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Official Report

**DAY 7**

**Monday, March 14, 2022**

**Pages 269 – 326**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(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  
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(Kugluktuk)

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Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic  
College*

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(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)  
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the  
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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  
Inlet)

**Joe Savikataaq**  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut****Monday, March 14, 2022****Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, 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 13:31

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Tony Akoak) (interpretation): Can you say the opening prayer, please, Mr. Simailak.

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good day, Inuit and those who are following the proceedings.

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

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 033 – 6(1): Northern Premiers' Forum 2022**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the very constructive discussions that took place during the Northern Premiers' Caucus on February 3.

Mr. Speaker, the territorial premiers meet annually at the Northern Premiers' Forum to advance northern interests, discuss issues of common interest and concern, and develop made-in-the-north solutions.

Mr. Speaker, this was my first Northern Premiers' Forum as Premier of Nunavut. Our meeting focused on key northern priorities, such as infrastructure, housing, the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework, and climate change, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, our biggest priorities under the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework are infrastructure and housing. The 2020 Nunavut Infrastructure Gap Analysis completed by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated outlined the infrastructure categories that must be brought up to par with the rest of Canada. Infrastructure funding must be flexible and fully address our long-standing infrastructure needs.

There is also significant lack of funds for urgent and severe housing needs in Nunavut that I don't believe I need to reference, as we all are aware. Nunavut requires continued federal funding to cover public housing gaps and shortage to relieve overcrowding. Mr. Speaker, as with the infrastructure file, it is necessary to develop an agreement that is led by a multi-year strategic investment initiative which includes adequate flexibility in the design and use

of funds, in a manner that recognizes Nunavut's unique gaps.

Keeping in mind that the success of this framework is dependent on commitment to direct, strategic investments to meet our urgent needs, we continue to work with our partners and are eager to begin the implementation phase of this very important framework.

Mr. Speaker, we look forward to continuing the work to finalize the Pan-Territorial Climate Statement for signing at the Northern Premiers' Forum this spring. This statement will help frame and advance conversations on investments in the shift to greener communities in the north.

Finally, the advancement of the work to establish a northern climate services hub would increase the GN's access to climate information and better include climate change in our decision-making. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 034 – 6(1):  
National Social Work Month**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, March is National Social Work Month, which means it is time to recognize, celebrate, and uplift the Department of Family Services' community social service

workers to thank them for everything they do to serve our families and communities in Nunavut.

Every single day, social workers bring positive impacts into the lives of children, families, communities, and the territory. It is very likely a social worker will assist you, a family member, or a friend today. They provide support to Nunavummiut who need a guiding hand or protection.

Mr. Speaker, Family Services currently employs 46 community social service workers across Nunavut. They use *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in their work with families through voluntary service agreements, plans of care, and other agreements to help families. Their work also includes involving extended families and community members to support children, youth, and families.

Mr. Speaker, this year's theme for National Social Work Month is In Critical Demand – Social Work is Essential. The time is right to extend a huge thank you to our community social service workers who are on the frontlines, even during the pandemic, helping clients get the support they need and ensuring family connections remain strong.

Mr. Speaker, later today I will attend the opening ceremony to launch Nunavut's Social Work Week. I encourage my colleagues in this House to learn more about the positive contributions of the profession, and to personally thank the social worker in their constituency.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!



>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

**Minister's Statement 035 – 6(1):  
Nunavut Arctic College Social  
Work Programs**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good day to Nunavummiut and our fellow colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of National Social Worker Month, I would like to recognize two programs offered by Nunavut Arctic College that trains professionals in the social work field. The first program is Social Service Worker Program. The second program, the Bachelor of Social Work Program launched in September 2021, is delivered in partnership with Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Mr. Speaker, since 2004 approximately 70 students have graduated with a diploma from the Social Work Program. These graduates now fill important positions in social work fields, such as addiction services, community justice, family services, mental health, school counsellors, social work, and youth outreach work.

Currently there are six beneficiaries enrolled in their final year of the diploma program in Rankin Inlet, and I am thrilled to say that we have six students in Cambridge Bay who started their journey to obtain a Bachelor of Social Work.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited to share that we are accepting applications for the Social Worker Program and Bachelor of Social Work programs which will be offered in Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay. We encourage all those interested to apply.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking those graduates who are working in our social work field and those pursuing their diploma or degree, as they dedicate their careers to improving the lives Nunavummiut. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister for Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 036 – 6(1):  
Renewable Energy Support  
Program**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank Nunavummiut for their great interest in the Government of Nunavut's Renewable Energy Support Program.

Mr. Speaker, since the program launch on November 22, 82 Nunavummiut have applied to the Climate Change Secretariat for funding to install solar or wind systems on their cabins.

(interpretation ends) The Renewable Energy Cabin Grant Program's initial budget was \$172,000, enough to fund the installation of 35 systems. In January the government allocated an additional \$100,000 to fund at least 22 more. My department has already processed payment for 35 applicants, and the rest

of the funds will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Mr. Speaker, my department also partnered with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to develop and implement the Renewable Energy Homeowners Grant Program. This program supports homeowners who want to install solar systems on their homes by providing up to half of the system's cost, for a grant of up to \$30,000. This program aims to reduce the pressure on the Qulliq Energy Corporation's diesel-based electricity production and increase the number of homeowners participating in the Qulliq Energy Corporation's Net Metering Program.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the demand for these programs shows that Nunavummiut support the development of clean energy initiatives in the territory. Together we can decrease our greenhouse gas emissions while increasing our self-reliance in the face of climate change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 037 – 6(1):  
Mental Health Paraprofessional  
Hiring**

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

Mr. Speaker, the Inuusivut Mental Health and Addictions Division works hard to ensure Nunavummiut are provided with care that is sustainable and culturally appropriate to improve

mental health outcomes and combat suicide in our territory.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtitsijii*, as part of the efforts to achieve that goal and to ensure mental health services are accessible and diverse, the Inuusivut Mental Health and Addictions Division is prioritizing the hiring of paraprofessional staff within each community across the territory.

*Uqaqtitsijii*, each region now has a mental health and addictions program supervisor who works in collaboration with our regional managers to recruit and train new paraprofessionals. Importantly, *Uqaqtitsijii*, this program, which prioritizes the hiring of Nunavut Inuit, includes a professional development component that provides opportunity for individuals of different experience levels to join Mental Health and Addictions.

*Uqaqtitsijii*, as of March 2022, a total of 19 mental health and addictions paraprofessionals have been hired throughout the territory. These staff have implemented many successful programs and initiatives in communities across Nunavut. Some recent examples include sewing programs; grief support; outreach through care packages; teen group support; elders tea events; contests to foster community engagement; and local radio shows to promote awareness about mental health, addictions, and wellness.

*Uqaqtitsijii*, ensuring paraprofessionals are trained to deliver culturally appropriate and trauma-informed care promotes positive mental health outcomes for all Nunavummiut. This program is another demonstration of my department's commitment to incorporate

Inuit societal values in our day-to-day service delivery; more specifically, through Pijitsirniq, Pilimmaksarniq/Pijariuqsarniq, and Piliriatigiinni/Ikajuqtigiinni, as we band together to develop the skills of our staff with the goal of providing better care for our communities by Nunavummiut and for Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 038 – 6(1):  
Sanikiluaq – New District Heating System**

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the QEC's recent completion of a new district heating system in Sanikiluaq.

In 2018 the Government of Canada, through Environment and Climate Change Canada and its Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund, announced investments of more than \$12 million in energy efficiency upgrades to help Nunavut residents save energy and money. These focused investments included funding for two new district heating systems for Sanikiluaq and Taloyoak.

A district heating system (DHS) is an alternative energy technology that uses residual heat produced as a by-product of generating power and then provides it

to commercial and institutional spaces to reduce carbon emissions and generate savings on fuel.

Current estimates suggest that Sanikiluaq's new district heating system, which supplies heat to Nuiyak School and Paatsaali High School, will displace close to 124,000 litres of fuel and over 340 tonnes of carbon annually.

Mr. Speaker, commercial and institutional customers in Sanikiluaq, Iqaluit, Arviat, Kugluktuk, Pangnirtung, and Rankin Inlet are currently benefitting from reduced carbon emissions and energy costs through district heating systems.

Mr. Speaker, these projects come with significant capital costs. Once again I want to thank the Government of Canada and its generosity through programs like the Low Carbon Economy Fund. I also want to thank the Government of Nunavut and the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq for their collaborative work with the Qulliq Energy Corporation to expand this technology. This same funding support will enable the Qulliq Energy Corporation to bring district heating to Taloyoak next year.

As part of our commitment to finding alternative energy sources that enhance energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions, the Qulliq Energy Corporation continues to explore future installations of district heating systems in other communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Item 3: Members' Statements****Member's Statement 067 – 6(1):  
Federal Funding Announcement**

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about some good news for my constituency of Netsilik.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday of last week, the federal Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency announced funding for a number of important projects in the communities of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk.

Mr. Speaker, the first announcement concerns a new municipal service garage in Kugaaruk. The announcement indicated that the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency is “investing \$1,000,000 in a two-year project with a further investment of \$2,308,173 by the Hamlet of Kugaaruk.

The total cost of the project is \$3,308,173. This project will replace an existing forty-year old garage with a new six-bay service garage for the community.

It will include new equipment so the Hamlet can continue to provide needed services for motor vehicles, small engine repair, and community service trucks.

The Hamlet is the only provider of mechanical services and the project ensures the community is well-equipped to provide mechanical services to its residents. It will result in two full-time positions, two part-time positions, and six positions during the construction phase of the project.”

Mr. Speaker, the second announcement concerns new recreational infrastructure in Kugaaruk. The announcement indicated that the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency is “investing \$87,500 towards a one-year project to construct a ball diamond. This will allow the Hamlet to convert the land they own into a ball diamond and play field. It will include purchasing and installing fence material, ball diamond dugouts, and bleachers.

Additionally, staff will be hired to complete installation of materials. This project will create two short-term jobs during the project and a safe ball diamond and play area for the community to use.”

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

**Speaker:** Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please continue, Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the third announcement concerns new cultural infrastructure in Taloyoak. The announcement indicated that the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency is “investing \$204,383 towards a two-year project, with a further investment of \$58,117 from the Government of Nunavut, to support the renovation of an unused Hamlet building into a Youth/Elders Community Centre in Taloyoak.

The total cost of the project is \$262,500. The project includes the demolition of existing components, carpentry work, installation of doors and windows,

flooring, painting, kitchen and washroom fixtures and millwork, and the installation of an exterior wheelchair access ramp.

The Hamlet will be able to improve accessibility and usage of a community space. It will also create one full-time position to coordinate cultural programming at the Centre. This project will provide a safe gathering space for youth and elders, support community morale and mental health, and promote cultural exchanges between youth and elders.”

Mr. Speaker, the fourth and final announcement concerns a food security initiative in Taloyoak. Mr. Speaker, the announcement indicated that the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency is “investing \$128,500 towards a two-year project to renovate an old Hamlet office building and the installation of an industrial kitchen to establish a daily community soup kitchen serving 200 hot meals per day.

Funding will support plumbing, electrical work, flooring, and interior carpentry to convert the building.

In addition to the soup kitchen, the renovated building will host the existing school breakfast program.

To run both programs, the Hamlet will expand two part-time jobs to full-time jobs and create two new full-time jobs.

This project will help reduce food insecurity in the community, support low income households, and support community morale and mental health.”

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support all of these projects and I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all of the parties that were involved in their development.

