



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**2nd Session**

**6th Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 37**

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023**

**Pages 2306 – 2402**

**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable Tony Akoak, MLA**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)

**Hon. David Akeeagok**  
(Quttiktuq)

*Minister of Environment; Minister of Economic  
Development and Transportation; Minister of  
Energy*

**Joelie Kaernerck**  
(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*

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**  
(Rankin Inlet South)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the  
Financial Management Board; Minister  
responsible for the Nunavut Housing  
Corporation*

**Hon. Joanna Quassa**  
(Aggu)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;  
Minister of Languages; Minister  
responsible for Seniors*

**Bobby Anavilok**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Janet Brewster**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

**Hon. Pamela Gross**  
(Cambridge Bay)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Education; Minister  
responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

**Adam Lightstone**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

**Hon. John Main**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)  
*Minister of Health; Minister responsible  
for Suicide Prevention*

**Inagayuk Quqqiaq**  
(Netsilik)

**Alexander Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield  
Inlet)

**Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
Whole*

**Solomon Malliki**  
(Aivilik)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of  
the Whole*

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Family Services; Minister  
responsible for Homelessness; Minister of  
Human Resources;  
Minister responsible for the Status of  
Women; Minister responsible for the  
Workers' Safety and Compensation  
Commission*

**Hon. Craig Simailak**  
(Baker Lake)  
*Minister of Justice; Minister  
responsible for Labour; Minister  
responsible for the Qulliq Energy  
Corporation*

**Hon. David Joanasie**  
(South Baffin)  
*Government House Leader; Minister of  
Community and Government Services*

### *Officers*

Clerk

John Quirke

Clerk Assistant  
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk  
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms  
Eemeelayou Arnaquq

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](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)**

## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	2306
Ministers' Statements .....	2306
Members' Statements .....	2311
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	2321
Oral Questions.....	2323
Tabling of Documents .....	2343
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	2344
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	2401
Orders of the Day .....	2401

**A.**

**Daily References**

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 .....	2306
--------------------------------	------

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

188 – 6(2): International Women's Day (Nakashuk) .....	2306
189 – 6(2): Recognition of Deputy Commissioner Rebekah Williams (Akeeagok, P) .....	2307
190 – 6(2): Honouring Millie Kuliktana (Gross) .....	2308
191 – 6(2): Inuit Employment Professional Development Success (Quassa) .....	2308
192 – 6(2): Medical Travel (Main) .....	2309
193 – 6(2): Kivalliq Intercommunity Road Study Engagements (Akeeagok, D) .....	2310

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

236 – 6(2): Issues with Tammaativvik Boarding Home (Killiktee) .....	2311
237 – 6(2): Important Practice of Traditional Naming (Brewster) .....	2312
238 – 6(2): The Importance of Women in Our Lives (Hickes) .....	2313
239 – 6(2): Happy International Women's Day (Qavvik) .....	2314
240 – 6(2): Volleyball Tournament in Kugaaruk (Quqqiaq) .....	2314
241 – 6(2): Happy International Women's Day to Mother-in-Law (Akeeagok, D) .....	2315
242 – 6(2): Happy International Women's Day to Grandmother (Gross) .....	2316
243 – 6(2): Happy International Women's Day (Simailak) .....	2316
244 – 6(2): Happy International Women's Day (Kusugak) .....	2317
245 – 6(2): Happy International Women's Day (Akeeagok, P) .....	2317
246 – 6(2): Happy International Women's Day (Main) .....	2318
247 – 6(2): Happy International Women's Day (Joanasie) .....	2319
248 – 6(2): Happy International Women's Day (Nakashuk) .....	2320

249 – 6(2): Happy International Women’s Day (Kaernek)	2321
---	------

## **D.**

### **Oral Questions**

372 – 6(2): Agguttinni Territorial Park (Killiktee)	2323
373 – 6(2): Renewable Energy Initiatives (Malliki)	2325
374 – 6(2): Driver’s Licences (Savikataaq)	2326
375 – 6(2): Capital Planning and Renewable Energy (Lightstone)	2328
376 – 6(2): The Effects of Brain Injury (Brewster)	2331
377 – 6(2): Casual Staffing (Qavvik)	2332
378 – 6(2): Power Plant Replacements (Kaernek)	2335
379 – 6(2): Community Morgues (Quqqiaq)	2336
380 – 6(2): Granular Management (Sammurtok)	2338
381 – 6(2): Funding Infrastructure Projects (Hickes)	2339
382 – 6(2): Harm Reduction Initiatives (Brewster)	2341

## **E.**

### **Tabling of Documents**

113 – 6(2): Nunavut Fire Marshal 2021 Annual Report (Joanasie)	2343
114 – 6(2): 2021-22 Contracting and Procurement Activity for NHC (Kusugak)	2343

## **F.**

### **Bills**

Bill 18 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2023-2024 – Family Services – Consideration in Committee	2344
Bill 18 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2023-2024 – Justice – Consideration in Committee	2388

**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Wednesday, March 8, 2023**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>> *House commenced at 9:59*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>> *Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good morning, my colleagues and all Nunavummiut who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast.

With today being the International Women's Day, my dear wife occupies my thoughts today, I miss you and I really appreciate your hard work raising our family and grandchildren, clearly showing your pride in them. I am very thankful to you.

(interpretation ends) Before we start, colleagues, I wish to advise that the Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak, will be absent from the House today and also

the Member for Kugluktuk will be absent today as well.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 188 – 6(2):  
International Women's Day**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. Let's enjoy International Women's Day, Nunavummiut who are following the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, today is International Women's Day. I am honoured to stand in this House to recognize the importance of this day globally and in Nunavut. On March 8 we celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. It also marks an annual call to action for women's rights.

In Nunavut, the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council advocates for the rights of women and girls. I would like to take this opportunity to advise the House that the council's new executive is now in place and includes Amber Aglukark as President, Clara Evalik as Vice-President, and Jukipa Kotierk as Vice-President. I look forward to working with the council in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, the theme for this year's International Women's Day is "Embrace Equity." Equity is different from equality and it is an important distinction. Equality means everyone has

the same resources or opportunities. Equity recognizes that each person has different circumstances and needs different resources and opportunities to reach an equal outcome. This is very important for marginalized groups, including Inuit women.

Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, I hosted an International Women's Day tea with some of our women elders and had the pleasure of speaking with them about the changes they have seen over their lifetimes and the growth, opportunities, and hopes they have experienced. It was a profound experience.

I invite Nunavummiut to mark this important day in their community with a personal reflection on the importance of enhancing the quality of women's lives. Happy International Women's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 189 – 6(2):  
Recognition of Deputy  
Commissioner Rebekah Williams**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On International Women's Day, my colleagues and particularly those of us sitting here, I would like to acknowledge and recognize them.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long public service of Deputy Commissioner Rebekah Williams.

As no stranger to this House, she was a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Quttiktuq from 2000 to 2004. Rebekah retired from a career with the Government of Nunavut and was sworn in as Deputy Commissioner in 2019.

Originally from Arctic Bay, Rebekah lives in Iqaluit with her husband, Glenn, and together they have children and grandchildren.

She spent many years working on the frontlines as a community social worker and as a community justice specialist.

Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago, Rebekah Williams was asked by Nunavut's Interim Commissioner's Office to help establish Nunavut's Department of Justice, and was appointed the department's assistant deputy minister upon the creation of the new territory.

Before her retirement from the Government of Nunavut, she served as the Deputy Minister of the departments of Family Services and Justice.

Rebekah was also a member of the Indian Residential School Survivor Committee with Truth and Reconciliation of Canada for five years, taking part in all seven national hearings with past students.

Mr. Speaker, Rebekah Williams' term as Deputy Commissioner ended in December, and I speak for all Nunavummiut when I say thank you to Rebekah for her dedication to Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to be recognizing Rebekah for her instrumental leadership on this

International Women's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

**Minister's Statement 190 – 6(2):  
Honouring Millie Kuliktana**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Happy International Women's Day to our Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on International Woman's Day to honour and recognize the life of Millie Kuliktana and her contributions to education and Inuinnaqtun in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, Millie was always dedicated to education. She started her career as a classroom assistant before attending the Eastern Arctic Education Program to become a teacher, and eventually taking a key role in the Department of Education as Executive Director of the Kitikmeot Regional School Operations from 2001 until 2011. Millie was a true leader in education and she led by example, with passion and love. Millie had a strong presence and influence but at the same time was an empathetic, thoughtful and kind leader. After one principals' conference, she invited everyone back to her house for a campfire; all were welcome and all were appreciated. Mr. Speaker, she truly lived by *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*.

Mr. Speaker, Millie Kuliktana was a passionate advocate of language and culture, particularly Inuinnaqtun and strengthening the language. Millie

strongly believed in lifelong learning. She knew how empowering language is and introduced Inuinnaqtun mentorship. Millie celebrated, nurtured, encouraged, and engaged in cultural activity with language as the core.

Mr. Speaker, Millie also knew that communities play an important role in culture and language education, and worked to engage with district education authorities to ensure that language and culture was in our schools in various ways.

Millie Kuliktana passed away on January 13 of this year, but her impact, her legacy, and Millie's Dream to work on language education lives on in our schools and communities. *Quanaquhi*, Millie; we will continue to work towards what you lived for. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 191 – 6(2): Inuit  
Employment Professional  
Development Success**

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut. Particularly on International Women's Day, I wish my fellow women a good day.

Mr. Speaker, my department is committed to providing Inuit employees with opportunities to progress in their careers within our government. Through Piliriqatigiinni and Ikajuqtigiinni, my department worked closely with the Department of Human Resources to



support two Inuit employees with their career progression. I am pleased to share that these two employees have completed Government of Nunavut professional development programs. This professional development allowed for on-the-job training in targeted positions within my department and both staff have moved into those positions permanently.

Mr. Speaker, Elaine Lloyd joined the department in 2020 through the Career Broadening Program. In 2022 she successfully completed the program and was direct appointed into a senior policy analyst position. My department is continuing to support her as she pursues post-secondary education in the field of public administration and governance.

Mr. Speaker, Caroline Whittle joined my department in 2022 through the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program as a director of heritage intern. Ms. Whittle successfully completed her internship and is now in the Director of Heritage position. We are continuing to provide her support through the mentorship program.

Mr. Speaker, my department will continue to seek opportunities to increase Inuit employment within the department and to support Inuit employees in pursuing professional development opportunities. I look forward to providing further updates on my department's efforts in Inuit employment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Elaine and Caroline for completing their training and filling these hard to fill positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 192 – 6(2):  
Medical Travel**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. In particular, to my female colleagues, I acknowledge each and every one of you and I am proud of you today.

Mr. Speaker, medical travel links Nunavummiut to necessary and emergent health care not available in their home communities. (interpretation ends) The Department of Health is committed to ensuring medical travel is safe, efficient, and accessible, and we are continuously working toward improvements.

Part of our ongoing efforts to improve our medical travel processes and experience is being open to client feedback. Anyone who has complaints or suggestions can contact the Office of Patient Relations or Medical Travel directly. Patient Relations and Medical Travel Division staff also visit the medical boarding homes regularly and speak directly with medical travel clients about their care journey.

The Department of Health strives to ensure that accessing medical travel is as barrier free as possible. Medical travel specialists are on call 24/7 in each region; a full-time Government of Nunavut medical travel specialist works at the Iqaluit boarding home; each boarding home in Winnipeg, Edmonton, Churchill, Ottawa, Iqaluit, and Yellowknife provides 24/7 support to

Non-Insured Health Benefits eligible medical travellers and escorts; and finally, our website provides medical travel information and forms accessible in all official languages.

The Government of Nunavut is committed to the safety and comfort of our clients during their medical travel journey. We are currently working on multiple initiatives to improve the travel experience, including a comprehensive review of the Medical Travel Policy and setting up a new technology platform for travel bookings and coordination. Health's ongoing communications with our contracted partners allows us to identify issues and fill gaps as they're identified.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, while Health continues to work toward providing care closer to home, some medical travel will always be necessary. The Government of Nunavut is committed to ensuring the medical travel system is safe, efficient, and accessible for the benefit of all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 193 – 6(2):  
Kivalliq Intercommunity Road  
Study Engagements**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy International Women's Day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update on the Kivalliq Intercommunity Road Study.

I am very happy to report that following a request for proposals, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation awarded a contract to an engineering consultant and this important work began last summer. This work involves studying all-season road connections between the communities of Arviat, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, and Baker Lake.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the project will provide cost estimates for the road's construction, a 30 percent design, economic analysis, community consultations, and regulatory groundwork to prepare the project for submission to the land use planning and impact review process.

Mr. Speaker, although the geography, population, and economy of this part of the Kivalliq region are very promising for road construction, we still do not have sufficient information to say whether building road connections between these five communities would be a good investment.

This project will provide the answers we are looking for and could help build the case for major capital funding. We expect community consultations to begin in the coming weeks, and I encourage the members to ensure their constituents are fully engaged in the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Uqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

**Item 3: Members' Statements****Member's Statement 236 – 6(2):  
Issues with Tammaativvik  
Boarding Home**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my fellow Nunavummiut.

I rise today to speak to this matter which is totally founded on issues surrounding health care. The matter you spoke to earlier about medical travel problems that are faced is unfortunate, and it has to absolutely include the issues surrounding contracts authorizing contractors to manage the facilities in the various boarding homes.

Earlier this morning, there was an on-air interview with a woman who is staying at Tammaativvik. Ms. Meeka Paniloo's interview was aired on CBC news. Again, we need to listen to the issues here in this House, as many members end up dealing with issues related to our constituencies, perhaps by not paying attention to the territorial news. I would like to touch upon some subjects that she mentioned during her interview, and I was able to speak to her earlier this morning.

Mr. Speaker, she is a medical patient and she has been requesting staff at Tammaativvik to have the access (interpretation ends) ramp (interpretation) shovelled for patients on wheelchairs. A lot of snow accumulation happened just this past week due to the snowfall in Iqaluit.

Meeka Paniloo has been staying at the boarding home for a period of three weeks plus a few days and during this

time, she said that she has had 16 different roommates sharing her room. That is one issue.

At the Tammaativvik Boarding Home, there are multiple levels that require more improvement.

I'll keep this as brief as possible. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for allowing me to conclude my statement. This is a substantial and majorly important matter that all of my colleagues must pay attention to.

To continue from my point earlier, staff members have been requested to conduct their job description tasks of clearing the access ramp to allow the mobility challenged patients, elders, and other patients on a wheelchair, as it is called, and I cannot recall the terminology right now. People in that situation require this access ramp in order to enter and leave the facility.

Even when patients requested this service from the administration service providers, nothing was ever done. It ended up that she herself had to go shovel the accumulated snow when she saw a fellow resident faced with mobility issues in a wheelchair, with two escorts being told to try to use this access ramp, and they did not want the person just sitting in front.

There are also elders and other passengers with heavy baggage that utilize that ramp. With this situation, Meeka felt compelled to undertake this work due to her compassion of her fellow patients facing this additional challenge due to the lackadaisical attitude of the staff and decided to do the work on her own. I want to publicly express my immense gratitude to her and to state that during her clearance of the ramp, her fellow woman and resident, Nooveya, assisted her to complete the task.

Upon completion of the task, she stated that the frontline staff only voiced their thanks as if their lip service was provident and not their laziness that required her to undertake this physically taxing work. Absolutely, there are many problems that require resolution and it showcases the utter incompetence of the current management system. This is not acceptable and places the onus on our people attending to medical travel when the staff work half-heartedly to fulfill their duties and forcing actual patients to undertake their duties, even with reminders that they are not fulfilling their required work.

I believe my commentary is well understood now, so I will stop here. I wish to once again thank Meeka Paniloo and Nooveya from Clyde River. They are both women, but when faced with the inability of the male staff to do this work, they went and provided this service due to their compassion, and many women cannot just sit and take it once we are compelled. I voice my immense pride in these two women. That is all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 237 – 6(2):  
Important Practice of Traditional  
Naming**

**Ms. Brewster:** *Ullaakkut*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start this International Women's Day by acknowledging my mother, Betty, my daughter, my bean child, Sabrina, my sisters, Sheila and Christy, the members of the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women who are here today, my fellow members in this House, and Alexis, who is not afraid to *suak* me if she notices I'm not drinking my water, and everybody who is working towards helping Inuit women to reach substantive equity in this country. I pay tribute to all of you.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk today about naming. I'm named after Pitseolak Ashoona and she named her youngest daughter Napatchie. I named my youngest son Napatchie. I am proud to say that my namesake Pitseolak is a young boy. The reason that this is important today especially is because our traditional naming practices give us the opportunity to learn about whom we are and how we fit into our society. They give us the opportunity to guide children into a good life, to set them on the right path if they go off the right path. There was nothing more powerful than my *anaanatsiaq* saying, "Janet, Janet, Janet," and then finally "Pitseolak" if I was doing something wrong.

That opportunity to create a centred life that is based on honouring who you are named after is so important to Nunavummiut, and I think today especially is a great day to engage men

and young boys in honouring Inuit women by talking to them about their names if they are named after a woman, how they are related to that woman, what those good qualities are of that woman that they're named after, and... .

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

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, members.

The opportunity to create knowledge, understanding, and mutual respect for women and girls in relation to our names is extremely important. I think today would be a really good day to pick up that dialogue with your young people and with your family members, especially those family members who may not be acting in a way that uplifts women, reminding them today of who they're named after and how they're related to everybody.

To encourage and uplift good, strong behaviour that will help us to have healthier communities is something that I would like to encourage people to do today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements.  
Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

**Member's Statement 238 – 6(2): The Importance of Women in Our Lives**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this International Women's Day, I would be remiss as a father of four girls to not stand here in this Chamber and speak to how important... . I think all of us can recognize that I don't think any of us would be here without some of the strong woman guidance that we've had in our lives, whether it be from a mother, a sister, a friend, a niece, an aunt, a grandmother, or other strong women in the community, that helped shape us to who we have become today.

I know that my *anaanatsiaq*, I have spoken of her a few times in this House and just recently as last Friday, I wore a garment of clothing that she had made for my father and he subsequently passed down to me. It's not just the artwork; it's the work ethic and the values and goals that our mothers, grandmothers, and aunts... . I've got a lot of uncles, so I have a lot of strong aunts, as most of you know. My aunt Dorothy was here in this House just last year receiving the Order of Nunavut.

When you look at the success and the strength that women in our lives and what they bring to us, I myself wouldn't be here without the support of my wife, our two daughters, and my other two daughters that live down south, that are still learning who they are, and as my colleague from Iqaluit-Sinaa mentioned of how important learning where they come from, and I think it cannot be understated on the influence that a strong woman can provide in as far as guidance into who we are and who we are becoming.

I'm almost 54 years old and I'm still learning how to be the man that I want to be, and I hope that the women in my life

continue to help guide me down a path to eventually become that man that I want to be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 239 – 6(2):  
Happy International Women's  
Day**

**Mr. Qavvik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to Nunavummiut, including all the people present, especially those who are here for the first time, and my colleagues today.

