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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Tony Akoak, MLA

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Gjoa Haven)

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(Quttiktuq)

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Minister responsible for Labour*

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

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Indigenous Affairs; Minister responsible for the
Utility Rates Review Council*

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(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)

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Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic
College*

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of the Whole*

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(South Baffin)

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Services*

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

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

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

Hon. John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
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(Pangnirtung)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 15, 2022**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaernerck, 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 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>> *Prayer*

Speaker: Hello, Inuit. (interpretation) Welcome, colleagues and Inuit who are following the proceedings.

(interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister, Government House Leader, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 039 – 6(1):
Minister Absent from the House**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to advise members that the Hon. P.J. Akeeagok will be absent from the House until March 23 due to

COVID-19 exposure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Minister's Statement 040 – 6(1):
Iqaluit Elders' Home Reopened**

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues. Premier, you are in our thoughts.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to share that at the beginning of February the Iqaluit Elders' Home reopened to residents after undergoing much-needed renovations.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, the facility was closed last year after a COVID-19 outbreak among staff working at the home the residents were relocated to other facilities.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased Health is working with the Pimaksirvik Corporation as the new operator of the Iqaluit Elders' Home. This Inuit-owned company has a strong reputation and track record for managing health facilities in Nunavut. I am confident that the elders living at the home are in good hands.

Uqaqtitsijii, in addition to a new operator, the renovations at the Iqaluit Elders' Home will help to improve the living environment and enhance the quality of life for all residents. They include an updated kitchen and expanded common area, as well as a fresh coat of paint throughout the facility among other improvements such as a new boiler system.

Uqaqtitsijii, as of the second week of March, the seven beds in the facility are scheduled to be filled. Some of the elders who moved out of the home in 2021 have returned, and others are new residents into the Iqaluit facility. Meeting elders' needs closer to home is an important goal for the Department of Health, but we are currently unable to meet higher level needs in territory. We recognize this gap, and to that end, we are committed to continue working toward expanding the options for in-territory care for our elders.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 041 – 6(1): Pre-Health Programs

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Learning is a lifelong endeavor, and Nunavut Arctic College is privileged to work with students who act on this commitment. The college also acts on this commitment by continuously strengthening its programs. The college's pre-health program is an example of this.

The Pre-Health Science Program was created to support students pursuing studies in the health profession. The program strengthens skills in science, math, and language arts. This program continues to grow since its inception. In 2020-21 the program was revised to ensure it includes lessons from Inuit culture and experience. Thank you to the team at Nunavut Arctic College who supported this work, including:

- Lew Phillips, Nunatta Campus' Elder in residence;
- Lizzie Aliqatuqtuq, Chair of Inuit Language and Culture Programs;
- Andrew Card and Tara Vanderveer, instructors of the Pre-Health Program.

Mr. Speaker, this training will complement where we are heading as territory in terms of providing care closer to home for our elders. Having trained Inuit and Nunavummiut in the communities is an important part of the continuing care system where elderly Nunavummiut received care in a safe, culturally appropriate setting without being transferred out of territory or being required to leave their community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize all students of this program, and particularly the students of the Rankin Inlet cohort, who banded together while online learning to support each other in the first delivery of this program in that community. Members, please join me in recognizing the students and staff of the pre-health program. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 042 – 6(1):
Microsoft Translator**

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

Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 2022 the Government of Nunavut Community and Government Services, Information Management/Information Technology, in collaboration with Culture and Heritage and Microsoft, launched the second release of the Microsoft Translator.

Mr. Speaker, this release is an important milestone in closing the language gap, preserving Inuktitut through technology and making the language accessible to everyone who has an Internet connection and a computer, phone, or tablet.

This release would not have been possible without the data provided by the Translation Bureau Division at Culture and Heritage from existing translated documents and from the Tusaalanga website. The quality of the translated output will improve over time as more people use it and give feedback. Since Microsoft Translator is an artificial intelligence tool, it will continue learning Inuktitut and allow for better quality translation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the addition of Inuktitut (Inuktitut – syllabics, roman orthography, and Inuinnaqtun) to Microsoft Translator will improve Nunavummiut's quality of life at work, at home, or when travelling by bridging the communication gap. Some examples include:

- Unilingual speakers travelling outside of the territory for leisure or health care appointments
- Bridging generational communication gaps
- Improving communication in the workplace

