



**Nunavut    Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**1st Session**

**6th Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 5**

**Thursday, March 10, 2022**

**Pages 187 – 239**

**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 Joanasic**  
(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)

**Alexander Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Thursday, March 10, 2022**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanase, 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): Let us pray.

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. To the Inuit who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, welcome and please listen intently as we do our work here on your behalf. Thank you.

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

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 022 – 6(1):  
Council of the Federation 2022**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to all Nunavummiut who are listening to the proceedings. Good afternoon, colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues about the February 4 Council of the Federation (COF) meeting I attended via videoconference.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of the Federation provides a forum where Canada's Premiers meet to advance their priorities by working collaboratively on key issues of common interest. Throughout the meeting, I was impressed by the dedication, energy, and passion each of my colleagues demonstrated, not only for their respective jurisdictions but also for the challenges we face collectively.

Mr. Speaker, our discussions focused on an urgent and essential issue: the sustainability of health care across Canada.

In Nunavut there is an acute understanding that our healthcare system needs urgent support and long-term solutions that will decrease our reliance on southern health care.

My colleagues and I were unanimous in our call to the federal government to increase its share of the provincial-territorial health care costs through the Canada Health Transfer from approximately 22 percent to 35 percent annually.

Although the Canada Health Transfer only accounts for a very small percentage of Nunavut's health care funds, our territory relies on partnerships with southern jurisdictions, such as Ontario and Manitoba, for health care services.

Mr. Speaker, as the long-term viability of health care in Nunavut and across Canada is key to healthy and prosperous communities, I look forward to ongoing solution-focused dialogue with the federal government and our provincial and territorial partners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 023 – 6(1):  
COVID-19 Vaccines**

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

Mr. Speaker, vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. Evidence shows that when a person has two doses of a Government of Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine along with a booster, it greatly reduces the risk of severe illness and hospitalization.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut aged five and older have access to a lifesaving COVID-19 vaccine. I want to thank all the staff in my department and across the GN, who have worked tirelessly to ensure the vaccine is available in every community. From organizing delivery, to sharing evidenced-based information to administering the vaccine, the dedication I have seen to protecting Nunavummiut cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank our partners in the hamlets and the Inuit organizations who have used their communication channels to put together incentive programs to help boost vaccine uptake.

Mr. Speaker, moving forward, the Department of Health will continue to ensure vaccines are available and provide Nunavummiut with the most current information available to help ensure everyone can make an informed decision about the vaccine.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, the vaccine is safe and it works. I encourage everyone who is eligible to get the vaccine for their own health and the health of their loved ones and communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Lightstone.

**Minister's Statement 024 – 6(1):  
Ujjiqsuqta Community Initiatives  
Program**

**Hon. Adam Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut is committed to encouraging healthier choices and responsible approaches to the consumption of liquor and cannabis.

As such, I'm pleased to announce that the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission (NULC) has developed a new Ujjiqsuqta Community Initiatives Contribution Program. The Ujjiqsuqta program provides funding to eligible organizations in our territory for activities and campaigns that promote harm reduction and informed choices regarding alcohol and cannabis use.

Under this program, funding will be provided to graduating classes in Nunavut's high schools and Nunavut

Arctic College for alcohol and cannabis-free graduation celebrations. The Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission will also provide funding to community health and wellness committees for activities related to harm reduction and prevention. Other community-based organizations will be able to access funding for the design, delivery, and promotion of programs that support our harm reduction goals.

Mr. Speaker, implementation of the program will start immediately. Nunavummiut can find the program information on the Department of Finance's website or they can contact the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission for any questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 025 – 6(1):  
Government of Nunavut and  
Nunavut Teachers Association  
Sign a New Collective Agreement**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut's teachers are the pillars of our education system, providing our children and youth with the education they need to reach their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, to ensure that Nunavut can retain and recruit the best teachers for our communities, on January 19, 2022 a new collective agreement was signed between the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Teachers Association. This new agreement shows that our

government is serious about investing in education.

Mr. Speaker, we are not only investing in our teachers by providing them with annual salary increases, but also by providing improved leave options like domestic violence leave, as well as ensuring foster children under the care of a teacher are considered part of their immediate family.

Officials from the Nunavut Teachers Association and our government worked diligently together to ensure that negotiations were fair for both parties and conducted in a timely fashion. Working together like this shows Nunavummiut the mutual respect and positive relationship we have with the Nunavut Teachers Association, demonstrating the spirit of *Piliriatigiinniq* and *Ikajuqtigiinniq*. I am proud to be one of the signatories for this new collective agreement.

Mr. Speaker, with the uncertainty that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to our lives, it is my hope that this new agreement will provide our teachers, students, and communities with a sense of stability in Nunavut's education system. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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



**Minister's Statement 026 – 6(1): Child and Youth Safety Initiatives****Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to advise my colleagues about child and youth safety initiatives the Department of Family Services is providing across Nunavut.

From 2019 until last month, the department provided community social service workers across the territory with training on investigative techniques when interviewing children and youth who have experienced sexual abuse.

(interpretation ends) Territory-wide training on the recently updated Child Abuse and Neglect Response Agreement is being planned for 2022 and is currently integrated into training provided to all community social service workers frontline staff.

Family Services also continues to work collaboratively with the Umingmak Centre, providing a circle of care for children and youth who have experienced sexual abuse. This work is done within a multidisciplinary team at a centralized location to avoid further traumatization on the child or youth.

Mr. Speaker, Family Services' Family Wellness and Poverty Reduction divisions have awarded \$1.2 million to the Youth Initiatives Funding Program. This program creates emergency safe shelter for youth in crisis and supports community programming to enhance child and youth safety and prevent child abuse. To date, ten community projects

are being funded in Cambridge Bay, Iqaluit, Kinngait, Arviat, Pond Inlet, and Pangnirtung.

Last, Mr. Speaker, thanks to a generous donation from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, my department provided iPads, cellphones, and connection to Internet services for children and youth in care who need these devices. This will support increased positive social interactions, connection with friends and family, increased self-confidence, safety and security, learning responsibility and new technology, and provide increased access to educational support.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. Before I go on to the next minister, I would ask the media personnel in the media booth to please wear your masks. Thank you.

Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 027 – 6(1): Appreciation to QEC Employees**

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Today I rise to give special thanks to all our Qulliq Energy Corporation employees for their dedicated service over the past two years.

As the territory's only power supplier, the Qulliq Energy Corporation provides a critical service to Nunavummiut, and despite a global pandemic, our dedicated team answered the call day in and day out.

Mr. Speaker, with careful consideration for workplace safety and direction from the territory's chief public health officer, all non-essential Qulliq Energy Corporation staff have been equipped with the tools needed to work from home during COVID-19 outbreaks.

Still, many of our employees are required to respond to critical operations across Nunavut. This includes electricians, mechanics, and power line technicians and plant operators essential to resolving power related emergencies.

I am very proud of all our Qulliq Energy Corporation employees. Despite many obstacles, they continue to answer challenges daily while helping to protect communities and ensure a safe and reliable power supply. In fact, through all of the challenges and obstacles, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has managed to significantly improve our reliability rating, which is now the highest it has ever been.

I ask all Members of this House to join me in thanking our utility workers, power plant operators, customer care agents, and frontline staff. They work around the clock and adapt to challenges while supporting Nunavummiut and ensuring our health centres, businesses, and homes have reliable power. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 054 – 6(1): Appreciation of Raymond Ningeocheak Coming Home**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. Have a good day, as well as the people of Naujaat and Coral Harbour.

The reason why I rise today is to acknowledge the inherent capabilities of Inuit when it comes to committing oneself, as when Inuit start an initiative, they tend to be quite capable and complete the needed work.

Our esteemed elder, Raymond Ningeocheak, was sent down to Ottawa and detained, and Inuit collaborated to finance his trip home, and he was able to return home to Coral Harbour by February 21, 2022. I want to express my gratitude to the Inuit and other residents who aided in bringing Raymond home, and to the people who advised me to assist them in this case, I also thank them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

#### **Member's Statement 055 – 6(1): Appreciation of Volunteers during Pandemic**

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to thank my constituents in the communities of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk for helping those that need to go shopping for the ones that had to isolate.

Great job and work done to each and every one of you for helping each other

out, as it is always Inuit way of life to help each other out, so I just wanted to thank my constituents for helping your families and helping your friends, and keep going that path and it's a great journey and Inuit way of life is always to help each other out.

I acknowledge each and every one of you for helping each other out, as most cannot go shopping. Each household always had to isolate and they cannot go out and when they do ask, they do get help from their families. I acknowledge each and every one of you; I thank you, and please continue the journey in helping each other out, as it is the Inuit way of life to help each other out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 056 – 6(1):  
Happy Birthday to Daughter**

**Mr. Qavvik** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, colleagues.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this special day, my wife and I are celebrating a birthday of one of our daughters. We have four daughters, and the youngest daughter is turning 8 years old today. (interpretation ends) She just turned eight years old today.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, our daughter celebrating a birthday today is named after my mother's late mother, as we say it, she is the *sauniq*. Myself, I am named after my mother's late father, and he is my *sauniq*, thereby my daughter

and I also have a close relationship as I love her dearly both as a daughter and take pride in her namesake. I do love them all equally as they are all our daughters.

I would ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her a "happy birthday" and for many more in the future, and for her to have good health. I certainly hope you have a wonderful birthday today, Rosalinda Mangngi Inuktaluk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 057 – 6(1):  
Appreciation of Grise Fiord  
Search and Rescue**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, I wanted to express my appreciation to the search and rescue team based in Grise Fiord, as they had to conduct a search previously on January 6. On that day, it caused consternation and confusion amongst our family members, as our oldest brother, as I call him my *angajuk*, he did not return from his seal hunting trip.

The SAR team quickly gathered and went in the general direction where he went seal hunting, following his tracks, but they ended in the water, with no other ice or tracks surrounding the water. We did not know what happened, other than that it was dire. We all know and are aware that it is extremely cold weather at that time of year and

continually dark, so we began anticipating the worst outcome.

We also knew that hunting is a very dangerous profession, and sometimes we lose real capable hunters due to the inherent dangers. Nonetheless, the SAR team went out again, to see if they could determine what happened. They returned to the spot and started dragging the bottom to try to snag his body, while others went on both sides where more snow was accumulated to see if any tracks emerged.

They found tracks leading away, so they called us, and we started praying earnestly for him to be found. And fortunately, they started checking cabins, and in the closest cabin, they found him drying his clothing in the cabin, and once they dressed him up, they returned him to Grise Fiord. We all felt extreme gratitude as a family when that news came out.