Mr. Speaker, it’s good to be able to start our week with good news. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member’s Statement 068 – 6(1):  
Chesterfield Inlet Community  
Learning Centre**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the urgent need for a new community learning centre for the community of Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, in November 2020 the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College tabled a preliminary report on the status of community learning centres across Nunavut. This report shows that the Chesterfield Inlet Learning Centre was last assessed in 2012 and at that time its overall condition was rated as “poor.” Mr. Speaker, that was over a decade ago.

Mr. Speaker, the learning centre is 90 square metres, one of the smallest facilities in Nunavut. It contains a single classroom and a computer lab. Due to its small size, only one course can be

delivered per season. When the community tries to run more than one program, students must share the classroom, which negatively affects their learning.

Mr. Speaker, learning opportunities are critical for our constituents to obtain the skills and knowledge necessary for employment and career development. Without a decent location in which to learn and study, their options remain limited and their futures look bleak.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the government to invest in the necessary infrastructure to better enable the residents of Chesterfield Inlet to access adult learning opportunities.

I encourage the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College to bring forward a new community learning centre project for Chesterfield Inlet in her capital plan.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this issue.

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

**Member's Statement 069 – 6(1):  
Federal Funding Announcement**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Naujaat and Coral Harbour and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a statement concerning Friday's federal announcement, which included some good news for my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency announced funding for a number of projects in the territory. The announcement indicated that "CanNor is investing \$225,000 towards a two-year project with a further investment of \$50,000 from the Hamlet of Naujaat and \$125,000 from the Government of Nunavut.

The total cost of the project is \$400,000. The project will build a community access trail that will run 15 km northeast of Naujaat.

It will also provide access to natural aggregate sources for the hamlet that can be used for construction and increase the potential of carving stones and ecotourism opportunities to community members.

The trail will also improve safety for traditional harvesters.

This project will result in small scale infrastructure that contributes to economic development and outdoor access in the community."

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to express my support and appreciation for this investment, which will benefit communities. I will also have some questions for the appropriate minister concerning the Government of Nunavut's role. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 070 – 6(1):  
Exceptional Baker Lake Youth**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
(interpretation) Good day to my fellow residents of Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two exceptional youth from my community of Baker Lake.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Kassidy Klinger and Haley Hachey are grade 11 students at the Amitnaaq High School in Baker Lake. They work extremely hard at their academic studies, yet they still dedicate time to working on their school yearbook and ensuring that all the deadlines are met to finalize it. They were a part of last year's school yearbook, which was fantastic, and I admire their dedication to working on the new one for this school year.

Mr. Speaker, for almost a decade, the Nunavut Law Foundation has awarded the Upinnaqtuq Award to students and youth across Nunavut for demonstrating leadership and conflict resolution abilities to promote peace amongst their peers. Haley and Kassidy were a part of the February 28, 2022 *Nunavut News* article showing that.

Mr. Speaker, for almost a decade, the Nunavut Law Foundation has awarded the Upinnaqtuq Award to students and youth across Nunavut for demonstrating leadership and conflict resolution abilities to promote peace amongst their peers. The youth chosen for this award have made substantial efforts to be role models who demonstrate positive attitude and behaviour.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of Kassidy and Haley, who are this year's recipients of the Upinnaqtuq Award.

Mr. Speaker, Kassidy and Haley were not only the driving forces behind finalizing the school yearbook, but they are incredible and inspiring individuals.

Mr. Speaker, these are Nunavut's future leaders. These youth are excellent role models for Baker Lake and beyond. I am confident that they will have many more successes in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Baker Lake's Kassidy Klinger and Haley Hachey on receiving this year's Upinnaqtuq Award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 071 – 6(1):  
Reviving Sanikiluaq's Najuqsivik  
Daycare**

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
Good afternoon, colleagues  
(interpretation) and all Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the Department of Education for stepping in to help revive Sanikiluaq's Najuqsivik Daycare.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the Sanikiluaq District Education Authority, the parent volunteers of Sanikiluaq as well as the principal of Nuiyak School and the vice-principal of Paatsaali High School for their

commitment towards getting the daycare up and running again.

Mr. Speaker, the Najuqsivik Day Care unfortunately closed due to some serious administrative and financial troubles.

As we all know, early childhood education plays an important role in preparing children for a successful life ahead, especially as they enter the school system. A safe and reliable daycare program also permits parents to take advantage of employment opportunities. Having daycare spaces available in the community is important for the well-being of Sanikiluaq families.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's *Education Act* provides for local district education authorities to deliver early childhood education programs in their communities with the support of the Department of Education.

I am very pleased that the Sanikiluaq District Education Authority is working with the department, school staff, and the parent volunteer committee to revive the daycares.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there are some steps to be completed before the daycares can officially open again. It is important that the financial contribution agreement, the staff hiring, and a plan for moving forward are all in place before the doors can open.

At the appropriate time I will have questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements.  
Member for Tununig, Ms. Nutarak.

**Member's Statement 072 – 6(1):  
Happy Birthday to Rhoda Koonoo**

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, not Chairman, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry.

Today I wish to publicly acknowledge my paternal aunt Rhoda Qaumajuainnuk Koonoo, who turned 80 today, and she continues to work periodically, continuously involved in local initiatives, such as sewing classes, and I take great pride in her civic-mindedness, and truly grateful she has reached this day, where she is celebrating her birthday.

Let us all congratulate her on her 80th birthdate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. I hope I can get to that age someday too.

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

**Member's Statement 073 – 6(1):  
Exceptional Youth in South Baffin**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I think I hold the same type of celebratory thoughts as expressed by my colleague from Baker Lake, as we probably thought of voicing our thanks, as I too wish to acknowledge constituents who received the Upinnaqtuq Awards here in the South Baffin region, and I want to express my gratitude on their accomplishment.



(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a recent article in the Nunavut news media covered this important subject and I would like to read some excerpts about these fine young people in my riding.

The first one is Andy Saggiatok of Kinngait. He “epitomizes community service and engagement. When the local arena was shut down due to mechanical and staffing issues, a huge gap was left in the community. Andy organized his friends and took the initiative to clear a small lake behind the school. He was never discouraged and never asked for recognition. He created a safe space for the community to come together. He showed initiative and leadership. He is an inspiration and role model to others and shows that one person can make a difference.”

Mr. Speaker, another young person in my riding by the name of Gabe Allen of Kimmirut is a “true peacemaker. He naturally defuses situations and resolves peer conflicts. He mentors and supports other students where needed. Gabe has greatly improved his academics and attendance and has a wonderful work ethic. Gabe’s calm demeanor and kindness sets a standard for others in the school and wider community.”

Mr. Speaker, another young Kimmirummiutag named Johnny Padluq has “successfully overcome many challenges in his life. These challenges during his elementary and middle school years greatly affected his behaviour. He has since developed impressive self-regulation skills. He is a kind, courteous and well-mannered individual who goes out of his way to offer help and support. He has developed strong academic skills and works hard. He has excelled in grade

10 and has opened doors to many opportunities.”

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Joyce Tunnillie of Kinngait has “faced many challenges in the past. She has discovered her capacity not just to cope but to thrive.”

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

**Speaker:** Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please continue, Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, Joyce has “shown growth in character, maturity, and self-confidence. Joyce faces the world with a smile and quiet dignity. She resolved conflicts within herself and her demeanor invites conversation and relationships. She has become a leader who demonstrates through action and attitude that conflicts can be resolved peacefully.”

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Nunavut Law Foundation for developing this award program for our youth, who are our future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Sorry. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 074 – 6(1):  
Happy Birthday to Mother-in-law**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me. Again, I would like to recognize a long-time Niaqunnguut resident. It's my mother-in-law's birthday, Towaga Thibaudeau. She is 74 years old, but she is still very young at heart.

I would like to recognize my mother-in-law. She has been an interpreter at the hospital for approximately 20 years and has contributed greatly to our community. She is retired now and relaxing with her grandchildren.

I would like to recognize Towaga Thibaudeau. We love you and I wanted to recognize her on her special day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. I have no more names. (interpretation) As we prepare to go to other items, I first wish my fellow residents of Gjoa Have condolences and the family is in my thoughts today, as we just lost a loved one this morning. I voice my sorrow and apologies to his wife and children, as they attempted to catch his last breath by travelling to Edmonton, but they landed after he had passed away.

His family, wife and children are in our thoughts, and this person also had a relative who is serving as one of our interpreters. All residents of Gjoa Haven are in my thoughts today, so please remember that.

(interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

**Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

**Return to Oral Question 023 – 6(1):  
Attendance in Nunavut Schools**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question 23 – 6(1) asked by the Member of Arviat South on March 8, 2022 concerning school attendance.

Mr. Speaker, this return is quite detailed. I have filed it with the Clerk for transcribing into the *Hansard* for the public record and for distribution to all members. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Item 5. As are closed to the public, there is no recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Item 6: Oral Questions**

**Question 062 – 6(1): Public Housing  
Construction**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues, especially my fellow residents of Amittuq.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and they concern the issue of housing needs in Amittuq.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, both Sanirajak and Igloolik are experiencing housing shortages.

\*See Appendix for full text of Return to Oral Question 23 – 6(1).

As the minister will recall, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's capital estimates for 2020-21 and 2021-22, right here, include funding for the construction of a total of 20 new public housing units in Sanirajak.

Now, during the legislative sitting of June 2, 2021, MLAs learned that although some of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's constructions of new units would be postponed as a result of change in cost issues, the planned units for Sanirajak wouldn't be going ahead.

Now, can the minister provide an update on the status of Sanirajak's units? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand, the housing units that were slated for Sanirajak are going to go ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, we realize this project is recommencing as we all heard about. Now, on March 4, the federal Minister responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation announced that in the House of Commons.

You stated you had met with your counterpart on how the construction costs of the affordable housing units could be lowered, now within the news release, it announced that two multiplex

units would be constructed in Sanirajak, out of the total amount from...let me say it in English, (interpretation ends) the Rapid Housing Initiative, (interpretation) as it is named.

Can the minister clarify to the residents of Amittuq that the 20 units scheduled for fiscal year 2020-21 and 2021-22 are listed within our capital estimates? What is the status of this? Are there changes regarding Sanirajak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague mentioned the funds from (interpretation ends) the Rapid Housing Initiative. (interpretation) The announcement stated that the federal government will construct 10 units in Sanirajak. That will still proceed. Mr. Speaker, according to the information presented to me, they will be available for rent in Sanirajak starting October 2022, in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for that clarification. Now, I wish to ask the minister to provide more details pertaining to the planned construction of units and the schedules arbitrated by the NHC, as the report states that Igloolik is the tenth on the list.

Furthermore, our fellow residents of Amittuq who reside in Igloolik have clamoured for housing units, albeit

considering our miniscule housing budget that never matches the required housing numbers requested to meet their needs, thusly the continual requests for more housing units from all communities.

Additionally, like other communities, Amittuq residents in Igloolik inhabit overcrowded homes, mouldy units that are becoming uninhabitable, along with antiquated or dilapidated housing, that contribute to further difficulties such as damaged units.

An example, people get evicted who no longer inhabit a house anymore. What is Igloolik's status this year? Where does Igloolik rank with the NHC categories? Looking at the numbers pertaining to the community of Igloolik, I wish to know where they stand in terms of enumeration and their eligibility status. I would like the Minister responsible for Housing to answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague mentioned that he assumed that Igloolik was the tenth in the list of communities requiring more housing or suffering housing shortages. Now, he has that numbering, and I will double-check to see if indeed, that is the still the case, and I will commit to see if that is true as the community was still ranked tenth at the last report.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague mentioned some of the difficulties in Igloolik, but that is par for the course throughout

Nunavut, as many communities suffer from units that are almost uninhabitable as every community is facing many of these same issues in light of their housing shortages. Even in cases where housing numbers are adequate, the units inhabited are also suffering mouldy conditions or damages that cause problems for many local housing associations.