- Teaching and learning a new language
- Increasing tourism opportunities

Mr. Speaker, this project started as collaboration with Community and Government Services' Information Management/Information Technology, as well as Culture and Heritage's Translation Bureau Division, and Microsoft. We have worked with Government of Nunavut departments, community organizations such as Kitikmeot Heritage Society, multiple translators, and many Nunavummiut. This is a great example of collaboration across Nunavut and an initiative we should all be proud of.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this is just the beginning. Our project will continue to seek additional data to expand the capabilities of the tool to include speech to text, further reducing barriers and promoting the revitalization of the Inuit language.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has participated and supported this initiative. We look forward to continuing to work to promote and revitalize the Inuktitut language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister for Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kusugak.

Minister's Statement 043 – 6(1): R.V. Nuliajuk First Sailing under EDT

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Today I am providing updates on the Research Vessel Nuliajuk. The vessel is owned by the Government of Nunavut, and completed its first sail under the management of Department of Economic Development and Transportation in 2021.

Mr. Speaker, the R.V. Nuliajuk sailed into Nunavut in July 2021 and remained in the territory until October, completing various fisheries and marine-related research around Baffin Island, Foxe Basin and Southampton Island waters. The R.V. Nuliajuk is a critical piece of infrastructure that allows researchers to complete inshore fisheries and marine research that supports the sustainable growth of Nunavut's economy.

Mr. Speaker, one major research project completed on this vessel studied Pangiirtung's Greenland Halibut, often known as turbot. Fisheries and Oceans Canada used the R.V. Nuliajuk to collect stock assessment data. The information collected during this project is needed for managing fisheries sustainably and is crucial for the fisheries sector in Pangiirtung.

Using the R.V. Nuliajuk, we were also able to support the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation's Research Vessel Ludy Pudluk on its maiden voyage into Nunavut waters by sailing together and carrying additional fuel for the smaller ship.

Mr. Speaker, the work completed on the R.V. Nuliajuk is filling gaps in our

knowledge of our territory's fisheries and marine resources, which will ultimately support our government to make informed decisions for Nunavut's economic growth without sacrificing long-term sustainability. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 044 – 6(1): Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq 2022

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Good day, colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, during the month of February, Nunavummiut celebrate Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq, Nunavut's annual celebration of Inuktitut language.

This year's theme is 'Qaggiq,' a large iglu where Inuit gathered to celebrate brighter days.

Mr. Speaker, despite the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, Nunavummiut have shown their ability to come together to celebrate Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq. I would like to commend individuals, departments, Inuit organizations, and communities for celebrating our language.

This year my department worked collaboratively with other Government of Nunavut departments to coordinate activities to celebrate our language.

Some of the highlights of this year's celebrations included the enhancement of the Microsoft Translator tool to include Inuinnaqtun, a prize draw, distribution of Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq branded masks, bags, travel mugs, and flashcards.

Mr. Speaker, my department was fortunate to record interviews with the following elders from Igloolik regarding Qaggiq: Daniel Qattalik, Joanasie Kigutak, Julia Amagoalik, and Madeleine Ivalu. These elders shared their knowledge and clips of their interviews were posted on the Government of Nunavut's social media platforms and were also shared with CBC.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank CBC for all of their efforts to showcase and broadcast information related to Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq on radio and television.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Nunavummiut to promote and celebrate Inuktut every day and ask my colleagues to join me in thanking everyone in Nunavut for celebrating Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq in 2022. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 075 – 6(1): Successful Search and Rescue

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues, people of Amittuq, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my pride. Yesterday residents of Amittuq made an iglu. The Canadian Rangers went to Igloolik yesterday and there is a teacher, Shanshan, who went to visit Sanirajak with a white person travelling with them and that person was a part of the military. They got lost in a blizzard and people became very worried about them. It was a male and a female.

The two communities started searching during the blizzard and in Sanirajak, Joey Saqpina and Mr. Pikuyak... I can't remember their first name. It's a young person. They went searching from Hall Beach and they found them near the floe edge. They were lost near the floe edge. They were shivering and cold, but they were found, so they were saved from freezing. So I am very proud of the people who did that when they found someone who is in the military who was up there for training. They were able to find those people and save them.

The other one in Igloolik someone travelling from Igloolik to Sanirajak got lost too and the person was able to be found in good condition. So the abilities of the search and rescue groups of the two communities are very evident. They are quite able to do what they are supposed to do. They were able to save a bunch of people so I congratulate the search and rescue people in Hall Beach and Igloolik.