The SAR volunteers whom we thank as a family are: Kavavow Kiguktak, Paul Qamaniq, Terry Noah, Jeffrey Qaunaq, Nathan Qaunaq, Jesse Ningiuk, Nathanael Ningiuk, Christian Christensen, Michael Kakkik, Jaypetee Peter, and Liza Ningiuk along with Marty Kuluguqtuq, who oversee search and rescue. This includes the Nunavut search and rescue division.

It is very difficult to sense an outcome when you are in that situation while hunting, nonetheless, there is something else that can look after someone in trouble, so I thank that entity for their grace. I also thank the search and rescue team. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 058 – 6(1):  
Appreciation of Outgoing Senior  
Administrative Officer of  
Cambridge Bay**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge the municipality's chief administrative officer, Marla Limousin, who will be leaving her role and the community after dedicating her time since 2016 to enhance our community of Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Limousin has served our community and others across the territory for over 40 years. Cambridge Bay is fortunate to have her spend countless hours and a lot of effort into the administrative side of council. Her hard-working approach to make positive change to our community has resulted in many new and exciting opportunities, investments, and enhancements to improve our beautiful community.

Mr. Speaker, the community has been very fortunate to have such a strong administrator. Over her tenure, Ms. Limousin has worked on projects after receiving the directive of council. There was a strong focus on youth in the community. Some highlights of projects she led and implemented include creating and implementing a comprehensive community plan, the formation and guidance of the mayor's youth advisory and elders' advisory councils.

She championed funds for new initiatives like the new arena, road resurfacing pilot project, Itqumavik

Heritage Park, Ivataaruq Hanaujarvik – Red Fish Arts Studio, Anaana’s Camp, the Cambridge Bay Makerspace, paintball field, and “From Scrap to Art” welding program, and also, the on-the-land treatment program, creation of the men’s shelter, and most recently the youth shelter, led with the direction of staff as well. All of these projects happened simultaneously while overseeing the municipal daily operations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ms. Limousin once again for her dedication and investing her energy into the health and well-being of our community, and wish her well in her new role as executive director of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. They’re very fortunate to have such an amazing woman join their team. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member’s Statement 059 – 6(1):  
Appreciation of Alex Flaherty**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to publicly express my gratitude and appreciation along with the MLA for Quttiktuq regarding the recent events he just spoke about. This was also personally very difficult for me because the person noted is close to me. I wanted to begin by thanking them myself and by thanking the member for acknowledging the search and rescue team.

Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I would like to recognize a businessman here in Iqaluit. Alex Flaherty is the owner of Polar Outfitting. Alex Flaherty provides concrete examples of Inuit tradition to youth and pre-teens. He also takes people out on the land who don’t have the means to go by themselves.

Mr. Speaker, recently, in the past year, he has taken 108 youth out on the land to teach them, many of whom reside in my riding of Iqaluit-Niaqunngu. I would like to express my appreciation to (interpretation ends) the Minister of Family Services (interpretation) for providing assistance, as well as Kakivak Association, who introduced that program to teach the strength inherent in our Inuit traditions, from elders to youth. It has to be carried out. I would like to recognize Alex Flaherty today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** I have no more names on my list. We’re going to the next item. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. As we are closed to the public, there is no recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Uqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

**Item 6: Oral Questions**

**Question 038 – 6(1): New Health  
Centre for Qikiqtarjuaq**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut. It’s great that we have a new day. I am thankful for that too.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about this and the reason why I rise is the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre. People are aware and it has been acknowledged that the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre is one of the oldest health centres in Nunavut. It was built in 1972 and had renovations in 1981 and 1992.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update on when a new health centre can be built? I know that some preliminary work has been done on it and maybe some design work. I would like an update on the health centre in Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question. Yes, we are well aware that the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre is too old now. Looking at the number of health centres that need to be replaced, the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre is currently our top priority. The Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre is the number one priority of all the health centres that need to be built, just so the member is aware of that.

Planning on this project started during the 2014-15 fiscal year and since that time, there has been some planning work done on it, but we are now working with (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services (interpretation) for capital matters like that. We know that the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre... I'll speak in English. (interpretation ends) The Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre does not meet the current building code standards for a health care facility. *Ma'na*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that clarification. I have wanted to ask questions about it.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to repeat that we expect that health centre to be built because we really need a new health centre. It has been almost 30 years since any major work has been done on the current health centre in Qikiqtarjuaq.

I would like to talk about the community some more. The community has grown and the population is a lot higher now since the planning was started. Up to today, we know that it is not adequate to be used as a health centre and there is a huge lack of space in the building. I want to reiterate that because there aren't enough clinic rooms for the health professionals to treat patients properly. There are new positions for health care workers, but they cannot be filled if there is no space for them to work in. There is no room for the pharmacy and the lab work. You are all aware of this already; I am just repeating it.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify how his department evaluates the space, condition, and working environment of community health centres to determine when they need to be replaced? With the condition ratings, how do you schedule visits to the communities to see what work needs to be done? Those are the questions I wanted to ask. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. There are a few questions there. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for asking those questions. We have known for a long time now that Qikiqtarjuaq needs a new health centre. In 2011 the Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq indicated that they needed a new health centre which they included in the (interpretation ends) integrated community infrastructure plan. (interpretation) I'm saying that in English since I don't know how to say it in Inuktitut. The hamlet had it in their plan since 2011 up to now and they are tired of waiting and that is quite obvious and I understand that.

There was an inspection done on the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre in May 2012. A representative from the Department of Community and Government Services probably went there to inspect it in 2012 and there is no information as to whether any other inspections have been done since then based on the information I have. A new health centre really needs to be built. Mr. Speaker, based on what has been inspected, it would cost around \$40 million to build a new health centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. I would ask members to keep their questions short and to the point. Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understood the explanation you gave.

Mr. Speaker, it should be clear that the community of Qikiqtarjuaq needs a new health centre at the earliest opportunity. Mr. Speaker, the minister should fast-track the project.

This is the first time I saw this information and I am learning the capital planning process. I have heard and I know that a design has been completed. I believe it is in the fourth year of work being done on it. However, there is no extra capital money.

Will the minister commit to bringing forward (interpretation ends) a project to build a new community health centre in Qikiqtarjuaq in the next new capital plan? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the current business plan, there is no money available that can be targeted toward the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre project. I would be very happy if it could be included in next year's capital plan.

The Department of Health is not holding the project back and we would like it to move forward. As soon as we get funding approved for the project, we will get started on it, but we currently have to get financing for it approved first. It is quite clear that the Department of Health has requested funding for the project and once it is approved, we will move forward with the project. That is my response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

### **Question 039 – 6(1): Airport Infrastructure**

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

Economic Development and Transportation and concern Pond Inlet's airport.

As the minister is aware, his department's 20-year infrastructure needs assessment concerning Nunavut's airports describes Pond Inlet as being strategically located on the Northwest Passage.

The report recommended that a feasibility study be undertaken to "determine the costs and benefits of constructing a new High Arctic hub airport at Pond Inlet for civil and military purposes."

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that has been raised on many occasions in this House by Tununiq's MLAs.

Can the minister confirm when his department will be undertaking the recommended study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, there are many airports in Nunavut that are each in various need of being corrected or fixed. Some of the airports are located strategically and don't serve as just airports, as they can represent our identity as Canadians, and they are very useful whenever there is an emergency. What I envision is to have this reviewed again in the near future to have further work done on the airport in my colleague's community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. (interpretation ends) In light of the situation in Europe, attention is being focused on arctic security and sovereignty.

As the minister is aware, a long-standing issue raised by the community is the desire to designate Pond Inlet as a hub airport. What is the minister's position on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a position on that issue. There are other communities in that part of our beautiful territory that would love to be the hub of the High Arctic. I don't personally have a position on that issue, but more than likely when we look at hub issues and stuff like that, all communities will be carefully considered for what they bring into the realm of that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, his department's 20-year infrastructure needs assessment concerning Nunavut airports recommends that the Government of Nunavut consider making improvements to landing surfaces at the airports.



(interpretation) I would like to add that the 727-200 Nolinor Aviation now lands in Pond Inlet. (interpretation ends) Can he clarify what improvements what improvements are being considered for Pond Inlet's runway to allow for larger aircraft to be able to land at our airport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of any requests at this point from the air carriers that are asking for those changes to the runway surfaces in Pond Inlet be improved so they could land bigger aircraft at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Question 040 – 6(1): Household Allowance Program**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the Minister of Finance was paying careful attention yesterday to the answers that the Minister of Human Resources provided to me in reply to my questions about housing for GN employees.

Mr. Speaker, owning your own home is a goal that many of our territory's residents have, but it is a goal that is out of reach for too many people.

As the minister is well aware, his department administers the Household Allowance Program.

This program provides a \$400 per month taxable allowance for eligible Government of Nunavut employees. Its stated purpose is to "offset some of the costs of owning or renting a home in the territory."

For the record, can the minister confirm when the amount of this allowance was last increased? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Lightstone.

**Hon. Adam Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. I may have asked the exact same question myself when I was sitting on the other side of the table.

I don't have that information before me at this time. If I recall correctly, the household allowance amount has not been increased since inception. However, Mr. Speaker, I will have to look into that just to confirm, and we'll get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you for your response. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the amount of the household allowance is not prescribed in any of the three collective agreements that the GN has with its unions, and it is not a part of the bargaining process.

For the record, can the minister confirm how the amount of the Household Allowance is determined? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister of Finance. Mr. Lightstone.

**Hon. Adam Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The household allowance was launched in 2008; I can confirm that the amount has never increased. It was \$400 a month when it was first created and it still remains that amount. Mr. Speaker, when it was determined back in 2008, I'm not certain how that amount was calculated. Again, I can look into that and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your responses. Can the minister indicate today if changes to the household allowance are being considered as part of his upcoming budget and, if not, why not? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister of Finance, Mr. Lightstone.

**Hon. Adam Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member again for the excellent question. I can confirm that I am looking into this matter specifically. However, I cannot confirm whether or not it will be included in the upcoming budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 041 – 6(1): Medical Boarding Home for Rankin Inlet**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on the Minister of Health's response to my question about medical boarding home services on Tuesday, March 8.

In reviewing the *Hansard*, I note that the minister stated, "Indigenous Services Canada supports the Government of Nunavut pursuing the option of establishing a boarding home in the Kivalliq region."

Can the minister confirm whether Rankin Inlet would be the most likely location for a medical boarding home in the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. (interpretation ends) The member's question was asking me to confirm whether Rankin Inlet would be the most likely for a boarding home in the Kivalliq region. The phrasing of the question makes it a bit difficult for me to provide a proper answer. I can confirm that Rankin Inlet receives the most medical travellers in the Kivalliq region as the regional hub.