On this International Women's Day, I voice my immense pride in all women, and I also wish to recognize firstly the elders and especially the elderly women in Sanikiluaq, including my mother, who I will keep in my thoughts today along with my wife. Without her support, I doubt I would be included in this grouping as my wife is a very substantial supporting foundation for me, so I express my love to her.

We now have four daughters, and this has helped me to stand up and liven up my life, and I take great pride in my daughters. I also have a sister, along with many aunts from both sides, and they will also be in my thoughts today. In our community of Sanikiluaq, we have a community leader who is a woman, who I am quite proud of and this encapsulates the other councillors who are women.

Additionally, in Sanikiluaq there are many teachers who are Inuit women. I

am very proud of all of you incredibly talented women who occupy many of our local work positions ranging from social work, teaching, and medical interpreters who are mostly women, so you are all in my thoughts today.

Additionally, last but not least, I wish to commemorate this wonderful lady, the late Mary Inuktaluk, who resided in Sanikiluaq for many years, although she moved to Inukjuak. She was my wife's maternal aunt. To her younger and older sisters and her brother, I say that many people love you, including myself.

I hope all women have a wonderful day today. That is all. (interpretation ends)  
*Nakurmiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 240 – 6(2):  
Volleyball Tournament in  
Kugaaruk**

**Mr. Quqqiaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since today is International Women's Day, firstly to my wife in Taloyoak, I love you and hope you enjoy your day today, my wife. There is no one like you. To my mother, I hope you also have a good day as well. To my mother-in-law, have a good day too.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today that on the weekend of March 3 to 5, 2023 was the first annual Purple Cup Ullunuaq 2023 Court Volleyball Tournament in Kugaaruk.

Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge and thank the tournament organizers who are Tanya Inutuinaq and Daisy Qirqqut.

(interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Also, to volunteers Paul Inutuinaq, Edmond Etunga, Brad Qayaqsaaq, John Qayaqsaaq, Daniel Nirlungayuk, Natacha Nirlungayuk, Dominique Qayaqsaaq, Colin Hiqiniq, Raiden Nirlungayuk, Shanelle Angutingunirk, and Blythe Angutingunirk. (interpretation) I voice my appreciation to you all.

(interpretation ends) Also to the referees, thank you, and to the sponsors, and also to grade 9 students and teacher Sandra Niptayuk, and the district education authority, thank you. Also, to Nunavut Youth Abroad for the food and snacks,

(interpretation) I voice my thanks,

(interpretation ends) and the participating communities of Gjoa Haven, Naujaat, and Taloyoak.

(interpretation) I thank you all.

(interpretation ends) Also Kugaarummiut for always being so welcoming, it is great. (interpretation) I thank all of you, people of Kugaaruk, for always being very hospitable. Let us all have a good day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 241 – 6(2):  
Happy International Women's  
Day to Mother-in-Law**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this International Women's Day, I have just

one woman whom I wish to speak about today. Throughout her life, she has suffered immense hardship, along with great happiness, and I am extremely honoured to speak to her abilities and the many tasks she undertakes daily, including her past work. Just looking at her past makes me incredulous.

This woman has previously experienced hunting at a seal hole, where her harpoon went through the first seal surfacing and stabbed the second seal lower down, so a two-in-one seal hunt successful story.

She has caught both belugas and narwhals, and she also succeeded in harvesting polar bears. Further, when we speak about sports hunters, we refer to the dog team outfitters and this incredible woman has also guided sports hunters in the past. She also patiently waited for her husband to return, to the point where her lamp dwindled down to a few little wicks due to the loss of oil. She has experienced that in her life.

Also, within a single day, she has flensed over 50 skins and within this selfsame life, she had ten children but lost five sons, and she became a widow upon the passing of her husband. Nonetheless, she portrays the best of life and always tries to teach her fellow residents ways to make life easier.

I am immensely invigorated by pride due to her many different experiences that I am relaying here. She was also an accomplished carver and artist. My younger brother-in-law benefits, as when he needs to leave the following day without proper attire, then she will take skins and create a complete set of clothing, allowing him to go hunting. This is how accomplished she is.

That's my dear mother-in-law, Leah Kalluk. I wanted to express my pride and to share with my colleagues about her life counselling skills. She keeps us afloat and sometimes I feel just like one of her children, as she can alternate between scolding me and also expressing her pride in my work. This is my situation where she feels more like my mother sometimes. I am happy with that. On International Women's Day, have a great day, my dearest mother-in-law. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 242 – 6(2):  
Happy International Women's  
Day to Grandmother**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Once again, happy International Women's Day to all Nunavummiut women, particularly those in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to acknowledge and speak a little bit about my grandmother, Uviluk, or Polly Neglak, who is the matriarch of our family. She just turned 95 on January 1 and the lifelong work that she did, not only raising her ten daughters and one son and two adopted cousins of mine; she was also a midwife, Mr. Speaker. She delivered over a hundred babies out on the land and I'm thankful for her for doing that important work but also for being such a strong woman and sharing our culture and passing on our traditions. Thank you for guiding us to where we are today.

I acknowledge our ancestors who have come before us and the strong women that created who we are as a people and ensured that we were able to survive with all of the skills that they have and for those that pass on our culture through learning and also sharing our cultural traditions to the next generations to come. I thank all those women for all the work that they do.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of the women who have guided me and been there for me and shaped my life particularly. I want to recognize our elders in the community of Cambridge Bay who have played an important role in that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements.  
Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

**Member's Statement 243 – 6(2):  
Happy International Women's  
Day**

**Hon. Craig Simailak** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning.

Since today is International Women's Day, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the many women around me, starting with our female colleagues here. I am proud of you all.

Also, I have staff upstairs, Nicole Camphaug and Susie Alainga, who constantly provide their assistance, and I voice my thanks. Also, in Baker Lake, my constituency assistant, Daisy Kataluk, I thank you very much.

I also acknowledge my female relatives on this day. Firstly, my mother, thank



you for having raised me. Also, to my dear paternal niece, Kaitlin, and (interpretation ends) my sister-in-law, Janice, (interpretation) who also happens to be celebrating her birthday today. I wish you a wonderful day.

To my spouse, Marilyn, and our daughters, Lily and Maggie, I love you and have a wonderful day today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements.  
Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 244 – 6(2):  
Happy International Women's  
Day**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An absolutely enjoyable day today since it is International Women's Day. Personally, I feel women should get more days to acknowledge their contributions, Mr. Speaker.

In Rankin Inlet, I want to voice my pride in the women living there as we live in a wonderful land which allows us to grow our skills and is the base of the strength of Rankin Inlet's female residents. We have many powerful women, Mr. Speaker, for which I am especially grateful.

Today I want to voice my gratitude. Albeit she has passed on quite a while ago, my mother suffered a loss when we were children, causing her to become a widow, but due to her dedication and hard work, it allowed us to survive to today and most of us are now

independent and can stand on our own. I thank her for that.

Also, to our female leaders throughout Canada and Nunavut in particular, these women portray the inherent strength that allows us to succeed, Mr. Speaker, and I am glad we have this day to recognize them here.

Further, Mr. Speaker, I wish to voice my gratitude to my wife, who is able to be here with me. I thank her as she gives me the strength to stand, and especially our three daughters, as they grow, they fill me with fatherly pride and I am gratified by their progress. Finally, I also now have a granddaughter who is quite particular herself, so I send greetings to my Piipinnaas today.

I hope we all have a great day, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 245 – 6(2):  
Happy International Women's  
Day**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as well to celebrate this International Women's Day, which we are using today, and upwells the feeling of gratitude, particularly with the woman I wish to start off with. My mother is in Iqaluit, but she will depart back home, so I profess my immense love as she has raised us properly.

Although this day is just a single one, I concur with my executive colleague as I am grateful daily with the women who keep us standing strong.

I also want to mention my dear wife, as she has been a boon supporting me and she has committed herself to supporting me in my endeavours to try to assist our fellow Nunavummiut. It has been many years since I first ran for election, and we have endured several election cycles in my dedication to try to assist others, and she has supported me in that regard. She is raising our precious children, displaying vast amounts of strength and love, and she is my solid foundation for most of my work. I am immensely appreciative of my wonderful wife, Parn, and if she is listening, I voice my gratitude.

Also, my daughter, Jasmine, who is growing into adulthood, is someone I constantly learn from and it fuels my hard work to try to create a better future for my daughter, Jasmine.

Additionally, our beloved elders and in my case, my mother-in-law, who is no longer with us, still captures my thoughts daily, as she embodied the best aspects of a mother-in-law, and I am always gracious for her previous lessons and for having taught me many things, which I hold dearly today. I just celebrate the fact that I was able to catch her in her life and for having taught me well.

Also, there are many elders who live in Iqaluit-Niaqunngu. As we have suffered many losses amongst our elders, especially last year, they prepared us to stand on this day and to work towards a future that we can change, so I am

especially thankful for the many elders, even without mentioning any names. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to make my statement.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 246 – 6(2):  
Happy International Women's  
Day**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to speak during this International Women's Day to acknowledge the many women during their special day.

Firstly, to my female member and ministerial colleagues, I am quite proud of your work. This includes the many women in the field who I work with and I am proud of their contributions, including my mother, my wife, my daughter, and my sisters. They are too numerous to mention by name, but I believe you are all extremely skilled.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, when it comes to my constituency of Arviat North and Whale Cove, I just wanted to mention some of the incredible work and leadership that is going on at the community level.

(interpretation) Regardless of whether you look at Arviat or Whale Cove, many women have risen to become our municipal leaders and there are many women leading local bodies, such as councillors with the local hamlet and non-profit committees who volunteer and act as the board, the women who sit

on our local housing associations, members on the local district education authorities, and they are absolutely looking after their communities in their role as leaders and members, so I voice my gratitude to every woman.

(interpretation ends) I wanted to acknowledge my constituency assistants, Lynn Emiktowt Issaluk and Jenny Enuapik, for their incredible work. Jenny is actually out; she's away from the office right now participating in the Ranger exercise, so I would like to recognize her for that amazing ability.

Finally, I wanted to mention (interpretation) and speak to the recognition of the remaining enormous workload we face if we represent the women properly and if we want to properly acknowledge their needs.

(interpretation ends) In terms of the constituency issues that are coming to my desk, there is a lot of work still ahead of us. I have constituents approaching me with issues around education, accessing child care, issues with homelessness, housing, issues dealing with the justice system, with health care and also business and job opportunities.

On this special day, I would like to send a message to my constituents who are women that please teach me what I don't know and I will try to work on your behalf to move these issues forward. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 247 – 6(2): Happy International Women's Day**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish everyone a wonderful day here in this House. It is joyous indeed to have so many women visiting the gallery today and they beautify the Chamber and they are all worthy of our praise, including my female colleagues here in the Assembly. You are all exemplary.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to speak about the South Baffin region and send my gratitude to every female, regardless if they are youth, adults, or elders. I wish them all a wonderful day and I wish to fully acknowledge them here today.

Mr. Speaker, women are invaluable in our lives and in our communities as they hold a large part of responsibilities locally. As men, we also have things to provide for the women in our lives, to respect and care for them, and I wanted to speak to that issue, Mr. Speaker.

To the women who work at our offices, most of assistants are vital to the success of our work, both in Kinngait and Kimmirut, as well as here in this House. I wanted to voice my appreciation to all of my assistants and employees.

Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, we must not forget our relatives, as only with compassion and enormous quantities of love are we able to stand strongly, so I wanted to voice my thanks to these women. I would like to start off with my mother, my two sisters, and amongst my relatives, all of the females in our extended family.

Mr. Speaker, last but not least, my wife, Arnainnuk, she was named after an ancestor, and as it happens to be International Women's Day, I wish her a wonderful day today.

Also, this pin on my lapel has a blue colour and this colour represents the need to eradicate violence against women. For us men, I strongly urge all Nunavummiut to properly look after our spouses and to care for them in order to stand together.

My wife's late grandmother once told her that when men and women work in partnership, to use this example, they can fly like a bird. When a couple is not working together, that is like one injured wing that disallows flight. I am just recalling that story, and I hope all women have a wonderful day throughout this world. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 248 – 6(2):  
Happy International Women's  
Day**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. I, too, wish to voice my thankfulness and start with my female colleagues in this House. I hope you have a wonderful day and I send the same sentiment to all women throughout Nunavut.

As well, I wish to voice my gratitude to my fellow residents of Pangnirtung, especially the elderly women who form a strong supporting group as they are all

older than I am. They guide me and provide contextual history related to where we came from, which allows us to be able to stand strongly.

I had a grandmother, Annie Okalik, who was a very strong woman and advocated for women, especially against any mistreatment, and she was very vocal in that. She reared her children to ensure that they lived healthy lives.

I rise today to voice my gratitude and pride in my relatives especially who have undergone hardships yet continually try to improve their lives.

My daughter is in my thoughts as she is taken university courses. She burnt the midnight oil studying and completing her homework.

To my older sisters and my younger sister, I hope your day is wonderful, including my husband's sisters, my mother-in-law, my many friends, and my maternal nieces. I specifically want to send my gratitude to my indispensable assistants here, Kerry McKluskey, Susie Baines, Rose Tina Alivaktuk, and Simona Arnakaq, who works from our Pangnirtung office.

To all women, wherever they may be, I wish you all a wonderful day and please treat women properly, take pride in them so they can stand taller, and do that with our own children and send our appreciation of our daughters today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statement. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaermerk.

**Member's Statement 249 – 6(2):  
Happy International Women's  
Day**

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to Amitturmiut and all Nunavummiut. To all the women here, have a good day, and welcome.

I, too, rise today to acknowledge my wife, Samantha Akittiq Morgan. I thank her enormously for raising three of our children. If it wasn't for you, I don't know where I would be today. I'm sure I would not be rising in this House if it wasn't for you, so my gratitude towards you is immense.

Also, to everyone who still has a mother present, I am rather envious. This statement is for our youth. Please visit your mothers as they are the source of love. The way they show their love is by reprimanding their children. I urge all youth to visit your mothers if they are still alive, and again, I truly envy you for that.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge my constituency assistants in both of my communities. In Igloolik, Glenda Kripanik provides the support I need when I conduct a constituency visit. I appreciate your constant support and extend my thanks to you. Also, in Sanirajak, my constituency assistant is Angela Kukik. She is currently on maternal leave, but she is always open to providing any needed task, so this shows her civic pride and her commitment. She is also fairly young, but she is quite active locally. Angela Kukik and Glenda Kripanik, I am extremely grateful for your assistance.

However, the person I am most grateful to is my spouse, Samantha Akittiq Morgan, along with her mother. Although we are sometimes arguing, even these spats help us to smooth out our relationship and that is how we are supposed to move forward in life. Sometimes you have to overcome hardship and enlarge your love towards each other.

I wanted to voice my appreciation today and I urge all women to work hard to succeed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Today I will go first.

>> *Laughter*

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

Thank you. Although he is not here anymore, he was here earlier on, but I would like to recognize a very good friend who I met back in 2013 when we became MLAs. We have connected very well together since then. One of the sons of Mr. Main, Mr. Main asked his son one time when I went by his office, he asked his son who am I, pointing to me. The boy said that's Mr. Speaker's brother. That's what he said. He has always been a brother since then and I would like to recognize the former Speaker, Mr. Mikkungwak.

>> *Applause*

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.  
Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge the person I recognized during my statement. I would like to recognize my mother-in-law, Leah Kalluk, and my wife, Carol Akeeagok, and also our youngest child, Hope Akeeagok.

>> *Applause*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. I would also like to acknowledge two special women today on International Women's Day, although they have already been acknowledged by the minister. Caroline Whittle and Elaine Lloyd, thank you for being here. They are constituents of mine in Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, as are Carol and Hope Akeeagok, who were already recognized, but I would also like to acknowledge them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did mention them earlier and they were acknowledged and recognized, but I

would like to further recognize and welcome Elaine Lloyd and Caroline Whittle. I am proud of you and I want you to feel welcome in the gallery. I also welcome David Akeeagok's family. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize visitors in the gallery that have already been mentioned and similarly welcome them. I would also like to recognize the Qullit Status of Women President, Amber Aglukark, if you could stand.

>> *Applause*

Also, from the Department of Human Resources is Arlene Alagalak, (interpretation ends) Director of Regional Staffing (interpretation) in Rankin Inlet. Please welcome her.

>> *Applause*

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Someone beat me to it, but as a representative for Rankin Inlet South, I would like to recognize someone that I mentioned earlier who resides in Rankin Inlet and is a very capable and strong woman, Arlene Alagalak. I would like to

acknowledge her. It's great that you can visit here and I am immensely proud of you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although my colleagues before me have already done so, I would like to recognize my fellow Rankin Inlet resident, Arlene Alagalak. Additionally, the former Speaker was here earlier and I would like to recognize Simeon Mikkungwak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Though she has already been recognized, Caroline Whittle is my cousin. Sanikiluaq is far away from Iqaluit and although I do not serve that community, she is always welcoming me while I visit here. I also say "hello" to her father, Uncle Lodie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** I have no more names for Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 5. Sorry. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Uqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

### Question 372 – 6(2): Agguttinni Territorial Park

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address my question this morning to the (interpretation ends) Minister for Environment.

As the minister will recall, the federal and territorial governments announced \$4.7 million in federal funding under the Canada Nature Fund in September 2019 to support the establishment of the Agguttinni Territorial Park near Clyde River.

On February 16, 2022 the department issued a request for tender for the construction of the new Agguttinni Territorial Park Office and Visitors Centre. The tender was subsequently cancelled in May 2022.

I would like to recall my colleague, that it was raised by Mr. Hickes. During our recent fall sitting, the minister indicated that his department was working towards finalizing a memorandum of understanding with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association regarding this project.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this work?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member, as she raised this issue about the Agguttinni Territorial Park establishment plan. Presently, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and our government are

negotiating on the memorandum of understanding for the construction of the facility and to determine if we can collaborate on this facility. The final details are still being developed as we speak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good that it has not been dropped and is still in the works.

I do have another question to raise. (interpretation ends) In June of last year, the Legislative Assembly approved \$2,976,000 in capital carryover funding for this important project.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm when his department will issue a new tender for the Agguttinni Territorial Park Office and Visitors Centre? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We won't be issuing a tender. What we are doing is we are working with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association to have a memorandum of understanding to use a facility that they will also use. It's a true joint venture towards this, so we're using these funds to fund parts of that in order for us to have a place to work in the Agguttinni Territorial Park. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, this project has taken many years and local residents have poured a lot of hard work towards the creation. The plan is very detailed and the community supports this initiative as they also have a committee. I hope this project is not forgotten or deferred and I urge this project to be kept alive due to this work, and I would like it placed in a colourful file, that is absolutely scenic.

>> *Laughter*

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) can the minister indicate how much additional federal funding from the Government of Canada or funding from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association has been requested to ensure that the project can proceed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This file is not likely to be forgotten by our department, and furthermore, we will not be requesting any supplementary appropriations as we are concentrating on our collaborative efforts, especially after the building is constructed.

Also, the federal government provided matching contribution amounts, as they too would like to see this project completed, so they were able to authorize the carrying over of these funds. I am grateful the federal government did that to allow this project to proceed. Further, I thank the members in the Assembly who approved the funding request towards this project and



I want to see this completely implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 373 – 6(2): Renewable Energy Initiatives**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, I asked him a number of questions during our last spring sitting concerning renewable energy projects in Naujaat and Coral Harbour.

As the minister is aware, the Government of Canada is providing \$1.6 million in federal funding towards renewable solar and energy storage projects. Information published by the federal government indicates that these projects will:

“...develop two utility-scale solar and energy storage projects in each community, Coral Harbour and Naujaat. Additionally, this project will support an LED lighting campaign, a building and audit retrofit program, and a biomass pilot project.”

Can the minister update me today on the status of the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s involvement with these projects? (interpretation) 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 those two projects that are happening in his constituency. I don’t have the level of detail he is looking for on hand right now. They are community-led projects. They are not Qulliq Energy Corporation projects. What stage they are at, I don’t have that info on hand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These projects should be kept in mind so that answers can be provided in this House.

(interpretation ends) When I raised this issue in the House last June, I noted that one of the goals of these projects is diesel reduction, which will reduce carbon emissions, which is good for the environment.

Can the minister indicate what other initiatives the Qulliq Energy Corporation is currently undertaking in Coral Harbour and Naujaat to improve energy efficiency at the power plants?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to power plants and energy reduction and whatnot, currently what we are doing at the

corporation is looking at the generator sets to see when they need to be replaced. Once we put in new generator sets, when it's time, when it comes to replacing them, we replace them with newer, more fuel-efficient generator sets. That's what we are doing with those power plants when it comes time to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the Legislative Assembly has approved funding for the Qulliq Energy Corporation to install energy-efficient LED lights in communities across Nunavut. Can the minister confirm the status of this work in the communities of Coral Harbour and Nauyasat?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question regarding the light emitting diode street lights. We are in the final phases of replacing all the street lights in every community in Nunavut. Phase 3 for 2022-23 was the communities of Arviat, Pangnirtung, and Kimmirut and this coming fiscal year, the plan is for Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Nauyasat, Kinngait, and Sanikiluaq. Those are the final communities to be replaced with light emitting diode street lights. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 374 – 6(2): Driver's Licences**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Arviat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to question the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation pertaining to driver's licences.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a few years now since the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have ceased to do driver's licence exams in the communities and drivers examiners now do the test. Back when the Royal Canadian Mounted Police did the driver's exam, the tests that were done by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, their driver's licence was restricted to Nunavut and it was not valid outside of Nunavut.

Now that the government does all of the drivers' exams, I would just like to ask the minister if there is still a class of licence that is issued that is restricted to Nunavut only? Are there still two tiers of driver's licences within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the Motor Vehicles objectives, there are four, there are only four, and one of them says, "To

cooperate with provincial and territorial jurisdictions to ensure reciprocal recognition of Nunavut Drivers Licences as defined in the Canadian Drivers Licence Agreement.”

Mr. Speaker, I think, since the government has examiners doing the tests within Nunavut, all licences should be valid Nunavut and within Canada. I don't believe that there are other jurisdictions that have restrictions on their licences. I could be wrong. I know there are different classes of licences; there is a learner's licence, which has restrictions placed on that.

Obviously, the examiners are qualified to do the test. The written portion of the examination could be the same. It's written. The driver's portion could be very similar. I just want to know why there are still two classes of driver's licences within Nunavut when, for safety purposes, there should only be one class. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are nine classes of licences that we offer for motor vehicles and they range in different ways when it comes to safety. Our driver examiners are trained to provide Nunavummiut that class where it is not restricted to just this territory. If the person passes that and completes those, they are eligible for that non-restricted licence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should have been clearer. I should have stated that I was referring to the class 5 licence; the regular driver's licence that most Nunavummiut get. I'm not worried about the class 1 driver's licence. I should have been clearer that this is for the class 5 licence.

Mr. Speaker, at times when someone has a restricted licence, if the car rental company or someone in another jurisdiction, for example, down south authorizes someone who has a Nunavut restricted licence to operate a motor vehicle in the south, that person actually has no licence. It's not recognized. I believe that the government is putting Nunavummiut at undue risk. Some may or may not know it is restricted or they may know it's restricted, but they want to use transportation in the south.

Will the minister commit to having all examiners qualified to give the test so that all classes of driver's licences issued by the Government of Nunavut have the appropriate testing and will be non-restricted? We should have no licences that are restricted to Nunavut. All licences should be recognized within Canada. Will the minister commit to having all Nunavut licences non-restricted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will commit to reviewing if we need to change class 5 for that and we have to do this as a part of the nation.

I know some don't call it restricted, but in some provinces, they are called

“gradual licences,” so they are given certain licences until they reach unrestricted. Each province does it slightly differently, but it’s one that, for some of the restricted driver’s licences, that is somebody’s livelihood because they want to work. When they want to work within the territory, it allows them to have that driver’s licence to be able to work.

I will definitely commit to looking at the various classes of licence, in particular, class 5 restrictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 375 – 6(2): Capital Planning and Renewable Energy**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up today on a number of issues that I raised with the minister during our recent fall sitting. As the minister will recall, I asked a number of questions during the Committee of the Whole review of his department’s capital estimates regarding initiatives to integrate renewable energy systems into new government infrastructure.

At that time, I had asked the minister for an update concerning the status of his department’s discussions with the Qulliq Energy Corporation regarding the signing of an agreement under the Commercial and Institutional Power Producer Program. As the minister is aware, this program is designed to allow

existing commercial and institutional customers, including GN departments, hamlets, and businesses, to generate electricity using renewable energy systems and sell it to the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

When I raised this issue back in the fall sitting, the minister had committed to initiating the discussions with Qulliq, and assuming there was sufficient time in the two months between the end of the fall sitting on November 8 and the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s cyberattack on January 15 to initiate these discussions, I would like to ask: can the minister provide an update today on how these discussions are progressing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, I don’t have much of an update on this topic, but I will push my department to initiate the discussions in line with the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, we do know that there is much interest around clean energy and buildings that are more environmentally friendly, and my department plays a big role in that and ensuring that our current assets are energy efficient. We will continue on that path and look at what alternative methods can be implemented, provided that financial resources need to be taken into account alongside that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his renewed commitment to address this specific issue.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the minister as well as the public that the Qulliq Energy Corporation had launched this Commercial and Institutional Power Producer Program back in 2021, nearly two years ago.

Mr. Speaker, last year when we were reviewing the minister's department's O&M budget, I had expressed concern over the Community and Government Services budget in which it pays approximately \$30 million a year to pay the electricity bills for Government of Nunavut owned and leased infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, with the recent rate changes for Qulliq Energy Corporation power rates, which saw Government of Nunavut rates substantially increase to allow reduced impact on residential and businesses, with the new government rates, it makes the need to integrate alternative energy projects into our own government infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at our major capital projects in the range of \$50 million to \$100 million, projects such as long-term care facilities and correctional facilities, which already have substantial projected electricity costs around the range of half a million dollars a year, incorporating alternative energy projects seems very straightforward. Investing \$50,000 to \$100,000 into these projects would have a very short payback period and would have long-lasting cost savings for the Government of Nunavut, as well as help support the Government of

Canada's objective in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions in an effort to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in this sitting, my colleague representing Kugluktuk was informed that the scope of work for his community's new power plant had to be reduced as a consequence of costs associated with the original hybrid design for the plant. This reinforces the need for a detailed cost-benefit analysis to be undertaken for major capital projects to determine the affordability and feasibility of integrating renewable energy technologies into the design of projects.

As the minister will recall, I pointed this out during our recent fall sitting and I asked the minister to share information with the House, explaining how his department undertakes important work. At that time, the minister had committed to come back to the House with detailed information concerning how his department undertakes energy modelling during the capital planning process. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister to assure me that he will be tabling this information 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. My department deals with quite a substantial list of capital projects, many of which are at different stages. As the member can appreciate, when we are looking at major construction of government assets, we do look at cost benefits and whether or not, for example, Kugluktuk can incorporate alternative energy systems into them. However, we

do need to be resourceful on our fiscal side, so that is always a consideration and a factor that allows us to proceed with the limited options that we do have.

Mr. Speaker, I can't commit to providing or tabling information that the member seeks; perhaps outside of this House, I will be more than willing. I will have to collect and I'm sure it will be quite an undertaking to collect the data that my colleague is looking for, but we will look into that and see what form it can be presented to members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Just a reminder to the member: your colleagues have questions as well, so please keep your preambles shorter and go to the question. Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies for rambling.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a Member of this Assembly for five years now and for four or five years, I have been asking the same question: why are we investing in \$100 million projects with \$500,000 annual power bills without including any sort of cost-saving initiatives?

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the minister for his, again, recommitment to provide this information and would just like to remind the minister that he did make this commitment back in the fall sitting and it has been a number of months.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will also recall, I raised a number of concerns during his recent appearance concerning the extent to which the government's capital planning process is addressing

such issues as heat retention and energy efficiency in the design of new buildings.

Mr. Speaker, a specific concern that I pointed out is the need for capital project substantiation sheets to more fully account for the projected incremental operations and maintenance costs associated with utilities. Mr. Speaker, again, this is an issue that I have pointed out on numerous occasions over the years. Some departments are very good at providing these incremental O&M costs on projects at construction or nearing completion while other departments are not. Mr. Speaker, I find it very difficult for the government to conduct any sort of cost-benefit analysis on whether or not to incorporate cost-saving initiatives without this crucial information.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask: can the minister assure me that this issue will be addressed for the next fiscal year's capital estimates process and will he commit to following through and providing an updated set of substantiation sheets during our upcoming spring sitting review of capital carryovers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government, we do have the Nunavut Energy Management Program which does take into and we do upgrades and retrofits to our existing facilities. This is taking advantage of innovative technologies, which is optimizing energy efficiency over time, and there are efforts being made in this area.

As for what the member asks around providing the detailed information on our substantiation sheets, we will consider that. We will have to look at what that will entail, but on a go-forward basis, I can't say if that's going to continue as the member requests, but we will consider it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

**Question 376 – 6(2): The Effects of Brain Injury**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, March is Brain Health Awareness Month and it is important that we consider factors related to brain health when addressing depression, suicidal ideation, and suicide.

Can the minister provide an update on how often individuals who suffer from a traumatic head injury in Nunavut are followed up for mental health issues and possible suicidal ideation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. (interpretation ends) In terms of the level of detail that the member is requesting, I don't have that here in terms of, I believe the question is around if an individual suffers a brain injury, is there a handoff or a referral given into the mental health side of things. To my knowledge, that would be handled on a case-by-case

basis and it would be a clinical matter that would be under the purview of the professional who is delivering the health care to the individual who has the brain injury. It's my understanding that it would be a case-by-case basis.

We do make efforts to make links between different areas of practice. For example, there may be someone who comes in with a physical ailment and if that is linked to nutrition issues, there can be referrals that are made out of that specific physical realm over to the regional nutritionist or dietician. That's just an example where we do make efforts to refer patients to different areas as needed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Mr. Speaker, the correlation between suicide attempts and individuals who have suffered a brain injury is well documented.

In this hockey-loving territory, sports-related head injuries are not an unfamiliar concern. Victims of domestic assault can experience physical brain injuries as well. Accidents involving snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles pose a high risk of head injury, especially when helmets are not worn.

Can the minister describe what kinds of programs relating to head injuries, whether they be research-oriented injury prevention campaigns or evidence-based programming, are currently being undertaken by the Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. Now, with respect to the question, programs are supposed to be readily available. However, I cannot respond in full due to not being aware whether or not research exists on the efficacy of the studies or if it can be released. I do not know of any cases, but I can take it as notice and provide the information to the member later on, if she does not mind. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you for that commitment to get back to me with some more information on this very important subject.

Mr. Speaker, the risk of depression can increase after an individual suffers brain injury. Whether the injury is considered mild, moderate, or severe, there can be signs that a person's mental health is suffering as a result of head trauma. They can feel down and depressed, their sleeping habits might change, their appetite could increase or decrease for no reason, they lose interest in activities or relationships, and they may turn to substances like alcohol and drugs.

Will the minister commit to implementing injury prevention programming which directly addresses the links between brain injury, depression, suicidal ideation, and suicide? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I

can certainly commit to looking into what or how we can get involved in terms of injury prevention.

In terms of mental health and addiction services in Iqaluit, the Iqaluit mental health team provides assessment, crisis intervention, stabilization services, outreach support, and psychotherapeutic services. Examples of different things that we do have going on in the community around mental health is the mental health and addictions drop-in clinic, which has been ongoing at the Greenstone office, which offers, in some cases, same-day access to counselling. We have a counselling clinic.

We also have psychiatry services as well as a number of different ongoing initiatives, including an outreach team working in the community; also holding things like youth mental health related camps. We also have a parenting group in collaboration with Family Services and the Umingmak Centre. There is also a cognitive behavioural therapy group here in the community, as well as ongoing education initiatives around mental health and addictions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 377 – 6(2): Casual Staffing**

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Human Resources and they concern the issue of casual staffing in the government.

As the minister may be aware, the government announced an initiative in September 2019 to “foster Inuit



employment across the public service by substantially increasing the number of direct appointments of long-term casuals.” Mr. Speaker, I strongly support initiatives of this nature.

As the minister may be aware, the most recently tabled Public Service Annual Report indicates that “in 2020-2021, 114 casual employees became indeterminate, of these, 57% were” Inuit from Nunavut.

Can the minister confirm how many such appointments of Nunavut Inuit have been made to date during the current 2022-23 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking about that matter. The casual employees are called (interpretation ends) casuals (interpretation) within the government public service as we have worked extremely hard to reduce the numbers, particularly if they have worked as a casual over a two-year period. My colleagues within government and our staff have pushed to change their status from casual to indeterminate, and this is still our goal which we are prioritizing.

We use (interpretation ends) direct appointments (interpretation) to move casual employees into higher positions. The total number of direct appointments to date from when we initiated this process for 2022-23 is 67 and 64 were Inuit appointees, and the total number of casual employees...

**Speaker:** Sorry about that, Ms. Nakashuk. We are having technical difficulties at the moment.

My apologies, Ms. Nakashuk; we had technical difficulties. Proceed, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for having asked that question. Let me reiterate my earlier response. Of the people who were hired as (interpretation ends) casual employees, (interpretation) as of November 2022, there were 1,063. Out of that total, 418 positions were under the Department of Health as casual employees, 109 positions were under the Department of Justice, and the Department of Family Services had 93 casual positions. These are the most recent statistics. Other categories of casual hires are written in different reports, but the highest overall numbers of casual employees are listed here and where they are working. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not entirely clear to me how a long-term casual employee can become an indeterminate employee. Mr. Speaker, it sounds a little bit like magic.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clearly explain if it is the employee's responsibility to request a change in status or is it the supervisor who should initiate the process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. I also thank you for asking that good question. As I stated earlier, as ministers, we have our staff conduct a review of casuals and if they have been a casual for a long time, we ask them to be looked at. In the communities, they can explain to their supervisors that they have been a casual for a long time and they can ask their supervisor to look into the matter. We have asked the supervisors to look at the long-term casual employees to become indeterminate employees.

One of the roadblocks has been where indeterminate employees are given an internal transfer assignment to a higher position and while they are in that higher position, when the vacated position is taken over by a casual, then the casual ends up staying there for a long time before that other first employee can get back. That is usually an issue in the communities with casuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the answers, minister. Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, a new collective agreement between the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Employees Union was signed in August 2022. Article 51.01 of the new collective agreement provides that:

“The Employer may hire casual employees for a period not to exceed four months of continuous employment

in any particular division or department. Where the Employer anticipates the period of temporary employment to be in excess of four months, the employee shall be appointed on a term basis and shall be entitled to all provisions of the Collective Agreement from the first day of their employment, except as limited by the eligibility provisions of the health care plan, the Superannuation Plan, the long-term disability insurance plan, and the dental plan.”

Mr. Speaker, I have heard concerns that there are many people in the different Nunavut communities who have been casual employees for many years, but who have not been appointed as term employees in a manner provided for in the collective agreement. Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify how her department is addressing this concern? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. (interpretation ends) Just to clarify as well with how many casuals we have within the government, there are over 200 casuals that have been working for more than two years in casual positions, 507 employees that are between one and two years, and less than a year, we have 519 to date.

As I had stated, we have been working as a government to push our staff to get the long-term casual employees into direct appointments. I think we have done pretty well for the first year. Also, like I had mentioned, the issue that we face a lot is the casual employees that

are in the home position that could have been employed by an indeterminate employee that could be working as an ITA in a different position, their home positions tend to be filled by casual employees. That's another issue that we face.

I think we're in the right direction to ensure that all positions that are filled by casuals get direct appointments. Like I had mentioned, direct appointments have been on the increase and we are still expecting more to come through before the end of the fiscal year. I think, as a government, we are pushing our departments to get the positions filled indeterminately. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

### **Question 378 – 6(2): Power Plant Replacements**

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question this morning to the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister questions at our sitting last fall on October 31 and it related to Sanirajak's antiquated power plant where I tabled pictures. Now, to follow up, I would like to ask of these two communities in my constituency, so this question is two-pronged in that aspect.

For Igloolik, will your departmental plans proceed as laid out where a new plant was going to be constructed there? Further, Mr. Speaker, I previously also asked this question on that same day and

the minister responded that he believed and also indicated that Sanirajak was approximately fourth or lower in terms of the priority listing. I would like to know if this is still the case.

That is why this is a two-pronged question for the two communities I represent of Igloolik and Sanirajak. Will Igloolik project continue forward? Is Sanirajak still fourth? Can he clarify that to this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question regarding the power plants and replacement projects that are earmarked for Sanirajak and Igloolik.

In the fall sitting, I was going by my memory and my memory failed me that time. I had mentioned Sanirajak is fourth or fifth. It's actually lower in the ranking. Right now, the four communities that are in queue for replacement in Nunavut are Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Igloolik, and Gjoa Haven. Igloolik is there. Sanirajak is on the list as well as part of our 10-year capital power plant replacement project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a bit disappointed about Sanirajak, but I'm glad that the Igloolik plant is still in place. I am sorry about Sanirajak being lower in the priority queue. Perhaps you were

wearing a mask on October 31. Did you lower the priority for Sanirajak?

What was the reason for the priority being lowered? You just stated that it is part of the 10-year power plant replacement project. What level is Sanirajak on your priority list? It was fourth in priority. What is the reason why they had lowered the priority from being fourth or fifth? I would like to have an honest response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Just to be clear so I can clarify myself, I did not lower Sanirajak in the ranking; it was always a bit lower. My memory did fail me back then in the fall time when I said it was fourth or fifth.

Power plant replacement projects go based on age and condition of the power plants. Some power plants are in worse off conditions, generator sets desperately need to be replaced, and infrastructure needs to be replaced as they are older in age. Those are the priorities that we use for our power plant replacement projects, the top two ones there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, in their annual report that they tabled, there are many communities with old power plants. Our power plant is even older than us. Why it is lower on the priority list? Why?

There are many questions that I can pose. I would like to ask the minister for clarification. (interpretation ends) Can the minister give assurance on October 31 that yes, it will be...? He believes that it's on the fourth or fifth. Can I get assurance from the minister that when he is having a meeting with his officials or the QEC's officials, he will be prioritizing that community when it comes to capital projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Yes, with the power plant replacement projects, again, I say they go based on the age of the infrastructure and the condition they are in for replacing the power plants or generator sets. Safety is of utmost importance for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. We've got to ensure that we have firm power and that is what we are trying to work on. That is as far as I can commit to right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 379 – 6(2): Community Morgues**

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. Mr. Speaker, my questions today concern the important issue of community morgues.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, a number of questions were asked in the

House during the previous Legislative Assembly on this topic.

Mr. Speaker, we need to treat the recently departed with dignity. That is why I strongly believe that all Nunavut communities should have adequate morgue facilities.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm how much funding is available from his department's budget to provide to municipalities that submit proposals regarding community morgue facilities? 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 the question. Mr. Speaker, my department provides both block and proposal-based capital funding to municipalities. This funding is to support acquisition, renewal, and improvement of municipal infrastructure, such as morgues or mortuaries, through the municipal capital block funding program.

In addition to this funding, my department is committed to helping communities identify and resolve municipal infrastructure challenges through the implementation of their integrated community sustainability plans. There is funding available, but it is proposal based, as well as the block funding that municipalities get on a year-to-year basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted in the preamble to my first

question, it is important that we treat the recently departed with dignity.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate today which Nunavut communities have adequate morgue facilities and which Nunavut communities do not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanase:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ten out of 24 municipalities have identified a morgue or mortuary in their integrated community sustainability plans and this includes Arctic Bay, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Kinngait, Kugaaruk, Resolute Bay, Sanikiluaq, Sanirajak, and Whale Cove. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister describe how his department is working with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to develop up-to-date standards for community morgue facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** 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 works closely with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities on a variety of topics. Municipal infrastructure is one of the biggest topics that is covered.

My department does support communities when they are trying to identify what is their greatest need in terms of what is needed, but also within their existing facilities, try to upkeep them. This is an ongoing thing my department works and I'm sure it will be an ongoing topic of interest going forward.

I would just like to thank again the association of municipalities for when we got a chance to meet with them and I congratulate the new executive on that board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 380 – 6(2): Granular Management**

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

As the minister is aware, access to high-quality granular materials is extremely important for all communities.

I recently had the opportunity to receive concerns from the Municipality of Chesterfield Inlet concerning granular management.

As the minister will be aware, information published by his department concerning Chesterfield Inlet's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan indicates that there is a shortage of gravel and that there is an urgent need to develop a new source of material.

Can the minister indicate how his department is working with the municipality to address this issue?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Chesterfield Inlet on being persistently interested or bringing up this topic in the House.

Mr. Speaker, as I recall, my colleague did bring this forward in correspondence last year, if I remember correctly, in March 2022. Alongside that, I had the honour of participating in the Kivalliq Mayors' Forum where granular supply and needs was a huge topic of interest.

For Chesterfield Inlet, my department is looking at different options around how the community can increase their source of granular supply. We know that there has been a study completed as far back as 2015, so we want to update those and/or provide support on how we can increase that for the Municipality of Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in our sitting, my colleague representing Aivilik asked the minister some important questions concerning the department's new Granular Crushing Equipment Program.

Can the minister clarify the extent to which funding allocations to communities under the Granular

Crushing Equipment Program will be linked to the status of the community's gravel quarry? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for bringing that up in relation to Aivilik's question. It does provide me a small opportunity to clarify the comments I made around that.

For the Granular Crushing Equipment Program, we do have the funding in place. However, the policy is not set up yet, but in terms of what we are going to be looking at around who is eligible for the granular crusher program, we are looking at the source and how much is available in the community. We do know that some communities already have a crusher program and/or an operation in place and equipment. We are going to factor in if they need training provided for an operator to run the crusher, as well as other factors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify which Nunavut communities currently lack adequate supplies of granular materials? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to my briefing note, in the 2022-23 integrated community sustainability plans, there were nine

submissions from communities identifying the need for road improvements, granular material, and crushing equipment for granular material and this included Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven, Sanikiluaq, Whale Cove, Igloolik, Clyde River, Chesterfield Inlet, as my colleague would note, Baker Lake, and lastly, Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

### **Question 381 – 6(2): Funding Infrastructure Projects**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question today to the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, last Monday on February 27, the minister made a minister's statement quoting that the new facility in Baker Lake, the new head office there is certified as an Energy Star facility, and he had mentioned that hopefully they can "inspire other building operators in Nunavut to follow suit." I strongly encourage any construction that we build in the territory to achieve that certification to make our energy needs reduced.

My question for the minister today, Mr. Speaker: was Infrastructure Bank of Canada green stream funds accessed for this project and, if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, I don't have that level of detail on hand, but I can commit to getting back to the member on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On February 28, Minister Joanase, the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, spoke about looking for opportunities to access the Infrastructure Bank of Canada green funds on other Government of Nunavut projects. Specifically for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, any reduction in building costs can have a direct impact on energy rates in Nunavut.

Has Qulliq Energy applied for funding on any current projects? As the member noted from Sanirajak, there are accelerated costs for building, especially the hybrid models of power plants that we are looking at building. Has the Qulliq Energy Corporation applied for any funding on any current projects and, if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Yes, the funding that we are using right now is called the Arctic Energy Fund. That is what we have been using for the last few years to fund these power plant replacement projects. We are hoping to access some more federal funds, which is something that we have begun trying to plan for as we've got a

few more years before this Arctic Energy Fund that we are currently using will be sunset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I do appreciate that response, having just one specific level of funding that is being looked at can have detrimental impacts when we can leverage those funds into increasing or even accelerating our plant replacement program.

Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, new plant projects have been delayed due to higher than anticipated bids. Will the minister commit to looking at funding criteria to apply for funding where available to lower costs to build modern, efficient energy projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member his question. Yes, at the Qulliq Energy Corporation, we are constantly looking at trying to find other sources of funds we can access. We have actually been discussing that with the ministerial colleague of Community and Government Services to see if they can help with accessing some other federal funding programs that we may qualify for. We do want to access other third party funding if possible or federal funds as that would help alleviate the construction cost and hopefully prevent



any further power rate increases for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

**Question 382 – 6(2): Harm Reduction Initiatives**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again today. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission. Mr. Speaker, today I am focused on the issue of harm reduction.

As the minister is aware, the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission's "Let's Be Aware" campaign publishes information to help Nunavummiut make informed choices about alcohol use.

Information that is currently published by the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission includes material from Canada's low-risk alcohol drinking guidelines. These guidelines recommend, for example, that men consume no more than 15 standard drinks a week. However, as the minister will be aware, the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction has recently completed a Health Canada funded project to update and replace these guidelines with new Guidance on Alcohol and Health. The centre has stated that "the guidance is based on the principle of autonomy in harm reduction."

Mr. Speaker, the new guidance has published updated recommendations concerning alcohol use and weekly limits. When will the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission's public

information materials be updated to reflect the new Guidance on Alcohol and Health? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for her question. Indeed, use and abuse of alcohol and cannabis in Nunavut is rather a poignant concern, and many residents want information on how these harmful substances can impact their health.

What she mentioned, however, is something we are currently working on. When we are looking to produce new guidelines or standards, it has to fill the requirements of either radio or televised public information, or on the web, and it has to be proofed in both Inuktitut and English for clarity. As soon as the preparatory work is completed, it starts following the process the member asked about, where the information goes, and this will be tabled sometime within the current year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did ask when those public information materials will be updated and I didn't hear a response to that question.

Mr. Speaker, moving on, information published by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police indicates that there were 6,783 calls for service in this community during the year 2022 that involved alcohol. That is almost 20 calls per day, every single day.

As the minister is aware, the Government of Nunavut's action plan to "help reduce the harm that alcohol causes Nunavummiut and our communities" was released in 2016. One of the strategy's priorities was to explore ways of better enforcing court-ordered restrictions on alcohol. The strategy indicates that:

"Sometimes, the courts, justices of the peace, Royal Canadian Mounted Police or other mechanism of Nunavut's justice system limit, restrict or prohibit an individual from accessing alcohol. These restrictions are often put in place after the individual, under the influence of alcohol, has caused themselves or others significant harm."

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that has been raised on a number of occasions in this House. Mr. Speaker, it makes absolutely no sense that someone who is under a court order not to possess alcohol can freely purchase significant amounts from the government-owned and operated beer and wine store here. When will the minister take action to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot apologize for giving a response in Inuktitut and, if the individual doesn't understand my response as being the real response, I cannot apologize for that. I believe I gave a very legitimate response in my language in the first question, so I believe I did respond to that answer. It's

unfortunate that you did not understand what I said.

Moving forward, (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, those court orders for individuals not to consume alcohol are a concern raised often. The drinking establishments may have identified who should and should not be drinking alcohol. Her comments make sense. The liquor establishments, such as the beer and wine stores here in Iqaluit and in Rankin Inlet, also tried to take note of who may purchase from the store or who may not purchase through court orders.

These are very difficult areas to handle and we are in the process of conducting a review along with the courts. We are working together on how we can or may improve the process of taking note of those who have court orders not to consume alcohol. We are trying to see how the court orders may diligently be applied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I actually really appreciate our interpreters and think they do a great job.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to helping people address gambling addiction, government-operated and government-regulated casinos in Canada generally offer the option to participate in self-exclusion programs. In essence, an individual chooses to be excluded from a casino or related establishment for a set period of time. These decisions are binding and they are intended to support an individual's decision to seek help to address their addiction.

Mr. Speaker, as I alluded earlier, we have a unique situation in Nunavut where the only two stores in the territory that sell alcohol over the counter are both owned and operated by the government, and all patrons are required to have customer accounts.

I recognize that offering a self-exclusion option to residents would not be a panacea, but I believe that it is something that should be seriously considered as part of our suite of tools to help support Nunavummiut who are struggling with addiction. Will the minister commit to reviewing this idea and reporting back to the House at our upcoming spring sitting, yes, or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, am quite proud of our interpreters, as they interpret the English into Inuktitut, as sometimes our dialectal terminology can be similar enough but can still cause confusion when misunderstood. However, I am quite proud of our current interpreters based on my experience as an interpreter.

Mr. Speaker, the issue the member is asking about is completely clear and understandable and seems easy enough to support. I will task one of my officials to study this matter she raised and once we get that information of the planned review, we will provide that information to this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period... Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask that question period be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There is a nay. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 113 – 6(2): Nunavut Fire Marshal 2021 Annual Report**

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Fire Marshal's 2021 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

#### **Tabled Document 114 – 6(2): 2021-22 Contracting and Procurement Activity for NHC**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Contracting and Procurement Activity Report for the year ending March 31, 2022. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. 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. Bills 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 with Mr. Hickes in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 14 – 6(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a break until 2 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 12:23 and  
Committee resumed at 13:59*

#### **Item 19: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

**Chairman** (Mr. Hickes): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bill 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the main estimates and business plan for the Department of Family Services, followed by the Department of Justice, Finance, and Economic Development and Transportation if time permits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Does the committee agree that we first deal with Bill 18?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

#### **Bill 18 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2023-2024 – Family Services – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to ask Ms. Nakashuk, do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee?

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk:** Yes, I do.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the committee agree to let minister's officials appear before you?

**Some members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in. Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk, if you could please introduce your officials to the committee, please.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Yvonne Niego, Deputy Minister, and on my left Sandy Kownak, Assistant Deputy Minister for Family Services and Career Development. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Before we proceed to detailed questions, we did opening comments yesterday. Are there any general comments to the opening comments? Seeing none, we will proceed directly to page L-4. Corporate Management. \$5,727,000. Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Family Services has struggled to hire and retain staff, especially at the community level. What are some of the challenges in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you for that question. The main challenges with the staff is that there are not enough people who are trained to provide those types of services, so we have to hire outside of the territory and there are very few and far between that are trained at the community level.

The income assistance workers are all manned in all Nunavut communities and they are all Inuit. Some of them are part-time staff. What we are trying to do here is to hire full-time staff, instead of part-time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my next question will be on the same topic. How can we get Inuit to be in the Department of Family Services to hire more Inuit to be staffed in that department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, we don't have enough trained people in Nunavut, but we have Inuit staff in the office in other positions. For example,

finance people and staff setting up programs, income support workers, people in the Poverty Reduction Division, but it is very hard to get social workers at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In most of the communities we want to see more Inuit, especially in my constituencies. When we have no staff, they end up calling Cambridge Bay to access services. How can we improve that situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, we have only one staff at times for income assistance workers, and we provide them with computer training in order to have them at the level where we want. When we only have one staff, it is quite hard and usually we train them before they become income support workers. As I indicated earlier some are half-time positions, and we are training them so that they can become permanent employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to move to the elders. The Government of Nunavut has committed to "Develop a comprehensive Elder and senior care strategy...". The Premier recently announced that his department has engaged a consultant to work on an elder strategy. How will the

Department of Family Services be participating in this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department, under the Katujjiluta mandate, is focusing on elders as directed.

We are working with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and also the Department of Community and Government Services and the hamlets because we also have to do a review. There are other departments that we work with and they provide other services, like the Department of Health, with the provision of healthy foods at the community level. We deal with poverty and we have included that in our requests. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) With respect to the elders who have no allocated housing units, but who wish to get housing, are they included in this review? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whenever anyone is faced with a difficult situation, even if they were an elder, Family Services tries to look at all of their options, especially in light of the fact I receive correspondence

requesting housing allocation support for their application.

I usually work with my executive colleague responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to look into that, however, if a safety issue arises or if they are required to flee, whether it is an elder or a woman, regardless of who it is, we tend to prioritize placing them in a safe place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I am asking that question is because there are elders that need housing. I know of an elder that does not have a house and they have no house to date. We have to take proper care of our elders and especially those.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I'm going to move to another one. The department has invested in the new child and family services case management system. What is the current operational status of the child and family service system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. I would like to go back to elders with no housing. As I indicated, we have to go through the Nunavut Housing Corporation or work with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to place them in a home. We give priority to the elders and ensure that they have proper representation. There are of course, some other issues that we can focus on.

With the case management system, we have had problems for quite a while and we have had to make adjustments. The case management system will be completed in the summer of 2023. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the department's priorities listed in its business plan is to support efforts to provide long-term core funding for community led program services. What factors have limited the government's ability to provide long-term core funding? That's my last question, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the long-term core funding, what we are trying to do is have the communities make a request and it is only good for one year. What we would like to see is a multiyear provision of funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Niego. (interpretation) Are you done. No. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, along with the minister and I welcome you and your officials here. Under the heading (interpretation ends) Priority 2023-24 (interpretation) under the first bullet.

(interpretation ends) Country Food Needs. (interpretation) Undertaking community mapping of country food needs I would like to know if this

particular bullet will apply to every community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize; could you rephrase your question please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Priorities, 2023-24, under bullet one, "Undertake community mapping of country food needs." Is that for all Nunavut communities?" (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Now this is what was said earlier about Inuit country foods to see how family services could help more in providing country food. So we've worked with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and the hamlets and HTAs to see how we can help them to provide country food. Those are the things that we are pushing hard for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister. So that is good to hear, that's good news. Your planning to provide Inuit food to the elders, and it would good if young people could be taught along as they are doing this, and also

take part in sharing the country food and delivering the country food. Have you thought about that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I like the question. Family services provides funding for non-profit organizations and/or hamlets for training purposes as well, and now this has been used by outfitters where they take our young people, and with financially supported activities for non-profit organizations when they request money for that purpose. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the communities that are smaller, there is generally no jobs in the communities at all, so this would really benefit the communities and provide food to the Inuit and get a whole bunch of people trained for it. I just wanted to say that, I don't have any more questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Sorry. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for coming, minister of family services and your official. (interpretation ends) Under the business plan page 169, priorities 2022-23, the last paragraph says support government efforts in promoting and providing long-term core funding to support and expand effective models for community led programs and services.

Status says that the department enhance our grants and contribution funding to better support our communities as research and engagements to better understand community needs and the perspectives also to have taken place. Up to now, what programs were engaged? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the good question. Now what was said earlier by our finance people, we don't want them to request funding annually, we're trying to make it so that they don't have to do that, and the non-profit organizations and hamlets, when they request for funding for certain activities that they want, training or hunting purposes. So those programs we can support, and for homeless shelters, we provide cooking money when they request money for providing food, we help them with that too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you. I have another question that's along the same lines. With the hamlets, usually get request for funding, and the criteria that they have to follow and the guidelines that go with the funding programs, they are necessary when it's dealing with money, but the forms that are put together, maybe they should be put together into a package, I want to make sure that they're put into a package and then sent to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The government receives funding from the federal government and it is outlined as to what we're allowed to use the money for. I know it would become confusing when you're in the communities to try and see who has got money available for whatever purpose. For shelters, operation funds, we provide that and if they wanted to train people to work in them, we provide funding for that too, and also for poverty reduction for people who don't have enough to eat and people who cook for other people, we provide them with funding as well. I know it becomes confusing as to where or what the program is for and who runs the program, but it's usually the hamlets and non-profit organizations that we help financially. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee:** Going back to the first question that I said. So what factors have limited the government's ability to provide long-term core funding? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main roadblocks or barriers are the funding that we receive has so many rules that go along with them that we have to follow too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee, if I may, Minister Nakashuk, the member was asking what those factors are, not just that there is a number of rules that they have to follow. Do you have any specific examples that the member could appreciate? Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister can answer that better than I can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Niego.

**Ms. Niego** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) One of the main issues would be the financial management rules that were under through the government's Department of Finance. To work through that, we're in constant contact with all of our non-profit groups that we're funding and working with them to develop a non-profit association. Part of the challenge with the non-profits are constant turnover of board members, some may be more stable and so we're working to increase funding per year. We have a number of the non-profits currently that have asked for more stable funding because they have difficulty hiring and retaining staff just as we do. So it's finding ways to work with finance to be able to multiyear fund. It's a work in progress. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Niego. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was going to

be my next question, but I got the response already.

However, I would like to ask about the budget on the grants and contributions available to the communities. For non-profit organizations, do you provide the same amount of funding for each community, no matter how many people are in the community? How does that work? Do you base your contributions on percentage or do you base it on population? How do you do it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for asking that question. We don't look at the population. We look at the money that is set aside for whatever purpose. For example, the cabin program, we have a budget for that and it is first come first served. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for the clear response. This will probably be my last question. If a community is requesting funding and they have run out of funding, and the funds were used for the cabin program, if that was the program, yet there is still more work left to do, how do you handle that? Do they have to wait until all of the communities have requested funds before they can request additional funds? If a community has completed their cabin program, yet they need more cabins, can the same person re-apply to a different program such as a hunting program for young people?

Can one non-profit organization apply more than once for different initiatives from your department? I might have another question after this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for asking that question. If there are funds in this pot leftover, a community can apply again for additional funding, but only for the purposes of what the program is intended for. If there is another funding program, and the funds are available, the community can apply again provided they follow the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This has been out there. Once it's out there, does the budget get depleted or do you have money left over? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some communities utilize all of their funding and on top of that, we set aside some funding when they reapply. Mostly all of the funding is depleted that is geared to the communities. It seems like our office doles out money according to the applications that we receive that the usually communities deplete all of the funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name I have on my list: Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister, on a very good day. When the Member for Netsilik was asking about the 11 communities that were casuals. That were hired indeterminately. Are Sanirajak and Igloolik included in the communities that you mentioned? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The communities that are identified... I believe Ms. Kownak can respond to the question better than I.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Kownak.

**Ms. Kownak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Family Services is reviewing the funding for income support and they increased the funding for income support and at this time I cannot reply which community are going to be full-time, so I cannot mention the communities, but there are seven communities in different communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we are trying to get employment in the smaller communities, it's impossible to get a job. Also, there are younger people who have graduated high school because there is no work for them to go and no jobs available, so they just hang out in the community. Can the minister agree with me during the session, from these 11

communities, if you can get at least get one of my constituencies; either Igloolik or Sanirajak to be included. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for your question. The communities have been identified. I will mention the communities once I find the document in front of me that will be income support workers. They are income support workers, but they will become full-time. I will identify the names of the communities once I get the information. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope Igloolik and Sanirajak is required to be named because the population in one of the communities is the highest population to receive income support in the communities. Looking at the report, my constituency communities have the highest income support recipients.

With that, I will move on to another topic. You talked about social workers in the communities. I'm glad that the department is very serious about this. What about the individuals who would like to become social workers? Have you worked with Nunavut Arctic College? Young parents don't go back to school when they have children. Have you looked at it to make sure that these young parents can take their training at home so that they can take care of their children? Have you ever considered that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank him for his question. We worked in conjunction previously with adult education to offer the social worker program, such as the training materials. This has finally become digitized although, we do not have an actual web based long distance learning and I am not aware if this would be offered digitally as we have yet to even develop plans towards social workers.

The reasoning is largely due to need to design the program, although there are precedents such as distance learning related to trades and apprenticeships so some training has occurred within the trades especially when we faced COVID-19 restrictions. It happened more than once, and some communities faced another challenge with no teachers available so we have done that prior but for social worker training, no we have no plans for that at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, with respect to that idea, we must project our view forwards to the future within the Inuit employment plans and from my perspective, I feel it should already have been added, especially in light of wanting to hire more Inuit following these government plans.

This should be specific to the Government of Nunavut, and this could possibly be introduced as a training program, and once they complete the course, then perhaps they could fulfill

the duties of the social worker. In looking at that, I feel this could be part of the solution to getting more Inuit trained, and since you work with Arctic College some incentives should be offered in a myriad of options. I think this could really assist in reaching our goals.

Can this be included in the future as a consideration? This is mainly to urge the consideration of this option and I will stop there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names on my list under this page. Corporate Management. \$5,727,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members, please turn to page L-5. Family Wellness. \$82,165,000. Give the members a moment to turn to the correct page. Family Wellness. \$82,165,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please turn to page L-6. Income Assistance. \$71,270,000. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In looking at these funds for income assistance, will the amount be tied into the cost-of-living increases caused by inflation? I ask because everything seems to be getting more expensive. Are these funds tied to the rising costs of food? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. The income assistance we know that they are not keeping up with the recipients or they are not keeping up with the cost of living rising, so that's why we're here with the \$7 million increase for income assistance.

For those who receive income assistance monthly because the cost of living has increased in the north and the price of food has gone up so the income support assistance total, what we allocate is not keeping up with the cost of living so that is why we are requesting an increase on this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The income assistance program, can that \$700 limit be raised? Some families, when a member of the household worked, are rendered ineligible and must wait an entire month before they can request more income support. They can only apply towards the next month after the disqualification due to this threshold? Can this be raised? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the member's comments, this income support fund at this time, we are requesting a 34 percent increase on the total amount from the previous amount and with the review and the cost of living rising, that's why we have requested that. With respect to other details, such as winning monies in a lottery, or in winning a bingo game

under \$700, their monthly support level does not change.

Additionally, previously in the years that they used to claw back family allowance child tax, but they're not clawed back now. This \$700 limit will not change, but we will need to review it again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. More than once, I have written a letter to the minister in regard to that and the minister is aware that the income support recipients have to give their bank statements when they go to income support assistance. Even when they receive email transfers, they are clawed back as well. If I send money via EMT, they treat it like an income to the recipient, and this is creating difficulties. What is your department doing about it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. The issue is very difficult at times. It would be ideal to dole out money, but they have to have eligibility requirements, especially with income support, which is geared towards people that no longer work.

At this time, one of our problems today that we encounter is gambling issues, so this has created more problems with income support. If a recipient had received more money and then it has created problems with the income support recipient because they have agreed that if they know that they are not

making any money, we should be able to give them assistance, so that's what the agreement states. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, madam minister. (interpretation ends) Currently how many Nunavummiut are accessing the financial support provided through income assistance? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is about around 3,200 recipients I believe. It used to be around 5,000. There has been quite a bit of reduction to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the minister. (interpretation ends) The department recently conducted a grant tier based income feasibility study. The business plan indicates that the result of studies will inform the department revision of income assistance legislation. Will the result of feasibility study be made public? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. (interpretation ends) The department recently introduced senior burial benefits to date. How many applicants have applied for this benefit? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Those who have applied for burial purposes when an elder has been deceased, to date, we have 19. Just below 20. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names on my list at the moment. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your most excellent officials, happy International Women's Day to you all.

Minister, in your response to the question about how many Nunavummiut are accessing supports provided through income assistance, you said that it used to be around \$5,000 and it is dropped pretty significantly to about... Did I say \$5,000? I meant 5,000 people. It used to be about 5,000 accessing those supports or income assistance and it has dropped significantly down to 3,000. I wonder, through the Chair, if the minister can tell us what accounts for that reduction in the access to that program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that

question. There are different varying factors, we have no real grasp yet why this has occurred, but I could say during the COVID pandemic, many communities received support through CERB for example, and those who were able to get assistance were also applying for CERB. Even at that time, the numbers of those getting assistance dropped with the CERB program in place then. (interpretation ends) If you will allow Ms. Niego to respond to that. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Niego.

**Ms. Niego:** *Ma'na, Iksivautaaq.* There could be several factors. Not only has COVID and all of the support supplied during the pandemic likely reduced the numbers of income assistance clients. There is also the support from other departments, and support from Inuit orgs that could lead to clients not returning to our department because of finding alternative sources. We have built in some additional programming in our different divisions as well as other departments. I think there could be multiple reasons for it. *Ma'na, Iksivautaaq.*

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. If I could get, through the Chair, a timeline on when this significant drop occurred, the response spoke to CERB and COVID and other people possibly accessing other programs, however, I would just like a clearer understanding of whether or not that dropped from 5,000 recipients down to 3,000 within just the last couple of years, or was there a slow decline as people moved off of

income assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for your question. I mentioned earlier that the COVID pandemic measures contributed to the numbers since. Perhaps Ms. Niego can add a little more here.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Niego.

**Ms. Niego:** *Ma'na, Iksivautaaq.* When the pandemic hit and the federal programs were implemented, we saw a significant drop because the income assistance clients would have been in surplus.

They were getting more money through the CERB than through our income assistance program. The numbers went to roughly 2,000; I can't recall exactly, from over 4,000 down to close to 2,000 and then after the first year, the second and third year we saw the numbers climbing a little bit each time and we are still going up. We are on an upward trend.

I think we are seeing 100, 200, maybe as many as 300 more every month. So as soon as some of the other federal benefits, including a worker benefit as well; as those were running out, we see more clients coming back. We are still not up to what we were before the pandemic. We are at 3,200 or 3,300; around there, and it is going up very slowly. *Ma'na, Iksivautaaq.*

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the record, CERB is Canada Emergency Response Benefit, and we know definitively that that program is closed.

Through the Chair, can the minister tell us how easy is it for people to rejoin that program? How much time does it take if you have pulled out of the Income Assistance program, how easy is it for Nunavummiut to get back on income assistance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to that question, this is done annually to include (interpretation ends) income tax (interpretation) and this can really provide a benefit annually as well as for employment purposes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just ask that question again. Minister, through you, can you tell us how easy it is for a citizen to get back on income assistance if they have stepped out of the program; how many days, weeks, or months does it take? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation) Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When an applicant comes in to get assistance, usually we are talking about the last month's income. If they had a high

income, they could be ineligible, but depending on the income from the previous month, they could be eligible or not eligible depending on their income. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, minister for that response. Part of the reason I ask that question is because people's income can really fluctuate.

If, for example, they get a temporary job at a mine or something, and knowing that the program takes into account the person's income from the month previous, and we know that sometimes people have some problems carrying money over into a new month, it concerns me that people can go an entire month without any fresh income and that can impact their lives greatly.

The minister, through the Chair could tell us at what point in a month are people able to access the program? If I have an issue and I need to income assistance and it's the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month, do I as a citizen have to wait until the next month in order to access that income assistance, or is there a possibility to get some kind of bridge funding midway through the month? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you. If it's alright for you, I would like my deputy to respond.

**Chairman:** Ms. Niego.



**Ms. Niego** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So as the minister Nakashuk stated, current assessment, when you come in as a new renewed client is based on the former month, however in extreme circumstances, if you work with your income support worker, they can review your information and there's, especially if there's children in the home hungry and other reasons, you have to tell your full story for the worker to properly assess you. There is some room in the legislation to provide an emergency assistance, which tend to keep at about 50 percent of what you would normally receive for that month, but again it's very important that you provide all of your information to the income assistance worker, your tax information or banking information to prove that you are in need. It's not fair for others if you have a lot of income, but it's very case by case because it depends on how many in your household, how many you're feeding. It is so different for each and every person that we deal with. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Niego for that response. I appreciate that information. I was especially interested in know that or being assured that if an individual has children that that is taken into account in terms of an emergency response for that person, that gives me hope. Minister, through the Chair, can you tell us if you know this information, how long does family services keep information or have information about how long people are generally income assistance, whether it's one year or 10

years, 20 years, what is the statistics around how long people are availing of that program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Kownak perhaps can supply you with the details.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kownak.

**Ms. Kownak:** It's very much again community-based experience as well as Nunavut-wide. There are cases where we have people with disabilities and seniors who are our regular clients or people with medical certificates, we also support those types of clients, but for most cases, some families age out of income assistance programs, whether there's opportunities locally for gaining employment or participating in training events. So it depends on those different circumstances for income assistant clients, whether people are on for a long period of time or a short period of time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, does the department have statistics that tell us on average how many years people stay on income assistance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have the numbers with us, and I can't tell you if they're

new clients or older clients. The head of the household, the number of children and that type of information is available, but I can't tell you if they were long-term clients or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank the minister for that response. I would highly recommend that the department keep create that statistical information so that we can have a better idea of how this program is working for people, and especially when it comes to evaluating the success of the program. I would just like to circle back to my questions about people who are applying for income assistance at any point, whether it's during an emergency or because of loss of income. Through the Chair, and the minister tell us whether or not there's an appeal process available for people who are applying for income assistance who either get turned down or get less assistance than they were hoping for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. If a client is denied, we have an appeal board who would review the matter and the situation of the client that was denied, they can always go through the appeal board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response.

Is that appeal board a territory-wide appeal board or are there appeal boards at the community level or the regional level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you could tell us the makeup of that appeal board, I would appreciate it through the Chair. Thank you, minister.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The appeal board and the competition is the income support workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response, minister. What I heard is that the appeal board is made of income assistance workers. I wonder how many workers are they, and is there any community level representation on that appeal board? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you, I would like to refer this question to my deputy minister. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Niego.

**Ms. Niego** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There's actually two levels of appeal, the first one, if an individual comes in, disagrees with their assessment, they can ask for an appeal document and submit that. It goes to staff within the department that are one step removed from the frontline or more. There's a

number of internal staff that will review to make sure that the frontline worker abided by all the rules they were provided.

I know that in the last couple of years, we have seen a significant drop in appeals. Ever since we changed some of the programming, like raise the gift rate, we have seen less appeals, and then the second level, if the internal review shows that there could be some appeal granted, it is referred to more of a public board. I'm not sure right now the status of that board, if we have all of the board filled, but we do have a second level. We would have to make sure that we have that ready, but we haven't seen one go to that level in a very long time.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I would just like to take a moment to say how much those income assistance workers are appreciated. They do really important work for our citizens and sometimes it can be really difficult work as well, so I would just like to thank them personally.

On the Guaranteed Basic Income feasibility study, through the Chair, can the minister tell us what are some of the main recommendations that came out of that study? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(interpretation): Just give me a minute, Mr. Chairman.

With the review, if there is a requirement or a need to make a change and to make improvements, we will have to ask the people of Nunavut what kinds of changes they would like to see. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that response. On the Senior's Burial Benefit, I would like to know from the minister through the Chair how Family Services is working with the City of Iqaluit as the City of Iqaluit has enacted a policy of providing those burials for free already and whether or not they're still finding that there is a need for that support in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for asking that question. The Senior's Burial Benefit was created and there has been an increase in the number of people who requested this support. The individual would have to be over 60 years of age and this support was created because we've had ongoing problems here in Iqaluit especially with the fundraising to bury a loved one. There were approximately 20 requests that were made within that year or within a year and most of them are from Iqaluit.  
Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name I have on my list: Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 177 of the business plan, the first line is Community

Delivery of \$60,000 for delivering the Income Assistance Program on behalf of the government to one community. What is that one community? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the member clarify what he is referring to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 177 of the business plan at the very top, Community Delivery, "Contribution funding administered by the Qikiqtani regional Income Assistance office is provided to one community to deliver the income assistance program on behalf of the Government of Nunavut. Hamlet staff hired to deliver the program must adhere to the *Income Assistance Act* and Regulations, as well as policies and procedures established by the department." It's a budget of \$60,000. I'm just curious as to which community that is. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is for Grise Fiord. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It could be a very good bargain. If there aren't many recipients, it's not too good of a bargain, but are there any thoughts on going that route to

other communities then, because I'm just going to assume that the reason it is done that way is that there aren't enough income assistance recipients, but is there any thought about doing that to other communities? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that question. There were very few clients in Grise Fiord, and it was a pilot project. There is a regional office in Pangnirtung and if we should try this pilot project in other communities, it might become more cumbersome for the employees that work in that office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was asked about earlier. Senior burial benefits for South Baffin. Why is this offered only for South Baffin and not the rest of Nunavut? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that question. It's open to all Nunavut communities, not only for South Baffin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister, if you look on the same page that the member mentioned earlier, page 177 at the bottom, it says "Senior Burial Benefit (South Baffin)", so I would like to get the minister to clarify that those funds

are available across the territory as stated. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk:** It must be an administration error on that because this is for all of Nunavut. Our apologies for that.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the next page, 178, on some of their priorities, one is “Prepare revisions to the *Income Assistance Act* and Regulations and implement recommendations from the Guaranteed Basic Income feasibility study.”, which was completed. Is Family Services going towards basic income that they’re taking parts or all of the study in the updating of the regulations? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it’s okay with you, I would like to refer this to my deputy minister. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Niego.

**Ms. Niego** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Our guaranteed basic income feasibility study was started over a year ago. It is not completely wrapped up. We are expecting a final report. We have received a midterm report. The initial reviews and feedback we have received from the group indicate that moving to a full basic income is more than what this government can probably handle financially.

What it seems to narrow down to is using the current income assistance legislation in place and modifying it to suit something more along the lines of a basic income, but what they’re telling us also is that we need to be clear on the objectives of the program. What is it about income assistance that we want to improve? What types of client?

I think what we found through, especially the pandemic, some of the frustrations of especially the ones who know they are always going to be continuously eligible; they should be on an automatic payment system. That would really help.

We have to be very clear once this review is completed on what our objectives are and then work towards amending the legislation to suit those objectives. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’d like to commend the minister and the department on going on that road. I believe that’s the right route. As the official stated, there are some families that they’ve been on it and they’re going to stay on it, and to come in and tell your story every month to the income support worker and the end result is the same every single month for years and years on end. So I commend the department for going in that direction.

Going on to another thing. Senior Fuel Subsidy, it’s budgeted for \$478,000. How much of that budget is generally used up? I don’t know how far they have records, but I’ll just go for the last fiscal

year. How much of that was used?  
Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the issue the member just spoke to, I wish to add to that. People who return on a monthly basis for income assistance, is something we've been considering to improve the program. Not all communities are included, however, in some cases where the client doesn't go to the office, especially mobility challenged clients, and they are able to get the benefits without that. It is only used in some communities but we are progressing.

In terms of the other question about the Senior Fuel Subsidy, this is part of our study reviewing that, because the cost of fuel is rising. The is the basis for this review, and we use the annual income amount to determine the level of support so this will soon be included in this, but fuel price increases is mainly the reason and the budget is usually spent every year. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just to confirm what the minister stated then. The budget was totally used up? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): No, not this fiscal year, but it looks like we will be able to give it all out because of the higher fuel costs. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a very good and useful program but I think Family Services needs to advertise it or let the seniors in the communities know more. If it gets used up, that's good. I've talked to a lot of seniors that knew nothing about it until I informed them about it.

We have some seniors that live in their own house at home and they just barely make ends meet because they have to use their old age pension, which is their only income, the federal old age pension, to buy fuel, 3,500 litres of fuel a year would make a huge difference in their quality of life for these seniors that are in the last portion of their life.

I think I heard from the minister that they are looking at increasing the budget and I think that should also advertise it more so all seniors that own their own house, that fit within the income threshold, can take advantage of it. That's just a comment and I'm done. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name I have on my list: Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask this question. While we're on page 177 of the business plan and the top one, (interpretation ends) under the Community Delivery. (interpretation) The question I would like to ask is: in the communities, when a hamlet or a non-profit organization is requesting funding, is the administration fee percentage the same across the board, or have you assigned a different percentage for the different organizations in the

different communities? Does each hamlet decide its own administration fee percentage, or is there a standard across the board? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for asking that question. There is only one community where that is the case, and it is because there is an agreement between the hamlet and family services. They work together. There is only one community in which this is the case.

With the hamlet, actually family services have submitted their ideas on how to deal with this matter. There is only one community in that situation however, I cannot say if we are following the community although we tend to follow their position due to adhering to this legal agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That issue is definitely something that can be considered. Looking at the people who run programs, the hamlets, and non-profit organizations; they always incur hidden costs such as; transportation, office operation funding, and others.

I want to make sure that you are aware of those hidden expenses that they incur. Perhaps, all those factors could be considered when looking at the total expenses of the non-profits and the hamlets, which they must pay when they try to improve things.

I know that the programs can really improve things. People are barely getting by, and I would like for you to include that in your review, and to review it again regularly.

The other question that I would like to ask, Mr. Chairman is: if an individual was employed and then quit, and during their employment they received a salary of \$1,000 or \$1,200, for example, will this person have to be unemployed for the next three months before becoming eligible for income assistance again? It appears that sometimes it takes even longer than that to receive employment insurance payments. That has been the case.

Do you have guidelines from Service Canada as to how long they must wait? How long do they have to wait to be approved? How long is that period in between where the person becomes unemployed and then finally receives assistance payments? That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. (interpretation ends) Whoever it may be that is the head of the household that applies for income assistance, depending on the family size, we have to take that into consideration as well, but like I had mentioned when a person goes in to apply for assistance, they are reviewed from the previous month not from the past three months.

If their income threshold was above their income, then there may be a deduction on their income assistance or they may

not be eligible, but we don't penalize clients for the last three months. It could be that the applicant might have not provided all the documents needed or in most cases, it is that because we can't process applications if they're not fully completed. Sometimes that is the holdup on the client's end, but it really depends on the size of the family. (interpretation) That's what I can say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is very clear, thank you. So that's the case and what was said earlier was really good. The one that you use where people can complain or appeal when they are denied their income assistance, it is good that you have appeal boards set up. I like that fact. It is fortunate that you created that. When people have been waiting for three or four months for unemployment insurance and they just get told to leave the income support office, they can complain to your office when that happens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. To add to what you just said, if a person had been working for a long time and he or she quit, and people who had been working for a long time or who have enough hours to apply for unemployment insurance, so during that waiting period they are able to get assistance using the money that they made the month before, based on that.

However, when people come for income assistance and they had been working (interpretation ends) we encourage them to apply for employment insurance because it could benefit the client more than income assistance. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for clarifying that very succinctly as it was really clear. What I want to comment on is this, as it isn't a question. We are well taken care of by our local hamlets, and if our own hamlets had to deal with this issue, then we would face very difficult situations and this seems quite obviously today, as we receive assistance from your department in this regard. I feel it was fortunate that problems or concerns were anticipated, and the operations have largely remained the same.

However, the fact that this assistance is invaluable coming from family services for this income support, is something I admire, and your continual work to improve these program benefits is commendable, and obvious. It shows potential future improvements and anticipation of better benefits. It seems with all of these complaints, concerns, resolutions are constantly piling up, however, I encourage you to keep following that path as it has real tangible benefits.

People would really suffer from extreme hunger if not supported, obviously and I wanted to make that commentary to express my gratitude for your hard work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names for my list. Oh. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to get clarification on community delivery; I just want further clarification to understand, as it states not many and perhaps just one community that uses this fund costing \$60,000 a year.

If five people were receiving assistance, that equates to roughly \$12,000 a year and their rent and power are deducted, perhaps they may be left with \$800 a month? The community you mentioned earlier, as I believe the costs are not that high. I imagine that costs of food is quite high under income support. It is also listed as a five-year fund of \$60,000. Will you be increasing that one of these years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding that you referenced does not go to individual people. This amount is an agreement between the hamlet and the Department of Family Services, and is for operational costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names for my list.

I would just like to get a clarification on a couple items. There was a question on the staffing levels at the income support offices and the minister had mentioned, like 11 different communities had some different staffing. I think it might be

beneficial to the committee if the minister would be able to provide in writing, the staffing status by community, across the territory. That way, we would be able to get a better handle on the staffing.

In addition, I would just like to get a clarification on the \$7 million increase; that is a little over ten percent of the budget and the minister had mentioned that they were looking at increasing, but there was not much detail put into it. There is also, the number of people that are accessing income support has been fluctuating a little bit too.

I would just like to get a sense from the minister on what is driving this increase the most, and where the benefits are going to be felt the most. Is it the number of recipients, or the amount that the recipients are receiving? Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Good question and I was going respond to Mr. Kaerner's question that you are following up on.

In regard to which communities will have full-time employees and income assistance workers, they are: Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, Pond Inlet, Kugluktuk, Taloyoak, Pangnirtung, Clyde River, Kugaaruk, and Arviat.

In regard to this income assistance increase of \$7 million, this request is taking into consideration that when we are looking at the layout, or the table that we have that is followed by income assistance client workers, it is by zone,

zones 1 to 4, and that could depend on where you are in Nunavut, and depending on the size of the family, most all of the funds will be for the income assistance benefits. It will increase their benefits. In total, that is 34 percent because of the food price inflation costs that we feel now.

Just to give an example: like I had mentioned for zone 1, that could be Iqaluit, Arviat and Rankin Inlet, for a family of four, they receive \$1,373 currently. We are looking at an increase in a family of four to \$1,840. If it is a single person in those communities, it is \$682 a month for the client. We're looking at an increase of \$914 for the client, one client. These will differ depending on the zones. That was zone one I outlined and there are three other zones and they do have all the communities listed under them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you for that, Minister Nakashuk, I appreciate that. No more names on my list under this page. Income Assistance. Page L-6. \$71,270,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go to page L-7. Career Development. \$11,437,000. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) How does family services work with education in such areas as early career direction and pre-employment work experience? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not quite understand his question. Please repeat your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): I'm sorry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) How does family services work with education in such areas as early career direction and pre-employment work experience?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. There was a program that the department used to offer working with the high schools or the schools and it used to be called the Nunavut Entrepreneur Apprenticeship Training or something like that. It's the NEAT program and that hasn't been running for some time. We are kind of in a review process right now to get more youth into trades. Right now we have a pilot project happening in Rankin Inlet where we have some staff from here and Nunavut Arctic College. They are there to meet with Nunavut Arctic College, but they will also be meeting with the school to talk about how they can prepare for... , also through the DEA as to how they can start preparing for trades and training. That is a pilot project we are doing right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and minister. (interpretation ends) Your department delivers labour market programs with funding support from the federal government. Can you provide further information on how different target groups for these programs are identified and what kind of programs are delivered to each group? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for your question. They differ. The funding we receive from the federal government differs to deliver support.

Some is for education assistance, providing support for the students including subsidizing their course materials, text books and other expenses such as daycare expenses, and further, we provide assistance to hamlets to hire youth in the summer months and subsidize their wages. Additionally, with other non-income programming, it allows some income subsidization for them to hire an employee.

Also, with respect to training courses, we also provide assistance for their living and tuition, and they are quite varied and Arctic College students are also funded from this for the costs associated with those categories, if they submit an application for funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) How does the department Career Development Division work with the Income Assistance Division to identify clients who are willing and able to make productive choices to gain employment and reduce their reliance on income assistance. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. (interpretation ends) That is a really good question because we want to ensure that career development officers are meeting with youth, especially people who are going into income assistance. We want to drive them to get out of assistance and get them into training.

There are some programs if they want to get into pre-employment or community-based programs that they can apply to. Career development officers are able to help them get funding and help with resumé writing for job searches and other career planning that clients might be interested in. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. Not all of the communities have career development officers. They are some communities that don't have them. How often do they visit those communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Using Coral Harbour as an example, if a position was to be moved there, an office already is in Rankin Inlet, and we encourage semi-annual visits to the communities. We also ask that they provide advance notice to the community especially if a person wishes to meet with them, or if they will conduct (interpretation ends) tests for trades exams (interpretation) and they generally provide this information in advance to their travel to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you minister for that information. Does the Department of Family Services have plans to have career development officers in all of the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. We have spoken to this issue many times to see how we could make improvements. We have friendship officers now that have been hired. They were never there as employees, but they are now able to provide support to the pre-trades school and they provide support to clients who are interested in entering pre-trades school, but we are now developing it and expanding it to the other communities. They work with career development officers, but at this

time I don't see it on the radar in terms of the plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The communities that are non-decentralized have no employment opportunities. There are no new employment opportunities, especially for those who graduate. The communities need support. I request that you consider providing those kinds of officers in your plans to establish those officers in those communities. I have another question.

(interpretation ends) The business plan indicates that "Career development continues to support and provide advice and subject matter expertise as needed" on no fewer or less than six of its 2022-23 priorities. What are some specific examples of this the kind of support advice expertise provided by department to different initiatives? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not really clear with the question and what is the question about? Could he clarify it? Thank you.

**Chairman:** The member was asking about in the business plan in six different spots it mentions that the career development continues to support and provide advice and subject matter expertise as needed on no fewer than six of its priorities. The member is looking for some examples of what kind of support and expertise is provided by the department. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question, I believe, will have same response I made on career development officers dealing with different areas as when people ask for assistance. They can also write recommendations and when the financial assistance is required, they provide that assistance.

Under apprenticeships, the students are usually taken care of by the same employer for whom they work. The other areas mentioned were through hamlets, through make-work programs, or whatever assistance is made available. However, they really put more focus on those people who get assistance and move on from there, and the others were mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying that. (interpretation ends) One of the department's priority 2022-2023 was to review and update the adult learning training support program. When will the review and update be finalized? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a good question. As I mentioned financial assistance, we provide to those who are on training or career development. This will be ready by this summer and/or fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those who go south for schooling on heavy equipment, is that program still ongoing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date this program is still ongoing and each year we have students going down to take that training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you minister. The programs that are provided, perhaps if more people knew about the program, more individuals would take on the program. Sometimes we have questions in the community. There is a need to have more public information. (interpretation ends) Is the department working with the Nunavut Arctic College to identify more options in the skilled trades work diploma program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first item he mentioned on how to further publish or showcasing this information publicly for the heavy equipment training program. This was done due to having an agreement to provide these services. Sometimes we have these notices in the stores and online for those who may want to take the program and every community is provided that information and the

information is also provided through the Adult Basic Education program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name I have on my list: Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was asked by a constituent just a while ago, maybe about a week ago or so. My constituent wanted to get into career development and I had no answer and I told my constituent that I would seek answers. In regard to career development, within all the Nunavut communities, who advertises these developments and opportunities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk:** Thank you, *Issivautaq*. I'm not sure what your question is on; I might have misunderstood, but in terms of career development positions that might be open for your region, I know that there is one in Kugluktuk and a couple in Cambridge Bay that are career development officers.

For career broadening programs, career development officers do travel to the communities to promote what might be available in terms of trades or invigilating exams or resumé writing, assisting clients, or job searches. Those are what I could provide, as I'm not sure which side you're asking from. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The constituent asked because the constituent wanted to go into

training and the apprenticeships and trades and it's not just one program; they wanted to get into programming and they wanted to receive their certification and advance and start work within the communities or outside of the communities. When these opportunities are advertised, who is responsible for advertising and letting Nunavummiut know about these programs and apprenticeship training and courses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm thinking of the Rankin Inlet Trade School that runs different programs in trades, whether it be plumbing or electrician or carpentry. It's usually Nunavut Arctic College that advertises training programs.

When we come down to some construction company coming into the community and they're looking for some labourers in the community, they could start in that route of working with the employer and the career development officer to get the student prepped for training, but also, it would have to mean that they would have to prepare for an invigilating exam to get into a specific trade. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for your response. Hopefully my constituents are tuned in and listening so they get the information that they need.

(interpretation) I thank you, minister. This is a very important issue for those who want to take training. People want jobs and if the career development officer ever visits Kugaaruk or Taloyoak or either community, we would welcome them. This is my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know when the visits will take place to the communities, but I did mention that you have development officers in Cambridge Bay and when they are to visit the communities, in advance, they talk with the local hamlets and go through the local radio while they are in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. If possible, and if they can go on the local radio in Kugaaruk and Taloyoak. These two communities are part of Nunavut and they should be informed so that those who want to take on any training can do so. Could you perhaps tell them that they do make a point of going on the radio? This is my last question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can remind our development officers in advance of going to visit the communities and upon visiting the communities to provide more

information. This is something that we will discuss further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name I have on my list, Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question concerns, (interpretation ends) as was stated by one of my colleagues, that the department is working with Nunavut Arctic College to identify more options under the Skilled Trades Workers Diploma program. We know, like we heard, that there's one being held in Rankin Inlet.

I want to cover a few things here too. Under the business plan, page 180 Labour Market Agreement, it states that "This program contributes towards the funding of programming and services to assist people who face persistent barriers to employment, people who are unemployed, underemployed, and youth who are not attending school. Funding may be distributed to organizations to provide programming and services that will positively impact the lives of Nunavummiut and assist with helping them remain and/or enter the workforce."

By saying that, (interpretation) since you collaborate with the Arctic College, and I wonder if this is included in the plans under the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College. However, in looking at this (interpretation ends) *Apprenticeship and Certification Act*, (interpretation) and I want to ask about that. What is the perspective, based on your collaboration with Nunavut Arctic College or in increasing this assistance to the department?

We are looking at how all communities can move past their current situation and how we must deal with what you stated, in terms of moving forwards. With discussing these CLC facilities in our communities since every community pretty much have these facilities. I would like to see more use of these facilities locally for trades related courses such as for carpentry since we must consider our male youth who need to be trained to enable more skill development.

Have you discussed these through working cooperation in area of carpentry on the basic trades level program, have you considered that? It is my question, I was quite long. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question, which is a good question how we work with college and the adult education program. We have an agreement on these areas, not just Rankin Inlet. We look at areas of trades that we may provide, we've discussed those as well. I believe last year I did mention on trades like carpentry. If people want to get into this, preparation of advanced testing needs to be done, your math level, literacy level, these art exams are required prior to that. We also have online educational program that will lead you towards the programs. We are slowly taking these on; however, we have not had these in all the communities, but we are progressing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague...

**Chairman:** Thank you. My apologies, Ms. Killiktee. We lost quorum for a moment. Please continue.

**Ms. Killiktee:** ... so I was just like oh, I missed the break.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Thank you. What I was trying to say was my colleague indicated there was a lack of employment in the smaller communities, I don't agree with that. It is available in the communities, there's businesses that have established, there's homeowners that can help with the training portion of a person who is interested in trades, in becoming a tradesperson. There are skilled labours and the homeowners in the communities who require labourers. I envision something very positive; this is a comment but it can be applied, and through you, in English.

(interpretation ends) It's time that in smaller communities that we fill up Arctic Colleges because most of the time it may be just a basic accounting courses. (interpretation) There are programs that are available. I know it's hard but we also have to look at the positive side of things and some things that we envision and progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't hear a question, but I agree with you, especially the



communities who have ambitions. I agree with you. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee. (interpretation) Is that it? (interpretation ends) The next name that I have on my list, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On your business plan on page 181, on the first bullet it says that the department is willing to continue to work with Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti Secretariat on implementing measures how to encourage the contractors to provide skills and training in conjunction with major capital construction projects.

How does the department see it in terms of those communities that hardly get any capital projects? How is the department willing to work with the Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti Secretariat then, on how to make these individuals getting to apprenticeship program? Such as, the contractors come to the communities from spring until fall and it is a one-year, pretty much a six month. How is the department in conjunction with the Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti secretariat when it comes to apprenticeship programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it is ok with you, I would like to refer this to Ms. Kownak.

**Chairman:** Ms. Kownak, please proceed.

**Ms. Kownak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently in our department and between the NNI Secretariat as well as CGS, officials have been meeting to determine changes to the capital contract bidding and award process, but along with that, in sight of that as well, there is Inuit training plan requirements. There are discussions around several projects right now in various communities across Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is nice to know. So, how about these organizations such as: the local housing associations, municipalities, and looking at the mining sector too, is the department in conjunction with those organizations that I just mentioned? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the member for that question. We work with construction companies in Nunavut, and they usually work in various communities. We do not have anything for the mining sector. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the status part, they are reviewing the ongoing improvements, and so I think that would be one of the improvements when it comes to these

apprenticeship programs such as Inuit labour force's agreement. Perhaps the department can look into it further, to make it more sustainable for those individuals that would like to further their professional careers, such as: electrician, plumbing, and what not. Will there be any improvement on that part? On the section working with the municipalities and local housing associations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We currently work with the hamlet council and the construction companies, and for companies that would like to get certified, then there is an agreement that is already in place. If somebody wants to take pre-trades training, they go through that office.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that would be a very positive strategy when it comes to improvement and employability through the apprenticeship program. These are the issues that I have been seeing when it comes to major capital and yearly construction projects.

In saying that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to move on with another matter on the same page. Under bullet number 5, it says "Support government efforts in preparing and implementing a multi-year training strategy with Inuit organizations and other partners to enable development of Nunavut's labour force and economy."

How is the department looking into improving the local economy in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I would like to thank you for that question. That is a very good question. With the Nunavut Housing 3000, we are working with them, with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and also with the community learning centres. We look at how we can increase the employment rate in the construction field and we also focus on how many Inuit we are going to be employing through an agreement. We would like 80 apprentices and go through the apprenticeship program and the pre-trades training. We also have some employees in Rankin Inlet who are preparing for the construction of Nunavut 3000 units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for the information for that, minister. Hopefully one of my constituents will be able to apply on this; a good labour force when it comes to apprenticeship and career development.

On the upper bullet there, "Support government efforts to increasing opportunities for pre-employment work experiences for high school and post-secondary students throughout the year."

Still pretty much the same question, but how are they working with the local housing associations when it comes to

work experience and pre-employment for those high school and post-secondary students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within a year we aside funds that can be accessed by the hamlet council or the local housing organization to hire youth. That goes through an agreement with those entities. The hamlet can access these funds to subsidize their wages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek:** Yes, I would like to see more on this work experience program when it comes to these very much needed carpenters and electricians locally. Just a suggestion there is they can further work with these local housing associations to make these youth or those with a high school diploma, that they can collaborate with local housing associations to give them work experience, and if they want to further their career, perhaps they can move to other communities and become good electricians. That is just a suggestion if I can make that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's it.

**Chairman:** Thank you. That was just a comment. I have no more names on my list. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, we know that over the next 10 years, 10,000 youth are going to reach the age of 18. That will represent a significant influx of potential

labourers into the workforce. Also, importantly, it will result in the need for potentially 10,000 new jobs.

On page 181 of the business plan, there is a bullet that says "Support government efforts in preparing and implementing a multi-year training strategy with Inuit organizations and other partners to enable development of Nunavut's labour force and economy."

I would like to hear from the minister, through the Chair, what that training strategy is, and whether or not it's got a name and whether or not we can see it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for asking that question. We work with Inuit organizations and with planning for workers. We have also planned and envision for Family Services and Economic Development and community learning centres to create more mining training.

Also, if we could bring out other jobs. (interpretation ends) Shift the emphasis from training to jobs to pathways for a career, (interpretation) for career development for curriculum in the communities, where they can learn and work at the same time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this preparation and implementation of the multi-year

training strategy, I wonder if through the Chair, the minister can tell us what some of the key performance indicators are for the implementation of that multi-year training strategy and whether or not that training strategy is on target. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you I would like my deputy minister to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Niego.

**Ms. Niego** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I know a significant amount of work was done a year or so ago, and then there was a bit of a stall. I think a changeover of some staffing within the other departments had an effect there. I'm not sure exactly how far along the training strategy is and how far into the future. I know there were, as the minister had mentioned those key areas they were working on, but I don't have an update at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. If I may, who's the lead on this strategy? Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is the lead department for that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Great minds think alike, sometimes more on other days than others. I would like to move on to the labour market agreement and the agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada. I would like to hear from the minister through the Chair how long this contribution agreement is in place or is it a multiyear agreement? If there's an endpoint, what is that endpoint? Also, I would just like to hear in addition to that whether or not there is a responsibility for family services to evaluate the effectiveness of the programming that is being implemented under that funding through the Chair. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Yes that agreement with the federal government is an annual agreement with the federal government and the regional. Since 2017 it hasn't really been reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister if you could let us know has that funding allocation under that agreement gone up since 2017? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No it has not increased. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister Nakashuk. The reason I asked is because of my earlier statement about the knowledge that we have 10,000 youth very quickly coming into the labour force, and of course the question I asked about the evaluating the program is really important so that we know whether or not it would be appropriate to go back to Employment and Social Development Canada and request more funding to allocate to this very important that the department is doing, and I would like to hear from the minister through the Chair whether or not there is any impetus to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. In looking at our communities, we help them in different ways, but we are going to be planning for the future, we will have to work again with the federal government to get them to help the people of Nunavut. We already have capacity issues, but we still need to hire more people and we have to look to the future, and all the people that will need help to get jobs in the future. Just following the increase in population, so we'll always have to work together with the federal government because we need to add more jobs, and also to add to it that agreement, the working together agreement with the economic development as the lead department, but it's actually the education department that is the lead department. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After the minister's microphone cut out I heard that reference to the lead department for the training strategy is actually Education and not Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you for that, I appreciate that.

Minister, there was a discussion about early career direction and pre-employment work experience and minister you mentioned the Nunavut entrepreneur program and then went on to discuss a pilot project that is underway. I didn't catch whether or not that's a territory-wide pilot project or whether it's in a specific community. If it is a single pilot project in a specific community, with a specific high school, can you please through the chair let us know which community it is in. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question in regard to the question we discussed earlier. You're talking about the Nunavut 3000 housing build. The local DEA is doing a pilot project in Rankin Inlet to see how the students can be turned towards trade school. So to see how we can help them planning to go into the trades school. This is just a pilot project happening in Rankin Inlet, but for the Nunavut 3000 plan, we're working together with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and NCC to get workers for the communities as the construction is going on. We will need to

hire and train people. It's a separate matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you minister for that response. On page 181 of the business plan, there is a commitment to support government efforts to enhance indirect supports for post-secondary learners and I'm just curious about what those indirect supports are. If you could let us know that through the Chair, if we could have some examples. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you allow Ms. Brewster to ask that question again, I didn't catch the beginning of her question. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, on the second last bullet on the business plan on page 181, there is commitment to support government efforts to enhance indirect supports for post-secondary learners. The status update states "Career Development continues to support and provide advice and subject matter expertise as needed." I am requesting more information about what those indirect supports are, as well as what support and advice and subject matter are shared on those supports for post-secondary leaders...learners. I suppose they are leaders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. When adults go to learning, we generally work with community learning centers or if they're going to be going to a university, we support them. Sometimes they go for a short-term course. Or, if they're going to go for a less than a year course, we help through this program. We work the schools for these. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that response. Minister, if you could tell us, I am curious about who liaises, whether or not it is the career development unit or the labour market programs unit that might liaise with local housing authorities to ensure that any students that are in public housing are not, number one, if they have housing, that they are not losing their housing while they are at school.

Importantly, I think that there are many young people that do go away for long term educational training and development, and because there is a housing shortage, there is rental, there is a dearth of rental units available.

Whether or not family services work with local housing authorities or the Nunavut Housing Corporation to ensure that young learners, or any learners, students do not lose their place on a housing wait list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for your question. People who will be leaving their communities to further their training today, with the way it is, and it is understandable that the system is better and the students do not lose their home when they go for training and they have an agreement with Arctic College. If they are going to go out for training, and housing must take their house, but career development officers, we work with them and they vary.

In regard to the question that you just posed, they provide support to the people who will be going out for training or schooling, and they provide support to those if they are going back to school. So, that is what the procedure is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, also on page 181 of the business plan, the third bullet “commits to support government efforts to incorporate more life skills and career counselling into the K-12 curriculum to foster self-reliance, self-esteem and early career direction.” As with the other status update, it states “career development continues to support and provide advice in subject matter, expertise as needed.”

I would like to hear from the minister, through the Chairman, just what sorts of support and advice are needed and how is that shared? Is there some sort of interdepartmental working group that has a focus on career development?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with the Department of Education with this, so that they can provide support through guidance counsellors within Nunavut.

We also provide support to the higher education students that will be going to their communities and for their career development if they are going out of their community to further their training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that response. I would just like to go back to page 180 and the priorities for 2022-2023. There is a commitment “in collaboration with the Department of Education, begin to implement the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy 2.0.” and it states that planning meetings have taken place, and collaboration with education in ongoing.

I would like to hear from the minister, through the Chairman; exactly where that implementation is at, and whether or not there are key performance indicators, and whether or not those key performance indicators are on track. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for asking

that question. The Department of Education is the lead department for this; it's not within our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is in the business plan and I am just asking about how the Department of Family Services is working in collaboration with the Department of Education for the areas of responsibility that do fall under Family Services to ensure that the implementation of the learning strategy is on track. I don't know if I'm offside there. I'll ask again if we can get an update on that through you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Brewster. It's in the business plan. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for asking that follow-up question. It's evident that we will need to work closely with the Department of Education and meet with them to see how we can move this forward, especially in regard to career development and how we can help more students within the schools. My deputy minister can explain further if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Niego.

**Ms. Niego** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Under the Deputy Ministers' Committee table, there is a subcommittee. I can't remember the entire name, but it's a labour market involved committee and it

has met once. Further work needs to be taken on this business plan item. In the business plans where you see "support," usually that means we're not the primary lead; we're the secondary. There could be multiple secondaries as well, so our part might be much smaller than the lead's and so for this line item, it is through that committee where we would work on that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. It's the last name I have on my list on page L-7. Career Development. \$11,437,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Before we go to page L-8, we will take a 20-minute break. Thank you.

*>>Committee recessed at 16:38 and resumed at 17:03*

**Chairman:** Okay. I would like to call the committee meeting to order please. We are on page L-8. Poverty Reduction. \$8,875,000. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's 2023-26 business plan indicates that a new Makimaniq III plan is being drafted and will include the Homelessness Action Plan and the Food Security Strategy. What components of the previous Makimaniq II will be retained and what components will be discontinued? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.



**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you. I am going to look for that information. During our meeting on poverty reduction, we are usually meeting with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. In regard to the new Makimaniq III plan, we will want to hear from communities of Nunavut what causes poverty and how we can make sure that there is no poverty. Every year we meet with them. We will want to consult with the communities so that we can have a food security strategy. We meet with Nunavummiut. I would also like to elaborate further that wellness program for Nunavummiut in order to have food security. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Funding for the emergency homelessness shelters, transitional housing and support services division is projected to remain stable in 2023-24. Have any new needs for shelter, activities, or resources been identified that will not be funded in 2023-24? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding is through application to help the homeless shelters and this funding will continue. They deal with these in the offices and also they work with the shelter staff if they wanted to apply for funding they will approve last time so therefore we have increased

the funding so that the volunteers can make applications. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The department's indicates that on page 172 that the department supports food centres in all Nunavut regions, including multiyear core funding. What kind of food specific training workshops will be delivered to ensure that food centres can help communities to be food secure? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are various shelters or women's shelters and homeless shelters. If they wanted to have some kind of programming, whether it be training for staff within their building. What I can say is what has been used today for workshops to ensure that food centres can help. Also they do training. I'm sorry, I cannot response. So I will look for that information then respond to your question, but the funding is used for various training purposes for shelter and also for homeless. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This will be my last question. It depends on her answer, I guess. One of the department's priorities has been to support government efforts to enable elders to access more country food. The

business plan indicates the department will be consulting with elders on needs and ways to improve access to country food. How specifically will these consultations be conducted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** That was last Friday. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. We work with the Department of Culture and Heritage and there is also an elders' committee. We will work with them to come up with the access to country through the Department of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a known fact. I spoke with a mental health work in regard to homeless people in the community and the option for homeless people without shelters was to go to a community where they have shelters. The nearest shelter we have in the Kitikmeot region is Cambridge Bay. When I spoke with the mental health worker, they don't always want to go to Cambridge Bay. They want to stay in the community.

Now my question is: when an individual is homeless and he doesn't want to go to community that has a homeless shelter, do these homeless people get support, like for example to buy naphtha, food, warm clothing, and shelter like for example a tent, or anything like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. I am pleased that we have staff at the Department of Family Services that support the homeless and do community visits and help place individuals in homeless shelters. They also provide community support when individual clients do not wish to leave town, by supplying necessities such as food, clothing or naphtha, if they are living in a shack or a shed. If they are in transition, sometimes they are put into hotels if they are going to another community. Emergency supplies are provided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Quqqiaq

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you Mr. Chairman, and thank you minister for your response. Hopefully my constituents are listening, the ones that are seeking shelter.

Mr. Chairman, we do not have homeless shelters in our community and I would highly recommend that the Family Services Department take this into great consideration when it comes to allocating of units to the communities. To make sure that these communities are prioritized, ones with no homeless shelters, to have more units allocated to those communities.

I guess my question will be: will you take this into consideration when it comes to homeless people in the communities with no shelters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is my last question.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your question on this issue. We do not want to neglect the homeless that have no place to go in any community, and we are seeing more and more homeless people. Because of this, it is important that we work diligently with the hamlets, non-profit organizations, and on occasion, with the local housing authorities, on if there is any vacant housing that the hamlet could use and then we can find operating funds. Homeless shelters are generally run by non-profit organizations, but as the government, we do provide funding to these non-profit organizations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. On page L8, poverty reduction, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just to begin, through the Chairman, can the minister confirm that the Makimaniq plan falls under, or the implementation of that plan falls under the purview of family services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your question. As I mentioned earlier, we work with NTI, Nunavut Tunngavik, and we work in this area 50-50. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you Mr.

Chairman. I have to say that I am really happy that there is a consolidation of addressing food security issues and homelessness issues within this plan.

I would just like to hear from the minister, Mr. Chairman about the evaluation of the implementation of the last plan, and what some of the biggest learnings were from the implementation of that plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question on this point, which is a very good question. When we met here in Iqaluit on the poverty reduction roundtable, as we call it, NTI meeting with them and along with our workers and also community hamlet and also with elders. What I found very beneficial in the meeting was we had different issues or how we can further provide help or support with the increased cost of living.

Elders in particular talked about the problems or things that lead to poverty in community in view of those situations. From the roundtable discussions we compiled the information from there and we also looked at what would be the cost to purchase ground beef, for example. What's the comparison with the price in the south? Our meeting was very positive. I'm just giving a bit of information on what we discussed, but when the elders were making their comments, we learned much on what are the main obstacles for poverty in their communities. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 172 of the department's business plan, there is commitment to further support food centres in all Nunavut regions, including multi-year core funding for the operations and the status updates indicates that the department is now offering multi-year core funding to food centres.

I'd like to hear from the minister, Mr. Chairman, about how often those food centres are required to report and how the funding is delivered. Is it one year bulk funding, is it quarterly funding, and what works best for those organizations that are receiving the core funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you, I would like to Deputy Minister Ms. Niego.

**Chairman:** Ms. Niego.

**Ms. Niego:** I can't recall the entire question, but one thing to note is with our food security initiative funding, the money isn't all that great. Right now we currently fund 15 community food security programs in 13 communities for a total of \$527,000. I think they report in quarterly, if I'm not mistaken. Sorry, that's for the by request for proposal, and then on the core funding initiatives we have five separate societies, five separate food banks, for a total of \$547,000 in this current year. The largest would be \$125,000 for one society.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm curious about whether or not those organizations that are receiving core funding are receiving funding for board development and to ensure that any organization that is run by a board is well-trained in the areas of financial management and accountability, as well as governance in terms of ensuring that they are meeting on a regular basis and that they are also staying up to date in terms of their business registries as well as any other governance-related obligations that they have. If the minister could talk about that, I'd appreciate it.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that question. Through agreements we sign with their organizations and how the status is and what training is being provided because they are the ones responsible for it. In our agreement, however, we are able to provide them funding for food or any training they may have under their operations. The recent if they require an office or expand the building, the recent agreement allows for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 172, on the fourth priority as to support government efforts to enable elders to access more country food or *inuksiutiit*. We know especially in the Iqaluit area, with the limits that

are put on hunting caribou, that elders are having...everybody is having less access to caribou in this area.

I wonder if, through the Chair, the minister can talk about how issues like that are being addressed when it comes to enabling elders to have more access to *inuksiutiit*, especially given that as people age, elders have certain cravings and they also have very important nutritional needs that are best met by eating food that they love and enjoy because we know that they'll eat more of it.

If, through the Chair, the minister can talk about how the department is working Health, Environment, and Economic Development and Transportation to support those food security initiatives specifically related to foods that are less available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that question, how we work with Economic Development and Transportation or whoever, we all as government have further options, or we try to get more options from them, but we have recognized this.

Last year we had a lot of working relationships with the local hunters and trappers association because usually they are the ones who know what is available to harvest and we provide the funding. Also the communities are able to purchase and order from other communities. Through *Makimaniq*...what is it called? We will have to work further within our

government as we always work harder to provide more traditional food for the elders. Through that I can say, and if you want me to add further my deputy can provide further details. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Niego.

**Ms. Niego** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) One thing that we were hoping to do was connect with the current elders' focus groups that are going on in those three or four communities, but I think they have been closed to other departments. The elders want their own time. Whatever the results are from there, we hope to hear what their needs are. I think it varies community by community, what the country food needs are, and then once we identify the needs, then we can target the supply. It's about connecting which communities need which foods, so there is a lot of work to try to make those connections. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think as Inuit, we have a very well-known responsibility to protect our wildlife, especially from overharvesting. I know that it has come up in conversation that some people may be concerned about the role and the impact of accessing, especially tuktu from other regions and other areas. There are so many people here that are craving and needing that.

I think that it is a very complicated issue, and I hope that The Department of Family Services is working really hard with partners to ensure that by the time our children and grandchildren are

elders, that they will have access to that same *Inuksiutit*. I will move on.

Also, on page 172 there is a commitment to support government efforts to enhance and support school meal programs with community-based partners, and that the Department of Family Services is working with the Department of Education to create a more robust school meal program for schools, and we spoke at length about the importance of school meal programs, and ensuring that there are, especially lunch programs in every single school, every day of the school year.

I want to know through the Chairman from the Minister of Family Services, what efforts family services is making in that work with the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I will allow the question because there is a part under the poverty reduction that speaks to the school food policy, but we are treading on past divisions. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are various departments that are responsible for providing funds for food, and the Department of Education is more responsible for those types of programs. We will have to have a close working relationship with that department. They can release some of their responsibilities and move them on to another department; for example, the Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster, any other questions?

**Ms. Brewster:** Just to confirm, we are on the poverty reduction branch, correct? Yes, so I would just like to say that I did ask that question because it is listed as the last bullet priority under 2022-23, so I am just a little bit confused about why that might not have been appropriate. I am good for now. Thanks.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Brewster and I do apologize for the confusion.

I have no more names on my list. We are on page L8. Oh, sorry. Mr. Kaernek. No?

Minister Nakashuk, you had something to comment?

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for expanding on that, and I can tell you that services for 2022-23 were initiated and we have not included it for 2023-24. I just wanted to make that comment because it's more of the responsibility of the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just for clarification, I am sorry, I missed the beginning of that verification from the minister and I do appreciate it, because in 2023-24, the priorities list on page 173 to "continue to support government efforts to enhance and support school meal programs with community-based partners." I am more confused than I was a couple of minutes ago. If I could just get some clarification on that, I would really appreciate that; from the minister through the Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you approve, I would like to refer this to my deputy minister. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Niego.

**Ms. Niego** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Over this fiscal year, at the federal-provincial-territorial level between jurisdictions, our understanding is that it was decided that food school programs would remain with schools. Our work would be more with the food organizations within the community, and so the funding and our work with those food bank programs would be through the public, and then the schools could access it. It is difficult for us to get into the schools and provide the volunteers, etc....It really relies on the school's work. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster, I do want to take a moment to apologize earlier that I misunderstood which division you were delving into. Ms. Brewster, please proceed.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate your apology.

I will go back to the discussion about funding emergency homeless shelters. I am concerned that there are so many communities that do not have emergency homeless shelters, and I would like to hear from the minister, through the Chairman, what family services does to create emergency shelter on an as

needed basis for people who find themselves in an emergency; whether it's from being evicted, or importantly I think, we know that there are so many people who are experiencing violence in the home, and sometimes their home isn't a safe place to be and they may only need a night or two.

I would like to hear from the minister, through the Chairman whether or not every single community has some kind of an action plan, and the ability to create a safe space, even if it's just for a night or two. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you for that question. It's a very good question. There are different communities. There are some that have access to emergency homes and there are some with none at all, but if they want a safe place to go they can get help through Family Services and have access to a home or they can get help from their family members. Some communities have emergency shelter available, possibly through the hamlet council or organized by a non-profit organization. We have challenges with the communities that do not have safe homes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're on page L-8. Poverty Reduction. \$8,875,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go back to page L-3. Detail of Expenditure. Department of Family Services. Total

Operations and Maintenance to be voted on. \$179,474,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the committee agree that we have concluded with the Department of Family Services?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister, any closing comments?

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you very much for your questions. Very excellent questions. I especially would like to thank the employees in the communities and also here in Iqaluit. They work very hard to make sure that there is improvement at all levels. What we hear is not going to shelved.

We work continuously to make sure that we have employees. We have a shortage of employees in some communities and we hope to see improvements all around. I thank all the staff at the office and the social services workers. They get tired but they keep going. Let's be proud of them, even though we don't agree all the time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

*>>Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you please escort the witnesses out of the witness table. Members, please remain in your seats. We'll just take a one-minute break and transition over to the Department of Justice.

*>>Committee recessed at 17:39  
resumed at 17:40*

**Bill 18 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2023-2024  
– Justice – Consideration in  
Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order again, please. Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Simailak: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Minister Simailak, please introduce your officials to the committee and proceed with your opening comments.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Deputy Minister of Justice Stephen Mansell and to my right is Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Safety David Lawson.

Mr. Chairman, if I can take a quick second here, David Lawson is new to his position as Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Safety. David became assistant deputy minister on February 1. He is originally from Pangnirtung. He was most recently director of civil forfeiture. Prior to joining the department, David spent many years with the Royal



Canadian Mounted Police and in 2022 he completed his law degree with the Nunavut Law Program. I am very proud and happy that he could be joining us in his role.

>> *Applause*

I also have Mubashir Mahmood, Director of Corporate Services, if need be.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to appear before the committee to present to you the 2023-24 main estimates for the Department of Justice.

A total of \$167,183,000 is being requested for the operations and maintenance of the department for the 2023-24 fiscal year. This is an \$8.7 million, or 5 percent, increase from the 2022-23 fiscal year. The total expenditure will include the following:

As a result of new collective bargaining agreement between the Government of Nunavut with the Nunavut Employees Union, an increase of \$3,214,000 in compensation and benefits is being requested for the fiscal year 2023-24.

Under Law Enforcement, an additional \$3,027,000 will be included in the 2023-24 budget for the following items:

- five regular members to increase Royal Canadian Mounted Police staffing which were approved in 2022-23;
- four regular members for the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program partnership between the Government of Canada and the Government of

Nunavut which were approved in 2022-23;

- start-up costs for the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program which we are seeking approval for this year;
- inflation and divisional administration cost to address uncontrollable cost which was approved in 2022-23;
- engine overhaul and salary of one pilot under Air Services Division of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to improve flight capability and emergency response at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; and
- one-time funding for 2022-23 only to meet shortfall in retro pay in the amount of \$1 million due to the collective agreement completed between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the National Police Federation to be sunset in 2023-24.

Under Corrections, \$1,950,000 in additional funding to be included in 2023-24 for 11 new staffing positions in the new Aaqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility, which opened in September 2021. This increase, which was approved in 2022-23, will help Corrections ensure the new facility is properly resourced and ensure the safety of both clients and staff.

An additional \$533,000 will be added to the 2023-24 budget for Community Justice to allow for the following:

- an increase to grants and contributions to support the victims and survivors of crime. This funding

would support hamlets and non-profit organizations to successfully carry out programs and deliver services to victims of crime;

- supporting our Community Justice Outreach program by moving the remaining last four outreach worker positions from the hamlets to the Government of Nunavut. This funding will mark the end of a multi-year effort to bring the outreach workers into the department;
- funding for the Therapeutic Justice Program in Cambridge Bay was approved by the Government of Nunavut for 2021-22 and 2022-23 fiscal years. This program has since received a multi-year federal funding commitment for the next five years. For this reason, the department is no longer requesting operations and maintenance funding for Therapeutic Justice Program.

In grants and contribution, the department is requesting \$150,000 previously approved in 2022-23 for the Nunavut Legal Services Board to support the increase in salaries and operations of the Legal Services Board in 2023-24.

Finally, an additional \$140,000 previously approved in 2022-23 will go towards the Legal Support Services to retain three senior legal counsel positions in the Legal and Constitutional Law Division.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to answer questions from committee members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the standing committee have opening comments? Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness on its review of the proposed 2023-24 Main Estimates and 2023-26 Business Plan of the Department of Justice. The department's proposed 2023-24 operations and maintenance budget is \$167,183,000. This represents a 5.4 percent increase from the 2022-23 fiscal year. The number of positions in the department is increasing from 462.0 to 473.0 PYs, or person years. This increase is accounted for by new positions in the department's Corrections Branch.

On November 8, 2022 the Premier of Nunavut tabled ministerial mandate letters in the Legislative Assembly. One of the department's priorities is to "provide broad support for *Katujjiluta* through legislative review and legislative development aimed at implementing mandate objectives." During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members had a broad discussion about what specific actions the department will undertake to support this priority.

The department's proposed 2023-24 main estimates include \$3,191,000 for the operations of the Office of the Public Trustee and Guardianship. The Office of the Public Trustee and Guardianship administers trusts and estates on behalf of minors and Nunavummiut who die without a will. This office also supports people with disabilities and assists with personal affairs in collaboration with

clients and their families. Members raised a number of concerns regarding the status of this office and the role it undertakes when working with its clients. Members note that the department has recently advertised multiple job positions for the Office of the Public Trustee and Guardianship.

The department's proposed 2023-24 main estimates include \$905,000 for the operations of the Office of the Chief Coroner. The standing committee recognizes that tabling an annual report from this office is not a legislative requirement. However, the standing committee continues to strongly encourage the minister to resume the practice of tabling this office's annual reports so that all Members of the Legislative Assembly have the opportunity to review its important work, including recommendations made following such proceedings as coroner's inquests. Members note that on February 2, 2023, the Nunavut Coroner's Office issued a public service announcement seeking community coroners. The standing committee pays tribute to Nunavut's community coroners for the important services they provide to our communities.

The standing committee notes that the department currently has a number of outstanding statutory tabling requirements under the *Human Rights Act*, the *Legal Profession Act*, and the *Legal Services Act*.

The department's proposed 2023-24 main estimates include \$64,162,000 for the Law Enforcement Branch operations. The standing committee strongly supports initiatives to recruit and retain more Inuit into the Royal Canadian

Mounted Police. One of the department's priorities for the 2023-24 year is to "Support Royal Canadian Mounted Police to recruit Inuit regular members, civilian members and public service employees." Members inquired about the number of Inuit that work with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and what efforts are being made to recruit more Inuit members into the force.

On March 12, 2020 the Minister of Justice tabled the 2019-2021 *Government of Nunavut-Royal Canadian Mounted Police "V" Division Shared Directional Statement* in the Legislative Assembly. On December 21, 2022 the department issued a news release regarding the Renewal of a shared directional statement for policing. The 2022-25 Shared Directional Statement outlines five priorities "identified by Nunavummiut, the Government of Nunavut and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police." The standing committee looks forward to reviewing the shared directional statement with care and to its tabling in the House.

The department's *5-Year Nunavut Crime Prevention Strategy* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 14, 2017 and expired in 2022. The standing committee notes that the department is undertaking a review of this strategy to "identify best practices and shortcomings." The standing committee also notes that one of the department's priorities for the 2023-24 fiscal year is to "work in partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to create and implement a crime prevention strategy." The standing committee looks forward to receiving updates on this important work and to its tabling in the House.

On November 8, 2022 the federal Minister of Public Safety and the territorial Minister of Justice released a joint statement regarding the expansion of the First Nation and Inuit Policing Program into Nunavut. The First Nation and Inuit Policing Program is set to expand into Nunavut over the next three years with the intentions of “enhancing and expanding Indigenous-led approaches to public safety.” Members look forward to receiving further updates on this important work.

The department’s draft 2023-24 main estimates include \$1,201,000 for the operations of the Nunavut Justices of the Peace Program. During the minister’s appearance, members enquired about which communities do not have resident Justices of the Peace and what work is being done to fill vacancies. The standing committee notes that the department recently issued a public service announcement regarding a Justice of the Peace Appointment and Remuneration Committee call-out. Members look forward to receiving further updates on this important work.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2023-24 Main Estimates and 2023-26 Business Plan of the Department of Justice. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Any comments to the opening comments? Seeing none, please turn to page E-4. Directorate. \$27,541,000. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On civil forfeiture, I’m just curious as to why the budget has gone down. It was \$250,000 the previous year

and this year it’s going to be \$210,000. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason was that was start-up costs. That’s why it was higher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the end of the upcoming fiscal year, the start-up costs and operational costs will be roughly about \$460,000. I’m just curious: in the start-up costs here, \$250,000, how much worth of assets were forfeited through the Forfeiture Act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are three cases before the court. There is no money yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After four or five years of the forfeiture law being in place and, if it is five years, it will be in the neighbourhood of \$1 million that will be spent on civil forfeiture.

In order to judge a program’s success, you have to have a ruler. How much worth of assets would they have to seize in order for the program to be deemed successful? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's about deterring crime. It's not about the money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Taking the minister's statement then, even if they don't get any assets, it doesn't really matter. The minister stated that there are three cases before them. Does it matter whether they get anything because it's about deterrence and not seizing? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. If the minister can also clarify the number of cases, I heard two and Mr. Savikataaq heard three, so if we can get a confirmation of the numbers as well as respond to the member's question. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow it, Deputy Minister Mansell will respond to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. There are three cases. With respect to assets and whether or not the program is successful, as the minister said, the main motivation for our civil forfeiture program is crime prevention and reduction. Assets that are seized are used for community good and for crime prevention programming, so that's definitely something we would like to see, but we haven't set sort of a metric of what we need to collect to consider the

program a success. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree that assets should not be obtained through criminal activity. I agree with the minister and his officials on that, but if a program is not reducing crime and not a deterrent, if no assets are being seized, what's the minister's position on whether that program should continue because it's successful or not successful? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a little too early to say right now. This program has just been starting in the past few years, so it's a little too early to say right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many years of operation would it take for the minister to get a position on it? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would depend on how things would be going in the next few years to start gauging it, in my opinion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's exactly what I asked: how many years of having the forfeiture law in place and going after criminal

assets before a judgment on the success or non-success, I don't want to call it a failure, but it's not doing what it was intended to do? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has only been a couple of years and we've got to give the program a few years to get going to see if there is any progress or not before any other consideration should be made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my point. A few years, is that two years? Three years? Four years? Five years? That's my point. How many years? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It started in May 2021. If we want to go five years or ten years, we can go ten years, but it has only been two years. It would be nice to see it go for a few more years before we can even gauge it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just leave it at that, as the minister won't say after how many years of operation where they can evaluate it. He hopes that it goes for ten. Well, I hope so too, but at some point, government programs that use public funds have to be evaluated whether it's worth continuing with the use of public funds or not, but I'll leave it at that. It's just a comment.

Over on page 60 of the business plan, Public Safety and Crime Prevention, I'm just curious why, I have an idea, but if I can hear from the minister why the budget went from \$468,000 down to \$67,000. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** If you can just give me a second here to get to the page, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member can clarify what exactly he is looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. In the business plan on page 60, right at the very top, Public Safety and Crime Prevention, the previous year's budget was \$468,000 and the budget being requested for appropriation this year is \$67,000, a difference of \$401,000. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll need a second here. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, if you will allow a swap of officials, to have Mubashir Mahmood sit-in for a few minutes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** He has already been introduced, so swap away.

Go ahead, Minister Simailak, when you are ready. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will give me a second here, our finance man is getting to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have to get back to the committee with a response for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Sorry, minister, I do have an issue with that. It's a fairly significant change in budget in a division. I'll allow the questioning to continue, but I would appreciate a response to that in the very short term. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just going to say that I would expect a reply back before we approve the budgets of the Department of Justice. Like you said, it's a substantial decrease. It's for public safety and crime prevention, and the only reason I could think that the budget would go down that much is if public safety was not so much of an issue anymore and there was not as much crime, so we don't need as much crime prevention. I'll just leave that as a comment and I'll leave it for there, but I'm looking forward to getting the information.

On page 61 of the business plan in the second bullet it says, "Collaborate with other departments on joint efforts to achieve mandate objectives by participating as a member of the Purpose-Built Housing Working Group..." I know that the Department of Justice has people and clientele that they house, but they're locked up. I was just curious as to what's their role in the Purpose-Built Housing Working Group. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is lawyers and legal support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak, you had addressed the Chair that you wanted to respond to the earlier question. You can continue with that, please. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow Deputy Minister Mansell to respond. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Please proceed, Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for the confusion.

We moved a number of our contribution agreements under the Crime Prevention section over to Community Justice and they are administered by Community Justice now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the explanation. That's all the questions I had for this branch for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're on page E-4. Directorate. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and his team.

On page 59 of the department's business plan it speaks to the Coroner's Office and that "The Coroner's Office investigates the circumstances surrounding all reportable deaths to

determine the identity of the deceased and the facts concerning the deaths.” Through the Chair, can the minister tell me which deaths are reportable in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be death by police, death under care and family services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, has the Coroner’s Office ever established... ? I’m going to focus on one area, but there are many areas or a handful of really important areas that this could apply to. Has the Coroner’s Office established a domestic violence death review committee or an intimate partner violence death review committee and, if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** I don’t believe we have, but it’s something we can look into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you for that response, Mr. Minister. I appreciate the commitment to look into this idea. However, I think that this merits a more fulsome discussion than that at this table.

Such a review committee could be tasked with reviewing every death that is a result of intimate partner homicide or it

could review a number of deaths resulting from intimate partner homicide at a point in time.

The reason that I think that this is important is because, for a couple of generations now, we have been losing family members to violence and up until this point, even though Nunavut does have a very high rate and a higher rate of intimate partner violence death than many other jurisdictions, to my knowledge, up until this point, the Office of the Coroner has not reviewed even a single one of those deaths.

Under the lens of ensuring that if we consider who would have standing at an inquest or review of intimate partner homicide, we know that an inquest would probably give family members standing at that inquest and importantly, perpetrators would also likely be given standing at such an inquest.

What we know is that when the missing and murdered indigenous women inquiry took place, there was very little focus on learning and gaining knowledge about the perpetrators of that violence. There is much to be learned about what brings people to that point where they take another life and we need information in order to help us stop the cycle of violence.

Given all of that, I would like to hear, through you, Mr. Chairman, from the minister about whether or not there has been a discussion internally about the merits of creating both a committee and also having inquiries into intimate partner homicide related deaths. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question regarding intimate partner violence deaths and homicides and suicides.

The Coroner's Office participated in a research program with the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations. The goal was to identify risk factors associated with intimate partner homicides and suicides in Nunavut to gather evidence-based information on effective risk assessment, risk management and safety planning strategies in order to prevent lethal domestic violence. The project finished in August 2021 and provided a national statistical representation of domestic violence deaths in Canada.

The Coroner's Office entered into an agreement with the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations with a multi-disciplinary team that worked with coroners and medical examiners from all jurisdictions in Canada to collect data about domestic violence homicide. The goal of this research was to gather evidence-based information and it's available online. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I will remind members, with simultaneous interpretation that's going on, please speak a little slower. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm always happy to hear of any of our Government of Nunavut representatives and divisions taking part

in very important research. However, it doesn't speak to what I'm requesting information on and action on here today, that the coroner may have taken part in a project that is sort of more global in nature and not necessarily related strictly to finding learnings about common factors and risk factors that may be unique in Nunavut that can be gleaned from a coroner's inquest or inquiry.

I think it's really important to take part in research projects. However, Mr. Chairman, what the minister didn't tell us in that response is what information the coroner brought to that research in terms of whether or not there was an internal review of a number of intimate partner homicides that informed the coroner in order to inform that research. That's really what I'm getting at is what common factors and what we can do differently here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was no internal review committee. We just don't have that in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the Chair, minister, what would it take to establish such a committee here in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, Deputy Minister Mansell. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. For example, we do have a Nunavut Pediatric Death Review Committee. That's led by the coroner and that brings in experts in children's health and they review every death of a child whose age qualifies for the Pediatric Death Review Committee.

We don't have a similar committee for domestic violence. It would take bringing in stakeholders and a commitment by the chief coroner to do that. As the minister said, we can definitely take that back as something the coroner can look into, but at this point, we don't have that. With respect to review committees, we only have the Pediatric Death Review Committee at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, if the minister could also speak to whether or not there would be an appetite as well to create a suicide death review committee. As we all are aware, at every single sitting of this House, the issue of suicide, suicidal ideation, and suicide completion comes up and its impacts on communities.

We did recently have a visitor to the gallery who had, many years ago, done quite a bit of research on the issue of suicide in Nunavut. To me, I think it would be a really important step in creating programs and creating supports in order to prevent more suicides. Through the Chair, the minister can advise us as to whether or not there's a willingness to also go back and talk to

the coroner about establishing a suicide death review committee as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can speak to the coroner, but there may not be too much of an appetite to create a suicide death review committee. I can commit to speak to the coroner about that. That's as far as I can speak to that right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, if the minister can let us know where the list of reportable deaths comes from. Is that within the *Coroners Act* and, if so, if the minister can advise through the Chair when the *Coroners Act* is up for review next? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have a scheduled review at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize; that was a two-part question and I'm working really hard on staying on one question at a time.

Through you, Mr. Chairman, can the minister advise us of whether or not the list of reportable deaths is contained

within the *Coroners Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the *Coroners Act* and what can be reported and whatnot, we don't have that info on hand right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if I can be given a minute to pull it up on my phone. I would appreciate, through the minister, a report back on whether or not those reportable deaths are contained within the Act before we finalize or finish with Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** We will put in the attempt. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, minister and your officials.

Looking at the priorities on page 60 in the first bullet there it says that the department has would like to see an increase in their Inuit employment. In the status part they have and their goal was at 49 percent representation of Inuit. Has the department reached the previous goal of 48 percent? That will be my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was 47 percent that was reached. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This 47 percent you just mentioned there, are they just administrative positions or any executive positions that were filled by Inuit under the Inuit Employment Plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have Inuit working in all levels of the justice department and we're currently sitting at 50 percent now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. What's the new goal for the next fiscal year for the Inuit Employment Plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next goal is 51 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** I do have to interject here. I'm looking at the priorities on page 60 that the member was alluding to and it says that the department has a new goal to reach 59 percent Inuit representation by March 31, 2024. The minister just said 51 percent. Can I get a clarification from the minister, please?

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was a typo during the drafting stages. It was supposed to be corrected before they were submitted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would just like to get clarification. The typo is in the business plan that we are in possession of, or is the typo in the information that the minister has? Can I get a clarification, please? Minister.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If your paper says 59 percent, that's the typo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Will there be a reprint coming? Minister.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was supposed to be done. We can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** I just want to get a clarification: so all the business plans are going to have to be redone for this typo? Minister.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To our understanding, it's just this page that has the error. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** I'll let that go for now, but this is concerning. When we are here debating budgets and approving or deciding to approve, this is our bible that we're going by, so I'll just leave that as a comment right now, but Mr. Kaerner, please proceed.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to agree with our

Chairman that if there's a typo on the realistic goal of, let's say, 59 percent and that was my next line of questioning and if that's a realistic number of 59 percent when you're giving us this 51 percent, how else can the minister explain how they have reached their 48 percent Inuit representation? Is that actual representation? Is that the fact that the department had reached their goal under the Inuit Employment Plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's currently the only typo, to our knowledge, is the 59 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the business plan there on page 85 under the Inuit Employment Plan, are these percentages also realistic? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could get clarification, is he looking at the whole page or just one line? If I can get clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll go with the number of 49 percent of total Inuit capacity as of September 30, 2022. I'll use that one section and if the minister can further

elaborate on how these percentages are accurate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These numbers are accurate on this page. It was 49 percent as of September 30, 2022. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** I'll leave it there for now and perhaps the department can actually give us an actual figure and not a typo, but I don't know if I could ask any further questions if there's also any typo that I would like to ask. It's just a comment and I'll leave it there for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. On that note, I'm going to have to look over the *Blues* tomorrow as well too because I know the minister quoted a 47 percent Inuit representation at some point and again, in the business plan, it listed 48 percent. I'm going to have to take a look at the *Blues*. On that note, I would like to just request the minister have updated sheets available for the committee before we proceed any further. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki:** I would like to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and it's non-debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Witnesses are cleared to go.

**Speaker:** Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hickes.

## **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 18 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Main. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Speaker:** All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Ball.

## **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Mr. Ball:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 9, 2023:

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

10. Petitions  
11. Responses to Petitions  
12. Reports of Standing and Special  
Committees on Bills and Other  
Matters  
13. Tabling of Documents  
14. Notices of Motions  
15. Notices of Motions for First  
Reading of Bills  
16. Motions  
17. First Reading of Bills  
18. Second Reading of Bills  
19. Consideration in Committee of  
the Whole of Bills and Other  
Matters
- Bill 12
  - Bill 14
  - Bill 16
  - Bill 17
  - Bill 18
  - Bill 19
  - Bill 20
  - Bill 21
20. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole  
21. Third Reading of Bills  
22. Orders of the Day

6(2), this House stands adjourned until  
Thursday, March 9, at 10 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:35*

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** In accordance with the  
authority provided to me by Motion 14 –

