to consider the topic, I am hopeful that we will see some progress, and I am confident that my colleagues who have

also been raising this issue will be pleased.

I would like to ask if the minister can confirm today what the government's position is concerning the advisability of ending seasonal time changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. The government's position right now is that we do not have a position. We are currently not engaged in any discussions regarding making changes to daylight saving time in Nunavut. However, we are closely monitoring other jurisdictions in Canada that are thinking about it or doing it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Moving on to my next line of questioning or next question, Mr. Speaker, recently the Northwest Territories became the most recent jurisdiction in Canada to pass legislation to move away from seasonal time changes. The Government of the Northwest Territories has passed that piece of legislation with the intent of following through once other jurisdictions also put an end to seasonal time change.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories has joined Yukon, British Columbia, and Ontario, as well as Saskatchewan in moving in that direction. Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories has gone

through a lengthy process to determine the feasibility of standard time in the territory and has indicated that if the Northwest Territories does decide to end seasonal time change, it will be a lengthy and complex process that will require the Northwest Territories to ensure to the greatest extent possible that all devices, applications, and operating systems in the Northwest Territories that NWT residents depend on in their daily lives will receive the necessary software updates to reflect the new time.

Mr. Speaker, plainly, ending time change is not a simple matter; it is somewhat complex. It might sound as easy as passing legislation to make standard time or amending regulations, but that is only the first step. There are a number of steps along the process to actually bring standard time into force.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, a number of jurisdictions and provinces and territories have passed legislation or made amendments to the regulations to allow them to bring standard time into effect, contingent on their neighbouring jurisdictions, either other provinces or the States.

Mr. Speaker, right now the biggest hinge impacting standard timing in Canada is the United States and it has come to my attention that the United States Senate has recently passed a bill to make standard time in effect in the United States, allowing states to determine whether or not they would like to practise daylight savings.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is likely to implement the end of daylight savings or bring that piece of legislation into effect in the current calendar year. Mr.

Speaker, if that does happen in 2023 and other provinces and jurisdictions, such as Ontario, the NWT, and Manitoba, also make an immediate switch to end daylight saving time, how soon after would our government be in a position to follow suit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. How soon after would Nunavut follow suit with other jurisdictions? Of course that would take some time. If this became a priority, all Members of the Legislative Assembly would be engaged in conversations to determine the Government of Nunavut's position on daylight saving time. There would be extensive consultations in Nunavut.

As the member mentioned, technological devices, airlines, Microsoft, Apple, they would have to be dealt with as well to ensure that all of our clocks are in tune and in line with the changes. There would be a few different factors that would come into play if we were to follow suit with other jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, I'm worried that Nunavut will fall behind. Mr. Speaker, I think it is imperative that our government prepare in advance for what seems like an inevitable end to daylight saving time in certain jurisdictions in Canada. I think it is important that we are prepared, either through passing

legislation in advance of the United States, changing and creating a domino effect with our Canadian southern provinces.

Mr. Speaker, I would not want to see Nunavut in that position. I would like to be assured that in the event that Ontario or the NWT or any other close bordering neighbours decide to bring their legislation into effect, ending daylight saving time, I would like to be reassured that our government will be able to quickly implement some sort of similar standard time.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is well aware, a number of Canadian jurisdictions have held plebiscites or other public consultations to determine the views of their residents on this issue. I would like to ask if the minister is open to undertaking such an exercise in Nunavut to determine how many Nunavummiut truly wish to see an end of daylight saving time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. We can definitely take a look into it and start talking about it to see how soon we could do a review. The department is constantly observing our neighbouring jurisdictions to see how far advancing they are with ending daylight saving time. We do want to make sure that we don't fall too far behind, but we can definitely discuss it within the department and start talking about it and planning for it. It should happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Question 275 – 6(2): Naujaat Community Hall

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will recall, Naujaat suffered a major loss last year when our community hall was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Speaker, I'll say this in English. (interpretation ends) It is important that territorial assets such as schools and health centres and municipal assets such as community halls and hamlet offices have regular fire inspections, safety inspections, and regular electrical safety inspections.