We use these same arguments to try to attain more funding, the example my colleague used in his question about the (interpretation ends) Rapid Housing Initiative (interpretation) to try to garner more funding allocations from our southern federal government into housing units in Nunavut, and it is always good to hear more notices.

I can say that the member might not have been here when I announced that we are reviewing how to construct more units in the ten communities with the greatest housing needs, as continual construction to meet their needs would mean leaving the construction projects required in the lower ranked communities. They cannot just wait as well for housing, while we try to meet certain community needs. We are looking to see if there is any way to adjust the formula. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 063 – 6(1): Support for Small Businesses**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and they concern his

department's Small Business Support Program.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses has been significant.

I have been inspired by the resilience and energy that the entrepreneurs of this community have displayed over the past two very difficult years.

Mandatory closures and facility capacity limits have seriously impacted the viability of small businesses, as we know, especially in the hospitality and personal services sectors of the economy. Two years without significant tourism has hit our artists hard. This has been particularly visible here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, in response to the Omicron wave that arrived in late December, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation announced a second call for applications from small businesses, artists, craftspeople, retailers, tourism operators, and harvesters for up to \$5,000 in support under the Small Business Support Program. Applications close on March 31, just over two weeks from today.

Can the minister update the House today on how many applications have been received and approved by his department during 2022? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague is correct; COVID has had some real hard impact on our business community, who have

struggled even at the best of times pre-COVID. It has been a very hard struggle.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of applications so far for small business support, the latest information I currently have on that is that we've had close to 70 applications approved so far on those sectors that my colleague is asking for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for that response. I think we can all agree that when it comes to the future of COVID, we don't know what's going to happen.

Our hospitality and tourism sectors are still struggling, as you have said, and may continue to do so for some time, especially if the public health situation takes a turn for the worse and we have to go back into lockdown.

Can the minister clarify the circumstances under which the additional support that has been provided by his department will be extended? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We still have 'til the end of the month to gather information and requests from the business sector, and we will see what kind of uptake we have at that time and if there is interest out there.

Our department is constantly in communication with the small business community. They are in contact with our local economic development officers through their municipal offices. They're in contact directly with our department here at the head office and regional offices. We're in pretty good communication with that sector, Mr. Speaker. If there is a requirement from the business community in terms of more support for them to be able to survive past the pandemic, we will definitely be there to help support them, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Mr. Speaker, over the past number of months, Iqaluit small businesses have also suffered a double blow with the repeated water crises. It is my understanding that a number of small businesses lost significant revenues as a consequence of the impact on their operations during the period when the "do not consume" order was in effect.

Can the minister indicate if his department's Small Business Support Program will consider applications for emergency support from businesses that have been impacted by the water situation through no fault of their own? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The city has responsibility over the water and its water woes, and I think their responsibility for that lies within the city, but I cannot see why our

department would not be able to take a look at where they may be able to support the business in that sense, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 064 – 6(1): Labour Market Programs**

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

Mr. Speaker, there was recently a minister's statement on a targeted labour market program, which I was very excited to see that it's rolled out into six different communities and anticipating up to 150 new students.

My first question to the minister is: how is the program promoted in communities and are there any additional communities being looked at to run this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister for Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. If an employee at the hamlet or housing is identified that realizes that upgrade needs to happen through our office or through Frontier College, they work with them to identify. Also, I'll say them in English.

(interpretation ends) Some of the courses are full-time courses in some of the communities, but it really depends on the availability of certified trainers going into the communities, so it could be that

some of them are online courses, but to date the courses that have been offered in the communities are Kinngait, Kimmirut, Hall Beach, Pangnirtung, and Clyde River, and there are additional communities that will be getting more training. Five to seven selected communities are going to be provided that same training either in-class or online courses, about five to seven communities yearly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, I guess the next question I have is: what type of prerequisites or how are students selected to take advantage of these programs in their communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It's really a community need assessment, which is done through either the hamlets or the local housing organization. If they recognize they have staff that need to be certified in a certain trade, then they contact either Frontier College or the career development officers in the communities, but at this time, unfortunately, they are not being offered to anyone, so it's really at this time a community needs assessment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to get some clarification or confirmation, when a hamlet or a local housing organization approaches the college to put on a program, it's often very expensive to go to school and not all businesses are able to pay their employees while they're attending classes. Is this program FANS-eligible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) At this time my understanding is that the department has provided \$700,000 to provide the training for the communities and depending on the level of training, as I had mentioned, some of these courses are either full-time, in-class, so that would, I'm guessing, go through the career development and if they are not full time, then the instructor flies into the community for three weeks in and then the rest would be online courses.

In terms of training allowances, I'm not sure how that is provided at this time, but I will certainly get back to you on that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 065 – 6(1): Kugaaruk Municipal Service Garage**

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

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my member's statement, the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency announced funding last Friday for a new municipal service garage in the community of Kugaaruk.

Mr. Speaker, the announcement indicated that the Municipality of Kugaaruk is contributing approximately \$2.3 million to the project.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify the extent to which his department is involved with this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, we're glad to support this funding announcement through CanNor. Mr. Speaker, there is a great need for municipal garages and as we had discussed it during the Committee of the Whole extensively. However, I'm not entirely sure how specifically our department has been supporting Kugaaruk on this particular project, but we will note that we are pursuing with our own territorial municipal parking garage program that we hope to roll out to the communities in the next fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal announcement indicated that the project will "result in two full-time positions, two-part time positions, and

six positions during the construction phase of the project."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify if his department will be providing additional resources to the Municipality of Kugaaruk to allow it to fund the increase in the number of employees who will be working at the new municipal service garage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I can't confirm what the member is asking, so I would like to take his question as notice.

**Speaker:** Member, the question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

#### **Question 066 – 6(1): Assistance in Acquiring Birth Certificates**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my fellow residents of Nunavut and my colleagues here.

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

Let me first say that in my constituency, these seem like small things, but I want to make them as my priorities here in the Legislative Assembly when I get up to speak. Things that can help people are the things that I want to talk about first.

Mr. Speaker, birth certificates are very important personal documents. Without a birth certificate, one cannot get a social insurance number which is necessary for



employment or to receive such supports as child benefits, disability pensions, or income assistance.

When I talk about birth certificates and to talk about this some more, there are still many people in our communities who do not have birth certificates and they struggle greatly because of this. They cannot access many of the benefits which would help them to live more comfortably. It could make their lives so much easier.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clearly explain how his department's Vital Statistics division provides support to individuals who need a birth certificate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague for that question. We help people when they are requesting birth certificates or identification cards. They go to the health centre and fill out application forms. Whenever they need something like that, they should go to the health centre or there is a toll-free telephone number they can call about that, but I don't have it in front of me. What the member is saying is true that these things need to be readily available for everybody in Nunavut. Even though they seem like small things, these IDs and other documents like that help us a great deal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for

responding to my question. I would like to ask further and talk about it further.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate that individuals born before 1999 must apply for their birth certificate from the Northwest Territories Vital Statistics office. I recognize that people who were born outside of the territory need to apply to those jurisdictions for birth certificates.

*Uqaqtii*, the Department of Health's website outlines the importance of having a birth certificate, (interpretation) looking at it here, (interpretation ends) and states that it "envision[s] the well-being of all Nunavummiut, with individuals leading productive lives in self-reliant and healthy communities"

*Uqaqtii*, can the minister tell us how his department works with community-based government liaison officers to ensure that they have the correct information and tools to help individuals get a birth certificate? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague. I don't know what to call the community-based government liaison officers in Inuktitut, but we do have them working in the communities and they help in various ways. From my knowledge, as the Department of Health, we have made the government liaison officers available in the communities to help fill out applications and give out information that they need to know. We want them to always be available to local people to ask and have the proper answers for them. That is how we work

with that division. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that's true. That is why the GLOs were created, so that they can help local people who are unable to do certain things like speak English. They have helped a great deal and I like the fact that they were created.

However, a birth certificate is possibly one of the most important documents that a person needs. It can be used to establish one's legal identity, to enrol in school, to get a passport, or a driver's licence. Those papers are so important. There are people who do not have birth certificates and there are some people who can never get birth certificates and can't seem to get any help and they can't access income support and they can't even get a job because of that. This needs to be brought into the front and find ways to help these people and community government liaison officers. There are so many people losing so much patience in this matter, so please make it more alive again.

There are so many people who have reached adulthood that have never received their birth certificates and there were people who were born in the south who cannot even get their birth certificates. This really needs to be worked on and that's why I rose about it today. There are communities that need help. There are people who have never asked for help even though they need it. Hopefully after I speak about this, more people will be talking about it in the communities because there are so many

people who are too shy or too intimidated to speak up about this, so I'm speaking up about it. We really have to help those people and it's such an important document that people need.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, in English, (interpretation ends) Nunavut residents can receive care without having a birth certificate, (interpretation) which is great, (interpretation ends) so much of their personal information... .

**Speaker:** My apologies. Ms. Killiktee, is your question coming up?

**Ms. Killiktee:** Okay.

**Speaker:** That's just being a comment?

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Yes.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Next name on my list: Oral Questions, Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok. Just to remind members to try to keep your questions short and to the point. Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

#### **Question 067 – 6(1): Chesterfield Inlet Community Learning Centre**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my member's statement, the Chesterfield Inlet Community Learning Centre was rated in "Poor" condition a decade ago.

Can the minister provide an update on whether any more recent assessments have been carried out on the Chesterfield

Inlet Community Learning Centre?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. The NAC recognizes the investment in infrastructure that supports a positive future for our people and our communities.

I understand your question about Chesterfield Inlet concerns to the community learning centre and during the government's previous mandate, Nunavut Arctic College tabled its *Preliminary Report: Community Learning Centres by Region*. This report was an overview of all capital assessments of the Nunavut Arctic College facilities across the territory. Within this report there is one page of the college assessment on facilities, and the Nunavut Arctic College capital planner has conducted a number of trips across the territory, including Chesterfield Inlet. It's identified as a community to visit, so we're hoping that our capital planner can get to the community soon.

While Nunavut Arctic College understands and recognizes the need for updated community learning centres across the territory, including the member's constituency community, NAC, as a Government of Nunavut agency, is responsible for submitting all capital requests through the Government of Nunavut capital process. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I hope the planner goes to Chesterfield Inlet really soon, maybe right after this sitting, before the spring sitting.

Mr. Speaker, currently, the community of Chesterfield Inlet can only offer one program at a time due to the fact that there is only one adult learning classroom. The Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet has identified the need for a new community learning centre in its five-year capital plan.

Can the minister tell us whether any discussions or exchange of correspondence has taken place with the hamlet to address the need of a new community learning centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation...sorry. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. Yes, I do hope that our capital planner will be able to visit your constituency as soon as possible and there are a number of communities slated for these visits, including other communities that we would like to check their CLCs out as well, but we realize the importance of these buildings and working collaboratively with the local hamlet is something that we're hoping to do in the near future. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As long as the Chesterfield Inlet Community Learning Centre is not replaced, the adult learning and employment opportunities of the community residents are being sorely limited.

Will the minister commit to bringing forward a new community learning centre project for Chesterfield Inlet in the government's next capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* once again to the member for the question. For the 2022-23 fiscal year, Nunavut Arctic College has introduced four community learning centres into the capital planning process and Chesterfield Inlet is one of the communities that will be going forward. For the other information of other members and us around the table and our communities across Nunavut, there are also Gjoa Haven, Nauyasat, and Sanikiluaq.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 068 – 6(1): Renewable Energy Initiatives**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have more questions today for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation concerning renewable energy initiatives.

As the minister will recall, I asked her questions last Wednesday surrounding the proposed wind energy project in Arviat, and my colleague from Hudson Bay also asked questions last week concerning the proposed wind energy project in Sanikiluaq.

On Friday of last week, the Nunavut Impact Review Board publicly released a number of documents concerning this project.

In its response to the board's request for an update, the project proponent indicated that it “expects to submit materials in mid-2022, subject to progress on the Qulliq Energy Corporation's Independent Power Producer Program, which will inform the timelines for this project.”

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clearly explain the reasons for the delay in progress on the Independent Power Producer Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question from my colleague. I will return to the questions, but what I can say now is that to reduce dependency on fossil fuel, the use of wind and solar power... . We are waiting for the Utility Rates Review Council, who is reviewing

this at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for clarifying the reasons for the slow progress.

As the minister will be aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation awarded a contract in April 2021 to Intergroup Consultants Limited to develop a “specialized pricing strategy for renewable energy suppliers to sell energy to the Qulliq Energy Corporation.”

Mr. Speaker, it has been almost a year. When will this work be completed and its results provided to Members of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The review is ongoing and the reason for the slow progress has been due to COVID measures. Irrespective, this will have to be submitted to cabinet and this is one of the delays. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the minister’s response, I didn’t hear anything about the specialized pricing strategy, but I’ll go on to my next question.

As I noted last week in my questions for the minister, the federal government announced \$400,000 in funding in April 2021 for the development of community energy plans, and I expect that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has been following this work closely.

When I asked the minister last week about the status of Arviat’s Community Energy Plan, she indicated that she would need to look into the subject. Mr. Speaker, what information does the minister have for me today on this subject? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to our colleague. What I can say at this moment is that it is still ongoing and there is no request put in place yet, one of the reasons being we are still waiting for our government with respect to the utility rates that have not been set yet and it’s still ongoing work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 069 – 6(1): Community Transportation Initiatives Program**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and they concern my member’s statement.

(interpretation ends) As I noted in my member’s statement, the recent federal announcement concerning funding for a

new community access trail near the community of Naujaat indicated that the Government of Nunavut will be contributing \$125,000 towards the project.

Can the minister confirm if the GN's share of the funding is being provided from his department's Community Transportation Initiatives Program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation has various funds for community initiatives. Trails are one of those areas where the funding will be utilized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, North Arrow Minerals has been working to develop the Naujaat Diamond Project near the community, and it is my understanding that discussions have taken place between the company and the minister's department regarding the construction of a community access road to the project site.

Can the minister confirm that the new community trail will also facilitate access to the project site? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't quite understand the question, but I believe that at this time that work would have to be done with our department. I believe this project is being spearheaded by the municipal government, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the 2018-19 *Annual Report on the Administration of the Community Transportation Initiatives Program* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 4, 2020.

The report indicated that funding had been provided for three projects near the community of Coral Harbour, which I strongly support.

However, the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 annual reports have not been tabled. When will the minister's reports be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's hard to keep up with colleagues when one minute we're talking about a federal announcement and the next minute we're talking about tabling documents. Mr. Speaker, I assure my colleague that I will table it as soon

as it's able to be tabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 070 – 6(1): School Closure Decisions**

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, in January of this year the Pond Inlet District Education Authority contacted me regarding their request to close the schools for a two-week period to protect the school population during a significant COVID outbreak in the community.

Mr. Speaker, the district education authority pointed out that the schools had been short-staffed due to isolation requirements and student attendance had dropped.

Mr. Speaker, the minister responded with a written oral question to a member earlier that indicates that last week, Qikiqtani's attendance rate was at 35 percent. Can the minister clearly explain why her department did not close the school in Pond Inlet or schools in Nunavut for a two-week period when there were significant COVID outbreaks in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. While we understand the

concern from the district education authority, the chief public health officer is the only person who has the authority to close schools related to COVID-19. This power is given to them under section 8.3 of the *School Calendar Regulations*.

I did receive the correspondence from the member with concerns brought forward by the Pond Inlet District Education Authority. As I stated in my response, neither myself nor my officials at the Department of Education are medical professionals, so we trust the chief public health officer's expertise when it comes to making decisions about COVID-19 and the best interest of our communities and our schools.

We must balance the risk of COVID-19 exposure with the harms of extended school closures. While we can never eliminate the risks entirely, we're doing everything we can to protect the health and safety of our students and staff. We believe the most effective teaching and assessment of students takes place when students attend in-person classes. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nutarak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Minister for Education. Yes, I did receive written response from the minister regarding this issue and I would like to thank the minister for her letter.

Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate that only the chief public health officer has the authority to close schools because of a communicable disease. I further recognize that neither the minister, Department of Education officials, nor

DEA members have the same scientific and health expertise as the chief public health officer in order to make decisions regarding communicable diseases.

However, members of the district education authority have been elected to represent the concerns of their community and to make operational decisions for the schools in that community.

In fact, section 87(h) of Nunavut's *Education Act* allows for regulations which can delegate the authority to close schools for reasons related to weather, health or safety to district education authorities or principals.

Can the minister clearly explain why the request from the Pond Inlet District Education Authority to close the community schools for two weeks was not supported? Mr. Speaker, I think she already answered this, but if she could answer my question again.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* once again to our fellow colleague for the question and the follow-up. The member is correct; the district education authorities and school leaders do have the authority to close schools in other situations. These include safety concerns, such as weather or flood or even if a school is too short-staffed to operate safely.

In my correspondence to the member, I indicated that if the Pond Inlet District Education Authority had concerns about being short-staffed due to isolation requirements and lack of school staff

was creating serious issues, closure of the school was an operational decision that could be made by the school's leaders, district education authority members, and departmental staff. I also indicated that such operational decisions should be made on a day-to-day basis rather than for a blanket time frame of two weeks, as many factors can change over a two-week period. In my correspondence, as offered, the district education authority could reach out to the department if they had concerns about operational requirements in their schools. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nutarak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a letter from a concerned constituent who is very frustrated that our education system is not listening to the fears and worries of parents, youth, and other community residents regarding the potential spread of the COVID virus in our schools.

My constituent is upset that the local district education authority did not close the schools to protect students, school staff, and their families. However, it seems that the district education authority was not able to take that step.

Will the minister commit to providing clear information so that parents and district education authorities can be aware of how decisions are made respecting school closures? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I think my mask is getting hung up today. *Quana* to the member for the question, Mr. Speaker. We understand that some families may be afraid to send their child or children to school because of COVID-19. As I stated, we can never eliminate all the risks, but we're doing everything we can to protect the health and safety of our students and staff and are seeing our health and safety procedures being implemented successfully.

With regard to information on how decisions are made respecting school closures for any matters related to a communicable disease such as COVID-19, the chief public health officer is the only person with the authority to close schools. This is outlined in section 8.3 of the *School Calendar Regulations*. Section 8.1 and 8.2 of the *School Calendar Regulations* allow for the district education authority and principals to close schools for other safety reasons in consultation with each other.

To make information about decision-making more available to the public, I will commit to posting these decision-making authorities on the Department of Education website. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 071 – 6(1): Qulliq Energy Corporation Activities in Baker Lake**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy

Corporation with regard to activities in Baker Lake and the corporation.

As the minister is very much aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation's headquarters are located in Baker Lake, and I encourage the minister to pay frequent visits to the community, visit with the staff and get to know them. They're very hard-working staff; I'm sure she would be very proud to meet them and get to know them and she would understand where I'm coming from when that happens. I invite you to come to my community; I'll be happy to give you a tour.

As the minister will recall, she tabled the Qulliq Energy Corporation's 2020-21 Annual Report at the beginning of our winter sitting. The report indicated that "The contract for the Baker Lake Head Office was awarded and signed in 2020-2021. Construction is planned to begin in 2021 and completed in August of 2022 at an estimated cost of \$16.2 million. The new head office is expected to accommodate all administration staff in the community who are currently located in three different offices in the community."

Can the minister confirm that this project is on schedule and on budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for that question. I am very pleased for your invitation to visit your community. I can tell the member that the Baker Lake head office

building is on schedule and is slated to be completed in August 2022. The budget is on target. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. The Qulliq Energy Corporation's most recent annual report also indicates that "In 2020-2021, QEC completed feasibility studies of District Heating System expansions in Iqaluit and Baker Lake, which were funded in full by the federal Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs through the Northern REACHE program, in the amount of \$142,947. Recommendations for Baker Lake include building a system from the ground up, including several approaches depending on available budgets."

Mr. Speaker, the reason for the location of Baker Lake's power plant was to incorporate district heating. Can the minister clarify what the Qulliq Energy Corporation's next steps are in respect to this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his question. The power plant and the office and the district heating system are currently being studied for Baker Lake. After the study, we will then know when we can start the process. We're currently looking at all the heating systems in all communities, so I would like the

member to be patient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there a timeline for when this study will be done? It has been a few years this power plant was put in action. It came online in 2001 and it's now 2022. I'm wondering: is there a timeline of when this study will be done so that we can start moving forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. I can't give you a specific date today. I can't tell you when it will be initiated because there are quite a few studies in the works and there has to be some projects that have to be revamped. Also, there are priorities set out for the other communities. I can give you a specific timeline at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 072 – 6(1): Reviving Sanikiluaq's Najuqsivik Daycare**

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut and colleagues. Before you mentioned my colleague's name for the oral questions, I wanted to hear "Member from Hudson Bay" so I can say, "One day, education day."

>> *Laughter*

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

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my member's statement, I greatly appreciate the Department of Education's work towards reviving Sanikiluaq's daycares.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of the financial contribution agreements to provide the financial support for reopening Sanikiluaq's daycares? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. Our department has been working closely with a committed group of community members who are interested in operating daycares and as a non-profit board of directors. To date a new board of directors has been formed and they have gained access to the daycares. Unfortunately we just learned that both centres have frozen pipes, so we're waiting to hear if both are requiring repairs before reopening.

The Department of Education is committed to supporting the reopening of the centres through contribution agreements. Once the contribution agreement is finalized, our MLA and the community will be aware. We're hoping that the community of Sanikiluaq will soon have the much-needed space of the daycare facility. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the update, Minister of

Education. Ms. Gross sort of answered my third question, but I'll have my last question.

Mr. Speaker, one of the first steps in reopening Sanikiluaq's daycares will be to hire staff. A number of the staff who worked at the daycare before it was closed down have questions about their previous employment. Many of them have not received their T4s yet and are wondering what the current status is.

Can the minister indicate whether her department will be providing any administrative assistance to ensure that former employees receive such paperwork as their T4s for 2021? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* again for the question from our fellow colleague. We do realize how important T4s are and our department is committed to working with the community board of directors and will assist them to provide recommendations on how to support staff members who worked in 2021 to gain their T4s for filing. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Are you done? (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

### **Question 073 – 6(1): Property Assessment and Taxation Act**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services, whose department is responsible for

administering the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*.

As the minister will recall, he and every other member of the previous Legislative Assembly, including the current Ministers of Finance, Justice, Health, Economic Development, and Family Services all voted in favour of Bill 55, which made important amendments to the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* to clarify the ability of the territorial government to collect property taxes.

Mr. Speaker, the bill received in assent in September 2021, but has not yet been brought into force. Can the minister confirm when these amendments, which he voted in favour of, will come into force? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, following the legislative review and passage of Bill 55, regulations are next in line for dealing with and at this time those are still outstanding to be brought up to speed or in line with the new legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll look to follow up on when those regulations will be completed.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware, the Government of Nunavut recently made its final submission to the Nunavut Impact Review Board

concerning the Mary River project. The Government of Nunavut's submission indicated that "...the GN does not have any remaining concerns with Baffinland's Phase 2 Project Proposal. If the Expansion is approved, the GN will continue to fulfill its obligations to monitor and advise mitigation with respect to Phase 2. We will also continue our work to enforce territorial laws and regulations that apply to the project, including with respect to taxes owing."

For the record, how much does Baffinland currently owe in property tax arrears to the Government of Nunavut, which I remind the minister is used to fund essential programs and services for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I don't have the actual dollar amount that the member seeks, but I would be willing to bring forward the figures after the proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, as the Minister is aware, it is a matter of public record that the Nunavut Assessment Appeal Tribunal recently ruled in favour of the Government of Nunavut in the matter of Baffinland and Qikiqtani Inuit Association's appeal respecting property tax assessments. Can the minister confirm if there are any other matters pending before the tribunal or other body in respect to property tax

assessments involving the Mary River mine? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The regulations that I spoke of earlier are the ones that are outstanding and we are still waiting on that work to complete. I did bring forward those regulations to be brought to cabinet, but those are still under discussions at this time. Once I have progress on that work regarding regulations and this piece of legislation, I will be providing updates when necessary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 074 – 6(1): Chesterfield Inlet Airport Terminal Building**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and they concern the issue of Chesterfield Inlet's planned new airport terminal building.

As the minister is aware, a significant portion of the funding for this project is coming from the federal Trade and Transportation Corridors Initiative.

On May 6, 2021 the department issued a request for tender for the construction of new airport terminal buildings in Chesterfield Inlet, Naujaat, and Whale Cove. The tender closed on June 10, 2021. On August 5, 2021 the

government issued notices of cancellation for both of these tenders.

On August 9, 2021 the federal government's transportation announced "...a top-up to the initial major investment of \$22.5 million in 2018 for five airport terminals in Kugluktuk, Naujaat, Kimmirut, Whale Cove and Chesterfield Inlet."

What is the department's timetable for issuing a new tender for the construction of Chesterfield Inlet's new airport terminal building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the capital budget that we're dealing with on a daily basis, the department under which I am responsible, the airport terminal buildings will be under discussion under my department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify if his department plans to issue separate tenders for the new airport terminal buildings or a single tender that combines all the projects? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They will go out in one tender. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the project design for Chesterfield Inlet's new airport terminal building was issued in the year 2020. Can the minister clarify if there have been any major changes to the proposed design of the new airport terminal building since that time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, there hasn't. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members, be aware... . Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to extend question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There is a nay, so we will 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. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

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

#### **Tabled Document 017 – 6(1): Letter from the Municipality of Sanikiluaq to the Makivik Corporation Regarding Air Service**

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week in the House, I raised the important issue of air service to Sanikiluaq. Today I wish to table a letter from the Municipality of Sanikiluaq to the Makivik Corporation regarding the resumption of Air Inuit passenger flight services to Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to review the letter with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. I recognize the Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

### **Item 16: Motions**

#### **Motion 009 – 6(1): Extended Sitting Hours and Days**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

**Speaker:** Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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 to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 15:35 and  
Committee resumed at 16:01*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Savikataaq): Good afternoon, members. I would like to call this 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 the review of the 2022-23 capital main estimates, Bill 2, and the Department of Health. 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 – Health –  
Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Minister Main, if you can introduce your officials and start with your opening comments. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, committee members. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the 2022-23 capital estimates for the Department of Health.

As you have requested, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) my officials from the department are Deputy Minister Linnea Ingebrigtsen and Executive Director of Corporate Services Greg Babstock.

Mr. Chairman, as it has been for the previous several years, the emphasis of the departmental capital estimates continues to remain focused upon projects intended to maintain and renovate our aging community health care facilities, as well as the development of new spaces that can accommodate the addition of enhanced services for clients and staff.

The department is foremost committed to providing safe, efficient, environmentally friendly and welcoming facilities for both staff and clients territory-wide. To demonstrate, the department opened the Kinngait Community Health Centre in the summer of 2021, bringing an enhanced

suite of services, facilities, and space for scalable growth that will effectively serve the community for decades to come.

Health will continue to focus on and leverage the support of partners and stakeholders in the establishment of new and innovative methods of program delivery, supported through ongoing capital investments that better enable the provision of care within the territory and its delivery closer to home.

*Iksivautaaq*, the planning phase for the new Qikiqtarjuaq Community Health Centre has been completed, with resources for detailed design and construction now to be requested for the consideration of the Legislative Assembly next fiscal year as part of the upcoming 2023-24 capital estimates process. Baker Lake continues to be the next community health centre identified for replacement and upcoming consideration for addition as a planning project.

Also, *Iksivautaaq*, in response to the increasing need for office and operational space within Iqaluit, the department is also proposing for planning consideration the development of a dedicated Department of Health administrative and clinical health complex that would amalgamate all staff and services currently situated across six properties within the city into a single facility, ideally to be situated on a Qikiqtani General Hospital campus. Doing so would provide a more holistic approach to client care, where all health services would be available near the boarding home and would be accessible for those with mobility concerns.

In addition, it would provide operational and financial efficiencies within the department and facilitate the continued growth of clinical services. As prioritized by Health, further planning initiatives to be considered in future capital estimates processes include the replacement of the Kugluktuk Community Health Centre, as well as a proposed expansion to the Arviat Community Health Centre.

For fiscal year 2022-23, Health is requesting an additional \$26.04 million for four identified capital projects. I will briefly provide details of each of these projects.

In partnership with the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Nunavut Recovery Centre project continues through to the second year of its design phase and represents a truly innovative and tripartite approach towards the delivery of vital treatment services. In the summer of 2021, as endorsed by Nunavut Tunngavik, the Government of Nunavut completed a contribution agreement with Indigenous Services Canada in the amount of just over \$42 million, representing approximately 75 percent of the total cost for the Nunavut Recovery Centre capital project. Health is requesting an appropriation in fiscal year 2022-23 part of Nunavut's contribution to the project to complete the detailed design for the facility. Construction on the recovery centre is scheduled to commence in the summer of 2023.

The provision of culturally appropriate programs through the in-territory treatment facility will allow Nunavummiut to seek and obtain the



specialized health care services closer to home, promote increasingly healthy families and communities, and significantly reduce the department's reliance on out-of-territory residential care facilities.

*Iksivautaaq* and *katimajit*, Health continues to make progress towards addressing the long-term care needs of Nunavummiut. It has been a key ongoing priority of the department to build long-term care bed capacity in Nunavut to support the elder population. We are currently moving forward on the construction of a first new territorial long-term care facility that will deliver culturally appropriate, high-quality and safe care to our elders. An appropriation is required in fiscal year 2022-23 to continue year two of the construction phase for the approved 24-bed long-term care facility in Rankin Inlet. It is expected that the first Nunavummiut elders will take residency at this facility in winter 2024.

Work continues on the planning of territorial long-term care facilities for both the Kitikmeot and Qikiqtaaluk regions. Health remains fully committed to the development of long-term care facilities that keep our cherished Nunavummiut elders closer to home within the territory. Detail on the government's approach and capital requirements in support of elder long-term care facilities will be brought forward at the earliest available opportunity.

The department is requesting its annual budget allocation of \$1.5 million for small capital procurements. The small capital appropriation is for the procurement and replacement of the

department's medical equipment, vehicles, furniture, and other essential gear.

Similarly, the department is requesting its annual appropriation of \$3.5 million for ongoing lifecycle capital projects and maintenance of Health's fixed assets. This year the allocation is dedicated to minor renovations, repairs, modifications, and upgrades of departmental facilities territory-wide and is essential to ensure effective lifecycle management of Health's assets. We have also set aside contingency funding within this envelope for any emergency repairs that may be required at health facilities during the year.

In closing, *Iksivautaaq*, the department is consistently looking to further enhance the design elements of new health centres and other new health facilities to better meet the needs of the department, our communities, and all the residents. This capital plan proposal is focused to ensure clinical facilities and the essential services they provide are available to Nunavummiut by maintaining aging health care facilities, promoting the development of new facilities, and through prioritized approaches to ongoing building maintenance and lifecycle management.

I thank you for all of your support on these important projects and I welcome questions and comments from the members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the regular member have any opening comments? Ms. Brewster, please proceed.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2022-23 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health.

The department's proposed capital budget for 2022-23 includes funding for ongoing work on the long-term care facility in Rankin Inlet and the Nunavut Recovery Centre in Iqaluit. Both of these projects will be of great benefit to Nunavummiut when they open in the near future.

The 2022-23 budget also includes two Nunavut-wide items for ongoing lifecycle repairs and small capital purchases.

Mr. Chairman, the issue of long-term care for our elders is an important one. The regular members recognize the importance of providing long-term care beds in Nunavut for individuals requiring the highest levels of care, including specialized dementia care. There has been significant pressure to establish and support elder-focused facilities and services at the community level, outside of the regional centres. Community-based care homes can offer alternative levels of care and support for elders who may not require the highest levels of medical care, while supporting them in remaining close to their family and community.

Mr. Chairman, it has been noted that there are two main approaches to establishing and operating elder homes in Nunavut. Some facilities, including elder homes in Arviat and Iqaluit, are

owned by the government through such entities as the Nunavut Housing Corporation and operated by third party contractors. Other facilities, including the continuing care homes in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik, are fully owned and operated by the government.

Given the ongoing and urgent pressure to repatriate Nunavut elders from southern care facilities, members have questioned why the Department of Health has not given greater consideration and support to opportunities for interested third parties to construct, establish, and operate elder homes in communities across the territory.

Members strongly encourage the government to bring forward its comprehensive Elders Strategy as soon as possible. Part of this strategy must address the training and certification of Nunavut-based caregivers to ensure that elders requiring care and support can receive the appropriate services in their communities and regions. Members further urge the minister to work with the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College and other partners in health careers education fields to recruit, train, and certify Nunavummiut to enable them to staff positions at the newly built long-term care facility as well as the Nunavut Recovery Centre which is also scheduled to be completed within the term of this Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, the regular members recognize that there are a number of aging community health centres across Nunavut that require replacement or extensive renovations. While the department's 2022-23 capital estimates do not include funding for any new

health centre projects, members have been given to understand that planning for the replacement health centre project for the community of Qikiqtarjuaq is underway, to be followed by planning for the Baker Lake Community Health Centre in future capital plans. At the appropriate time, members would appreciate further information on modifications that will be made to the standard health centre design features to meet health needs identified at the community level.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health's proposed capital estimates include two blocks of funding for ongoing lifecycle and small capital projects. Members appreciated receiving details on items that have been prioritized for purchase in the upcoming fiscal year.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2022-23 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health. I am confident that individual members will have a number of comments and questions as we proceed. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Do members have any general comments, no questions yet, general comments before we proceed to the detailed questions? I see no one who has any general comments. I have no more names for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the department's estimates starting on page H-3 and by the way, that's the only page. Any questions? I'll give you a few minutes to... Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and his staff.

In the opening comments on page 4 where it talks about the continuing planning of territorial long-term care facilities for the Kitikmeot and Qikiqtaaluk regions, it states at the bottom of that paragraph that capital requirements for the support "will be brought forward at the earliest available opportunity." I think now is the earliest available opportunity. I would just like to get a timeline from the minister. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Well, we are requesting facility funding for the Rankin Inlet facility. That's to continue the construction phase of it. In terms of the other facilities, in terms of the next available opportunity, that would be either the spring sitting and, if not the spring sitting, then it would be the fall sitting. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm probably going to blur the lines a little bit here, Mr. Chairman, but one of the concerns that have been raised repeatedly in this House is the repatriation of the elders specifically from the Embassy West facility. There has been a lot of negative coverage of that facility over the past while. What would happen if that contract were to be cancelled tomorrow? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** I'll allow that in terms of it's relevant to capital projects that would have to be built or could be built to

repatriate our elders if they had no place in the south, though. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of that contract with Embassy West, it's a very important one. It allows our department to provide the level of care for the elders who need it and it's a very valued service that Embassy West is providing to our department.

To the member's question, I don't know what would happen if that contract were to cease to exist. The effect on the seniors who are receiving care would be detrimental because we currently do not have the means to meet the level of care that they require in the territory. It could mean hospitalization of the elders in question. It's a bit of a hypothetical.

Embassy West is a valued partner to our department. They provide a very specialized and needed service, and the member is correct; we have faced quite a lot of criticism around Embassy West recently.

The Home and Continuing Care Division works closely with the family members and/or guardians of elders who are in care to make sure that the needs of the elders themselves are being met as well as the needs of the families. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It may sound like a hypothetical question, Mr. Chairman, but I cannot imagine any contractor going through the negative publicity that they are getting without some concerns from

their end and I know how hard the staff have been working there to keep COVID-19 out and when it did get in how they dealt with it very quickly and in my opinion, very diligently. The commitment from the staff at that facility to keep COVID-19 out is almost unprecedented.

I am going to leave that one alone for now, Mr. Chairman. I am going to move on to regional health centres. Is the Department of Health considering any additional modifications to any of the three regional health facilities in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, or here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently the modifications to those regional health facilities are not in our top four priorities, so currently we have no plans for modifications. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question would be what considerations have been given to renovating, or expanding, the regional health facilities to offer new areas of health service that are currently provided outside of Nunavut such as cancer treatment, or enhanced laboratory services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot respond to that so I ask my deputy to respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Ingebrigtsen.

**Ms. Ingebrigtsen:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, member, for the question. There were some changes to facilities this past year to accommodate for laboratory equipment to support the COVID-19 response. At this time there are no further plans on the plan to do any further expansions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, and my apologies for mispronouncing your name. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to touch up on the last response. Is the department considering providing any additional services at any of the regional health centres that will require any capital funding for infrastructure, or equipment and if so, what are they? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes. Sorry, Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We are continually looking for areas where we can expand or offer services closer to home. Currently we don't foresee any need for modifications in terms of things like the cancer care delivery here in Iqaluit. In terms of the capital envelope, we do not have any immediate needs for those expanded services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are the questions I had on the regional health centres.

I am going to go to long-term care for just a moment if the Chairman will indulge me. Just for a real simple question; what is the government's current long-term plan to provide more beds for the elders within the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The current plan as it is formulated is focused around development of three regional facilities and the first facility is currently in the construction phase.

In terms of what the long-term plan is, we currently don't have long-term plan and recognize that is a gap and we recognize that there is a lot of interest in that area of long-term care.

It is a very important topic to many Nunavummiut and so currently when it comes to planning we are looking at filling in the gaps in our planning in terms of seeing what types of partners can be involved in this work, if any, as well as what the desires are from communities.

Long-term care is directly within Health's mandate and portfolio, but a lot of the discussions around elder care, I believe, are broader than that. In terms of a broader sense if you look at elder care it not only involves the Department of Health, there is a housing aspect to elder care, in some cases there is an issue around the families of elders, so

that concerns the Department of Family Services, for example.

Depending how you want to look at elder care, if it is just that long-term care and isolation, or if it is a part of a broader system of care and supports and services, that is where the planning is headed to take that broader view of the issue because the Department of Health we realize that looking at long-term care in isolation, without looking at all the other connected issues, is problematic. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister mentioned of regional hubs needing facilities. In June of last year there was a motion to delete planning dollars for what was called then phase 2 of a long-term care in Cambridge Bay and then subsequently here in Iqaluit. With that deletion it has delayed the planning for at least a year. There would have been money brought forward in this budget would have had about a year impact. Now we are looking a minimum of a two-year impact, if not longer, as these plans progress. As it has been clearly stated in the House, there should not be any plans come forward without a long-term seniors strategy, not a long-term care strategy, but a seniors strategy, which as the minister mentioned encompasses a number for different departments and programs and services that are available to our seniors.

I guess my question there is, is with this lost time and as he is now looking at developing partnerships and looking at other opportunities to progress these facilities, why is not the planning being

done now? Who owns and operates it, at the end of the day, is irrelevant at this point. To get the facilities planning started sooner rather than later to me is irresponsible not to move forward now. It sounds like a comment, but I would like a comment back from the minister, please.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My comment to the comment is that long-term care is a very important service for Nunavummiut, it is also very expensive.

You look at the Rankin Inlet facility, details are in front of the members, it is a much-needed facility, it is also very capital intensive and the member mentioned partners, I think that is one of the big reasons to look for partners, in a general sense, is when you realize that you could benefit from some help from some support and the need to partners, or the potential for partners whether they are at the community level, or the regional level, or the territorial level is, I think, important to the future and the sustainability of whatever is put in place.

With regard to deletions that occurred in the previous Assembly, I am not prepared to comment on that at this time. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next person on the list: Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and colleagues. On your opening comments on page 3, Health is requesting an appropriation in fiscal year 2022-23 part

of Nunavut's contribution to the project to complete the detailed design for the facility; that is regarding the Nunavut Recovery Centre, sorry.

Over the years we are looking at some Government of Nunavut buildings, in my personal opinion some of the designing is a little too... .  
(interpretation) It really adds to the costs of these and when we make this approach, it does not really progress us.

(interpretation ends) I am wondering is there a cap or something so that it is kept very simple so that we can minimize the cost because a lot of these big projects the government keeps asking for more money and I am hoping that this government will keep an eye on something like that. Is that being discussed or thought of maybe? First question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the member for posing his question.

(interpretation ends) The focus of the design at this point is making sure that, as I understand it from where I sit, is to make sure that the design will meet the program which has been established. There is basically a programing plan that has been done which would outline what types of services and activities that would be happening in the building and now the detailed design is to understand how that would be delivered.

In terms of *mairaarjuk* design issues, I share the member's concern that yes, we absolutely do need to prioritize our spending and make sure that we are not

designing things in a lavish manner. At the same time, if this is an addictions and trauma treatment centre, we do not want to send people to a rectangular box with no windows and they go in there and get your treatment or the services.

I take note the member's comment and we are currently I believe on track to stay within the project budget which is \$64.3 million, but we will keep in mind the concerns as we do the design work. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for understanding my concerns. During the Fifth Assembly, the minister of the day indicated that new health centre projects were being considered for the communities of Qikiqtarjuaq, Baker Lake and Kugluktuk, but none of these projects appear on the department's five year capital plan. What is the current status of these projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently those plans are waiting for funding support and so that's where they currently sit. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Is there a timeline of when you should be getting a response back if the supports will be provided or not? Well, not this fiscal year because it's almost up, but it will be in the next fiscal year because I don't see

it in the five-year capital plan at all.  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Right now currently the earliest that those projects could enter or receive funding support would be 2023-24, but if you will allow, Mr. Chairman, I would like to let Mr. Babstock give a bit more explanation around the planning process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Babstock.

**Mr. Babstock:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The two planning projects that we have put forward include the replacement of the Baker Lake Community Health Centre as well as the Iqaluit health complex. We have also put forward two additional planning priorities, which include the Kugluktuk Community Health Centre replacement as well as a project to expand the Arviat Community Health Centre. That represents the maximum that we could put forward in any one given year based on how we work through the capital planning cycle with our colleagues at Finance and Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next person on my list: Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, minister and your officials. My first question is: how many elders are waiting for beds at the elders facilities? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. This is borderline O&M, but I'll let it go through because it goes to the future of the needs of Nunavummiut beds, which is tied to capital. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently I have the list of the current residents in our facilities in Nunavut. If you will give me a second, Mr. Chairman, we will just pull out the waiting list.

Okay. (interpretation) I'm sorry, but we don't have the numbers in front of us. We will get back to you. (interpretation ends) I will get back to the member or to you, Mr. Chairman, if that would be more appropriate with the current number. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I'll be expecting that number. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every community in Nunavut is waiting for an elders centre. Why don't we include that in the planning phase? It looks like we're just focusing on the regional hubs. Do you have any plans to include the outlying communities? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Right now we haven't brought a project like that into the planning process, but the Department of Health does recognize that there is a big interest in this area and in these services. Earlier I had mentioned partners in this area in terms



of who we can work with, whether it's at the local level, regional level, or territorial level. I appreciate the member's question and the comment, but we currently don't have any plans for a project along those lines. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I indicated and it was touched upon by George Hickes that there are no long-term plans for Nunavut. We don't have a long-term plan. There are an increasing number of elders who will have to utilize those facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the need for long-term plans to guide development in this area is, I think, well known at this point and so I thank the member for that question. That longer term view needs to be taken of an issue that is this important where we can't be thinking four years at a time; it has to be a longer term vision for the services and facilities in Nunavut.

In terms of where we are with our mandate set to be released towards the end of this sitting, I'm hopeful that that longer term view will be established during the life of this Assembly, and I look to the members of this committee in terms of a plan. I plan to look to the members of this committee in terms of the input, the ideas, and the direction that they would like to see as we take a longer term view to long-term care and

seniors' care in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Next on the list: Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very good afternoon to everybody from Health.

Just going back to the questions about various equipment that is essential to health care, a number of Nunavut residents are required to travel outside of the territory to receive dialysis treatment. I know this has come up a number of times over the years and I'm wondering what consideration has been given to purchasing dialysis equipment for use within the territory.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Currently on the issue of dialysis, the department is undertaking a review of the services that are provided and that review will inform future direction in terms of the capital side as well as the services side. It's an area that is of interest and it's currently being reviewed where it's a feasibility study regarding dialysis. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the elders facility being built, the Rankin Inlet Long-term Care Facility, we know that there have been a number of severe COVID outbreaks and we know that from the interventions this afternoon that Embassy West did a really great job at staving off COVID for a long time.

I'm wondering: what specific design features of the long-term care facility in Rankin Inlet will focus on preventing the spread of such infectious diseases as COVID-19 amongst its elder resident population and, of course, amongst the employees and family who visit? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you, I would like Mr. Babstock to respond to the question. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Babstock.

**Mr. Babstock:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. With regard to the design elements that have been modified in relation to COVID-19, there has been a renewed focus put on things like antimicrobial surfaces, on air exchange, and in making certain that people have the appropriate space with which to congregate appropriately, all with an understanding towards prevention of communicable diseases, not only COVID but others as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you. Just on the subject of design and which I'm sure the Chair will steer me away if this is not an appropriate question for this conversation, when we consider design modifications for new health centre projects that may include the addition of morgues, safe rooms for mental health patients, isolation rooms for individuals with such communicable diseases as TB,

or long-term beds, how does the Department of Health determine which modifications, if any, will be included in the design of any new health centres or facilities that are to be built?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question; it's a good one. In terms of what elements are included in a health centre that's being built, it's continually evolving. The most recent facilities opened here in Nunavut were Kinngait and Sanikiluaq. Sanikiluaq, for example, has a calming room to be used in terms of mental health clients who are in crisis, which provides a much nicer setting compared to a cell at the RCMP detachment.

Generally speaking, there is also inclusion of staff-related facilities, things like a workout area and a lounge for our staff. We're focused on trying to retain more of our health professionals and health staff in Nunavut. We're trying to meet their needs as well as the needs of our clients. There are things like that as well, but generally speaking, if we look at the size of the community, it plays a role in determining what's needed in the facility, as well as best practices, comparing it with the most recent similar facilities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you for that response. I have been thinking a lot about how people interact with our facilities and just with my experience with specifically how medical travel clients interact with not just the facilities

that we own but the facilities that we contract out, and with our new health centres coming up, the new long-term care centres, modifications to older health centres, what I wonder about is how trauma-informed are those designs. Do those designs include unobtrusive suicide prevention handles and doors and things like that?