On the issue of a boarding home, he is correct in that Indigenous Services Canada has indicated their support for a potential boarding home in the Kivalliq region. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I recall from my earlier days as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, the federal government had always excluded health-related infrastructure from its financial support programs.

Can the minister clarify whether the federal government has indicated that it will now support the building of health-related infrastructure in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Unfortunately we've had no indication that our federal partners would be willing to support health in terms of the capital side of a potential boarding home.

Unfortunately, when it comes to capital dollars in health facilities, it's very hard to find pots of funding that health facilities are eligible for. A good example is the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre where, in that case for that example of that facility, the Government of Nunavut funds would be paying for 100 percent of the capital and looking at the other boarding home in Nunavut, I don't believe that any federal funding was used for that one either.

Right now the answer is we have had no indication of capital funding support. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was pleased to hear that there is support for a medical boarding home for the Kivalliq region.

Can the minister provide further details on when he anticipates this project to be brought forward and when we can expect to see the Kivalliq Medical Boarding Home open for medical travellers to stay in? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indigenous Services Canada indicated their support for a medical boarding home in the Kivalliq region. At the Department of Health we were looking at how feasible it would be and with the review that we had taken on... I'll switch to English.

(interpretation ends) Right now, Mr. Speaker, information the Department of Health has examined has indicated that a boarding home in Rankin Inlet would not be feasible at this point due to the average number of clients overnighting in Rankin Inlet being low. Over two fiscal years, this is pre-COVID, we looked at the number of travellers into Rankin Inlet and on a nightly average we're looking at about four travellers. The Department of Health's position right now is that the commercially available accommodation/hotels are sufficient to meet the needs of our medical travellers into Rankin Inlet. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 042 – 6(1): School Attendance during Pandemic**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, the other day, the minister mentioned approximately 23 percent attendance. That's over three-quarters of our students not attending. Mr. Speaker, how much of that percentage or that number stems from whole classes isolating due to a positive case of a classmate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. The specific details of class isolation is one that I can't get into for disclosure reasons, but we do know that classes that have been notified by the chief public health officer have done so within the school system and the principal would relay that message onto the parents of the individual classes. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a number of constituents that have brought to my attention that their children have had to isolate numerous times, missing weeks and weeks of school. Mr. Speaker, with the social distancing rules in place within the school systems, why do whole classes still have to isolate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* again to our fellow colleague for the question. That is one that the CPHO will be determining. He is the one that administers when the schools or the class is a safe place for our children and our youth to be. Depending on how the situation is, if the school or the classroom *per se* has had the type of exposure, so if it's a high-risk exposure or a lower risk exposure, it would be determined by the chief public health officer and the messaging would go from there. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. It's my understanding that most, if not all, jurisdictions have removed that component of isolation.

Mr. Speaker, with over three-quarters of our students unable or not attending classes, what measures are being taken to make sure our students are being prepared for the next step of their education, whether that be the next grade level or the next level of their education, meaning post-secondary or trades? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* again to the member for the question. We have 45 schools across our territory and our schools all see different rates of attendance, and this is something that we're discussing right

now is returning back to school. As we know restrictions are changing on Monday and across the territory and our schools will all be back at 100 percent. We have reopening plans and measures and guidelines that have been put in place as we have been living with COVID for the past two years, and our schools and school leaders are working to implement those plans. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 043 – 6(1): Public Housing Plans for Netsilik**

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's the first time I have to fix my own questions. My question is directed to the housing minister.

With the announcement last week or so and with funding from the federal government about the Rapid Housing Initiative and it stated two five-plexes for Kugaaruk, can the minister clarify when the project will start and the end date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm constantly fighting with this.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, this initiative did receive funding from the federal government under the Rapid Housing Initiative as announced earlier this week. The project will commence in different stages. Some

units are already under construction and erected, while others only have the foundation and the construction to commence later this spring.

Mr. Speaker, it is set up that way. The initiative is by the federal government to construct units that will be built immediately. It applies to projects suspended during the pandemic, while we here in Nunavut do not have construction materials in the territory, as all materials must be ordered into the territory before construction commences.

This is how our construction schedules work, but this was changed slightly under (interpretation ends) this Rapid Housing Initiative (interpretation) which is very recent, and we were able to use the funding for projects either postponed or set aside due to restrictions, so we were able to take advantage of the funding to complete the construction of the buildings being built.

Some projects are quite different from what was eligible, as some communities had projects already set to go, but which were postponed, while some projects will commence construction this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On another note, with the recent announcement news release today, can the housing minister clarify how many units are being built in my constituency of Netsilik? As it stated two new duplexes for Taloyoak, is it two five-plexes or how many? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For Taloyoak, the buildings planned for 2023 will be two five-plexes and you're looking at five housing units being built. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the housing minister for his answers. Mr. Speaker, housing is needed for Nunavummiut and I hope one day that more dollars will be available to build units. Can the Minister of Housing submit long-term strategic planning and the funding proposal to the federal government in the near future to build more homes in need for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The shortage of housing in Nunavut, even before the advent of Nunavut, was a problem and it's still a problem. In the coming months we will continue to work with the Canadian government through our Premier's Office, through our housing office, and through Inuit organizations on the shortage of housing. We also meet with our federal Member of Parliament. We have discussions with her and she is our voice in stressing the importance of housing needs in Nunavut. That won't stop in the coming days and years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 044 – 6(1): Vaccine Mandate for Education Employees**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in the Minister of Health's minister's statement earlier, he spoke about "vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19," which I totally agree on, and the minister went to thank the staff for administering the vaccine and the dedication that they have for protecting Nunavummiut cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education also said, "Mr. Speaker, with the uncertainty that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to our lives, it is my hope that this new agreement will provide our teachers, students, and communities with a sense of stability..." It talked about COVID-19.

Mr. Speaker, on my oral question on March 8, the Minister of Education, in one of her replies about COVID and attendance, it was stated, "It's a balance between what parents or students feel is a risk and a balance between how they're properly going to school and we want to ensure that students are going to school. However, that's an individual choice."

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education.

On January, I believe it was, the 10th, 2022, it was made mandatory that health

frontline workers had to have vaccines in order to fulfill their duties.

Will the Minister of Education make it mandatory for education workers who work in the school, who deal with students to be mandatorily vaccinated? We need to protect our children that go to school. There are more students in school than the number of patients that go to the health centres on a daily basis, and we need to protect them and vaccines are the way to do it. Will the minister mandate vaccines to frontline education workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question on vaccine mandates. This is one that is out of my jurisdiction to answer, as it's not my decision to implement or make that recommendation. I'm going to turn it over to our colleague, the Minister of HR, to answer that question. *Quana*, 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 posing that question. It is a very concerning topic that many Nunavummiut wish to hear a response to.

Mr. Speaker, I was hoping that I would be able to give a more adequate update for the member and the Members of this Assembly as well as the public in general. Mr. Speaker, what I can say is

that we have taken matters into consideration. We have had some discussions on this specific matter.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say that many jurisdictions across Canada, the federal government as well as nine provinces and territories in fact have implemented some level of vaccine mandate for their public servants, whether it's a blanket mandate for the public servants or targeted approaches for specific employee categories. Mr. Speaker, however, things are rapidly evolving, including a press release just yesterday relating to the public health emergency.

Mr. Speaker, however, getting directly to the member's question, with all that being said, I cannot indicate whether or not a vaccine mandate will be required for teachers at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for saying they're thinking about it, they're talking about it, but they're not really doing anything about it.

The Minister of Health stated that "vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. Evidence shows that when a person has two doses of a Government of Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine along with a booster, it greatly reduces the risk of severe illness and hospitalization."

Mr. Speaker; parents are weary about sending their kids to school as per the COVID-19. We have lots of students in

all of our schools and the minister is not sure if we should be having a mandate to protect the children and the students that go to the school, and the minister is saying that while other jurisdictions are lifting requirements and that. We need to protect our students and the Minister of Health says that vaccines are the best way.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister again: will the minister mandate COVID-19 vaccines for education workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

**Hon. Adam Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I would like to thank the member for the question. I agree with the Minister of Health that vaccines are our best protection. I also share the concerns of parents who are sending their children to school.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, we are having those discussions. Those discussions are still ongoing and as such, I cannot give a definitive answer at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Human Resources agrees with the Minister of Health that vaccines are good. The Minister of Health mandated all frontline health workers that they had to be vaccinated. It's mandatory. If the Minister of HR agrees with the Minister of Health about vaccine, what is the reasoning and the holdup for not making

vaccines mandatory for education?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

**Hon. Adam Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The mandatory vaccination requirement for our frontline health workers was a decision that was made quite some time ago and it was one that the Department of Health had legal authority to implement with the Nunavut hospital insurance legislation, as well as the conditions under employment, which are included in the collective agreement for nurses. It was a decision that was much easier to be made for the Department of Health.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very significant policy requiring a vaccine mandate, which requires individuals to have a vaccine. It is one that cannot be lightly taken. It is one decision that must be taken balancing a number of factors, one being the health and safety of our workforce, two being the health and safety of those that we are providing services to, and three being the rights of our employees.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not stating whether or not we will implement the vaccine mandate, but I will say that we are having those discussions. Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate that this is a very significant matter. When a decision is made, there will still have to be a thorough and completely rational policy developed and we will have to have consultation with stakeholders.

With all that being said, right now I cannot give a definitive answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Question 045 – 6(1): Medical Travel Escorts**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a concern has been raised by one of my constituents regarding the Medical Travel Escort Policy. My constituent has been informed that the current Medical Travel Policy prevents the elder spouse or partner of an elder to accompany them as an escort when they are sent for medical care out of the community.

Can the minister clearly explain why elders are not permitted to be medical escorts to their spouse or family member? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for asking that question in a general sense. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for asking it in a manner that I can answer.

Mr. Speaker, when the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020, the Government of Nunavut modified the Medical Travel Policy to reduce Nunavummiut's exposure to COVID-19. The updated Medical Travel Policy removes specific provisions for unilingual elder escorts and people travelling for confinement. These are temporary amendments and it's my

understanding that now that we're on a track towards lifting the public health emergency, hopefully, in April that those temporary amendments would be repealed and we would go back to the 2019 version of the Medical Travel Policy. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have downloaded the Department of Health's Medical Travel Policy from the government website. It indicates that the policy was updated in May 2020. I was interested to note that the policy no longer refers to elders over the age of 65 being eligible for escorts. Can the minister clearly explain why the Medical Travel Policy no longer refers specifically to elders over the age of 65? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the member's question, the member is correct that the May 2020 version is the most current version of the policy. Currently for elders, elders do not automatically qualify for an escort. Mr. Speaker, the current policy reads that if "the client is unilingual speaking in Inuktitut and requires travel to an approved centre where interpretation services are not available," then they would be provided an escort.