Can the minister clarify how his department's Safety Services Division works with municipalities to ensure that their buildings receive regular fire and electrical inspections? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for Naujaat for asking about inspections. Mr. Speaker, there are different inspectors with the Department of Community and Government Services. There are electrical inspectors, heating inspectors, and building inspectors. With those different inspectors, we work with the hamlets as these inspections must be done annually and as buildings are being constructed,

the most up-to-date building code is used. We work with the hamlets and if they request an inspection, our Safety Services Division would review those requests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, at an appropriate time, I will be presenting a petition that has been signed by a number of my constituents concerning the replacement of the community hall.

Switching back to English, (interpretation ends) can the minister clarify how his department's capital planning process addresses the issue of municipal assets that are destroyed by fire, storms, or other disasters? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the member. We value the municipal assets. When they're damaged by fire or completely destroyed, the community suffers a loss. The Department of Community and Government Services uses the capital planning process, for example, in Sanikiluaq, the hamlet office. If a hamlet office is built in the community of Sanikiluaq, it would be turned over to the hamlet and owned and operated by the hamlet.

We did that in 2010 in Naujaat. It cost approximately \$5.9 million at that time. Our department turned over the assets to the hamlet and with that, if there is a

loss, then they would go through the insurance process. We go through NAMIX for insurance and we try to make sure that all assets are properly insured. I'm trying to get my message across. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. I have had discussions with the hamlet council, and just recently we saw the Fire Marshall's report just last week.

Can the Hamlet of Naujaat get further support, because those assets are very important to all community members? They used it for community gatherings by elders, youth, and the general population. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Fire Marshall in Nunavut's office, from what I understand, produce reports should there be a fire of a hamlet office. They're available to provide support. We will work with the Fire Marshall's office. If it's for the assets, I can say that the report that comes from the Fire Marshall, copies should be submitted to the hamlet council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Question 276 – 6(2): Air Service to Sanikiluaq

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

An Hon Member: Almost.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Qavvik: As the minister will recall, I asked him a number of questions during our recent fall sitting concerning the Government of Nunavut's support for the pilot project to provide direct air service between Sanikiluaq and Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, there are 25 communities in Nunavut, my position is that residents of all 25 communities should be able to travel directly to their territory's capital city without having to leave their jurisdiction. As the minister is well aware, our location in Sanikiluaq poses unique challenges.

Can the minister clarify the circumstances in which the Government would consider re-introducing direct support for direct air service between Sanikiluaq and Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The minister is pointing to the Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a part of my mandate, and I would like to thank the member for bringing up this subject. The direct flights between Sanikiluaq and Iqaluit were heavily subsidized for two years, this was initiated prior to this government sitting, and we were able to extend it. We can perform a review to

evaluate how much Sanikiluaq has benefited from this direct route.

I agree with you, Sanikiluaq is a part of Nunavut, but looking at the statistics there were not very many people who were taking advantage of that route. For example, we paid and set aside \$70,000 to pay for the empty seats.

To date, we have completed that review, and I am very pleased to say that Arctic Fresh is going to start direct flights. They will be financially supported for now, until they become independent and it becomes financially viable. At that time, there was a major challenge... . For example, in Sanikiluaq, and what I can say is that we can look at that review again and deal with the challenges that we had faced at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Switch of hats in an instant.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, the Premier has answered some of my questions during his answer. I would like to ask the minister; will he commit to tabling a report in the House during our upcoming spring sitting that includes his department's evaluation of this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks again to my colleague. Yes, I can commit to

providing the reasoning and really, the costs that were incurred by our governments and the justifications that lead to that decision of us not extending it beyond the December 31 deadline that was presented. I look forward to tabling that in the spring sitting. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the record, can the minister provide a clear explanation for the government's decision to end its support for the project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again to my colleague. The lack of use, really, was a determining factor in terms of how long we could support trying to create a market. Really, the intention of the pilot program was to see if it's economically viable to become self-sustaining.

I personally have gone through the route myself and really seen the true impact and the benefit of having that connection. I have also gone through the southern route before and I know how inconvenient that is in terms of costs and in terms of time. Really, the determination in terms of not extending the pilot program was really the numbers weren't there to justify the continuation at this point in time.

As I indicated, we are more than open to continue to explore what we could do to provide support moving forward. We

realized that there were some barriers that prohibited individuals to go into the community and I'll use the hotel not being accessible because it was blown away being one of them at this point in time.