Please remember if you are going hunting or out of town, make sure you bring everything you need. That is a message to the young people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 076 – 6(1):
Recognizing Mike Ukuqtunnuaq**

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize and congratulate one of my constituents, Mike Ukuqtunnuaq of Taloyoak, on his recent retirement.

Mr. Speaker, Mike retired from the Taloyoak Housing Authority and the Hamlet of Taloyoak after over 37 years of service as a building maintainer.

Mr. Speaker, Mike was awarded a certificate of appreciation for his many years of continuous service on March 11, 2022. Mike's contributions to the community over the years are immeasurable. He can often be found in town with a warm and welcoming smile. I wish Mike a happy retirement and I know that he will enjoy spending his future free time at Netsilik Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Mike Ukuqtunnuaq on his retirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. I know the next member is all anxious to get up and speak for his constituents. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

**Member's Statement 077 – 6(1):
Recognition of Church Helpers**

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a group of people who help with burial services in Kugluktuk; Susie Evyagotailak, Mona Tiktalek, Mavis Adjun and Millie Kuliktana. I will speak in English.

(interpretation) I rise today to recognize a very important group of people from the community of Kugluktuk. The church in Kugluktuk was closed for some time due to a lack of funding for heat and electricity. The community was without a minister for an extended period. There was no one to conduct burial services for peoples' loved ones after they pass on.

Mr. Speaker, we are very fortunate that a group of ladies from the community stepped up and volunteered to help the people of Kugluktuk lay their loved ones to rest. I would like to recognize Susie Evyagotailak, Mona Tiktalek, Mavis Adjun and Millie Kuliktana for their efforts in the community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Kugluktuk I would like to thank these ladies very much. Kuglukturmiut are very blessed to have such caring community members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 078 – 6(1):
Congratulations to Daughter Who
is Graduating**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Today I would like to recognize my daughter. We have seven beautiful children but this child of mine who started choir 12 years ago, and is in her last year of the high school choir this year they produced a musical CD.

For Minnie Akeeagok who was too shy to even talk to me when she entered into choir, she is now in her final school year with all hopes high in terms of her throat singing. She is just finishing high school and she wants to pass this along to the younger generation. I am so proud of her and I want to dedicate my members' statement to her and thank her wonderful choir teachers, especially Dr. Mary Piercy Lewis who has done amazing work here in the high school.

I want to dedicate my members' statement to Minnie and her accomplishments, and now that her voice will be forever in the music world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 079 – 6(1):
Preserving the Inuinnaqtun
Language**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker, and good day to all those in *Ikaluktutiak* and across Nunavut and to our fellow colleagues here in the House.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to pay a special tribute to Iqaluktuutsiarmit who are passing on our language, Inuinnaqtun, and are sharing stories, songs, drum dancing, and speaking, particularly our elders, Mr. Speaker, who work tirelessly to share our language and culture with our younger generations and I want to thank them for their dedication.

Inuinnaqtun is sadly declining and it scares me that we are at this brink in time and I thank our fellow colleagues for their work and the departments that have supported our programs in our communities, not just Cambridge Bay but Kugluktuk and Gjoa Haven and across our territory, to ensure our language thrives.

I am getting emotional because there are less than 600 fluent speakers of Inuinnaqtun and I don't want to see, along with everyone else, our language erode or disappear. I just want to say a special thank you, to those teachers, our elders, those students who are learning and community members who are really stepping up and wanting to participate and learn. Thank you to everyone who is involved in the programming and those that are learning and teaching. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: I have no more names for members' statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral questions. Hon. Minister for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 032 – 6(1):
Chesterfield Inlet Power Plant**

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer I gave during question period on March 9, 2022. The member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, requested information on whether Qulliq Energy Corporation had received federal funding for the construction of the new power plant in Chesterfield Inlet through the Arctic Energy Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify that Qulliq Energy Corporation is currently working on the final land selection for the new power plant with the Chesterfield Inlet community and related stakeholders. It intends to submit a funding application to the federal Arctic Energy Fund program for the Chesterfield Inlet power plant in the summer of 2022. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 5. As we are closed to the public, there is no recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Question 075 – 6(1): Vacant Staff
Housing**

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Arviat. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions will be to the human resources minister.