I'm trying to put together the different pieces of the puzzle here, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the question. The updated policy also states that individuals are not

eligible to be an escort if they have been “deemed to be susceptible to a greater risk of health complications related to COVID-19 infection, as identified by a Nunavut Practitioner.”

Mr. Speaker, I hope that that clarifies it a little bit of what the updated policy is. Obviously there’s a concern for not wanting to impact the health outcomes of the escorts themselves in terms of exposing the escorts to greater risks of COVID-19 through travelling to southern jurisdictions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Section 6.6 of the Department of Health’s current Medical Travel Policy describes the criteria for a medical client to be eligible for an escort. Section 6.14 of the current policy describes who is eligible to be an escort of a medical client. Neither of these sections makes any reference to the age or elder status of a client or an escort.

Will the minister commit to looking into this issue and ensure that health care workers know that when an elder is eligible for an escort and their spouse, who may also be an elder, is eligible to be their escort, that they will not be denied? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can definitely commit to looking into this issue, but I think it is not a simple matter where you have the needs of the

medical traveller and then you have an escort who may be assigned to assist that traveller. Mr. Speaker, the updated policy makes reference to that susceptibility to COVID-19.

Obviously, at the Department of Health, we want to make sure that our medical travellers are looked after and that they have all their needs met, but we also have to be conscious that we’re not exposing the escorts to additional COVID complications or COVID risks by allowing them to escort somebody to southern jurisdictions. I’ll look into it and get back to the member. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 046 – 6(1): Driver’s Licences**

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I acknowledge those who listen and watch this meeting.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, during the previous Legislative Assembly’s sitting of September 10, 2021, members were informed that the minister’s department was working towards providing Nunavummiut with the option of a five-year or ten-year renewal period for driver’s licences.

Regulations concerning these changes were published in the September 2021 edition of the *Nunavut Gazette*, and I note that the fee for a five-year licence is \$70 and the fee for a ten-year licence is \$140.

Can the minister confirm if this option is now available for residents of all of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, minister, for the very short answer.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, concerns have been raised for a number of years concerning delays in issuing driver's licences. I myself have been waiting since June of last year for my licence.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that one of the reasons for the delays experienced by residents of Sanikiluaq is a lack of sufficient bandwidth to allow for the electronic transmittal of documents and other materials required by the government's Motor Vehicles Information System. Can the minister clarify what specific actions his department is taking to address this long-standing issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Yes.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Transportation's division for motor vehicles handles the licensing aspect of our territorial driver's licences, which is ongoing work, as technology continues to improve, and we continue to make efficiencies leaner in our digital processing of the licences.

With continual digital advancements in our computing hardware, it is becoming much easier to deal with licence applications, and especially so in Sanikiluaq. This was an ongoing concern related to Sanikiluaq, and now the GLO can process digital pictures and complete the forms. (interpretation ends) They are going to be okay.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) They can now fill out the forms digitally and send the photo ID pictures to the licenser for all of their residents who wish to obtain a licence, so the entire process is now transferrable digitally and improvements will continue, along with improvements in wireless technology. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You're my favourite minister, Mr. Kusugak.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, I have been advocating for the government's fibre project to include Sanikiluaq, which would provide significant improvements to the community's Internet connectivity. Can the minister indicate if the introduction of fibre would also help his department improve the speed with which it processes applications for driver's licences? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Yes.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) on computers and online, if we can get fibre, it will help all Nunavummiut. Even in those communities that don't get fibre, it will help them. Iqaluit uses the largest bandwidth and once the fibre optic cable gets to Iqaluit, then it will free up a lot of bandwidth. Once Iqaluit gets connected to fibre, then Iqaluit won't need to use the satellite connections. The other communities' broadband should get much faster; even the communities that don't get fibre will get faster Internet because the communities that get fibre will no longer need to go on satellite. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 047 – 6(1): Computer Devices for Students**

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Education today.

Mr. Speaker, during one of the recent press conferences to address Nunavut's response to the COVID pandemic, a question was forwarded from one of my constituents asking, a high school student. Thank you to the student for taking the initiative to ask some questions. The student was asking why they were not being given laptops and Internet access devices. I find this very alarming, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Baker Lake's schools were at 50 percent capacity for an extended period of time and even though schools are opening up again, some students isolate at home due to COVID.

Having access to these devices would help to prevent these students falling even further behind in their studies.

Can the minister clearly explain why laptops and Internet access devices are not being handed out to the students in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. As we know, we have been able to secure laptops and Internet devices for our grades 9 to 12 and all of the devices are at all of our schools across the territory. It is up to the school as to when they will be distributing the

devices and the principal at the school will be able to update the students on that information. I do know that these devices are used in some of our schools and I hope that they're being used in the member's community. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. She has stated that some schools are using them. She's saying that it's up to each school to decide which schools will distribute the laptops. I'm wondering: is that a current policy for providing the laptops? The previous minister and the previous government invested quite a bit of money into these resources and I was hoping that they would be used as much as possible. I'm wondering: what is the current policy for providing these laptops and Internet devices to the high school students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for your question. Yes, that is correct; the department has worked very hard to secure laptops for our students throughout this pandemic. We have had a number of devices and we're still waiting for some, but each community does have devices and Internet sticks in our schools.

When we receive the second shipment of the devices, because of the supply chain not having them ready as we're all going through this pandemic across the world,

they will be available for the lower grades, 7 and 8.

I think that our schools have the best decision on when they can send out these devices and when they are using them. There have been exceptions if the child is in a lower grade, for example, younger than grade 9, to have access and it's up to the schools to determine when they will have access to those devices. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you again, minister. Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that now more than ever, we should be providing students with as many resources as we possibly can, especially to those who are on the brink of graduating. They need these kinds of resources to help them get ready for their exams and to prepare them for post-secondary schooling.

Going forward, will the minister commit to providing these much-needed laptops and Internet access devices to high school students? Will you commit to ensuring that these students are given these laptops and not leave it up to the schools? The government invested in all these resources; let's make use of them. Will the minister commit to ensuring that these devices are used as much as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* again to our fellow colleague for the question. I think that over the past several years as we have

been learning to live with COVID, we have done as much as possible within the Department of Education to ensure that our students have the resources that are needed to have remote learning. Our department has purchased so far over 5,000 Internet-ready devices for schools to support remote learning and a total of 3,388 devices have been delivered to our communities. In addition, we have 1,740 devices that have been ordered, but they have not yet been received.

Having these devices is amazing and we have given the flexibility to the schools to implement and use those devices where they see fit. I know they are a great resource and this is something that I'm willing to explore within the department, moving past this stage of where we are currently and the ease of restrictions. However, we have to learn to live with COVID and if students are isolating, some of them are receiving different types of remote learning, so through remote packages or some have been using their Internet and their laptops to receive take-home packages.

We are further exploring where we are going with the pandemic evolving almost daily. We can look into this and I'll get back at a later date on continuing the use of these laptops and devices for at-home learning. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 048 – 6(1): Student Information Systems**

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for recognizing me the second time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, in 2013 the Government of Nunavut introduced the Maplewood Student Information System which collected attendance and other data across Nunavut's schools. The data was used as part of the formula to determine how many teachers would be allocated to each school in the next academic year.

Can the minister provide a clear update on the current status and use of the Maplewood Student Information System in Nunavut's schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our fellow colleague for the question. I'll have to take that question as notice and provide a written response. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The question has been taken as noted. I have no more names on my list. Go to the next item. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Malliki.

### Item 13: Tabling of Documents

#### Tabled Document 010 – 6(1):

#### Exchange of Correspondence with the Minister of Community and Government Services Concerning the Gasoline Supply in Aivilik

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I recently received a number of concerns regarding the gasoline supply in my constituency of Aivilik. Today I wish to table a copy of my recent exchange of correspondence with the Minister of Community and Government Services with respect to the gasoline supply in Aivilik.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to review the letters with care. 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. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 2, and 3 with Mr. Savikataaq 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 15:11 and Committee resumed at 15:41

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Savikataaq): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 2, and 3. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of the 2022-23 capital estimates, Bill 2, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Are we in agreement to deal first with Bill 2?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

#### Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2022-2023 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak, you're going to introduce yourself, your officials, and go with your opening comments.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Good day. (interpretation ends) Sitting with me today, Mr. Chairman, to my left is Eiryn Devereaux, President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and to my right, Mr. Ji Liu, Chief Financial Officer of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, I am here today to present the Nunavut Housing Corporation's capital plan for 2022-23. Our capital plan consists of \$51.5 million from the Government of Nunavut and \$29.8 million from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, giving us a total of \$81.3

million. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's funds include \$4.29 million under the Social Housing Agreement and \$25.5 million through the National Housing Strategy.

The housing corporation anticipates the construction of 52 new public housing units and 10 new staff housing units across the territory for 2022-23.

Other areas of our capital dollars will include:

- \$11.8 million for our maintenance and improvements programs, also known as M&I
- \$7.0 million for mould remediation
- \$4.0 million for fire damage
- \$4.5 million for homeownership
- \$1.35 million for mobile equipment (vehicles, including local housing authorities' vehicles)

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Housing Corporation strives to provide suitable housing to Nunavummiut in all communities based on an allocation system on priority and needs as a percentage of the territorial housing stock. As a result, the Nunavut Housing Corporation will continue to take advantage of construction innovation practices and all federal funding programs available to us to continue to address the housing shortage in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to a meaningful discussion. I am available to answer any questions you may have. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. Ms. Brewster, do you have opening comments?

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Kusugak and your team.

I am happy to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus on its review of the proposed 2022-23 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I appreciate the knowledge that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year is \$51,470,000. This represents an increase of approximately 6.2 percent from its 2021-22 capital budget.

The ongoing shortage of public housing in all of Nunavut's communities is an issue of significant concern to all Members of the Legislative Assembly. The April 2021 federal budget announced that the Government of Canada "proposes to provide \$25.0 million, in 2021-2022, to the Government of Nunavut to support the territory's short-term housing and infrastructure needs, including priority redevelopment and refurbishment projects resulting in approximately 100 new housing units." On March 4, 2022 the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation announced community allocations under its Rapid Housing Initiative.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's current methodology for determining new public housing construction allocations is formula-driven and based on relative need, as we are all aware. Members continue to emphasize the importance of ensuring that Nunavut residents have confidence in the transparency and accuracy of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's



approach to verifying wait-list numbers, and continue to recommend that the minister table, on an annual basis and in a timely manner, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's updated allocation methodology, community allocations, and community wait-lists. Members note that the current role of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's board of directors in approving planned public and staff housing construction community allocations is unclear.

On June 2, 2021 the Legislative Assembly was informed by way of a formal minister's statement that a number of planned public and staff housing construction projects for the 2021-22 fiscal year were to be deferred as a consequence of rising construction costs. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's planned community allocations for new public and staff housing construction during the 2022-23 fiscal year have not yet been tabled in the House and its 2022-23 capital estimates have not yet been approved by the Legislative Assembly. However, requests for tenders for the construction of three new public housing five-plexes in Clyde River, one new public housing five-plex in Kinngait, and two new public housing five-plexes in Taloyoak were issued by the Nunavut Housing Corporation on February 16, 2022.

On June 1, 2020 the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued *Request for Proposals: Nunavut Construction Cost Review*. The report from the review was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 16, 2021. The report indicated that "...in order for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to provide enough public housing so that by 2035 the housing need in Nunavut is met, the

number of housing units would need to be increased from its current levels of construction to approximately 280 units per year." The extent to which this goal is realistic, affordable, and achievable is unclear.

The report also indicated that "...for reasons of cost, schedule, risk, and economic leakage, our conclusion is that there are no solid reasons for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to reconsider at this time the method and the construction technology (traditional stick-built) that is currently being used for its public housing projects. While it is recommended that the NHC continue to be open and investigate solutions besides traditional stick built for public housing delivery, we would recommend that Structural Insulated Panel use may be more appropriate should NHC consider in the future smaller housing types, such as single family dwellings, for which SIPs have a longer track record and constitute the majority of buildings using SIPs. Modular construction is better suited to the construction of large multi-storey buildings with flat roofs in locations where the required hoisting equipment is present or the project is large enough to distribute the costs of such equipment." The extent to which the Nunavut Housing Corporation accepts this recommendation is right now unclear.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2022-23 capital estimates include funding for the purpose of replacing public housing units that have been destroyed by fire. Members have raised concerns regarding the lack of clarity about how the Nunavut Housing Corporation manages the Fire Damage Replacement Program. Members note

that information provided by the Nunavut Housing Corporation has indicated that it has been working "...towards developing a new policy to address the rebuild of fire-damaged units and how new construction may be addressed to meet the needs of communities." Although members recognize that the minister is not statutorily required to table such policies, they encourage the minister to voluntarily do so after the new policy has been formally approved by the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2022-23 capital estimates include funding for the construction of new staff housing units. Information provided by the corporation indicates that "...major determinants for allocating construction dollars include existing vacant units versus vacant positions in a community; planned new positions and staffing competitions in the community; forced sharing cases in the community and availability of leasable units in a community." However, the exact process by which the specific communities in which new staff housing is to be constructed is not entirely transparent.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation administers a number of different programs to assist homeowners and potential homeowners in Nunavut. Members note significant improvements in the level of detail contained in the Nunavut Housing Corporation's most recent annual reports concerning the administration of its homeownership programs. This information will help all Members of the Legislative Assembly to better evaluate the extent to which the corporation's homeownership programs

are being accessed in small, medium and large communities.

On November 7, 2019 the Nunavut Housing Corporation's *Homeownership Program Review* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. One of the recommendations contained in the report was that the Nunavut Housing Corporation should "...consolidate programs related to purchasing or building a home into a [single] homeownership program and consolidate programs related to home repairs, maintenance and renovation into a [single] home improvement program." The extent to which the Nunavut Housing Corporation intends to implement this and other recommendations is unclear.

Members continue to emphasize the importance of ensuring ease of access to information concerning the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs, especially in smaller communities. Members continue to emphasize the importance of providing timely decisions on applications submitted under its homeownership programs.

Members note that information and application materials concerning the new Renewable Energy Homeowners Grant Program are now available on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's website. Members also note that information published by the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that its Tenant to Owner Program is "currently suspended pending further review." Members encourage the minister to table the results of the review at the earliest opportunity.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2020-21 Annual Report indicates that "...eligibility criteria for homeownership programs includes income testing...the adjusted household income is measured relative to a community-specific Homeownership Program Income Eligibility limit. HPIE limits are derived from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Housing Income Limits." Members note that the Homeownership Program Income Eligibility limits have not been updated since October 2014. Members continue to encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to work with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to regularly review its Homeownership Program Income Eligibility limits to reflect the high cost of living in Nunavut's isolated communities.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2022-23 capital estimates include funding for the purpose of providing an annual contribution to local housing organizations for the creation of a vehicle reserve fund. Members continue to recommend that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's annual reports include a detailed listing of vehicle acquisitions undertaken by local housing organizations.

\$7.0 million is included in the NHC's proposed 2022-23 capital estimates for a "Mould Assessment and Remediation" project. This represents a 40 percent increase over the amount allocated for work during the 2021-22 fiscal year. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this important initiative.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2022-23 Capital

Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to the detailed questions? This is just for general comments; no questions. Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and to your officials.

With regard to your opening comments, I would just like to point out your mould remediation program is working. I have seen it firsthand. My spouse is in a public housing unit and she and one of the boys kept coughing and we didn't know what was going on. When the housing crew came in and did some mould remediation, the coughing immediately stopped. I applaud you and your corporation's work with the mould remediation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Anyone else for general comments? Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For mould remediation, there will always be constituents of Nunavut posting on CBC *Igalaaq*, so once the post is there, I recommend that the Nunavut Housing Corporation take it into great consideration so there won't be anyone posting about mould remediation. That would look great for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Anyone else?  
Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): For myself, those of us who have been given assistance as homeowners in Qikiqtarjuaq, quite a number of homeowners were helped with their fuel tanks and furnaces.

Last year, in particular in the winter months, we were looked after very well through our local housing authority, it was part of their mandate. It really made a difference in our community with the due diligence that the housing corporation does and I would really like to express gratitude on behalf of Qikiqtarjuarmiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names for general comments. We will now proceed to a page by page review of the department's estimates starting on page L-3. Any questions on page L-3? It's just the one page, the whole entire budget on one page. Everything's open. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I go on the tenders Nunavut website, Nunavut Housing Corporation has a number of tenders out right now; three five-plexes in Clyde River, public and staff housing five-plexes in Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven and Kugluktuk, a five-plex in Kinngait and a roof replacement for Baffin in Sanirajak.

Mr. Chairman, I know that the Taloyoak project was carried over due to the challenges in the building season last year, land insurance or something; I can't remember what the exact reason was. Just to confirm, as it isn't in the

documents that have been made public yet, what are the housing allocations for this fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For this fiscal year, bear with me while I go through this spreadsheet. We have allocation of 10 units in Taloyoak, 5 units in Qikiqtarjuaq, 5 units in Kinngait, 15 units in Clyde River, and 22 units in Iqaluit. That's for the 2022-23 fiscal year, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question on the roof replacement in Sanirajak, where it says Igloolik, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Sanirajak, are those part of the mould remediation program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If my corporate memory, if serves me correctly, about four years ago we went through an exercise where non-committed dollars were used, in that case it was to buy mobile equipment. In this case, from my understanding of these tenders, with these tenders being put out right now before we've approved these dollars in the House, I'd like to get confirmation from the minister, please.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know the particular details on that, if I could have Mr. Liu answer through you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Liu.

**Mr. Liu:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the reasons that we're putting on the tendering is because of the election that there are capital project approval cycles that are delayed. We're trying to catch the coming sealift this season, so we're putting in the tendering. Upon approval, as of today, that we will have the budget approved, so that when we close it we should be able to meet the deadline. We're still trying to manage it from within from the cash flow point of view, that we'll make sure that we're carefully and being very financially responsible for the tendering process. Thanks.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did learn that lesson when we went into the Fifth Assembly when that mobile equipment that I alluded to earlier was put out to tender before the budget was approved and there was a bit of knuckle rapping that went on then. To avoid that, the last Assembly did approve a capital budget to make sure that projects met sealift deadlines, et cetera. Why was this not included in that appropriation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There will be no awarding of any contracts until this budget is approved. If it's not approved, then we can't award the contract, Mr. Chairman. We're trying to line it up so that if we get the budget approved to build houses, then these contracts would be awarded. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the minister has been responsible for Community and Government Services, which does a lot of procurement, in his previous roles, so I know he's very much aware of how the procurement process works. It is still concerning to me that just putting a caveat on 'upon approved budget' when tenders go out, are very concerning to this House. It's very presumptive.

We're here to approve budgets for the government as a collective and it goes back and forth, we appreciate the work that cabinet does to prepare these documents and to think out the long-term planning.

Again, Mr. Chairman, there was an opportunity to put an appropriation forward on an interim basis in the last Assembly, and again I ask: why wasn't that included at that point? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't speak for the previous issues that were done but I assure you that it would had to have been an oversight, I will ensure that this

oversight is learned from and going forward that on budgets such as this when there is a new government, we go through this cycle like leap years, every four years, we have to go through a cycle where you want to bring forward budgets to build houses or bring in mobile equipment, or whatever else it is.

On every election year we go through this issue where we don't want the previous government to make decisions for the new government and you end up where we are right now. We have to work at ways to ensure that that doesn't happen.

My colleague was Minister of Finance in the previous government, and he knows very well the issues that we try to stick-handle too so that we're not putting commitments from previous governments to the new government.

I think that's somewhere where we will work, especially in our department, to ensure that something like this is dealt with efficiently, so that in years where there is new governments and housing has to be built that we don't jeopardize the possibilities for public housing because of situations such as this. We'll ensure to make sure that doesn't happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the issue that I still have with this is that I very much recall the former finance minister making comments that we have learned from these lessons, which is why we brought forward that interim appropriation to allow for capital projects to continually meet sealift deadlines on approved budgets.

Again, we find ourselves in a situation where we are in a learning phase again when it was stated that that was the purpose, why we did that, because we learned from those mistakes being repeated. I'm just going to leave this as a comment. I may have other questions going down the road. I appreciate the minister's sincerity in making sure that this will not happen again.

I know that it's a leap year scenario, about every four years, but we need to continue to learn from our mistakes. The only bad mistakes are ones that we don't learn from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. That was just a general comment. Any questions on L-3? I'll have one just to keep the ball rolling. This year, of the planned public housing units, what has been budgeted for the average cost per unit, not the five-plex but per unit? Thank you.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The ballpark is somewhere between \$900,000 and \$1,100,000, Mr. Chairman. That's a rough but pretty close ballpark, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2019-2020 the Chairperson of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Board of Directors signed correspondence to all MLAs concerning the corporation's plan to community allocations for new public and staff housing units for 2021, and I apologize if Mr. Hickes asked this question while I was out, and 2022 fiscal years. Why has the chairperson not sent similar

correspondence to MLAs concerning the proposed 2022-23 fiscal year? Thanks.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know why it wasn't sent by the previous chairman, but if the members wish to have a copy of it, I'm sure we could arrange to have that happen through the committee chair. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response, Minister Kusugak. I'm wondering: to what extent has the board of directors been involved in determining the corporation's planned community allocations for public and staff housing units for 2022-23?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The board of directors does their due diligence on their board of director responsibilities. They don't necessarily sit down and decide what communities get what allocations in the regions. They do more in the policy end of it to ensure that the policies and procedures are fair to the allocations. Mr. Chairman, they don't necessarily participate in what community receives or does not receive programs that the housing corporation delivers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that, minister. I'm wondering if you'll commit to tabling a copy of the housing corporation's current capital planning for public housing and staff housing construction backgrounder in the Legislative Assembly during this sitting prior to the consideration of the... . Sorry, I went to the wrong question.

Information provided by the Nunavut Housing Corporation in its current capital planning for public housing and staff housing construction documents concerning public housing wait-lists. Unit costs only include figures for ten communities. Why does this document no longer include information for all 25 communities? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The documents that we do provide are to enhance and to be used for our departmental staff and for our purposes. It might be useful for others. We include information on data and information we produce for our purposes.

If there are particular data and statistical information others would like to see, if they put in a request, I'm sure we could take a look at entertaining their requests, Mr. Chairman. Same with tabling, if there's information they want in those regards, we could take a look to see if they can do those, Mr. Chairman.

Nothing is always automatic. We don't just provide statistics just to produce them. We have very hard-working staff and the statistics and information we

produce is to benefit the staff and department for our perusal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I don't think that anybody would deny that being transparent and giving our community members access to really important information that impacts them and their lives is something that isn't useful to everybody. I'm just wondering if you will commit to tabling an updated document that includes public housing wait-lists and unit counts for all 25 Nunavut communities. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will commit to looking into that, Mr. Chairman. It's not that I don't want to do it, but we do have a busy team and there is a lot of information that needs to be gathered and put together to table such documents. I'll see if that's something that our department can do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a comment, I appreciate that and I know that my constituents and probably your constituents would probably appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. That was just a comment. Next on my list: Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's current capital planning for public housing and staff housing construction backgrounder indicates that "Cost increases for construction have reduced typical builds for new construction to 52 units for 2022-23 and 2023-24." How is this number calculated? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's pretty simple math. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We only get a certain amount of funding and it costs so much money to build a house and you do the quick math and you end up with 52 units, Mr. Chairman. It's pretty straightforward. The cost of building housing units is going up, therefore the number of units being built decreases, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Over the last few months or since the fall time pretty much, the global market for steel and lumber has been increasing quite substantially. Are we still looking at 52 units being able to be built or is it already known that it will be less than 52 because of that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Short answer is we don't know. We're constantly monitoring the situation and hoping prices could go



down, but that's where we are, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you again, minister. Information published on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's website indicates that "The Tenant-to-Owner Program is currently suspended pending further review." What specific elements are being reviewed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Tenant-to-Owner Program is being reviewed. I believe that all aspects of it are being looked at, at this time. We have to work with the local housing associations. Some of them are hesitant or resistant or abrasive to the idea of giving the tenant the ability to own a public housing unit. We're trying to work on that front. Also, in light of that, the units are in different conditions and some of them may need more repair than others.

What we're taking a look at right now is to see how we can make it more streamlined, the same across the territory, and see if there are programs that could benefit, going forward, of the tenant-to-own units, to provide them with the abilities to repair their house or to have it repaired before they move in, or do you apply it to the people that are currently in there or do you give people who are in a different unit the ability to purchase those units? It's a whole mishmash of those, but we're taking a good look at it right now to see how we

can improve the program and make it effective across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. I think my last question for today is on the subject of fire damage replacement. What is the typical timeline to replace a fire-damaged unit? In my constituency of Baker Lake, on January 1, actually, we lost a house to a fire and they were not able to save it. In my discussions with the housing manager after they reviewed, it is not salvageable; it will have to be removed, I'm wondering: what is the timeline for that fire-damaged unit replaced? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As simple as it could sound, it gets pretty complex, especially when units that are on fire could be standalone units, with the costs of building units now we're looking at building five-plexes. Sometimes the five-plexes do not fit on the lot where the building fire may have happened. In those instances, you have to find a lot suitable for a new building and if there is any planned in the building cycle in that community to build a five-plex to begin with, and that would really help along the way.

It is complex that way. You take into account the availability of land and how much damage was given to the unit. In instances where you can't save it, do you tear down the whole five-plex or do you tear down one of it? It's complex. It

could take anywhere from one year to five years, in that window, to replace the damaged unit, if all things in the building cycle work out; land availability, building cycle, timing, and so on. Within the five-year window to replace a unit would be a good ballpark number to work by. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Just before I go to the next thing, a clarification on fire replacement, if a detached single unit is burned down and written off in a community, would that community have to wait until five buildings burned down before there is a replacement or would they say, “You lost a detached unit, but you’re going to get a five-plex”? Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That’s where we would work with the community, if they happen to be on the building cycle, to put in another five-plex or like that, you wouldn’t replace a standalone unit with another standalone unit. Just with the price of everything, you would probably replace it with a five-plex and seek extra money on top of the fire damage money you do get to top up to add onto the five-plex. That’s my understanding, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On June 25, 2021 the Nunavut Housing Corporation requested for proposals 110001540, mould remediation assessment. The request for proposals closed on July, 23, 2022. Which entity or entities were awarded the contract to perform this work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I brought a pretty thick binder with me today. Unfortunately it does not include the details of who was awarded that service contract, but I would be happy to provide it to my colleague through your chairmanship tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. We’ll be looking forward to get that information. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the mould remediation money be used for private homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those funds (interpretation ends) are for public housing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the private homeowners have to pay for running their own homes, I believe that they should be helped by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Can they be added to the work being done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the homeownership, if those in homeownership, in their own

homes, they could apply through the Home Repair Program to access funds to deal with mould remediation in their private homes. I just didn't want to mix the difference between the mould remediation program is specifically for public housing, but if homeowners have mould they want to deal with in their private homes, they could apply through the Homeownership Improvement Program and they could apply through that to deal with mould remediation in their private homes.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next on my list, Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The December 13, 2021 announcement from the Legislative Assembly Full Caucus retreat in Cambridge Bay indicated in part that "We are committed to a renewed and re-energized relationship" with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and regional Inuit organizations "based on mutual respect and a shared commitment to taking collaborative actions to achieve meaningful improvements in such critical areas as housing."

What specific discussions have you held with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and regional Inuit organizations and what specific commitments have the organizations made to date?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. We have been working to create better communications within the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the different organizations out there that are

interested in housing within Nunavut, including Nunavut Tunngavik and the birthright corporations.

At this point we have not made any commitments to work together or on specific things at this time. We are working to communicate and seeing what kinds of interest the organizations out there have. There is no formal commitment of any kind at this time. All we are doing right now is talking with people about housing and the dire need for it and to see if there is any interest out there in the public from organizations, such as those that the Member for Tununig said, to see if there are areas that we have in common that we could tackle that very important issue of housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister and your officials. If I was living down south and trying to buy my own house and have two children, a girl and a boy, then I would need a three-bedroom house. This law does not seem to ever be applied in Nunavut because of the lack of housing. The five-plexes that are being built usually have two bedrooms and some of the people have more than two children. Those people with many children, those who have more children, will they not be allowed to get into the new homes and they will have to wait for a longer time, or will they just be put in a two-bedroom house? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we all know the situation. We have a chronic housing shortage in Nunavut. With one- or two-bedroom homes, the biggest need is for one- and two-bedroom units. There are people that are absolutely homeless and we're trying to address their needs with the two-bedroom five-plexes.

With the five-plexes, we envision that once we catch up with the ones with the most need for homes, we can look into three- to five-bedroom homes. Those bigger houses can be used for people who have more children. Those are generally used by families with many children. They end up having grandchildren move in too and have nine people in the house. Once we are able to catch up and build the larger three-, four- and five-bedroom units, the grandchildren can move into the smaller units. That's what we're trying to do.

We have met more than once trying to brainstorm about what we should do. Sometimes elders who no longer have children, whose children have moved into their own homes, end up living in a three-bedroom house and then the grandchildren will move back into the grandparents' house. Once we can accommodate the one- and two-bedroom needs, we can work on the units that have more rooms. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that adequate response, minister. Let me move on to something else. This will probably be my last question about

houses that get mouldy. Houses get mouldy in Nunavut and they end up affecting the lungs of the people and cause skin problems. Maybe this is under the responsibility of the Department of Health, but I would like to know if we can have statistics as to how many people got sick from mould.

(interpretation ends) Heat recovery ventilators, HRVs, (interpretation) were installed to homes in Pond Inlet and it was a project where they installed these HRVs. My house has one and it blows cold air or hot air. I noticed that with the heat recovery ventilators that are installed to houses and put into the warmer porch area, once they keep blowing cold air into the house, the people shut them off. If the new homes are going to have HRVs... I hope I made sense. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back when houses started being built, they would have a small porch and then they would have air vents near the ceiling. That's how they were built in the old days and these days they use a different system, and I believe all new homes that are being built have that system.

They work very well if they are used properly in the homes and they end up not working well because some tenants will block them or shut them off. I believe the local housing authority should do more orientation as to the importance of how they should be used because they have a lever that you're supposed to turn for summer and winter to turn it up or turn it down.

Yes, all new homes have that now and once they are used properly, it really helps prevent mould. Sometimes in the wintertime they get so hot that you can't touch them, but once they are installed and used properly, they spark less. Yes, all new homes have that now and I believe that we need to educate the people on how to use them properly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Nutarak, are you done? (interpretation ends) Okay. Next on my list: Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my opening statements I mentioned the Homeownership Program Income Eligibility limits and the fact that they haven't been updated since 2014. I'm wondering: when will they next be updated?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. Upon being asked to be the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation at our very first meeting, Mr. Ji Liu will recall, one of the priorities was to take a look at the homeownership program and the homeownership assistance programs and in fact all our programs to see if we need not make some major adjustments to them.

It's good to set limits, but there are people who would love to own their own home with a little bit of support, and sometimes these individuals make \$1,500 a year too much, so therefore they don't apply for homeownership down-payment assistance and now they

have to stay in a public housing unit. We need to take a look at that to ensure that we're not holding people back who would like to get into homeownership.

We are meeting to find creative ways to take people out of public housing units so that the public housing units could be used by those who need to be in public housing units. It's a very fine balance to walk, but we are beginning that walk and the new president, Mr. Devereaux, to my left, and I on his first day at work, that was one of the things we talked about also was we need to take a look at the programs we do give out, are they effective, why are they effective, and how could we make them more effective, and those areas where they are not, why are they not so effective.

We're working with a very limited amount of money and we would like it to go as far as possible. My goal as well, as I believe I have made it quite clear to the gentlemen on each side of me, is that we want people to own their own units if they can and get out of the public housing situation and if it means we help them get there, then let's do that.

I hope that answers your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** It did to a certain extent. Thank you. I think one of my nieces in Kuujjuaq managed to make use of a similar program and is a homeowner there and that's really important as a young person.

Please correct me if I shouldn't be asking this question. When we talk about reviews of current programs, one of the

things that I have observed as a citizen of Nunavut over the years and a public servant, having worked with a number of public servants who are transient, who availed of this program and built personal wealth while here, and then sold their home and left, I wonder whether or not there has been a review on how many people have been compelled to repay that down-payment assistance because they haven't stayed for... I believe it's five years that you have to live in your home and I'm wondering if you have that information. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information, we don't have that information, but it is a ten-year forgiveness program, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On November 7, 2019 the Nunavut Housing Corporation's *Homeownership Program Review Report* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly, and apparently the report contained 18 formal recommendations and one of the recommendations was that the Nunavut Housing Corporation should consolidate programs related to purchasing or building a home into a single homeownership program and consolidate programs related to home repairs, maintenance and renovation, as per my opening statement. I'm wondering: what actions have been taken to implement this specific recommendation? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the gentleman to my right, Mr. Liu, could respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Liu.

**Mr. Liu:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently what we're doing is that, like the minister mentioned earlier, we're taking an overview of the whole programs that we're giving and we're assessing a lot of aspects on, let's say, affordability regarding how much the limits or if the current funding level is enough to help or support the homeowners at the current inflation level.

Also, on top of that, again, we are looking at the income threshold as well. As for consolidating them all together, that's an overall consideration of how we can make the program more efficient and we're certainly looking at different perspectives. For example, homeownership down-payment program, is it for new builds, for existing homes, so can we consolidate them together? For the repair, it's kind of the same thing. Instead of, let's say, oil tanks or regular maintenance, can we consolidate them together? Thanks.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You partially answered my next question, so what I'm going to do is I'm just going to go back to the mould remediation program. I have been approached by homeowners as well as tenants, both market rent tenants as well

as tenants of public housing. Speaking specifically about those people who are living in public housing and who are living with mould in their homes, I often get asked: how come that person got their mould cleaned up and I'm still living with mine, my family?

It might be a little bit too much detail, but how are different remediation projects prioritized and how can I help my constituents advocate to actually have the mould remediated in their public housing unit? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If my colleague is talking about public housing units, we work with the local housing associations and through them, the public housing tenants report to the local housing authority to report the condition of each of their homes. In a normal circumstance, the local housing associations have trained people to do mould remediation. They are brought in there to assess the situation and once the assessment is done, the team decides where best to and which house to do first, second, and third. The more information, I would assume, that the local tenant can provide to the housing association, the more priority it would go up. It's not based on you get it and you don't; it's based on a combination of mould in the house, how bad is it, when could they get at it, and it's all done through that process with consultation of the local housing association and their mould remediation team. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. It kind of begs different, more questions. You mentioned that a tenant has to advise housing and I know that sometimes tenants' relationships with the housing authority can be tenuous for a number of reasons and so sometimes people either don't feel comfortable reporting or don't feel like they're being heard.

What I'm wondering is: do the housing associations or organizations in each community do their own regular inspections in order to check out to ensure that there aren't any deficiencies or repairs needed, urgent repairs especially, rather than just relying on self-reporting issues? Is there data collected on that? Is the state of the current unit reported on? Thank you very much.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The local housing authorities go through a preventative program. They do an annual maintenance of all their equipment. They do their fire hydrant tests and their equipment tests and annual checkup of the houses. There's that, but it's very important that if a tenant has issues in their house that they do report it. They're the first ones there; they live in the house.

The housing association staff are very busy at the best of times, so they wouldn't be able to tell if there's mould behind your bed or in your broom closet and so on. The first key to the defence is that tenants have to report whatever damage there is in the house, if they see

mould happening, that it's key that they report.

Other than that, the local housing associations are supposed to do annual home maintenance inspections of each of the units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next person on the list: Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you. Can you hear me? Okay.

I would like to touch upon a topic since I didn't see it in front of me, but it has been going on for quite a while, long before I got into politics. The federal government provides the Nunavut government annual funding for public and social housing. The public housing units are for the local people. This funding is from the federal government to the Nunavut government.

Now, I want to bring up your other portfolio of staff housing and the need for better policies and procedures for allocating staff housing within the public housing. GN and housing association staff are allocated units from the public housing stock, obviously, as there is no dedicated staff housing in some communities. The housing units allocated to these individuals sometimes are quite large. We will have to make some changes to how these policies are applied and improve them.

I even say Inuit are very welcoming. You as the minister noted in working collaboratively to seek housing solutions moving forward to make more public housing units available in the territory. I wonder if there has been work done in

making more staffing housing units available in the communities.

There are probably many southern hires that come up to fill jobs. For example, staff housing units can be allocated by the local housing organizations to their staff. I'm asking if that has been considered. We are given funding to house people from the federal government and the Nunavut government allocates staff housing from these local housing units. This doesn't seem right and that is why I bring it up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. That's very close to operational, but there's O&M budget. The member is talking about staff housing too, so I'll allow that. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) The public housing units are for Nunavummiut, whether you're a non-Inuk or Inuk. They're (interpretation ends) public housing. (interpretation) The local housing organizations manage the housing units. They don't construct housing units for local housing organization staff, but they can rent some of the housing units to their employees. Those are public houses, meaning that they can be accessed by anyone, including employees that are flown in, such as electricians, plumbers, and administrative staff. They can decide who can rent their units. If they don't allocate a housing unit, then the housing organization would most likely have to rent from the private housing market. I'll leave it there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next on the list: Mr. Hickes.



**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to start off talking about the Renewable Energy Homeowners Grant Program that was announced late last year. First, I would like to publicly thank the minister for assisting myself to assist one of my constituents on their application under this program. Logic did finally prevail and I would like to thank the minister and his staff for assisting in that matter.

Mr. Chairman, one of the things during that process that I felt was there seemed to be a breakdown between the Department of Environment and the Nunavut Housing Corporation as the Nunavut Housing Corporation administers a program on behalf of the Department of Environment, and just to update myself probably more than anything, some of those communication breakdowns, it's like one hand didn't know what the other hand was doing. I was hoping that that would be a learning experience for the corporation and for the department, and I would just like to get some assurance from the minister that it was. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague pretty much, no pun intended, nailed it.

Like any programs like these, there always is a learning curve in terms of "I have it, you take it." Yes, it was a learning curve. We're trying to clean that up so that in the coming weeks and years that we don't come across too many more hiccups. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that message from the minister. Just to follow up on the same topic, how many applications have been received during the current '21-22 fiscal year and how many applications have been approved? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we've had four approved so far on that program and we've had a few applications. If my colleague would allow me, I can provide that information in better detail before this session is over. I just don't have that information in front of me and the four I threw out there is a very good guesstimate, but I'll provide more details on that. It's a very interesting program for homeowners and cabin owners, so I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do look forward to that information. Thanks for that assurance from the minister.

I would like to jump over to the condo program. I know it was raised earlier, but one of the concerns that I have has been the turnover of the units to the owners. I have a number of those condos in my riding and there are people that are living in them that are very concerned that the turnover of the title hasn't been done, in some cases in years. There are a number of different factors that concern me there; one is the ability of the new

homeowner to be able to pay down their debt on that program.

I'm not sure if the Nunavut Housing Corporation is temporarily mortgaging or allowing some type of repayment from those tenants, but also, as my colleague from Iqaluit-Sinaa brought up, there's the time frame where you have to live in the unit until the assistance program completes so you don't have to pay back money in it. There's also that concern. I believe the condo program, again, is a ten-year program that you have to stay in the unit.

If you look at somebody who may not be committed to retiring here, there are time frames that may impact their homeownership. A two- or three-year delay means that if they stay here for ten years as they had planned, they may have to pay back a portion of that money or assessed penalties or whatever it is, I can't remember exactly.

I know I said quite a mouthful, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the minister could catch up to me. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That has been one program where, when it just started to come out, it seemed like it was going to be the envy of Nunavut and other communities, and then a couple of hiccups later, it becomes questionable, unfortunately, because it is a very good program out there for Iqalumiut to be able to own a home at a very good price. It has had its hiccups. Our department is taking a look at what we can do to rectify those.

It's on a per client basis. Each client has different issues and different problems dealing with the situation, so we're trying to work on it on a per client basis but treat them all equally. We're trying to work on that front.

In terms of occupying for a certain number of years, I believe it's a five-year program and if you leave before then, then you would pay back the equivalent of whatever amount of time you have remaining on it.

I believe that that's where that is. I think that covered all the bases my colleague asked and I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I gladly stand corrected that it's a five-year program. On that same note, what is kind of the timeline? I realize it's case by case, so it's hard to put a definitive timeline, but like I had mentioned, some of these homeowners who aren't actually homeowners yet, what kind of timeline can they expect to these issues being resolved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Barring other issues, we're taking a look to try to close them in the next three to six months, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to another topic. When we're talking about LHOs, their repair

programs and keeping up with things, the minister mentioned earlier about annual inspections. I'm sure the minister and all of us here during our campaign as we were knocking on doors and talking to our constituents, some homes that we enter...I don't even know how to say it. They are in pathetic shape. That type of damage doesn't occur in one year.

What type of oversight does the Nunavut Housing Corporation have over LHOs on their annual inspections and what type of follow-up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a sad reality. These public housing units are not cheap and even when you see some of them through the media and some of the houses you do enter are in very sad shape. That just does not happen overnight. A lot of it is inflicted by the homeowner. It could be because of just homeowner damage or just the overuse of the unit.

You have to keep in mind that a two-bedroom house is not built for 10 to 12 people; it's built for two to three people. When you put 10 to 12 people into a two-bedroom unit, the bathroom doors and the cupboard doors and the floors are used 10, 20, 30, or 40 times more than they normally would. It's not fair to say that they just damaged it on purpose. It just wears out that much faster.

That's some of the reality, but at some point the homeowners also have to take responsibility for just the outright

damage that is done to some of these units, willful damage. In cases like that, we do try to work with the local housing associations. We have the district housing corporation staff who do work with the maintenance department and we do have our district maintenance people work with them to see what kind of damages are happening where we could do some repairs. We have units in communities where, if there is a unit that is damaged and needs to be repaired, the tenants are moved into a halfway unit while that unit is being repaired.

Now, there have been instances where the people who did willful damage to the unit have to pay for the damages of that unit. We have those. We have ongoing monitoring of units to deal with willful damage of units, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I totally agree with the minister that willful damage is a plague on our housing situation.

Just kind of on the same topic but maybe slightly different, in the last federal budget, there was \$25 million that was to be provided to the Government of Nunavut to support the short-term housing infrastructure needs to include priority redevelopment and refurbishment projects. In that statement it says it's up to approximately 100 new units. I'll start off by asking: has this funding been received by the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it has. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes...Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hear it the same way anyway.

>> *Laughter*

It's very close. Thank you again, Mr. Chairman. I do thank the minister for that confirmation. When we're looking at LHOs' budgets to do these repairs and upgrades to units that are damaged or need repairs after their inspections, how are those budgets created? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Mr. Liu respond to that part of the details, Mr. Chairman, through you. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Liu.

**Mr. Liu:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll use that as an example, the \$25 million. What we do is actually and because of the limits or capacity of the LHOs, the NHC usually takes the lead. Again I'll use that \$25 million as an example. Our first step is that we're going to do an overall inventory assessment across the territory to know exactly what the conditions of our current stocks are, and then we're going to come up with a plan as to which houses are the ones that we're going to do a major renovation or bring them back to commission or to current standard at the same time.

We will work with the LHOs. If the LHOs have the capacity to deliver that kind of services, then we will allocate the budget to them. In a lot of cases, the LHOs are very stretched to meet the current workload. What we're going to do is the NHC will take the responsibility and hire contractors or from our end to complete this whole project. Thanks.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Liu has some psychic abilities. I was going to tie in the \$25 million, so thank you for that response.

I'm going to jump over to staff housing now. In March of '21 the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued an RFP for lease of public and staff housing units. How many new units have been leased as a result of that RFP? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately I don't have the details on that. I'll include it in the information that I will be providing my colleague in the coming days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the last Assembly there were a number of leases that the leased units that were purchased, which freed up nearly \$5 million in lease budget. Has that money been utilized? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have turned it over to and used that savings for staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the number of new leased units that you're going to provide from that RFP in a written response, would that include any extra ones that were leased out through this \$4.9 million or was there an additional RFP that went out after that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have the gentleman to my right respond to that answer through you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Liu.

**Mr. Liu:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually the \$4.9 million savings from the purchase of those 126 units are returned to the pool. What's happening right now is that very soon you're going to see in our main estimates that actually we will have inflation from the maintenance, gas, utility, and also for the maintenance part of that, let's say, it's all being used actually for our staff housing to provide those minor or even major maintenance for the damage of the units. We're going to come up with more asks for more leased units as well to try to close the gap of the staff housing. Thanks.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad that staff housing was mentioned again.

When we're looking at the Nunavut Housing Corporation's capital planning for public housing and staff housing construction, the backgrounder says that staff housing units are planned in a number of communities and through funding opportunities through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, but it also stated that future staff housing construction will be determined in consultation with the Department of Human Resources. Does the Department of Human Resources also have a part to play in leasing staff housing units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We consult mostly with the Department of Human Resources in terms of what kind of staffing needs there will be in different communities and they will keep us notified in terms of where there might be an increase in employment opportunities or jobs in communities throughout Nunavut. We have that communication, but other than that, they don't, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll jump over to the other homeownership programs and repair programs. When I look at the statistics over the last three fiscal years that are in

the substantiation sheets on page 3 of 5, you can see there's a definite increase in uptake. In fact some of the programs are actually at over 100 percent approved, which is fantastic to see.

I guess my question is: because the Nunavut Housing Corporation has a different method of carrying over than other departments do that can't carry over, the corporations do have that ability, when you look at these different programs, NDAP, ERP, I'm sorry for the interpreters, the numerous programs that are listed, how consistently are those budgets expended or how frequently are carryovers needed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, on those financial details, if I could have Mr. Liu respond, Mr. Chairman, through you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Liu.

**Mr. Liu:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, give me five seconds; I'm popping up our variance reports.

Off the top of my head, I can tell the member that actually over all our programs, we spend very close to our annual budget, so we get roughly \$4 million and we get to spend \$3.5 million so far. Of course the reason why that we over-allocate those is actually we want to give more homeowners accessibility so that they can complete their projects. Thanks.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my first line of questioning when we were talking about, still in my opinion, the inappropriate RFPs that went out, the minister mentioned that they were comfortable with the existing cash availability within their accounts to be able to float it, as a term. How much does the Nunavut Housing Corporation have surplus in cash right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, if I could have my colleague respond to that through you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Liu.

**Mr. Liu:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As for cash, I do have \$100 million-ish in the bank. However, because housing is capital project driven and even homeownership is kind of like multi-years, all those monies actually are committed, which in a sense that says that they are all allocated for a certain purpose. We don't really have too much surplus and that can be resonated with our public housing builds. The reason why we have to drop it down to 52 units in the next two years, actually the reason why is because we are actually in a deficit situation right now, so we're using the cash flow methodology to smooth out the whole construction plan. Thanks.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it's a very challenging field right now is construction with the fluctuations

in pricing and how fast it has increased over the last few years. It is borderline exponential. I know that the corporation is doing some work on looking at different options and I know there was a review that was just done recently that highlighted some of the options, I guess. They were looking at the prefab and modular and different building construction models.

I'm not going to belabour that point. I know that the costs have increased dramatically. I think it was only four or five years ago it was an average \$450,000 per unit cost and, like the minister mentioned, I believe, yesterday, now we're close to a million dollars per unit in multiplexes. It's mind-boggling on how fast the construction costs have increased.

I'm just going to make a comment that I know you're doing it, but I really, sincerely challenge you guys to find better ways of building. I hear terminology like over-engineering. I know we have to make sure that we're building units that are going to last and we have to use good materials and good construction methods, but as far as I'm concerned right now, I don't give a hoot whether we win a design award or some fancy award. I want to see energy-efficient units built as cheaply as possible so that we can house as many people every year as possible. I'll just leave that as a comment. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. That was just a comment. Next person on my list: Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank my colleagues for asking the questions on mould

assessment and remediation. I thank you, George Hickes, for asking a lot of questions and I have my answers.

My question is on homeownership programs. I have a lot of constituents that are homeowners, but they cannot maintain their own homes. I'm kind of wondering and hoping that the local housing authorities can do maintenance work on those homeowners that cannot even maintain their own homes. Since you guys encourage homeownership, can you at least please help with the homeowners for maintenance of their own homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's just a comment.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I think I'll just leave that as a comment because the minister earlier stated that if there's mould remediation and other stuff, they can go to the homeownership program to ask for assistance. Anyone else?

I just have a few here. I've got to make this last a couple of days; minister, no. How many units were cancelled last year due to either COVID or insurance reasons, the total number of units cancelled? Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had two five-plexes cancelled in Taloyoak, we had four four-plexes cancelled in Iqaluit, and one five-plex cancelled in Pangnirtung. Am I missing another one? No? That's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sorry.

If I want to ask questions, I should give the Chair here, the wise man told me so. We will just take a two-minute break.

*>>Committee recessed at 17:24 and resumed at 17:25*

**Chairman** (Mr. Hickey): Mr. Savikataaq, you have a line of questioning.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry for the interruption there, minister.

Doing my math, it comes out to 21 units, if those are all public housing. Does it mean that if they weren't cancelled, there would have been fewer houses built here? The total number of units being built is 52 and if the minister can clarify whether the units that were cancelled last year are part of the 52 units. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they are part of the units that we're including this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you. In theory or in practicality, if those units had gone through, then the Nunavut Housing Corporation would only be building 31 units this coming year. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** That's correct, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is sad to hear that the only reason 52 units are being built within Nunavut when we're in a dire situation is because the number is at 52 because 21 units were cancelled last year. Only 31 units for all of Nunavut would have been built if these 21 units had been built last year. I know money is an issue, but it's still unacceptable to build only 31 new units for all Nunavummiut. I'll just leave that as a comment. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Would the minister like to comment back? Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** I would hate to make the dire direr, but there were 31 units that were not built last year, so take 10 more off that. Mr. Chairman, it is a dire situation. We need more money for housing. With the price of housing going up, we need to do something and because of that, we are committed to looking at alternative ways of building houses.

The chair of the committee was talking about SIP units and all this other fancy terminology for building houses. It doesn't necessarily make it any cheaper to build a house down south and put it up in Nunavut. It just doesn't work that way. The math doesn't even out. We need to look at cheaper alternatives to building houses and different alternatives to building houses. Do we build them year by year or do we go into longer term housing agreements? How do we do this? Do we get in the housing business, we the government? There are other options out there and we will be looking at them and we will be taking a very hard look at them and taking a look at industry and see where we go with



this. Does it mean we get into partnerships and with whom?

I have said from the time the Premier gave me the privilege of becoming Minister of the Housing Corporation that we are going to look for ways to build more houses in Nunavut. I've got that commitment and I've got that commitment with the gentlemen beside me and throughout the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We're going to explore ways to do this because we can't just build 52 houses or 21 houses a year and expect that to be good enough. There are options out there and we will explore them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Savikataaq): Thank you. Like I said, I have no more names on my list. Do members agree that we have concluded the review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's budget of \$51,470,000?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Agreed. I would like to thank the minister and his officials, and if the minister has a brief closing comment. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really appreciate the time we spent on the housing corporation. I assure you that we will keep the conversation going and I encourage you to communicate with me and I will communicate with the department in trying to deal with the very serious issue of housing because, if we can start to deal with that, other problems will begin to be completed.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your great chairmanship. I believe this is the

shortest time the housing corporation has ever been before the Committee of the Whole. I appreciate your patience and I definitely will get back to you in the next couple of days to give you the answers that we were not able to provide you with today, and if there is other information you would like, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleagues.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Hickes.

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

**Chairman:** There is a motion on the floor and it is not debatable. All in favour of the motion. Motion is carried. I rise to report progress.

>> *Laughter*

**Speaker:** It has been a long day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Savikataaq.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 2 and I would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

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

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. *Orders of the Day* for March 11:

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:** Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 11, at 9 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:34*