The minister did mention a little bit about making a building nice and welcoming. Do we ensure that we think about creating really safe spaces? I know, for example, a number of people over the years have commented about the paintings that are on the side of the QGH that are really potentially harmful for people who have mental health issues because of the design of those paintings. That to me is not trauma-informed design. My question, I guess I'll repeat it, is: are we trauma-informed in all of our designs as well as our renovations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. We certainly strive to be trauma-informed in terms of our approach. If you look at a new facility like the one in Sanikiluaq or Kinngait, for example, there are anti-ligature considerations that are put in place in terms of the fixtures in the facility. There is an emphasis on making the facilities open-feeling and airy. I mentioned the mental health calming rooms which are, I believe, now a standard part of any new facility. There is also a need for security, which is being built into the design of our new facilities.

I believe that we are trying to take things like trauma into consideration when we're designing, but at the same time we do also welcome feedback from community members, whether they're elected officials on the hamlet council who might engage with our design folks before a facility is built or after the fact, if there are changes required, things that would make a facility nicer looking or more welcoming or more appropriate. Basically if there are things that would allow us to provide better care and be more welcoming to our clients, then we're always open to those types of suggestions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister Main, for that response. Just really simply, will the Government of Nunavut run and operate the Nunavut Recovery Centre or will it be run by a non-government entity? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm allowed not to answer that because that's an O&M question. I'm just kidding.

>> *Laughter*

I have too many years sitting, asking the questions.

It's a really good question in terms of the Nunavut Recovery Centre. Currently who will run the facility is yet to be decided. There are a couple of models

that are under consideration in terms of what the best fit would be.

It's a really exciting facility, badly needed services, but how best to set it up for success, we're currently working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on specifically that issue in trying to examine the pros and cons of different approaches, whether it would be a non-profit running the facility or whether it would be straight government-owned just like every other health service or whether something else could be looked at in terms of a public agency.

Those are discussions that are ongoing between us and Nunavut Tunngavik, who are of course our valued partners on this project. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you for that. We know that since about 2018, the Government of Canada has provided additional funding to Nunavut for home and community care. Earlier a handful of people have asked how many elders are waiting and about long-term planning. I guess this is a two-part question because if memory serves me correct, it has been said here, as I used to have to pay attention for work, that there was need for approximately 156 beds by 2035. I feel like that's a really good answer to start with, right, in terms of long-term planning. We have that knowledge. I'm just wondering what steps your department has taken to seek additional federal support for building long-term care homes for elders in Nunavut with that knowledge. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you will allow, I have the number now currently that Member Malliki was asking about earlier, so the waiting list currently is at 22 people and that's the waiting list for entrance into an elders' home or a continuing care centre. When space becomes available, the individual is assessed to see what level of care they require and if the facility or bed available is a good fit. That's where the number currently sits.

The member's question was about the need for long-term care facilities and if we have approached the federal government for funding support. Currently we have not, but that being said, we recognize that this is an incredibly expensive area to build facilities in, not to mention the operations side of things.

The dialogue between our federal partners, Minister Duclos, as well as Minister Bennett, as well as the other federal ministers who support health operations, the dialogue is always ongoing. Lately our dialogue has been heavily focused on COVID. I can't leave out a discussion without mentioning COVID, so we have been very focused on COVID, but I'm hoping that we will be moving through that and any opportunity that we do have to highlight our infrastructure gap in Nunavut, we will jump right on it and approach our federal partners for support, particularly on the long-term care file. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the communities for Qikiqtarjuaq, I was kind of shocked to see the capital plan. There is nothing for 2022-23. There is nothing at all. I was shocked to see that. We thought for sure that this was going to proceed. I am glad that you have been able to explain to me and for me to better understand when the explanation is given that this will proceed. I expect that now to proceed forward.

I want to ask a question on page 4 with small capital, \$250,000 or less. Where is that? I couldn't find where that relates to. What does that entail? Is this a grant program or how does this work? I would like clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. For smaller items, for example, vehicles and equipment used in the hospital... I don't know the Inuktitut terms for some of these items. (interpretation ends) Some of the equipment that this would go towards are things like anaesthesia machines, mobile stretchers, different mattresses, so small pieces of equipment that are needed in the health centres or health facilities in Nunavut, as well as our vehicles.

It's an internal process within the department where we prioritize where the money will go every given year. The listing that you have here in your substantiation sheet, this is the list for the current year in terms of what we have planned. There are a number of

vehicles and a number of different pieces of equipment going into different communities. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you. I ask mainly because when you look where communities require and the planning process that I wanted to mention where you require 24-hour service, where people are dying that need service, where it might require financial support that would support in communities in their home, as there is no room in the health centre, perhaps when they are dying in their last days that it would be nice to see something like this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. That's an O&M but I'll leave it at the discretion of the minister if the minister wants to reply. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for bringing that up. The home and community care workers help people with palliative care, people who are not going to recover, and I have noticed myself that they are very compassionate workers. They work closely with the relatives, the family, and in the small capital funding, every year it's always \$1.5 million. Even though there are a lot of repairs that need to be done, it's never enough money, and we have to make absolute priorities of the things that we need to really have done. Whatever can't be done this year is moved on to be done the following year.

I hope that everyone understands what I was saying. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll make this my last comment. Communities that are going to be getting health centres is where we are at. When it's in the planning stage, they are in the planning stages. Now they need to have rooms that are for elders, palliative care rooms, and they need room for mental health work as well. I will be really interested to see the design of the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre. That's just a comment. The ones that will go first, we have to make sure that they have proper rooms and spaces for the things I was talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): That is a general comment. (interpretation ends) Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of long-term care for elders is an important one. Would it be possible to prevent some elders from going into long-term care? Can the health department recognize the importance of elders' care before we get them into long-term care? Can the wait-time be a lot shorter than... ?

Just yesterday I was informed that an elder had to wait four months for surgery and to get the care out of the territory. Would it be possible for the department to prevent elders from going into long-term care and to prevent elders going into the care homes? Can the department make it a priority for elders to get the possible care when they need it at the

very moment, not wait four months, not wait six months, to prevent more elders from going into long-term care? Please, if possible, give them the best possible care when they ask for it, like the very moment in this time, like they need the care. They cannot wait four months.

To prevent from elders' care going into homes, please give them the possible care if possible. It's rather just a comment. I hope you guys can take note and make it possible to give them the best care they need if possible in this time and age to prevent them from going into long-term care homes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's rather just a comment and I hope you guys can take note. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. I just want to remind members that we are dealing with a capital bill here; those comments were O&M. Just to remind members that we are here to deal with the bill. We will have our chances to deal with the O&M budget when it comes or those kinds of questions can come in the House during question period, but we are here to deal with capital bills right now.

Next on my list: Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fine, I'll stick to the capital estimates as possible as I can.

>> *Laughter*

Good evening, minister and your officials. When it comes to these capital infrastructures, for instance, a new health centre or to expand a health centre, an addition added to the health, old previous... . How are these determined? When it comes to planning

stages, is the Department of Health working with the Department of Community and Government Services when it comes to planning and designing?

On page 3 of your opening statement, there is a proposed expansion to the Arviat Community Health Centre. I guess my question would be: how are these determined? How are these ranked when it comes to these capital estimates for projects that need to be worked on? To start off with my question, how are these determined? Are they ranked by their numbers? Who makes the final decision? Is it the CGS or the Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, member. (interpretation ends) The department does work with CGS in terms of looking at things like building condition ratings. We do work with them as they are the experts when it comes to government infrastructure.

In terms of the list or the priority ranking, we look at the building condition, the building age, the growth of the community, and then the need for the services. I guess there are a number of factors that can be considered. In terms of the projects that we propose for planning, two of them were health centre replacements and two of them were not.

You can see the department is trying to balance a lot of different needs. We have a very clear need to keep building new health centres. Qikiqtarjuaq is an

example, Baker Lake is also an example, but then we also have demand for other types of facilities. In the case of Arviat, which the member mentioned, it's largely driven by population growth. The facility in that community is undersized for the size of the community and it has been identified by the department. Before I was minister by the way, it has been identified by the department that there is need for increased service delivery space in that community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister for the answer that you provided. I guess Community and Government Services plans on it population-wise and the Department of Health plans on the facility part, but either way.

For the Amittuq that I represent, what rank are they in? The other community I represent is Igloolik and they have a new hospital, and the Sanirajak hospital is getting old. What rank are they at, at this time? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Based on the most recent ranking, Sanirajak is currently ranked tenth out of the health centres either needing replacement or expansion, so about middle of the pack or a little bit closer to the top than the middle. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thanks for that answer. You provided an answer for Sanirajak, but I guess Igloolik has a new health centre; I guess they are pretty much on last, which is kind of unfortunate.

Now, since you mentioned that they're in the tenth for Sanirajak for at least maybe an expansion or addition and there was not a lot of capital projects for this year and next year, so any planning stages that they will be getting some expansion too? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of Sanirajak, no, there is no plan currently to work on that or to bring it into the planning envelope.

With that being said, it is important for the department to listen to the community leadership. If it's a priority of the community and it's something the community wants to see happen, then I would encourage them to be vocal about that because we are here to respond to the needs and the wants of Nunavummiut. Are there issues with that facility that can be dealt with aside from a replacement? Are there specific issues with the facility that are impacting the care that our clients are receiving? If there are, then the department is always open to listening and trying to respond to the concerns brought forward by the community.

In terms of Igloolik, as the member mentioned, I'm sorry I didn't respond to that earlier. Igloolik is currently ranked 18th with the ranking of health centres. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for providing the ranking part.

Now, moving on with my other question, the minister is very aware that mental health is growing in each community throughout the territory, and it's a concern brought up by Nunavut people and there is no such facility to send them out. What is the Department of Health's long-term plan in establishing a mental health facility, let's say, for Amittuq? Since there are no capital projects that would happen for this year or next fiscal year, would the department be willing to prioritize... ? Like the Member for Aivilik has mentioned, these smaller communities need to benefit from the capital projects that are badly needed.

Now, in saying that, how will this be prioritized or ranked when it comes to the mental health facilities, let's say, one in my region of Amittuq, but it needs to be territorial-wide? How would the Department of Health be planning to establish such a facility so that the patients for mental health can be provided services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I believe the question was regarding mental health services and the capital side of the mental health service issue. Right now we're focused on the Nunavut Recovery Centre, which is to be built and brought online here in Iqaluit, but it is a territorial facility and so it will offer services to residents of any part of



Nunavut. There will be a residential component to that.

In terms of the push for more facilities around mental health at the community level, I agree with the member. It is really important to see those services provided at the community level and that's part of the reason why I am so supportive or interested in seeing new health centres built because an older health centre may not have the proper space to offer the sensitive, detailed work as part of counselling or mental health appointments. You just compare an older health centre to a newer one and the difference is amazing. The newer facilities are much more welcoming, they're much more safe, secure, they provide more privacy, which is important around mental health.

In terms of communities that are lower on the list for new health centres around mental health, the best hope for the short term would be to look at developing...it could be an unused house, it could be an unused building in the community to create more space for the mental health service delivery. We are focused on the service side of things right now and trying to expand our service offering all across Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your long answer, minister. As you had mentioned with this Nunavut Recovery Centre, if a facility was built in my region, there wouldn't be any more land lease problems.

In saying that, I would like to touch base on this Nunavut Recovery Centre. On the pages in the substantiation sheets with the Nunavut Recovery Centre located here in the capital, it says here that the Department of Health and the City of Iqaluit are having a problem with their land. How far are the department and the City of Iqaluit in the development of this land? How are they [along] now? Are they into one agreement now or are they still planning with this land lease problem due to contamination or whatnot? Speaking of land and speaking of the Nunavut Recovery Centre, how are planning stages coming along? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Babstock can elaborate on that through you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Babstock.

**Mr. Babstock**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Our discussions with the City of Iqaluit had to do with the development of access to the lot. We continue to work with the city on it and they have been very fruitful discussions, and we don't anticipate there being an issue in getting them resolved and maintaining our schedule to open the facility on schedule and on time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the sheets here again on page 4 of 7, with the land

acquisition and servicing, it would cost \$6.91 million. If the city decides to increase that amount, is the department willing to change their planning and design and construction projects if the land is being disputed? Would the Department of Health come back to the standing committee and request for more additional dollars in terms of this \$6.91 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In that scenario, we would return with additional appropriations for consideration by the Assembly, but currently we don't have any indication that that will happen. As Mr. Babstock mentioned with regard to the land, the lot, and securing that, things are moving along nicely at this point. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that clarification. (interpretation ends) Saying that the Member for Baker Lake had an issue with the designing part with the Nunavut Recovery Centre in the amount of \$3,975,000, the land acquisition, this comes to a total amount of just over \$10 million. I have said before with the expansion with the Igloolik Health Centre and Sanirajak Health Centre, this would have greatly benefited my region when it comes to these capital projects.

Now, in saying that, let me move on to the next question that I would like to raise in regard to these continuing care

centres. As the minister knows, Igloolik is one of those communities that have a facility with a continuing care centre. What is the occupancy level at this time around, if there's any number for Igloolik and, if there's one, is there also any waiting time that can also be mentioned in the minister's answer? I believe that would be my last question for tonight. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. That is an O&M question. I'll leave it at the discretion of the minister if the minister wants to or not. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The continuing care centre in Igloolik has ten beds. (interpretation ends) The continuing care centre in Igloolik has a ten-bed capacity. Currently there are nine residents there. There is one bed that's held for respite purposes. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. If I can just remind members again, there will be time for O&M questions. If the O&M question is tied directly or very closely to the capital questions, it would be allowed, but just remember that we're dealing with the capital budget for Health right now. My next name on the list: Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What is the current status of the long-term facility project in Rankin Inlet and when will this project be completed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently the project is in the construction phase, so some of the materials are being or have been mobilized to the site. In terms of the timeline, the milestone for substantial completion is fall 2023 and ideally that would see, after a few months, to outfit the facility that would see it come on stream in the winter of 2024. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Why is the amount of funding now being requested for work on the Rankin Inlet Long-term Care Facility project in 2022-23 less than the amount that was approved in the interim appropriation which was passed last June? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My understanding is that it's primarily an issue of cash flow in terms of the total amount to be appropriated for the project has not changed; it's just a question of when the various payments would be due. That would explain the difference around which the member was asking. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He was asked earlier how many elders are now on the waiting

list in Nunavut. He said that there are 22 elders. The facility in Rankin Inlet is slated to be completed in the winter of 2024. (interpretation ends) Maybe you will need to do another planning for expansion. There will be only three beds after the waiting list moves into Rankin Inlet after it's completed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I think I heard a question in there. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, the facility is being built to house 24 residents and it will be built in two homes of 12 beds each.

Currently the best practice is to focus on smaller, home-like environments for the residents. Long-term care is moving away from larger, dormitory type settings to more home-like or smaller settings. They have been proven to be better for the residents and actually better for the staff who work in those facilities. That's kind of the best practice.

The Rankin Inlet facility does have, I believe, space and room to expand if that would be needed in the future, but there are currently no plans for that at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This will be just a comment. If there is still a dispute between your department and the City of Iqaluit, I'm sure that the settlement of Chesterfield Inlet would be willing to take the project there.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. That was just a comment. I'll go on to my next name: Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's past our dinnertime, I would say. I'll say "good evening," Mr. Main, Ms. Ingebrigtsen, and Mr. Babstock.

My first question under Nunavut Long-term Care Facility proposed in Rankin Inlet: to what level will the new facility provide? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) The current plan is that the facility would be able to support up to level 4 care, but given that we are focused on the capital, there is no physical difference between a level 4 facility and a level 5 facility in terms of the building itself. There might be some additional equipment needs around level 5 care, but it's primarily a distinction around the services available.

That facility would support dementia clients and the desire would be to see them age in place, which means that if clients move to a higher level of care, there would be emphasis on not moving them from facility to facility because that has been shown to be detrimental to health outcomes. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answer, Mr. Main. I'm going on to ongoing lifecycle. With the recent opening of new health centres in Sanikiluaq and Kinngait, how are the old health centres in those communities being repurposed? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not relevant to the bill, but I'll leave it at the discretion if the minister wants to comment on the disposal of health centres that are being replaced. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The old health centres can be quite important on their own, especially when you look at the lack of infrastructure in many communities, such as office space. I'll let Mr. Babstock elaborate on what the process is for repurposing old facilities, if you will allow. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Babstock.

**Mr. Babstock:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again thank you for the question. With respect to the two specific health centres that you made mention, in Sanikiluaq we are working with the Department of Community and Government Services to administer that building to make it available for use for other Government of Nunavut departments as well as other entities such as the hamlet to use that space. We're sharing that responsibility because we're maintaining ownership of the apartments on the second floor of that building, which is absolutely essential for our operational needs in the community.

With regard to Kinngait, we haven't done anything yet to use that building for anything with CGS. It's definitely part of the work that needs to be done. A building assessment needs to be completed as it is a rather old building to determine an appropriate use for it within the community.

With regard to surplus, there is a surplus policy that the GN employs that we would follow with which we would declare a facility surplus. It would then be offered to other GN entities first and then if no takers are found within the GN, it would then be offered to community organizations such as hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would just like to remind members again that we're here to do with the capital. If you have a question, there are four topics there: the Nunavut Recovery Centre, the Nunavut Long-term Care Facility phase 1, ongoing lifecycle, and small capital projects, and if you can connect it to there, but if we can stick to what we're supposed to be debating here. Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a connection to my last question, the Nunavut Recovery Centre. The federal government's department of Indigenous Services Canada committed to providing a maximum contribution of \$42 million over five years towards the Nunavut Recovery Centre project. Nunavut Tunngavik committed to a one-time \$5 million contribution. How much of this funding has been contributed to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you for asking about funding. (interpretation ends) We have signed agreements in place for the federal portion of the funding and so yes, for the upcoming fiscal year, it would be \$1.33 million from the federal government. In terms of the funding from Nunavut Tunngavik, at one point that funding was going to be for supporting the capital side of the project. That has shifted and it's now intended that that will go towards the O&M side of operating the Nunavut Recovery Centre.

We really appreciate the contribution and the funding support from both of those partners. It's quite a unique project, exciting project in that the government is getting so much funding support to see this happen.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qavvik. No, he's done. Okay. Last person on the list: Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for those good responses, Minister Main. I have a question on the (interpretation ends) recovery centre, (interpretation) which is going to be located here in Iqaluit. Once this facility in Iqaluit is completed, I would like to ask if the smaller communities would receive such facilities. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have no plans for building in the other communities, but we will be expanding the programs

within Nunavut, for example, on-the-land programming. In the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Baffin, we do have plans for the regional centres. Whether a community is small or large, we have future plans, even though we don't provide the infrastructure portion of it, but we will have staff available.

(interpretation ends) In terms of the mental health file, we're focused on the service provision, which is highly dependent on staffing. If we talk about the paraprofessional project, the key issues we're facing around paraprofessionals are the lack of office space and the lack of staff housing. Those are positions that we would like to see filled and we would like to see more of across the territory, but in terms of capital, those are the building blocks for the paraprofessional area, as an example. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The smaller communities should be receiving those types of facilities because there are qualified workers in the communities that can provide the services. They are not considered enough when communities will be receiving major infrastructure. We were talking about the old health centres that can be repurposed, such as the one in Nauyasat, to provide other services when the new one is built. It could help to provide the programs and services and the infrastructure in the smaller communities. I don't want the smaller communities to be forgotten. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question; I believe it's just a comment. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. I would like to thank the minister and his officials. Minister Main, do you... ? I'm sorry. Do the members agree that we have questions? We have to say the amount too. Sorry. Do members agree on \$26,040,000? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree that we have concluded the review of the Department of Health?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Now I'll go there. I would like to thank Minister Main and his officials. Do you have any brief closing comments, Minister Main?

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee members for asking good questions and your comments regarding elder care and mental health. Those are two large issues and I thank you for asking questions on them.

I would like to thank my officials, (interpretation ends) Ms. Ingebrigtsen, whose name nobody can pronounce properly today, and Mr. Babstock. (interpretation) I thank them for keeping me standing. I'll stay standing only with some assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** I thank the members for being patient with me at times because I'm just learning my new role here 'til

now. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you please escort the officials from the witness table.

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Hickes.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you. The member has reported progress. It's not debatable. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** I will stand up to report progress...rise.

**Speaker:** 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? Mr. Hickes. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

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

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

#### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Regular Members' Caucus meets at nine o'clock tomorrow morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for March 15:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 1
- Bill 2
- Bill 3

20. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker:** This House stands adjourned  
until Tuesday, March 15, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:46*



## **Appendix – March 14, 2022**



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**Nunavut Maligaliurvia**  
**Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**  
**Assemblée législative du Nunavut**

## **Return to Oral Question**

**Asked by:** MLA Joe Savikataaq

**Asked of:** Hon. Pamela Hakongak Gross

**Number:** 23-6 (1)

**Date:** March 8, 2022

**Subject:** School Attendance

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer I gave during question period on March 8, 2022. The Member for Arviat South requested information on student attendance during the COVID-19 pandemic, and what the Department of Education is doing to increase and encourage attendance.

I would like to clarify that when I said some schools are now at 100% attendance, I meant that they are open to students at 100% capacity, as COVID-19 restrictions have eased.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated on March 8<sup>th</sup>, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, attendance has been low, and these rates have been even lower since schools reopened in January.

To provide an accurate comparison, I want to share with you the rates not just from the last two years, but from the years before the pandemic. In 2017-18, the average attendance across the territory was 66.3%, in 2018-19, average attendance was 64%.

In 2019-2020, the year the pandemic started, the rate was 76.5%, however this number was skewed due to the school closures, and is likely higher than the reality. Most recently, in the last school year, 2020-21, the attendance rate was 57%.

As is clear by these numbers, in some communities, we have always struggled with attendance rates, and this has been impacted even more by the pandemic.

In Nunavut schools last week, attendance rates by region were 19% in the Kitikmeot, 32.5% in the Kivalliq, and 35% in the Qikiqtani. Since January 24<sup>th</sup>, the average regional rates of attendance have ranged between 13% to 36%.

We understand that some families may be afraid to send their children to school. While we can never eliminate all the risks, we are doing everything we can to protect the health and safety of students and staff, and we are seeing our health and safety procedures being implemented successfully.

Attendance is a joint effort between the department, District Education Authorities, schools, students, and families. To support DEAs and communities in encouraging attendance, the department developed a *Registration and Attendance Toolkit* for DEAs. The toolkit includes a section that specifically discusses attendance strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic. The toolkit is being translated, and will be distributed shortly.

Other aspects of the toolkit include a communications tool with sample communications materials to engage parents, an attendance improvement tool, and a Registration and Attendance Policy development and implementation tool.

In December 2021, our department also developed a set of posters and flyers for students and families explaining the COVID-19 safety measures in place, to encourage attendance. Schools have posted these on their social media pages and sent them home with students.

I urge all students to go to school, and I ask families to encourage their kids to attend. If they are struggling, families can connect with their teachers and principals. The learning and social engagement that happens in the school environment is so important to the health and well-being of our children.