There are a lot of factors that went into it, but when I do table the summary in terms of the usage that was used and the costs we incurred during the pilot program, I'm sure through that submission that we will be able to provide the responses to the justification that we had to do in not executing the extension. Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Ms. Nutarak.

Question 277 – 6(2): Adult Learning and Training

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the (interpretation ends) Minister of Family Services.

On February 16, there was an announcement on the Government of Nunavut's public service announcements on Adult Learning and Training Supports that as of April 1, 2023, Adult Learning and Training Supports will follow Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students deadlines.

Adult Learning and Training Supports provides financial help while Nunavummiut undertake training and upgrading. It is intended to increase chances of funding and maintaining employment.

Mr. Speaker, Adult Learning and Training Supports normally funds

training programs that are a year or less in duration and that will lead to employment. The funding program falls under two categories: training that directly leads to employment after it is completed and work readiness or upgrading training.

Can the minister tell us what programs are funded through Adult Learning and Training Supports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. Indeed, your assessment is truthful in that the FANS funding for adult education for a course less than a year or more than a year through the Department of Family Services' Adult Learning and Training Supports, requests can be made or applications can be submitted.

We have different categories, adult basic education programs, as it's called, or different determinations are made by the community on what training will be provided. I can't remember an example, but adult basic education is one of those that are included. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The different training courses offered usually begins with, Mr. Speaker, for example, there are different stages. Some of these programs will be affected, ABE, Adult Basic Education program for those who are taking those courses, when they apply for May and it closes in May, very few end up applying.

When people are back in August, teachers, educators, a request has to be made again to realize the training required. Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students, if we have a closing date of July 15, November 1, March 1, 2024, it will have a big impact. Is there any consideration to do something about because, usually, there will be funds available somewhere? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your question. The college foundation is one of those that I had forgotten about, that also is included for office work training.

To date, the funds requested for adult education a closing date coincides with funds requested from Family Services in July and December. That has not changed to date with respect to the deadline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If that schedule goes ahead, will you provide student financial

assistance that people may request funding at any time, because sometimes programs are created for specific dates.

Will you consider having an open framework for requesting for funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can further review the question being raised, and review the timeline for funding requests. We can consider and have a further review on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The time allotted for question period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Ball.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to Written Question 001 – 6(2): Premier's Duty Travel

Mr. Ball: Mr. Speaker, I'm tabling Return to Written Question 1 – 6(2) on the subject of the Premier's duty travel that was asked during the 2022 fall sitting of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. I recognize the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeagok.

Item 11: Responses to Petitions**Response to Petition 001 – 6(2):
Chesterfield Inlet Airport
Terminal Building**

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am responding to a petition that was tabled by the Hon. Alex Sammurток on November 7, 2022 regarding the new airport terminal building for Chesterfield Inlet.

I would like to reassure the residents of Chesterfield Inlet that the replacement of their community air terminal building remains a priority for the Government of Nunavut. This project, together with terminals for Nauyasat and Whale Cove, has been assigned to Government of Nunavut project managers in Rankin Inlet.

The project team has commissioned a full architectural design for the terminal and has issued construction tenders twice. There have been unfortunate delays. We have not been able to award a contract as a result of dramatic cost increases which are similar to those seen across Canada and around the world in the spring of 2021.

Despite the challenges, this project is proceeding. We secured additional federal funding in 2021 and have increased project budgets within the Government of Nunavut's capital plan. We hope to re-tender it in the near future and with the view of awarding it in time for the successful bidder to mobilize to the community in 2023. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on

Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 093 – 6(2):
Department of Justice Response to
the Standing Committee on
Oversight of Government
Operations and Public Accounts
Report on the Review of the 2021
Report of the Auditor General of
Canada to the Legislative
Assembly of Nunavut: Follow-up
Audit on Corrections in Nunavut**

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Department of Justice Response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts Report on the Review of the 2021 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut: Follow-up Audit on Corrections in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. I have one.

**Tabled Document 094 – 6(2): 2021-22
Annual Report of the Chief
Electoral Officer**

Members, I am tabling the 2021-22 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer. Thank you.