We know that staff housing is vital for government operations and I would like to ask the minister; how many vacant staff housing units are allocated to active current positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Human resources minister.

Speaker: Hon. Minister for Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone. My apologizes.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. He is correct that staff housing is absolutely vital to assisting with the recruitment process.

There are currently 165 staff housing units which are available and move-in ready, a majority of which have been assigned to jobs which are in the competitive process. Unfortunately I do not have that exact number of how many of those available staff housing units are currently allocated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that at times it takes a while to fill an advertised position.

If the Department of Human Resources is unable to make significant [progress] in filling vacant positions, will the minister commit to offering the current GN employees a unit to help for

retaining staff or for staff that are in substandard housing so that this will be a retention tool? Will the minister commit to that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member again for another excellent question. Since the creation of the new Staff Housing Policy and HR taking the lead role as to chair the allocation committee, the GN has allocated 793 staff housing requests to new competitions. In addition to that, in an effort to increase retention rates, the staff housing allocation committee has also approved 231 staff housing units to existing employees on the wait list. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response and hopefully there will be even more positive results once the review is done by the minister's staff on the Staff Housing Policy.

My final question is: The new allocation model is in such a way that the committee is made up of mostly ADM-level staff. How often do they meet and how many allocation meetings have been cancelled or postponed since November? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Staff Housing

Allocation Committee meets every two weeks, and the member is correct that it is a committee that consists of ADMs from each of the Government of Nunavut's departments and agencies that participate in staff housing.

I'm not aware of how many of these bi-weekly Staff Housing Allocation Committee meetings have been delayed or postponed since November, but I will look into that and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 076 – 6(1): Fuel Prices

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon to my colleagues, the people of Nunavut, and Naujaat.

(interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they concern the price of fuel.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, his department announced price increases in diesel, gas and jet fuel back in early February of this year. The department's announcement indicates that the increase reflects rising costs on the world crude oil market. These price increases were announced before Russia invaded the Ukraine which has caused the world oil price to skyrocket even further.

Can the minister indicate what additional fuel price increases may occur within the next three to six months? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. The member is correct in that oil prices are quite volatile in our world situation here and as of last week the US benchmark price for oil was trading at \$120 per barrel, which is an increase of 225 percent over the past 16 months.

As for what forward-looking price impacts that fuel might have in three to six months, at this time I can't specify if there are any further fuel price increases that we will be looking at.

However, we do know that the carbon tax on fuel is an annual occurrence as well that might be on the forecast as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) When I raised this issue last week the minister indicated that 71 percent of next year's fuel resupply has already been purchased. As the minister is aware, the most recent annual report of the Petroleum Products Division indicated that the division may "Choose to secure fuel prices early in the year, between the months of January and April.

This method is called Early Price Setting and is conducted either through futures contracts, or by taking physical delivery of the product and storing it in southern tankage in advance of resupply.

PPD can conduct early purchases subject to the availability of funding in the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund."

Mr. Speaker, it is now the middle of March. Can the minister clarify when the rest of next year's fuel will be purchased? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again for his question. The member is again correct that we have purchased the bulk of our fuel needs for the territory for the next fiscal year and we are keeping a very close eye on what the fuel prices are at and again, with the scheduled increase to fuel for April 1, which is the federal carbon tax, we are trying to mitigate any further price increases, but with the world market we have to deal with the consequences with that and we will have to look hard at our finances and what resources and to secure the remaining needs of our territory for next fiscal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for that response, minister. (interpretation ends) Information published by the Government of Nunavut indicates that "The Nunavut Carbon Rebate pays half the federal government's carbon tax on fuel like diesel and gasoline. Consumers in Nunavut pay the other half when they purchase the fuel.

Through the Nunavut Carbon Rebate, the GN reduces the direct cost of the federal carbon tax that Nunavummiut and their businesses pay at the point of purchase.

This is done in recognition that Nunavummiut do not have as many options to lower our use of fossil fuels as other Canadians.”

Can the Minister of Community and Government Services indicate what discussions he is having with the Minister of Finance concerning the possibility of increasing the amount of this year’s rebate to address the recent and significant increase in the world price of oil? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut is enjoying I think the lowest fuel prices if I’m not mistaken and I don’t know how long this will last given, again, the world market situation, but Mr. Speaker, I will take the member’s comments into consideration and bring forward and discuss this with the Minister of Finance around rebates and how we can support Nunavummiut given the fuel prices around the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 077 – 6(1): