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Wednesday, March 9, 2022

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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Tony Akoak, MLA

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

*Minister of Environment; Minister of Justice;
Minister responsible for Labour*

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

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

Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)

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

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee
of the Whole*

Hon. David Joanasie
(South Baffin)

*Minister of Community and Government
Services*

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)
*Government House Leader; Minister
of Economic Development and
Transportation; Minister of Energy;
Minister responsible for the Nunavut
Housing Corporation*

Hon. Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the
Financial Management Board;
Minister of Human Resources;
Minister responsible for the Workers'
Safety and Compensation
Commission*

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

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

*Minister of Family Services; Minister
responsible for Homelessness; Minister
responsible for the Status of Women*

Karen Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Joanna Quassa
(Aggu)
*Minister of Culture and Heritage;
Minister of Languages; Minister
responsible for the Qulliq Energy
Corporation; Minister responsible for
Seniors*

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, March 9, 2022**

Members Present:

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

>>House commenced at 13:29

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak)
(interpretation): Ms. Quassa, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Quassa. I send my regards to the Inuit who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, as well as all the residents of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 016 – 6(1):
Rebecca Kudloo Recognition**

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to Nunavummiut who are listening

to the proceedings, especially those listening in Iqaluit-Niaqunngu.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today, the day after International Women's Day, to recognize the incredible contributions and leadership of Rebecca Kudloo, the outgoing President of Pauktuutit.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate the dedication and tireless efforts of Ms. Kudloo in advocating for equality and access to essential services for Inuit women.

Originally from Igloolik, Nunavut, now living in Baker Lake, Rebecca Kudloo has served for three terms as Pauktuutit's president. However, Ms. Kudloo's advocacy work started long before her time at Pauktuutit. For over 36 years, she has been promoting holistic healing approaches, advocating for mental health services and resources, and securing funding for safe shelters to support women fleeing violence.

In addition to supporting survivors of intimate partner abuse, Ms. Kudloo also worked to provide resources and help for individuals who perpetuated violence. She recognized that perpetrators of violence were often themselves survivors of abuse and intergenerational trauma as well.

Mr. Speaker, on February 10, 2022, while still President of Pauktuutit, Rebeca Kudloo was presented with the Women, Peace, and Security Civil Society Leadership Award for her work and achievements toward protecting and promoting the human rights of Inuit women. That award is very well deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this moment to congratulate Rebecca Kudloo for her contributions and achievement. She is truly an inspiration to our young women and girls. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 017 – 6(1): Basic Radiology Training Program

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues and the people of Arviat and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health is committed to enhancing in-territory services and delivering training to prepare more Inuit for frontline health positions. As part of that commitment, we have been offering a (interpretation ends) Basic Radiological Technician (BRT) training program.

Mr. Speaker, the Basic Radiological Technician program is a specialized educational opportunity offered to selected Inuit employees of the Department of Health. The training provides them with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform basic X-ray procedures safely and effectively at all of Nunavut's health centres.

Uqaqtitsijii, by providing Health's Inuit workforce with this education, it empowers them to contribute to their community's health care team. When Inuit employees deliver these services, they improve the quality, accessibility and sustainability of X-ray services in their communities and contribute

significantly to reducing workload for nursing staff.

Uqaqtitsijii, the high-quality X-ray services provided by basic radiological technicians contribute to timely diagnoses and improvements to health outcomes for Nunavut residents, while also reducing annual health care expenditures. The program generates these savings by minimizing the need for medical travel.

Uqaqtitsijii, I am pleased to say there have been two graduates from Whale Cove and one from Resolute Bay with an anticipated 37 more students who will graduate from the program in 2022. Additionally, there are 74 students currently enrolled in various stages of the program and actively performing X-rays in health centres as part of their hands-on learning.

Mr. Speaker, the Basic Radiological Technician program is included in Health's Inuit Employment Plan and, in April 2021, was awarded funding of \$2 million for two years by the Nunavut Implementation Panel. I would like to thank our partners, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Government of Canada, and the Government of Nunavut Department of Human Resources for supporting this critically important Inuit employment initiative.

Uqaqtitsijii, the Basic Radiological Technician training program is an exciting opportunity for Health's Inuit employees, which benefits the health of all Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 018 – 6(1): 2021 Sport and Recreation Award Recipients

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut and my colleagues, as well as those following the proceedings on TV and the radio.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the recipients of the 2021 Sport and Recreation Awards who have demonstrated their commitment to sport and recreation in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Sport and Recreation Division awards are presented in the following six categories:

- Male Athlete of the Year – Qaritaq Kusugak (Rankin Inlet)
- Female Athlete of the Year – Haley Hachey (Baker Lake)
- (interpretation ends) Official of the Year – Nick Murray (Iqaluit)
- Coach of the Year – Kyle St Laurent (Iqaluit)
- Administrator of the Year – Maria Csaba (Kugluktuk)
- Special Recognition Award for outstanding contribution to sport – (interpretation) Lisa Oolooyuk (Rankin Inlet), Kay McKechnie (Iqaluit), and Shylah Elliot (Iqaluit)

Mr. Speaker, due to public health measures in place at the time, the annual awards gala did not take place. However, alternative arrangements have been made to recognize these recipients.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, additionally, the Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut will present four awards recognizing outstanding accomplishments and contributions to community recreation. These awards are presented to:

- Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut Youth Leader of the Year: Quentin Sala (Sanikiluaq) and Jeremi Boisvert (Taloyoak)
- Baffinland Iron Mines Recreation Leader of the Year: Ragily Singoorie (Pond Inlet)
- Canadian North Volunteer of the Year: Fernando Fernandez (Sanikiluaq)

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, I wish to acknowledge their accomplishments and congratulate all the recipients of the 2021 Sport and Recreation Awards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Minister's Statement 019 – 6(1): Mould Remediation Update

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation adopted a mould mitigation and remediation program in 2016 to address issues of mould that was widespread in our residential housing stock.

Since then, we have remediated 152 units in 14 communities. This coming fiscal year's mould remediation program will be in 11 communities and addressing a further 52 units. This will increase the total number of remediated units by 33 percent.

Mr. Speaker, this is the largest number of units that we have done in a single year since we began these extensive remediation efforts in 2016.

These remediation programs represent considerable effort to work more efficiently to cut costs and move more quickly. Still, prevention remains the cheaper and better solution. If caught early, the most common mould problems can be solved by washing with soap and water.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I call on public housing tenants to help us stop mould right in its tracks. Anyone who sees mould in their public housing unit should contact their local housing organization and discuss the options available to remediate the issue. Please don't delay; do it today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 020 – 6(1):
Healthy Children Initiative
Funding for Early Childhood
Programs**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good day to Nunavummiut, those in Iqaluktuuttiaq, and our colleagues here today.

Mr. Speaker, early childhood programs nourish the minds and bodies of our youngest Nunavummiut, kick-starting their journey for lifelong learning. The Healthy Children Initiative funding establishes space for children to learn through play, build a routine, eat healthy food, and discover the world using all of their senses.

Every year the Department of Education provides funding for these early childhood programs through the Healthy Children Initiative. This funding can be used to purchase healthy food or early learning education supplies. It can also be used to hire supportive services so that there is one-on-one attention available for children who require extra care or support.

Mr. Speaker, we want our young Nunavummiut to be healthy, creative, and confident in themselves. I encourage all licensed child care facilities and other organizations that are eligible who support early childhood development to apply for funding through the Healthy Children Initiative. Information on how to apply to the Healthy Children Initiative can be found on our department's website. The deadline for funding applications is March 15, 2022.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank childhood educators who have run

programs to support and enhance the growth of our youngest population. We look forward to the continued nourishment of our youngest generation through this funding. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeegok.

**Minister's Statement 021 – 6(1):
Department of Environment
COVID-19 Response**

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to highlight the dedication of the staff of the Department of Environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite lockdowns, working from home, and balancing child care and other family needs, our staff continue their hard work to protect our land and natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, our conservation officers remain busy keeping Nunavummiut safe. I want to thank my staff for working around the clock to respond to calls from concerned citizens about nuisance wildlife, including rabid foxes, and to our partners in the Department of Health for keeping the public informed of possible risks.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the research group has made progress on wildlife population assessments and other ecological work focused on many different species in all regions of Nunavut.

The Wildlife Research Division also continues to consult Nunavummiut, now

through virtual meetings. I thank our researchers for keeping information about priority wildlife programs flowing and on schedule.

And our corporate services team continues to work from the office to ensure payments are processed and services continue. Their support ensures that each HTO has access to \$25,000 in funding to enable harvesters in all Nunavut communities to provide country food for Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all staff at the Department of Environment for their creativity, hard work, and dedication in the spirit of Qanuqturniq during this pandemic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Before we go on to the next item, I wish to advise members that the Member for Kugluktuk is absent from our proceedings, and I look forward to his participation in the legislature next week. Also, the Member for Amittuq will be absent from the House for today.

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 048 – 6(1): The
Niqihaqut Project Update**

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update the House on the Niqihaqut project in my constituency of Netsilik. The Niqihaqut project was a winning submission by Taloyoak's hunters and trappers organization, which

received \$451,000 through the Arctic Inspiration Prize in the year 2020.

Mr. Speaker, this project was submitted in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund Canada, and I want to acknowledge everyone who was involved in this important initiative.

Mr. Speaker, the Niqihaqut project, meaning “our food,” details the development of a country food economy to create opportunities for employment and help address food insecurity within the community.

Mr. Speaker, this project submission included a sustainable and monitored harvest, as well as a cut-and-wrap facility to collect, prepare, and distribute food to the community.

Mr. Speaker, members of Taloyoak’s hunters and trappers association have arranged to have a prefabricated building shipped from Montreal on sealift this summer. The property where the building will be located has also been secured through the Hamlet of Taloyoak. At this time the program is expecting to operate by this fall.

Mr. Speaker, the winning submission also outlined a potential protected and conservation area of 90,000 square kilometres named Aviqtuuq. At this time it is unclear when the potential area may receive protected status as it depends on a successful negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations and express my appreciation to the manager of Taloyoak’s and Niqihaqut’s project lead,

Jimmy Oleekatalik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate my sister and brother-in-law for the birth of a healthy baby girl. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members’ Statements.
Member for Uqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

**Member’s Statement 049 – 6(1):
Office of the Public Trustee**

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the public trustees in our communities which are operated through the Department of Justice.

I stand to say that the people of Nunavut have constant and very long wait times to get service. For example, if an individual has passed away who owns a house and property, as we now too have accumulated personal property as Inuit, it is a problem that needs to be rectified as the families in Nunavut are left waiting for the system. That is why I’m standing here today. The property of the deceased could be a house, household items, or hunting equipment.

Just this morning, after a five-year waiting period, because apparently my father didn’t sign a will, my mother was finally assigned as the estate holder today. It was actually just this very morning that she signed off on ownership. Here it is almost five years later. This process is just too slow. Five years is too long to finalize an estate. A faster and prompt service is required.

That is why I am standing on behalf of all our constituents.

Our government must urgently assist the residents, as this is an urgent situation and should be a top priority. That is why I stand today. There are many people in this situation that I know of now. It's not only my community. There are people in Clyde River and Uqqummiut whose properties are decaying due to aging and the properties are locked up as they are in the hands of the public trustee for many years. Something must be done about it today. There are individuals who can take on those tasks.

My time is up and I have more to say on this issue. Thank you and I hope I am understood. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 050 – 6(1):
Information on Social Media**

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, communication is very important to us and all Nunavummiut.

Last night on the Internet, misinformation was posted by the government. When we have question period, I will ask about this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 051 – 6(1):
Iqaluit City Council**

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to congratulate two new

Iqaluit city council members who were appointed to council last night, Ookalik Curley and Paul Quassa.

I first met Ookalik Curley when the two of us were part of the GN Sivuliqtiksat Management Program. I believe it was 2003 that we joined that program. Ookalik was born and raised in Iqaluit and is a very wise woman. I think it was really great that she was appointed to council on International Women's Day, and I think that she will bring a great deal of insight and wisdom into the deliberations of city council. Congratulations, Ookalik.

I'm not sure if you guys know Paul Quassa.

>>Laughter

I have known him since I was a child and welcome back into the political realm, Mr. Quassa. To those who put their names forward and many of whom spoke so eloquently and passionately to the questions posed of them, I congratulate you as well for having that courage and taking that opportunity and I hope that you consider running in the next city council election.

I would just like to give special thanks to two of my friends, Swany and to Sam, Sam Tilley, who I think will make an excellent city councillor if he decides to run during the next election. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 052 – 6(1):
Recognizing Sanikiluaq's Qikiqtait
Committee**

Mr. Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, fellow Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise today to recognize Sanikiluaq's Qikiqtait Steering Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the Qikiqtait Committee was recently awarded funding from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association through the Arctic Eider Society and the Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association.

Mr. Speaker, this funding will make possible a number of community programs, including eider down sewing, qamutik making, and seal hunting.

Hunters and seamstresses with past experience will be coordinating the programs seasonally with support from the Arctic Eider Society and the Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association. I strongly encourage community members, especially our youth, to apply to participate.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, many community members have put in a lot of hard work over the years, but I would like to acknowledge the members of the Qikiqtait Steering Committee: Mayor Johnny Cookie, Deputy Mayor Emily Kattuk, and councillors Lucy Appaqaq and Dinah Kittousuk from the municipal council; Moses Appaqaq, Sanikiluaq's QIA representative; Lucassie Arragutainaq, Eli Kavik, and Puassi Ippak from the hunters and trappers association; and Joel Heath, Johnny

Kudluarok, and Mick Appaqaq of the Arctic Eider Society.

In particular, Lucassie Arragutainaq of the HTA has put in a lot of time and effort, including paperwork, proposals, meetings, planning and organizing.

Mr. Speaker, the Qikiqtait Committee provides excellent programs for the community of Sanikiluaq and I hope that they succeed in getting longer term funding to continue their good work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 053 – 6(1):
Reopening Elders Facility in
Iqaluit**

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise today to talk about our elders, which we all hold in very high esteem.

During my campaign, and visiting constituents we have heard repeatedly we should in urgency open up the elders' home here in Iqaluit as soon as possible.

I am very pleased to say that the elders facility was opened this past February.

Pimaksirvik Corporation has been awarded the contract to provide care at the facility.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ministers Main and Kusugak, who worked very hard to reopen the elders'

home and to repatriate our elders to Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all agree about the importance of our elders. I am very pleased to say that we will continue supporting our elders at this time as they return to the facility in the coming weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: I have no more names on my list. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. As we are closed to the public, there is no Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 024 – 6(1): Update on COVID Statistics

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

Mr. Speaker, as much as we would like COVID-19 to be over, I was told by one of my constituents that misinformation had been posted last night on the government website.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have been following COVID-related numbers which are published on the Government of Nunavut website. Yesterday it appeared that the number of COVID-related deaths for Nunavut was suddenly quite high. This raised some concerns.

I would appreciate it if the minister could set the record straight and clarify exactly how many Nunavut deaths have

been due to COVID since the pandemic began. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. I agree with my colleague wholeheartedly; we have to properly communicate with the public as this is very important. Particularly during the COVID pandemic in Nunavut, we worked hard to keep people informed. As we all know, this is important to us.

I don't have any current information as to how many people have died from COVID. In 2020 when we were dealing with COVID around the world, the tabulation was done and the way I understand it is that some deaths were listed out of the Nunavut territory. Mr. Speaker, that number was not added to our numbers. Some deaths were listed out of Nunavut depending on which jurisdiction they died, but I can enquire about this and I will take this as notice and get back to the member. (interpretation ends) I will take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The question has been taken as notice. Next member: Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Question 025 – 6(1): Vacant Departmental Positions

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the residents of Pond Inlet and Nunavut. My question is for the Minister of Human Resources.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtittijii*, as the minister is aware, information published by his department indicates that there are approximately 183 GN positions located in the community of Pond Inlet. Forty percent of these positions are currently vacant. That is over 70 jobs.

In looking at current job competitions for the community, I noted that two positions in the Department of Health and the Department of Family Services are being advertised as coming with staff housing, but two positions for the Department of Environment and the Department of Community and Government Services are advertised as having no staff housing available.

(interpretation) Can the minister clarify how the government determines which positions come with staff housing and which do not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. The issue of staff housing is highly correlated to the overall housing crisis that we have in the territory.

The Government of Nunavut and the Staff Housing Allocation Committee that oversees the distribution of staff housing units finds itself in a very difficult and precarious situation where we have a very limited amount of staff housing units which are available and move-in ready. As such, over the last few months, as the Staff Housing Allocation Committee has found itself in an increasingly difficult position, it has

been forced to allocate staff housing in a more restricted way.

Most recently over the last few months, the Staff Housing Allocation Committee has predominantly only been allocating staff housing units to the number one priority listing, which is in relation to positions which are related to public safety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) A concern that has been raised in the past involves staff housing units that have been vacant for extended periods of time. Can the minister confirm how many GN staff housing units in Pond Inlet are currently vacant and available for staff and can he confirm how many units need major repairs before they can be occupied? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again for the question. I will keep my response as short as possible. There are currently eight staff housing units which are available and move-in ready and which have been allocated and are at some point in the competitive process. In addition to that, there are four units which do require some renovations and we are hoping those can be completed and the units allocated within the next three months. However, there are five units in Pond Inlet which do require major renovations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) As I noted earlier, there are dozens of vacant GN jobs in the community, and I remind the House that Pond Inlet is a decentralized community. Can the minister clarify how the government decides where to construct new staff housing units in Nunavut communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again for the question. The responsibility for the construction of new staff housing units is the responsibility of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, as is the allocation of those new constructions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Question 026 – 6(1): Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link Project

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and to the people of Baker Lake.

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

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Baker Lake, I have been a strong supporter of ensuring that the proposed Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link Project between Manitoba and Nunavut

benefits Baker Lake and our region's other communities.

Information published by the project proponent indicates that “the project will connect communities of the Kivalliq region of Nunavut to the Manitoba electricity and fibreoptic grids. The project will be rated at 150 megawatts of capacity and have a fibreoptic bandwidth capacity of at least 1,200 gigabits per second. This will be Nunavut's first infrastructure link to southern Canada and will provide enough power and fibreoptic capacity for the Kivalliq region for generations to come. The project will also provide renewable energy to the mining industry in Nunavut, allowing for more sustainable operations.”

Can the minister update the House today on his department's role in respect to this nation-building initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, my department is aware and has been in discussions with the proponents for the Kivalliq hydro and fibre link, and we're looking at whether or not there are complementary linkages with respect to the project, the fibre link that the department is proposing from here to southern Canada and potentially linking the Kivalliq in future years. As for the hydro part of the project, we haven't been a part of the discussions around that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. As the minister will recall, a number of MLAs, including myself, were copied on a recent exchange of correspondence between the minister's department and the president of the Kivalliq Inuit Association concerning the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link Project. The correspondence indicated that "When the Government of Canada announced the Universal Broadband Fund in November of 2020, the Government of Nunavut took advantage of the opportunity and prepared a submission for fibre in Rankin Inlet and Arviat."

For the record, can the minister confirm how much funding was provided by the federal government in response to his department's submission? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut had submitted a proposal for approximately \$100 million and this is towards affordable broadband and Internet services in western and central Hudson Bay. As of yet, we haven't secured this funding *per se*, but we're looking at maximizing the fibre network as we proceed with the different projects. There are many different fibre opportunities that are presenting themselves and so we're trying to find ways we can work with each proponent. The fibre world is a big network around the world, so there's tremendous

opportunity there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Earlier I mentioned that I have been a strong supporter of this project. I believe this will help our health care staff, our schools as well, as our children will be able to have access to higher Internet speeds to help with their education. I'm assuming that the Government of Nunavut will take advantage and connect our Government of Nunavut buildings to this network.

Can the minister clarify the extent to which his department is working with the Kivalliq Inuit Association to plan for connecting Government of Nunavut buildings in the region to this future fibre network? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This along with other exciting initiatives, we're very much in the discussion phase with Inuit organizations. With respect to connecting fibre to our communities, the large part of that is to connect our government services in all office buildings, including schools and health centres, and all the core networks of our operations across the department. This is a large part of that to provide services for Nunavummiut. As we proceed with fibre, it's to support our services to Nunavummiut and our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 027 – 6(1): Kugaaruk Power Plant

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions today for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation concerning projects in my constituency of Netsilik.

As the minister is aware, Kugaaruk's power plant was constructed in the year 1974, before I was born. When it comes to power plants in Nunavut, it is one of the oldest.

Mr. Speaker, in December 2021 the Qulliq Energy Corporation submitted an application to the Utility Rates Review Council for approval to proceed with the new power plant.

The QEC's application states that "the estimated cost to complete the project is \$38.915 million. This project has been identified to receive funding from the [federal] Arctic Energy Fund for a contribution of up to 75% of eligible expenses."

Can the minister confirm whether or not the federal funding has been approved for the new Kugaaruk power plant?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for asking that question. Kugaaruk will be receiving a new power plant and we are still working on receiving federal

funding that will be set aside for the project. That is all I can say about the matter at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qulliq Energy Corporation's application indicates that Kugaaruk's new power plant will be "capable of integrating renewable energy sources, such as wind turbines or solar panels, should the opportunities arise in the future." Can the minister describe how the QEC is working to identify these opportunities for green energy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new project for power plants that is being worked on is to reduce the consumption of diesel fuel. That has already been applied to the project and we are looking to see what else can be added to the project. It will be much better than the old system and it should be usable for the next 40 years. It will use less diesel fuel and be more environmentally friendly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qulliq Energy Corporation's application indicate that "the project will have no impact on rates until the time of QEC's General Rate Application following the project coming into service, which is expected no earlier

than the 2026-2027 fiscal year.” Can the minister confirm when the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s next general rate application will be submitted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for asking those questions. The price of electricity is different in each community and there are many different rates. We are currently looking into this to see how the rates can be standardized, but we can’t say when that will occur. We will need to have more meetings on the matter first to make that determination before it will take place. Thank you.

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

Question 028 – 6(1): Process for Community Street Lighting

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a question today for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, when a hamlet or the City of Iqaluit requests further street lighting, sometimes the process can take a period of time from the municipality or city approval and request to the Qulliq Energy Corporation to install the street lighting. I’m wondering what the minister can respond today on how the process works, where some of the bottlenecks are, and how it can be streamlined. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa: Oh, I think I’m going to like this hot seat for now.

>>Laughter

(interpretation) There are still quite a number of communities that need new lights installed for the street lights that are being replaced. Iqaluit was one of the first communities with street lights replaced. After one year, they began working on the different communities and they plan to install the street lights in all of the communities across Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a street light is approved to be installed, using the City of Iqaluit as an example, I know that in my riding, there were a number of instances during the campaign that were raised to me. There are some areas of my constituency that there were some concerns of safety, in particular around one playground where they were approved for a street light to be installed there, but when it was installed, it was installed over the street, not over the playground.

My question to the minister on this, Mr. Speaker, is: if a light is installed on one side, could another light be installed on the other and would that mean additional costs for the City of Iqaluit or would it just be considered one street light? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When anything is being installed, it costs money and if we did that, it would cost more money because we would need to install an extra light. An explanation would have to be provided as to why they want the light in a particular spot. I think they would have a better chance of getting the light in that particular spot if they asked for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud the work across the territory on installing LED lights. It is a great step to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels and bring more energy-efficient lighting into our communities. I know we can all see the difference for those that have had the experience of being able to see from the traditional lights to the new LED ones.

I believe this question has been raised in the past and I just can't remember the response. With the difference between traditional street lighting to the LED, what is the difference in kilowatt consumption? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Now I regret that I didn't go to school, maybe.

>> *Laughter*

I can tell you in Iqaluit, before LEDs, in one month the city was paying \$21,474.75 per month. After the LEDs were installed, the bill for the city lights came down to \$16,464.49. That's the difference between those two. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Question 029 – 6(1): Employee Housing Initiatives

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the residents of Iqaluit and Iqaluit-Sinaa specifically.

My questions today are for the Minister of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by congratulating all parties involved in the recent signing of the new collective agreement with the Nunavut Teachers Association and the recent announcement of a tentative agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union.

Mr. Speaker, in my questions yesterday to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, I raised the issue of the GN Staff Condominium Program, which was introduced to encourage homeownership amongst our government workforce, as we're all aware.

As a former manager and leader in the public service, I am acutely aware that far too many of our government's employees are living in fragile housing situations. Just because you have a job does not mean that you necessarily have a home.

When the minister sat on this side of the House during the previous Assembly, he raised the issue of staff housing on many occasions, and he spoke frequently about the need for the program to focus on reducing inequities.

Can he elaborate for us today on what specific actions he plans to take as minister with respect to this issue? Thank you.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: I would like to thank the member for the questions. It is true that I have in the past on multiple occasions raised my concern over the inequities and as such, I am proud to share with the Assembly that in my role I will be initiating a review of the GN Staff Housing Program with an aim to address that specific matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response, minister. I'm wondering: how many casual and indeterminate employees are currently homeless or near homeless? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again to the member for asking the question. That is a very good question and a legitimate concern. Unfortunately the Government of Nunavut and the Department of Human Resources do not currently collect that information from our

employees, so I cannot provide an answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Mr. Speaker, the current business plan of the Department of Human Resources indicates that one of its priorities for the upcoming 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Contribute to the analysis and dissemination of data from the Nunavut Governments (Government of Nunavut, Government of Canada, and Municipal Governments) Employees' Survey and Nunavut Inuit Labour Force Analysis to fulfill obligations under Article 23 of the Nunavut Agreement."

Mr. Speaker, I think that it would be very helpful if the minister's annual report to the Legislative Assembly under the *Public Service Act* would include detailed statistical information concerning the housing situations of our workforce, which would help us as the decision-makers to target specific housing support initiatives to specific demographics. Will he commit to ensuring that future reports include information in this area? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you again to the member for asking another great question. That is an excellent recommendation and I will take it into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 030 – 6(1): Review of Staff Housing Program

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Human Resources just perked my interest here. The minister just stated that a review will be starting for the staff housing inequities.

Can the minister tell the House here when is this review is starting, when is it completing, and will he table the results of the review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Now it's my turn for the hot seat.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that I plan to initiate a review of the overall staff housing program. Mr. Speaker, I hope that one of the objectives of the review is to identify any inequities. However, beyond that, I'm unable to respond to the specific questions as to when the review will start or will be completed at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The minister stated that he is going to do a review, he does not know when it's going to start, and he does not know when it's going to end. Was this review planned or is he just coming up with the

idea now? Can the minister just elaborate on that some more, please? The minister must have spoken with staff, so if he can elaborate. He's going to do this review of staff housing and is not sure when it's going to start and is not sure when it's going to end. Will this review be done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again for the question. It is true that this is a relatively new initiative and I have had some very preliminary discussions with the staff at Human Resources. Mr. Speaker, I can ensure the member and the House that the review will be completed. However, as we are only in preliminary discussions, I can't provide any information as to details on timelines, which I do not know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the member was on this side of the House, on many occasions, MLA Lightstone mentioned that sometimes people are in government staff housing too long and there should be a limited period where a person can stay in the staff house and move on to either get their own house so that that staff housing can be freed up for someone that needs it.

Will this be part of the review, whether the length of stay a GN employee is welcome to stay in government staff housing can be in staff housing? Is there

a possibility that during this review, the minister will state that the GN's staff housing are only available to employees for an X number of years or whatever the number is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thanks again to the member for the question. The matter of housing our employees and Nunavummiut in general is a matter of concern for us all.

As to the member's specific questions, again, I cannot respond to provide answers which I do not know. I cannot stand here and state that in the future I will provide a statement in one direction or the other. Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that it is important that no decisions are made unnecessarily and, more importantly, it's extremely important that all decisions are made in an informed fashion.

Mr. Speaker, research will need to be done and a review will be conducted on the staff housing program. Mr. Speaker, other than that, that's all that I can state right here and right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 031 – 6(1): Nutrition North Canada Program

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just use this since you are all looking at me.

>> *Laughter*

Good day, Uqqummiut. I'm in training and I'm also eager to learn. I would really like to learn and I'm really shy, not like yesterday. You understand that.

I would like to state that my questions are for the Premier, and they concern the Nutrition North Canada Program.

As the Premier will recall, he held a meeting with the Prime Minister of Canada in December 2021. Mr. Speaker, as you have heard, information published from that meeting on December 14, 2021, indicates that they discussed a number of issues, including "Elder care, education, health and mental health, housing, and diversifying the economy."

Mr. Speaker, can the Premier confirm if the Nutrition North Canada Program was raised during their meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague. If I understand the question, I think she's asking about Nutrition North. Maybe I misunderstood. When I meet with the Prime Minister, we discuss all the important issues and this has been included. I'm proud to say that Nunavummiut have representatives in the federal government. The important issue is that food has to be readily available and we have discussed that. Maybe she can restate the question. I would like to provide a proper response; I would like to understand it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, can you rephrase your question, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If he didn't understand it, then maybe I'll read it again. I'm confused as to whether I'll be able to finish my questions. Yes, it's on the Nutrition North Canada Program. I don't think it was mentioned in the information I have on the December 14 meeting, and that was my question on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague again for clarifying that. Food security and having enough to eat is a very important issue in Nunavut, especially with the highest statistics in Canada.

I would like to point out clearly that Brenda Janke and Ms. Kotierk are members of the board and they deal with it independently. They look at the financial support for us under the Nutrition North program, including Nunavut. We have always discussed how we can provide assistance in Nunavut because food is very expensive here.

I met with the leaders on this issue of how Nunavummiut can be provided more assistance with food, perhaps with country food, for example, and how we can provide more assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. I recently received correspondence on January 25 from the Mayor of Clyde River, Alan Cormack, concerning the Nutrition North Canada Program. In his letter, he pointed out the high cost of food and that they have a single store. That's the letter I received and I think I gave you a copy, if you recall.

One of the specific concerns raised in the letter was the need to make it easier for individuals and families to place direct food orders in order to help address the high cost of living in our remote communities.

To reiterate, there was a news release on July 15 from the federal government and I have seen it before, and quoting from it, "Everyone deserves to have access to healthy, affordable, high-quality and nutritious food, no matter where they live."

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, can the Premier clarify how he is working with our federal Member of Parliament to achieve improvements to the Nutrition North Canada Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to thank the member again for that question. She is talking about a sensitive subject.

We have seen stores with empty shelves, especially in Clyde River, through blizzards and also because of COVID-

19. We feel for them. We're well aware of how they have been impacted. It's true that we're always looking to see how we can lower cost and how we can provide assistance.

On her question, the Nutrition North Canada Program is run by the federal government, but we always push for more. We have communicated with Minister Vandal and we will keep pushing the issue forward to see where else we can provide assistance. I can point out that we're always looking into this. We look forward to planning for the future and how we can provide assistance to eliminate poverty in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you for giving me the opportunity. I would also like to thank the Premier for responding to my question. I hope that this receives appropriate attention and care.

For my last supplementary, Mr. Speaker, I will speak in English. (interpretation ends) During last Thursday's sitting of the Senate, Nunavut's Senator raised the subject of how to reduce the high cost of transporting nutritious food, including fresh fruits and vegetables, to our remote communities. (interpretation) This is what I have seen written here.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) this recommendation was that the federal government would introduce a carbon tax exemption of jet fuel that is used for cargo flights from southern Canada to the north.

Can the Premier clarify whether or not the Government of Nunavut supports such an exemption? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank my colleague. We are well aware of the high cost of transporting goods from the south to the north. I think that's felt in all Nunavut communities. We will continue to look at the carbon tax and associated cost increases. Furthermore, using country food as an example, it has been mentioned that we need to include it in our review, as we harvest country food in our communities. I am grateful that my colleague has brought this issue up. Thank you.

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

Question 032 – 6(1): Chesterfield Inlet Power Plant

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As the minister is aware, Chesterfield Inlet's power plant was constructed in the year 1975. It has been in operation for almost half a century and I believe that it is older than a number of Members of this Legislative Assembly!

>> *Laughter*

In December 2021 the Qulliq Energy Corporation submitted an application to the Utility Rates Review Council for approval to proceed with the new power plant.

The QEC's application states that "the estimated cost to complete the project is \$34.956 million. This project has been identified to receive funding from the [federal] Arctic Energy Fund for a contribution of up to 75% of eligible expenses." Can the minister confirm whether or not the federal funding has been approved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recall your question, but I can't respond directly. (interpretation ends) I'll take the question as notice.

Speaker: Your first supplementary... . Sorry. Your question is taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Question 033 – 6(1): Alternative and Renewable Energy Projects

Mr. Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I would like to say "good day" to the people of Sanikiluaq. I will try to take all the energy from Ms. Quassa today as well.

>> *Laughter*

My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy

Corporation, and they concern the subject of alternative and renewable energy projects that are taking place in my constituency of Hudson Bay.

As the minister is aware, an initiative that is underway in my constituency is the Sanikiluaq High Displacement Renewable Energy Demonstration Project. The objective of this project is to produce clean electricity for the community and reduce the use of diesel fuel.

Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to meet in person with an environmental assessor who was in the community to conduct scoping work in respect to the project.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify how the Qulliq Energy Corporation is working with the Qikiqtaaluk Business Development Corporation and the Nunavut Nukkiqsautiit Corporation on this important project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the exercise, up and down.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) From what I understood, you're talking about how we are working together with different entities. We are working with various entities on how to reduce the use of diesel fuel, finding ways to produce clean energy, and on how we can reduce the cost of

energy production. We are not only focusing on those categories, but also what is needed in the community. We can negotiate with those entities. I hope I responded to your question adequately. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted earlier, one of the main goals of this project is to reduce the use of diesel to generate electricity for the community.

Can the minister clarify what savings are anticipated to be realized by the Qulliq Energy Corporation and its customers in Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank you for asking that question. However, I do not have the information in front of me at this time. I will provide a response at a later date, (interpretation ends) so I'll take the question as notice.

Speaker: The question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Question 034 – 6(1): Petroleum Products Division Operations

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services in Nunavut, (interpretation ends) the Department of Community and Government Services.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtittijii*, the most [recent] annual report of the Petroleum Products Division indicates that it provides five different fuel products to Nunavut communities: diesel, automotive gasoline, Jet A-1, naphtha, and aviation gas.

Concerns have been raised to me from my constituents in Aivilik that retail stores often run out of propane before the annual sealift.

Can the minister clarify what the Petroleum Products Division is involved in order to distribute the propane? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Aivilik for asking about petroleum products and the different fuel products that are used in Nunavut. Propane is distributed to different retail outlets on contract. I'm not certain if the Department of Community and Government Services is involved at this stage, but we know that we try to estimate the fuel needs of each community on an annual basis and we will continue to do that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister look into the issue to see if the government will be able to distribute propane? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can probably review it and possibly look at different types of tanks. There are different laws that have to be adhered to when we're talking about tanks for propane products. We could look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, his department recently announced a retail fuel price increase on all diesel products, gasoline, and jet fuel. The announcement indicated that these increases "reflect rising costs on world oil markets." Can the minister clarify what role, if any, his department has on setting the retail price of propane? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I know, the government is not involved in setting up the prices of propane products. They don't set the price, but if I'm mistaken, then I will notify the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

**Question 035 – 6(1): Caribou
Population Survey**

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment regarding caribou.

Now, I believe population surveys are done on caribou during the summer months by helicopter. I would like to ask if a survey will be conducted this coming summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: My apologies. The Hon. Minister of Environment, David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there are different caribou herds that are surveyed. For the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd, a survey will be conducted in June and it has been approved and the planning is in the works for there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Caribou are not in one constant area. For example, the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herds also migrate to the Northwest Territories, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. If I understand correctly, or perhaps I should ask whether the minister would meet with the environment ministers in the jurisdictions where the caribou also migrate to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is

protocol to meet with them and we want to meet with other jurisdictions. We were planning to meet with the NWT government, but due to COVID-19 measures, nothing was being done. I recently received a call that they do want to meet on the issue again on the caribou that migrate to other jurisdictions. To date I have not met any of my other colleagues, but I am planning to meet with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you, minister. The question is in regard to concerns that are being raised relating to caribou as some populations are declining in Nunavut. I would like to know if there are concerns being raised about the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq herd. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Surveys have been conducted since 1994 to date. The numbers show that the herd has been in decline, which is a concern of ours. However, we cannot say they're a species of concern, though we plan on conducting a population survey on the Beverly herd in 2023. The last survey of the herd was done in 2018. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 036 – 6(1): Energy Initiatives

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. When it rains, sometimes it pours.

>> *Laughter*

As the minister will be aware, the federal government's Department of Natural Resources announced \$750,000 in funding in April 2021 for a renewable energy project in Arviat. The stated purpose of the funding was "...to conduct a front-end engineering design study for a hybrid wind, solar and energy storage system to develop a detailed plan covering everything from power-purchase agreements to environmental assessment and permitting to enhance the Nunavut community's ability to deliver renewable energy and reduce emissions."

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will also be aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has been working to develop its new Commercial and Institutional Power Producer program, which allows existing commercial and institutional customers to generate renewable energy on their premises and sell all generated energy to the Qulliq Energy Corporation. In February 2021 the Qulliq Energy Corporation issued a request for proposals to develop a specialized pricing strategy for renewable energy suppliers to sell energy to the Qulliq Energy Corporation. The contract for this work was awarded in April of last year.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the Arviat project cannot move forward until such time as the Qulliq Energy Corporation finalizes this work. Can the minister update the House today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for the question. (interpretation ends) The only way for the QEC to move forward with the IPP, which is what you're referring to, approval process before securing supplemental funding is by using the current price based on the avoided cost of diesel, which is 25 cents per kilowatt now. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, she tabled the Qulliq Energy Corporation's most recent annual report in the Legislative Assembly during yesterday's sitting of the House. The report indicated that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has been developing the Independent Power [Producer] program, which "...will allow producers outside of the utility to generate power from renewable energy systems to sell directly to Qulliq Energy Corporation. Inuit organizations and municipalities will be given the first opportunity to own and operate community scale installations in their respective regions."

Can the minister update the House today on what progress has been made in the Kivalliq region under this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to make a mistake in my response. (interpretation ends) I hope that I will make the correct response. For the IPP program or the PPA price, it's for all communities within Nunavut and as of right now, it's in its next GRA filing. The QEC is recommending a harmonized electricity rate for all communities in Nunavut.

Currently the commercial electricity rate in Iqaluit is \$48.31 and in Whale Cove it is \$112.87 per kilowatt. If the harmonized electricity rate is adopted, the issue of the price differential between communities will be eliminated and the CIPP price offering will be the same in all communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope the minister misread. \$48 and \$104 per kilowatt hour is really, really high, so I hope that was misspoken.

As the minister will also be aware, the federal announcement of last April also indicated that \$400,000 will be provided to the Government of Nunavut "...to develop Community Energy Plans (CEPs) in Nunavut." The announcement indicated that the funding would be used

to create comprehensive community energy plans with communities in Nunavut.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of the development of Arviat's community energy plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the earlier report that was tabled by the previous minister, it was already tabled and the plan is in place. I will have to scrutinize it to provide more detailed information and once I clearly understand what it entails, I can inform the member, if that is okay with him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 037 – 6(1): Review of Staff Housing Program

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, the minister mentioned a few moments ago that he was going to be initiating a review of the staff housing policy. I just want to get initial clarification if the minister is meaning the GN Staff Housing Policy or the GN Staff Housing Procedures Manual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. If I recall correctly, I had indicated that the Department of Human Resources will initiate a review of the staff housing program itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that clarification.

I will likely follow up at a later date, but I guess my question right now is, when we look at the procedures manual, it talks about the six different areas of eligibility and allocation: base rent, adjustments to base rent, rental assistance, tenant damages, and shared accommodations. The staff housing policy has the general authorization and accountability, eligibility and allocation, and rental rates.

Other than those items that are listed in the policy or the procedures manual, what is the minister hoping to accomplish through this review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for the question. The matter is a concern that would impact many Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, the overall intention of the review of the staff housing program is aimed at overall improvements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do know in the last Assembly there were discussions in this House on similar initiatives and there was a lot of work that was done, and the procedures manual and the policy that I just spoke to was just tabled less than three years ago. To me, the amount of work that goes into those kinds of reviews and what comes out doesn't change a lot in a few years.

I just want to get some confirmation, a little bit more specific than just general improvements. Are there specific targeted initiatives that the minister is looking at bringing forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I truly appreciate the member's questions and concerns on this topic. As to specific targeted information, I cannot provide any further details at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To members, the time allotted for question period is now over. Next item, No. 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. Mr. Sammurtok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 009 – 6(1): Letter from Mayor of Rankin Inlet Regarding the Utilidor and Water Supply System

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to table a very important letter from the Mayor of Rankin Inlet with respect to urgent concerns regarding the capacity of the utilidor and water supply system in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the members to review this letter with care.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. 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. I recognize the Minister of Finance, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 04 – Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021 – Second Reading

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that Bill 4, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the write-off of assets and debts in accordance with sections 24 and 82 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 4 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 2, and 3 with Mr. Hickes in the Chair.

Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 15:20 and
Committee resumed at 15:49*

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

Chairman (Mr. Hickes): Good afternoon, committee members. We will get the meeting started. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to with: Bills 1, 2, and 3. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the 2022-23 capital main estimates, Bill 2, and the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Malliki. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2022-2023 – Community and
Government Services –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Joanasie: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. David Joanasie: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We have agreement. Minister Joanasie, please introduce your officials. They are the same as yesterday, but just for everyone's sake, please reintroduce them. Thank you.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Deputy Minister Kyle Seeley and to my right is Mandy Hickey and she is the Director of Financial Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. We left off yesterday on page J-3. Mr. Savikataaq was asking questions for the rest of the committee. Unfortunately the paper I had yesterday is missing, so for any other names, you will have to re-raise your hand so I can put you on the list, please. Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday we were going back and forth with different policies

and I happened to download and print the next one. It is revised March 2021, same expiration date, April 1, 2025. I hope we are on the same policy now. I read it and I couldn't find much difference. The funding amount allotted is still up to \$250,000 per community.

I know the Deputy Minister, Mr. Seeley, talked about a base amount and it is there. It talks about a base amount and he has come up with \$103,000, I believe it was, a base amount, and then it goes from there. He said it goes on the number of roads and a whole bunch of other factors, but I couldn't find that \$103,000 figure here. Can the minister explain if they throw a dart, throw dices, or how they get this figure of \$103,000? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, the \$103,000 was the old maximum per community and so the new one is \$250,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the base amount then? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$103,000 is now the lowest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am trying not to be a

stickler here, but I might be getting in that direction. I don't see that figure anywhere in this policy. I am wondering: if it's not in the policy, how can you come up with a figure that is not in the mobile equipment policy on how you give out the funds? It is very clear; it is \$250,000 per municipality per year maximum and it talks about a base amount. The minister and his officials are talking about \$103,000 as a base amount, but I can't find anywhere in here where it talks about what the dollar value is for the base amount. Can I get clarification? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thanks again, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow my deputy to respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The base amount referred to in the policy is the amount historically administered through the program. This program is not a new program. It has been around since, I believe, 2012. The original amount in the program, that budget has been built up over the years and currently is at the \$103,000 per community. That is the base amount because this is a block funding program to communities.

The premise of the program is that municipalities receive that base amount annually; they manage that block of funding and invest it appropriately in purchasing mobile equipment. We referred to the \$103,000 as the base amount that we are building the base plus formula from simply because

municipalities would have incorporated that base amount in their forward planning and their budgeting for replacement of mobile equipment.

Subject to approval of the new funding, the maximum amount any one community would receive would be \$250,000 annually and the minimum amount would be \$103,000, with the remainder of the communities being distributed between the two ends. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Seeley. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will just be a comment and last comment. I think, just for clarity's sake, this is a policy that this program is administered on and we know what the maximum is and it talks about a base amount. I think, just for clarity, the base amount should be written out in the policy that is used to distribute these funds that will be given out.

I fully support the idea and the thinking about the bigger communities with more equipment get more money. I fully and completely support that. I think, just so there is no confusion, that if it's being administered under the mobile equipment program, which I know it has been long and I have read the history, it has gone up and up over the years, that when you talk about the base amount there, you should say what the base amount is there within the program that is being done. Thank you and that's all.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment, but Minister Joanase, did you want to add anything on that?

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will take the comments into consideration and hopefully we can move on from this program, but I appreciate the interest level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, thanks for your appearance again. I would like to ask whether a fire hall would fit into the category of a parking garage.

Chairman: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman." Thanks to the member for that question. Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it does not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanase. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have other topic questions. I just wanted to find out whether a fire hall is in the category of a parking garage. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qavvik. I've got Local Government Services. \$25,989,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will move on to page J-5. Infrastructure \$11,333,000. I'll just give members a moment to get to the right page. Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few questions on

the planning studies. If I'm not mistaken, just for clarity first, are the planning studies the same as what are normally called "preplanning studies"? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanase, can you clarify that?

Hon. David Joanase: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. The planning studies within this... It's not the preplanning studies; it's the planning studies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister enlighten us on if any of the planning studies' funding from past years has been carried over, let's say, for the past three years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase: If you will give me a second.

Sorry, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do have projects that are carrying over, but at this time I can't say how much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanase. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I meant the actual planning studies, not projects, but in the last three years, have any of the planning study funds been carried over or are these planning studies for projects or actual studies for the project? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have planning studies that will be carried over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanase. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister let us know...? I believe that last year there was no money for planning studies, but there were carryovers. In the last three years, out of each year's budget, how much of the budget was carried over because the money was not spent, because the studies were not done? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase: If you can give me a minute.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will have Ms. Hickey respond to the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Hickey.

Ms. Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. I don't have the carryover amounts in front of me right now as that will be a bill that will come forward during the spring session, but I can tell the member what has been spent for the last three fiscal years under planning studies. For 2021-22, it was \$1 million; 2022-23, it was \$1.2 million; and for 2019-20, it was \$600,000. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Hickey. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would it be a fair statement to state then that for the past three years when there was funding, that roughly only 50 percent of the study money had been spent? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be a fair statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister explain why we should grant him more money then, if he can't even spend 50 percent of the money that has been allotted each year to the department for studies? It doesn't make sense to me if you're spending only 50 percent of the money for three consecutive years that you're asking for more money, because looking at the trend, okay, maybe 50 percent of it would be spent. So can the minister elaborate? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do want to progress as many projects as we can. We have a high priority list, I know. So with that, we are seeing a huge increase to our capital spending for this department and, as was noted by the standing committee's opening comments, by over 119 percent. We are trying to progress on our capital needs, from the planning

through to construction and completion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: If I might interject just for a moment, I know there has been some confusion in the past about preplanning and planning; these are just planning dollars. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister says there are a lot more projects now. When there were fewer projects, they couldn't get the studies done and that's why the money was carried over. What has changed that they can take on even more projects and not carry over the planning studies? Can the inform us: what has changed that the minister feels or in his position that these projects will go ahead now? There are more projects and we couldn't finish the fewer projects, but we're going to do more projects. What has changed? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are, like I said, trying to proceed as best we can, given the realities that we face and even within a pandemic, we are still proceeding with our best foot forward. With that, we are recovering from it and eager to get back to work to get a lot of the work that needs to get done. There is a lot of enthusiasm for this government to tackle our priorities on our capital needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Three years ago, before COVID, before the pandemic, with fewer projects, roughly 50 percent of the

planning studies were spent. Now we're coming out of COVID, but COVID is still here; I imagine there are still supply chain issues, there are still limited contracts, there are a whole bunch of more hindrances. Does the minister truly believe that more projects will be able to get completed and more studies done than pre-COVID times? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have the capital planning process and, of course, given the great needs across the territory, this planning envelope is where we're trying to address the critical infrastructure needs of our communities. We do think we have the capacity to proceed; otherwise, we wouldn't be presenting a budget for consideration today.

As with past years, the realities that we've had to have carryovers are due to different factors, and I think that's going to continue on, but I think right now we can proceed with our budget, as we didn't have any projects in planning in the past year or two, so that's something that we want to re-engage in and get those projects on the go again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. I'm just thinking it might alleviate some of the back-and-forth on this if we could be provided with a list of the projects that are anticipated to be planned. Minister Joanase, do you have that information with you?

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have it with us, but we can provide it to the committee,

perhaps, after our deliberations here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Sorry to interrupt your line of questioning. Mr. Savikataaq, please proceed.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, your suggestion is good.

Are there any current projects that were carried over that will be completed this year that have nothing to do with this new funding that are being worked on, or are there no planning studies going on right now? I believe that there was no planning money last year, if I'm not mistaken. Can I just get clarification on that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase: If you will allow Ms. Hickey to respond to the question, Mr. Chairman. Thanks.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Hickey.

Ms. Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. There was money allocated last year and I believe we provided a letter to the committee just after our standing committee appearance that showed a list of all projects that are in planning and anticipated times that they would be finalized. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't recall seeing that. I'll have to check with our staff, but maybe we will get back to that. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't remember seeing that either, so it would be good to get that. It must have fallen through the cracks somewhere, but that's it for my line of questioning for now. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask about the (interpretation ends) planning studies. (interpretation) We would have proper questions if we could see the document. I'll wait here, but it just says (interpretation ends) Nunavut various planning. (interpretation) I think we need that document to ask proper questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies. Yes, we do have a follow-up letter to the standing committee. We thought it was in your hands, but we will make sure that it's in your inbox and it does have a list of projects in planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. Maybe I suggest that we will take a five-minute break and that list can be provided to the committee. We will take a five-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 16:11 and resumed at 16:27

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. I do apologize for those watching. That was probably the longest five

minutes in their lives, but we did have to get some copies of some documents and it did take a few more minutes than we had anticipated. I do apologize. Mr. Malliki, please proceed.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the pre-COVID-19 plans, Naujaat was going to be included for a (interpretation ends) sewage lagoon (interpretation) upgrade, but there is nothing listed here and I would like to know the current status. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Malliki. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me double-check here.

I'll have to get back to the member on the status of... We are working on the design for upgraded wastewater treatment. The preferred site has been identified and further investigation is underway to determine suitability. The design is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2022 and construction is anticipated to start in the summer of 2023, to be completed by the following fall of 2024. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not included in the plans that I have on my list. Is it because the planning portion is done that it is not included on the list? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are going to start with the design phase in the upcoming fall in 2022 of this year. I hope you understood that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The member must have understood you; he doesn't have any more questions. Mr. Simailak. Oh, Mr. Simailak is not in the Chamber at the moment. Just wait one moment.

Mr. Simailak, go ahead, please.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry about that.

Your department's proposed 2022-23 capital estimates include \$2,305,000 for the Baker Lake Water Treatment Plant project. The substantiation sheet for this project indicates that your department has "completed an assessment of the water treatment plant. The consulting firm has provided a recommendation to replace both raw water intakes to ensure the long-term reliability of the water treatment plant. The assessment also included a review of the turbidity issues. However, it has been determined that further planning for this work is required and will not be included in the project at this time."

Can you clarify how it was determined that the turbidity issue could not be included in the project's current scope and can you confirm the timeline for undertaking this work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will have my deputy clarify the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question on water quality in Baker Lake. The water intake project replacing the core infrastructure that lies under the lake's surface to bring water to the plant to treat was prioritized by the department as the initial project to ensure water security in Baker Lake.

The issue with turbidity in Baker Lake as a recreational lake in a very large body of water subject to high wind gusts and a lot of turn-up in the fall presents some different challenges as far as the filtration to minimize the turbidity to ensure that the drinking water is within drinking water standards.

The longer term examination of additional filtration to be built into the water treatment plant that I believe was built around 2014 and is owned and operated by CGS is going to be a longer term solution that is going to take a little bit more investigation to see how that additional filtration and membrane systems can be built in or if we will need to go with additional media filtration inside the existing footprint to the building or if it will be an addition onto the existing water treatment plant.

Again, the department did prioritize ensuring ongoing water to the plant for treatment and distribution into the community and the next phase of that priority will be supplementing or

enhancing the treatment system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Seeley. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the responses, but going back, I have been raising this issue since I became an MLA of the constant boil water advisories and due to myself and my predecessor advocating on that issue, I did receive a commitment from the minister's predecessor that work would begin last year on the filtration equipment. Now I am hearing that it's being further delayed and I was under the assumption that money was already set aside to do the filtration equipment to meet the new water quality standards.

I appreciate that the raw water intake takes precedence, but I do not understand why both jobs cannot be done. The raw water intake will be replaced, I appreciate that, but we're going to continue to not meet the water quality standards set forth by the regulators, I guess. I still don't understand why both cannot be done at the same time. Can the minister clarify? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now we want to proceed with this project within our financial resources and capacity to address not only Baker Lake's needs but other community water needs as well. We have huge needs across the territory, but right now we think the best way forward is to proceed with the water

infrastructure, working on the intakes for Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. For final clarification on this issue, the raw water intake replacement will be done this year, this summer. Will the filtration for the addition to the water treatment plant be completed in the next fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that the plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The short-term priority is to review the flow through media filters and to see if optimization will improve particle removal, as well as review cartridge filter systems and investigate modifications to improve particle removal; and then the medium term is to provide upgrades for the raw water intakes that may improve the turbidity level, and investigate potential chemical additions to improve the media filtration process; and over the longer term is to complete schematic design, detailed design, and construction of the treatment process upgrades. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still didn't hear an actual timeline. He mentioned short-term, mid-term, and long-term, but what are those? What kind of timeline are we looking at here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will give me a minute.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We anticipate the review process would be the first year, so over the next year, and the following year, we will see how that responds. I think that in the next few years we will see if we can address what my colleague here is trying to achieve. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Moving on, your 2022-23 budget includes \$1.5 million for planning studies. When will the list of planning studies be provided to us, and can you clarify today what planning studies will be done in 2022-23? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. The list itself is the one that was just provided, but the timelines may not be which ones; if the minister can respond to that question. Thank you.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry. If I can get clarification on the question, is he asking on the preplanning studies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I believe the member is asking for the timeline on the planning studies being proposed out of the \$1.5 million right now, which ones are anticipated to be completed this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman or...

>> *Laughter*

...thank you to me. Minister Joanasie, please.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the laugh.

We're working with the Department of Finance on this and hopefully in the coming days that will come to the committee's attention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Simailak, you're complete. Mr. Sammurtok, please proceed.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the utilidor for Rankin Inlet, in your business case, I'll quote, "Rankin Inlet's pumped water and sewage distribution system had been installed in the 1970s. The system has been expanded and some areas upgraded since its original construction. However, most of the original system has not been in place and is now well beyond its designed service life. Constant low water pressure, pipeline breaks, freezing, and leaks have plagued these areas and require continuous maintenance and repair." On top of that, the pump houses, "Pump house and lift stations are running at and beyond capacity, and various upgrades are recommended to accommodate future growth and additional connection."

Mr. Chairman, I'm just wondering why, in their business case, they're indicating that the pump houses are at their limit. When they're doing the utilidor system replacement, why don't they build the

pump houses at the same time?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now we are experiencing some challenges in Kangiqsiniq with respect to the utilidor system and this is what we're coming forward today with is to replace that system and get it up to date as soon as possible. The next phase after that would be...as I had my colleague ask me the other day around the water treatment plant, that's the next phase after this utilidor upgrade. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if they're going to upgrade the utilidor to bigger sizes of piping. Will the original pumps be able to give out the same capacity as what it's doing now? Will you need to put in new pumps or whatever?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I'll have my deputy respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The pump size will be upgraded to accommodate the additional volume of water and effluent that we need to keep up the pressure for fire suppression and for service in more distant parts of the community and the different loops. To keep up with a rapidly growing community like Rankin Inlet, the pumps will need to plan for future expansion.

I will just point out that the things do flow both ways within the utilidor, so certainly the water pumps for fire suppression and for household, domestic use as well as commercial, we need to keep up those as well as institutional, but the project on today's substantiation sheet is about the lift stations for the wastewater. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Seeley. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Just to follow up, you're going to upgrade the pumps to accommodate the pressure volume of the larger size pipes. Now, my question is: when will you be able to replace those 40-year-old pump houses?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're taking a phased approach on the water needs of Rankin Inlet and the lift stations right now are the most vulnerable, so that's the most attention that is required at this time. Following that, we are looking at how the water needs of Kangiqsiniq will be addressed after this initial phase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The utilidor system piping replacements, when does this construction start and when will it be completed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's ongoing. As I mentioned, there are different phases to this utilidor project. This project is going to total at least \$15 million of GN's funding and right now we're requesting the \$7 million to proceed on this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And it will be multi-year. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: When does the construction start? Maybe you will be able to answer that one better than my first question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you. Once we approve this project, then we're going to start this summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that information. Next name I have on my list: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just looking at the list of projects and I see the seniors' long-term care facilities in the regional centres for the Qikiqtaaluk and Kitikmeot. It's my understanding that the planning for the centres was not approved in the last Assembly to play into the timeline that's listed here for completion. I'm just wondering how much time that has cost us and whether or not I'm actually correct there. Thanks.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, if you will give me a minute.

Can the member clarify her question, please? The status on that is that the site selection is still ongoing and this is still contingent on funding availability. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I think the member was asking what kind of delay was a result of the money not being appropriated in the last Assembly and having to wait now for planning dollars. Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget line item for that project had been removed and as a result, it has delayed the project by that much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you. Just a follow-up to that, how long will the delay continue towards the completion? I mean, we have all raised this issue, I think, about the importance of caring for our elders here at home and I'm sure

every community is waiting with bated breath to find out which community will actually have these facilities. When can we expect to know when those communities will be chosen and for the planning to continue? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the planning for that facility has been done, but the design cost has not come forward yet and that would be through the Department of Health. Of course it's a big topic of interest publicly, so we are trying to see how we can support this priority for this legislature among others. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. (interpretation) Ms. Brewster, are you done? Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for Nunavut-wide planning for arenas. There are eight communities listed and on the second page of your letter, summary of requests provided by municipalities, that's submitted and integrated community sustainability plan in 2021. I'm wondering which communities, if you have a list of the submissions for those communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're aware that there are five communities that have submitted their integrated community sustainability plans and those lists are available through the Building Nunavut website.

There are some technical difficulties around that site, but if the members would like copies of those sustainability plans, we would be more than willing to provide them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the funding source, same subject on arenas, it says 75 percent federal funding. Which entity does the funding come from within the federal government? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are bilateral agreements with Infrastructure Canada to support such things as arenas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Business cases have been developed for three communities: Gjoa Haven, Chesterfield Inlet, and Arctic Bay. The next communities in line for arenas are Kimmirut, Kinngait, Kugaaruk, Naujaat, *ammalu* Clyde River. How are business cases determined for the next communities that require business cases for planning studies? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It depends on a few things. For example, when a community comes

forward with their lists and how they prioritize each need, how high it is on their list, but also the condition of their facilities, those are all part of the assessments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a different topic, within the planning studies, the undersea fibre optic cable installation, it notes, "Additional planning ongoing," looking at different routes. Is one of the possible routes coming from the Eastern Arctic Undersea Fibre Optic Network? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: If you will give me a second.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have looked at a variety of routings on this project and so that's going to be decided upon in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you, minister, and I thank Mr. Qavvik for his questions. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I actually am too short to be able to see whether or not my light is on, so that's why I had a little problem with my starts here.

I'm just curious about whether or not the RFP for...and I haven't checked, I'll be honest. I haven't checked to see if the RFP for the deep water sea port warehouse has gone out yet. It says spring 2022. That's it. Yes, sorry. I

apologize. Has the RFP for the warehouse for the deep sea port gone out as per the list here that says it's going out in spring 2022? Thank you and apologies.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: If you can give me a second.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be under ED&T whether or not that project is at the RFP stage, if I understand the question correctly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: That's it for now. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Please correct me if I'm wrong. I want to talk more about the funding for petroleum products. Maybe I should wait until we get to that section or can I proceed with it now? It's about the Petroleum Products Division. Is it okay if I do it now?

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. It is two pages from now where we will get into the Petroleum Products Division.

Any other names for this page? Right now we're looking at Infrastructure. \$11,333,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will go to the next page, J-7. Information Management Information Technology. \$20,700,000. Any questions? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have several questions on the fibre infrastructure for various communities. Is it still in the plan? In there it says various communities, that initially it was just Iqaluit and Kimmirut, I believe. Is that still the plan? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The route is still under consideration and as I mentioned, we are coming forward with a decision on that in the very near future on which routing is the best suited and which communities would be impacted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know this is not the total project being requested right now, but the total project was at \$209 million. Is that still the projected total cost for the fibre project? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, yes, that's the projected cost that we have presented here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to read something from a news article here that was published a little while ago. It says, "The project is now expected to finish in 2025," which is still the projected finish time, but it goes on to say, "...Paul Currie, the spokesperson for the Community and Government Services Department, said in an email. The project's cost, originally put at \$209 million, is also expected to increase due to inflation and supply chain [delays]."

Can the minister elaborate on it, if he is still projecting it to be \$209 million? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I'll have my deputy elaborate on the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The budget that we're planning within is the \$209 million that was projected when the project was approved. The commentary in the media, I read the same report and I'm not confident that that report included the full context of the response that was provided by one of our officials. With the project right now, we are planning within the budget, inflation pressures are what they are, and the completion date is a year or two out. That being said, I'm not convinced that that article provided the whole context of

the official's response. I hope that addresses the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Seeley. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister too. We have received a copy of the letter that was written from the NTI president to the Premier and it says, "Collaboration between the Government of Nunavut and Inuit organizations on bringing fibre to Nunavut," and I'll quote just a small portion of it. "I'm writing today to follow up on a February 8, 2022 meeting with Minister Joanasie on the potential for Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Nunavut to collaborate on the development of an undersea fibre optic network that would bring the highest quality of broadband to Nunavut." It goes on to say, "Minister Joanasie advised that the government had an approved project going forward to further consideration and funding approval for the Legislative Assembly's next session," which is what we're dealing with right now. "We suggest to Minister Joanasie that pausing the approved process for the GN project and signing a non-disclosure agreement with NTI would allow us to work collaboratively to compare the details of our respective proposals and projects and move forward in partnership of the project that has maximum benefit for Nunavummiut. Minister Joanasie, kindly direct us to your office with our request." Minister Joanasie directed to the Premier's Office.

With this letter that has been written to the Premier, will this letter affect in any

way the project proposal and planning that we are debating right now? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Savikataaq for that question. That letter, we do have a response drafted and I believe the Premier hasn't sent this either. We're going to sign off on a response, but at this time we are proceeding with this project and anticipate that if there are any partnership opportunities with Inuit organizations or other interested parties, it will be on this project that we're presenting here today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for complete clarity, this project is going to go ahead as is, as a sole government project, and the Government of Nunavut will own this fibre and will control the price of the Internet coming in and will control what's being distributed. Is that a correct statement? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the plan here and if there are any opportunities for partnership again once this infrastructure is built, we're open to those opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not against partnership, but if the minister can just elaborate on what he means by partnership. Is there going to be money put into partner to extend this fibre or is he talking about partnership to control or distribute this fibre once it's put in just to Iqaluit here? If he can just elaborate on that a bit. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have a partnership in place right now, but we are proceeding as is. I don't want to prejudge what it will look like. I think it could be different ways, but I think those are yet to be explored. For now, this project would serve our government and Nunavummiut on our information technology needs and the services that we need to provide as a government. I think partnership opportunities are yet to be explored and fully fleshed out, but I think that can go different ways. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know that there have been several proposals or options on where the fibre might come from. Does the minister know where the fibre will be coming from? Is it Greenland? Is it Northern Quebec? Is it Newfoundland? Is it from the western Arctic? Has that been decided yet? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member again for that question. We have narrowed it down. It's going to be from southern Canada, but again, we will be coming forward with it on the routing and then proceed to the construction as per this funding request from this legislature. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. Can the minister elaborate on southern Canada? Is it coming over land and through the Hudson Bay? Is it coming all the way from Newfoundland, which is southern Canada? Can he just elaborate a bit on what southern Canada means in this context? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's going to be undersea. Apart from that, I think I don't have much more further options to provide the committee at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would it be a fair statement to state, then, it's coming from the south somewhere through the ocean and the GN is going to own and operate the fibre, it will be 100 percent owned by the GN? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point that's how it

stands. Yes, it would be 100 percent GN owned and operated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I waited for this time about the fibre optic. I have been a community service provider before for Qiniq. A known fact about fibre optic, once it's cut, we won't have a network anymore; we're down. Does CGS have a backup plan once the fibre optic is down? It's a known fact. I have known this fact before because I worked and opened fibre optic Internet, and once that fibre was cut, that was it and we had no more Internet. Is there any backup plan? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Yes, the backup plan would need to rely on our existing satellite network. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did Community and Government Services take a look at the request for proposals from SSi Canada? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we haven't looked at

proposals unsolicited. We haven't issued an RFP yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Maybe if I can interrupt for a moment, do you anticipate putting an RFP out in the near future? Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I believe that would come...this spring would be when the RFP would go out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I looked at the request for proposals. It's a great proposal. I recommend that CGS take it into great consideration for the fact that all Nunavummiut have community service providers and what the request for proposals stated is that they would hire extra three more in each community. It would mean we would get technicians to work in every community and then they would hire technicians. That's 75 to 100 more Nunavummiut to work. I strongly suggest that CGS take in the request for proposals and take it into great consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: That was just a comment, but did the minister want to respond to it? Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: No. I just wanted to thank the member for that suggestion and consideration. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once fibre optics has

started, would all or some of the communities get it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently trying to proceed with Iqaluit since it uses the most bandwidth on satellites and so that is our goal at this time. However, in the coming years, if we can reach other communities and there is enough funding that is approved through the Legislative Assembly, then the other communities would be included. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Savikataaq): Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that being the case, when I was mayor, we dealt with this issue for quite a long time during the Hudson Bay roundtable and it still has not been started. It is being studied right now by the Kivalliq Inuit Association with funding from the federal government. How will that impact the project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if he can clarify, is he talking about the Kivalliq hydro-fibre link? I think he is asking about that.

Mr. Chairman, the funding that we are requesting currently is for Internet service connection to Iqaluit. However, in response to a question from our

colleague from Baker Lake, I stated that we would be asking for an additional \$100 million from the Universal Broadband Fund to see if we can get the Kivalliq communities connected in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Any more questions? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If this goes ahead, it will be owned by the government. Would it be available to Nunavummiut that don't work for the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the government would be the biggest user, but it would be available to be used or bought by individuals and it would be set up, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): You're done? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I can actually say that without creating a laugh in the House.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, with the fibre project that has been proposed and when we look at some of the information that I have seen in the media as well as the information that the now Chair read out in a letter, there was also an options paper that came with it. I'm a little perplexed that it seems that there is such a strong desire to have the ownership side of it when

there may be opportunities to look at partnering.

I'm thinking a little further down the road than just the actual construction of the infrastructure; it's the maintenance and the follow-up that's continuously needed. I guess, what I'm asking: is there an opportunity to partner with the CanArctic group that I know the minister and his officials have been in touch with? I'll start with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are focusing on our project, the one that CGS has presented and has been working on for a number of years. This is the project we feel where the partnership can occur or if it will occur and it can occur, then it's on this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to backtrack just a little bit. In October 2021 there was an RFP for the Government of Nunavut Marine Fibre Project Strategy oversight advisory consulting services. I have to almost take a breath in between there. The RFP closed in December of last year, which was a few months back. Which entity has been awarded the contract to perform this work?

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The company is called Ledcor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that when this project first got started a number of years ago, there weren't many options of how to look at ownership and maintenance, but it appears to me now that there has been substantial work put in from the private sector and again, an unsolicited proposal term was used and I'm quite familiar with that.

At the same time, if there are ways to leverage dollars, as an example, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated has put some work into the Grays Bay project, into the Kivalliq power and fibre project there, and it seems like they're open to some investments into the Qikiqtaaluk project. It sounds to me like that option is closed, from the way the minister has been talking. I just want to get confirmation that there are still opportunities if there are ways to leverage dollars, especially when we get a substantial amount of dollars from the federal government, it typically means that it's a substantial amount of dollars for the Government of Nunavut; it's usually a cost-share basis. Anytime we can leverage more dollars from outside partners, it's an advantage, for one, and it has, as my colleague Mr. Malliki touched upon, access to more communities.