Item 14. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 14: Notices of Motions**Motion 014 – 6(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days – Notice**

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, February 24, that I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during this present sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. I recognize the Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**Bill 16 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2022-2023 – Notice****Bill 17 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2023-2024 – Notice****Bill 18 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2023-2024 – Notice****Bill 19 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Notice****Bill 21 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2022-2023 – Notice**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, February 23, 2023, that the following bills will be read for the first time:

- Bill 16, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2022-2023*;
- Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2023-2024*;
- Bill 18, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2023-2024*;
- Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*; and
- Bill 21, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2022-2023*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. I recognize the Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Bill 20 – An Act to Amend the Public Service Act – Notice

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Thursday, February 23, 2023, that Bill 20, *An Act to Amend the Public Service Act*, be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. There are no items in the committee. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. There is no report. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. There are none. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Ball.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Ball: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to remind members that the Standing Committee on Legislation will be meeting tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for February 23, 2023:

1. Prayer
2. Budget Address
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Members' Statements
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Replies to Budget Address
12. Petitions
13. Responses to Petitions

14. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

15. Tabling of Documents

16. Notices of Motions

17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

18. Motions

19. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 16
- Bill 17
- Bill 18
- Bill 19
- Bill 20
- Bill 21

20. Second Reading of Bills

21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

22. Report of the Committee of the Whole

23. Third Reading of Bills

24. Orders of the Day

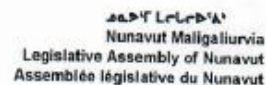
>> *Applause*

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Thursday, February 23, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 16:01*

Appendix – February 22, 2023



Travel Dates	Duration	Itinerary	Purpose of trip	Costs incurred by the Premier and the Premier's Office Staff	Other Participants
December 5-11, 2021	7	Iqaluit - Cambridge Bay	Full Caucus Retreat	4,233	Principal Secretary, Press Secretary, EIA DM, Premier's MPA, Cabinet Ministers
December 13-16, 2021	4	Iqaluit - Ottawa	Federal Ministers and PM Meeting, Premier Cochrane, Arctic Policy Forum	6,052	Principal Secretary, Press Secretary
March 24-26, 2022	3	Iqaluit - Cambridge Bay	Meeting between Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. Board of Directors and Government of Nunavut Cabinet Ministers	11,097	Principal Secretary, EIA DM, EIA ADM, Cabinet Ministers (Education, Health, Finance)
March 30, 2022	1	Iqaluit - Clyde River	Community Visit - Clyde River	272	Press Secretary
April 5 - 12, 2022	8	Iqaluit - Anchorage Alaska	Arctic Encounters Symposium	17,256	Principal Secretary, EIA DM
May 8 - 13, 2022	6	Iqaluit - Ottawa - Vancouver - Whitehorse, Yukon	Northern Premiers Forum; Meeting with NDP Leader and the Prime Minister; Attended Indspire Awards	16,607	Principal Secretary(Whitehorse), Press Secretary(Whitehorse and Ottawa), EIA DM
June 3 - 4, 2022	2	Iqaluit - Grise Fiord	Community Visit - Grise Fiord	264	Cabinet Ministers (CGS and Environment)
June 13-15, 2022	3	Iqaluit - Ottawa	Canada-Denmark Boundary Agreement Signing	5,837	Press Secretary
June 17 - 20, 2022	4	Iqaluit - Sanikiluaq	Graduation Ceremony in Sanikiluaq	6,469	MPA
June 21 - 25, 2022	5	Iqaluit - Arviat - Rankin Inlet	Community Visit - Arviat and Rankin Inlet	9,947	Principal Secretary, Premier's MPA
July 9 - 15, 2022	7	Iqaluit - Ottawa - Victoria, BC	Council of Federation Meeting	20,189	Principal Secretary, Press Secretary, EIA DM
August 26 - 30, 2022	5	Iqaluit - Greenland	Arctic Circle Forum	31,146	Principal Secretary, Cabinet Ministers (CGS, EDT & ENV)
September 1 - 4, 2022	4	Iqaluit - Nauyasat	Cabinet Retreat - Nauyasat	22,845	Principal Secretary, EIA DM, Cabinet Ministers
October 18-20, 2022	3	Iqaluit - Rankin Inlet	NTI Annual General Meeting	9,811	Premier's MPA
October 23 - 25, 2022	3	Iqaluit - Ottawa	Bilateral Meeting with Prime Minister (NTI)	2,101	Principal Secretary, Press Secretary

1-6(2)
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