It seems like there may be a real opportunity to sit down; I'm not saying maybe go all the way to create a committee again and just start from scratch kind of thing. I know there has been a lot of work put in from Community and Government Services over the years and it sounds like there have been quite a bit of advancements from the private sector in this field as

well, with an Inuit-owned enterprise, I might add. I just want to get some confirmation from the minister that there is still going to be an opportunity to look at some of these third party partnerships. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will look at any possible partnerships and see where we can work together best with different parties that have an interest and stake in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that commitment from the minister. The next commitment that I'm going to request is maybe indirectly through the minister. It was mentioned that the Premier will be responding to the president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's letter. We did get a copy of the letter that was sent, obviously, to you as members. Can I ask that the standing committee also be included in the response to that letter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you will receive a response to that letter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Next on my list: Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have questions for fibre infrastructure, Nunavut various, although it might not

be related to the budget for this fiscal year, 2022-23, but in the previous Assemblies, Hudson Bay, specifically in my constituency of Hudson Bay, Sanikiluaq, it has been in the talks of the possibility of connecting fibre optic to Sanikiluaq from the Eastern Arctic Undersea Fibre Optic Network, which was installed last year, 2021, to the Nunavik region of Quebec. I'm wondering: has your department communicated with the region to possibly connect Sanikiluaq through a procurement process? Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Hickes): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we haven't done what the member is asking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering whether your department can commit to considering possibly doing a planning study in the future to put a request for proposals to connect Sanikiluaq from the fibre optic network. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not going to commit to doing an RFP *per se*, but I think we can look at some kind of an... . This might be something that would flow through the hamlet. We can work on a fibre optic project and the eastern arctic network that the member speaks of, it is the Kativik Regional Government network, but I am also advised that Sanikiluaq has

very good satellite coverage. Once Iqaluit, for example, has fibre connected, then Sanikiluaq would see, along with other communities, exponentially faster and more reliable Internet through the satellite network. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qavvik. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not going to be asking this question, but if the Kivalliq Inuit Association should have connection to the fibre network and if it goes through Rankin Inlet, would it be included in the government's proposal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the Kivalliq hydro fibre link project, it would go from Manitoba and I believe those projects would be starting at the same time. However, with the project that the Kivalliq Inuit Association is proposing and the other project that we have proposed to install undersea fibre optic cable from Iqaluit to the Kivalliq, we are looking at which communities will be affected. I can't identify which communities those are at the moment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we approve the funding, when would the route from Iqaluit be determined so that we know

which other Nunavut communities will be affected? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are only looking at Iqaluit now with the funding that we are requesting. We are also making another funding request to the federal government and if we are approved, we would also have to request funding from the Legislative Assembly for the project to connect Iqaluit to the Kivalliq, but we are not proceeding with it at this time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like we are looking for a lot of money, but we do not know which communities are going to be linked. I think it would be best if we have the plan and the route and everything else determined before we talk about the money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that question, Mr. Malliki. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this funding only going towards Iqaluit, we have requested additional federal funding to link additional communities. If approved, the expenditure would also have to be approved by this House for the additional Iqaluit to Kivalliq line. Once funding availability is determined by the federal government and this Legislative Assembly, the communities that are getting linked will be identified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like we are going to link fibre optics to one community at a time. What I'm thinking and what I would like to know is to see a few communities linked at the same time and not only focus on one community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the Kivalliq Inuit Association's proposed project, we would look at which communities are linked or not linked, but it will be done in the future. We're looking at Iqaluit as a priority for now since it uses the most satellite bandwidth. We're continuing to proceed with the plan to date. It's going to use quite a lot of money, but the money we use for satellite bandwidth is also quite a lot, so they are interconnected, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to switch gears and ask about your proposed 2022-23 capital estimates that include \$3.5 million in funding for communication technology infrastructure upgrades. I'm just wondering what specific upgrades are planned to be undertaken with this funding. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This includes \$250,000 in RSO upgrades, as well as \$750,000 in Rankin Inlet as well as Cambridge Bay data centre generators, \$2 million in local area network rooms as well as ever-greening, and \$500,000 on new technology pilots. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. The use of acronyms can sometimes be confusing. I'm assuming that means regional school operations. Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering how that connects with expenditures in the past and whether or not there is a natural progression to ensuring that all of these communities and systems can talk to each other. I'm just wondering how the communities are chosen. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you. I thank you for the question. The budget that CGS has been using for lifecycle renewal on our information technology upgrades, the \$3.5 million has been used up fairly well each year. As for the locations, regional centres have data centres that store these important infrastructures for our government to function. That's part of why those locations are selected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Information Management Information Technology. \$20,700,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page J-9. Petroleum Products Division. \$200,000. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the word “Arviat” on there, I mean, I have to say something.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that this project is delayed one year due to circumstances beyond the department’s control. I would just like reassurance that this project absolutely will go ahead next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will proceed definitely next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that confirmation. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the substantiation sheet, the stuff that’s going to be built and the number of tanks, one of them is a jet A fuel tank, which is needed in Arviat, and I’m glad that they will be building one so that airplanes can use Arviat as an alternative. My question is: will that come with a separate fuel truck then that would do jet A or would they have to share an existing one with P50? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can defer that question to the deputy. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The new tank facility and distribution centre or gas station in Arviat does include a full retrofit, including new fill stations to accommodate a growing community with multiple pumps. The fleet size, as far as the fuel delivery trucks, is also included into that growth.

Keeping the different fuel types separate is also important. You can’t mix or cross contamination with the fuel, so that would be included in it. I do say that with a caveat that there are serious supply chain issues with the chassis for this specialized equipment designed to operate in the cold temperatures and carry fuel. That is part of the forward planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that response, Mr. Seeley. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I get assurance from the minister that the island dispensers will be winter grade, snow grade, or Arviat grade, whatever the term can be? We have had nothing but trouble with our gas and diesel dispensers for a number of years. At times we’re down to not one dispenser, one pump for the whole town of 3,000 people. Can the minister assure me that they will purchase and install and operate island dispensers that will take the harsh conditions in Arviat? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. I guess they've got to be polar bear proof too. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will be getting the best of the best of what we can provide in terms of dispensing fuel for the community in Arviat and in any community. I think Mr. Speaker, my colleague here, is ready to design his own dispensing machine for the community that will fit the grade, but if any community experiences issues with these types of... A community needs fuel to run and we encourage you to contact our department and the PPD will be on top of it as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one last comment, I fully support this project and I know that all our members will vote to pass the project because it's a very important project for Arviat. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fuel prices are skyrocketing globally. What has the government or the minister done to ensure the fuel prices don't go up drastically in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Malliki. That is an O&M question, but I will allow the minister to respond as I know that question is very pervasive throughout the territory, if not the

country, if not the world. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, fuel prices are changing on a daily basis. The Department of Community and Government Services began to purchase fuel back in November and December. To date, we have purchased 71 percent of our fuel for Nunavut. Looking at the increasing fuel costs, we are constantly monitoring it and when the right time would be to purchase the remainder of the fuel for the 2022-23 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. I have some more names on my list. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know a lot about tank farms, but I do know about issues of contaminants getting into the ground and on the *nuna* (land). What I'm wondering is: if it's a replacement, is there the cost of any remediation that needs to be done built into the project? If it's a whole new site, I'm just really curious about what is done to protect the land, air, and water around the tank farm. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry if I didn't catch the whole question, but the capital process for tank farms involves looking at what are the regulatory and legislative frameworks that we must meet and adhere to. There is remediation or if there is any spill potential, we're looking at risks and mitigating them as much as we can, but there are whole different

phases to that process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: I'm done. Thanks.

Chairman: Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you hear me? You can hear me. Thank you.

I want to make a comment and perhaps you already know yourself personally as the minister responsible, although it's not listed here. However, there is a big concern that I want to raise as a question regarding the community of Clyde River. I believe we have all heard about it over the news.

Will there be funding available for emergency situations for communities due to fuel shortages or complete lack thereof in some communities, although Jet A fuel may be available? Looking here at all communities in Nunavut that have fuel, Clyde River is the only community that didn't have fuel. That's why I'm raising this. I would like to see it under emergency funds.

Since you mentioned that you want to be notified of anything related to fuel, I raise this as a concern and I will have a follow-up question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for the question. The

Petroleum Products Division began to look into this immediately for the tank farm in Clyde River, and we have been looking into this since last week to see what actions can be taken.

However, with respect to emergency response, we have provided support to the hamlet and I would like to mention that we will be airlifting fuel to the community. Well, the fuel will be flown into the community of Clyde River this week. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you. With respect to the cost of different kinds of fuel such as gasoline and jet fuel, how are they categorized? Is Jet A more costly than the home heating fuel that we use? I'll ask that first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. Jet A is more expensive, for example, compared to diesel. That's how it is set right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That clarifies further the needs of the community of Clyde River and grocery products that are also very expensive there. Homeowners lack many essential parts required for such things as furnaces, as does the local housing association for the work that they need to do on a continual basis. I raise that first as a question because it is an urgent matter. I will want to keep in tune on this, but I'll leave it as a

comment for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank, Mr. Chairman. This has been an urgent matter for us and the Petroleum Products Division has looked at how we can accommodate the community of Clyde River. There are various factors that came into play. There are things that are out of our control, such as the weather, but we are reviewing what mitigating actions we may take. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. I have no more names on my list. Petroleum Products Division. \$200,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page J-2. Community and Government Services. \$58,222,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the review of Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister, do you have any closing remarks?

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To keep it short, I want to thank the officials who are here with me. I also thank my colleagues for their questions on the various capital projects that will be

going forward, and I am hopeful that much support will be given for the upcoming months and years. Have a wonderful day. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I just have one final comment for the minister. In notes with the discussion we had earlier with the paperwork that we received and the confusion, I'm wondering when we're going to get the list of the new projects under the planning envelope. I'll look forward to receiving that information from the minister through the chair in the very near future. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Progress has been called. We have a motion on the floor to report progress. It's not debatable. Sorry. Sergeant-at-Arms, please excuse the witnesses. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. Motion carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker: Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hickes.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 2 and would like to report progress, and the Chairman thanked himself, Mr. Speaker, which added some levity to the response.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to.

Speaker: Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Ms. Brewster. The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets tomorrow at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 10:

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 1
- Bill 2
- Bill 3

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 10, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:00*

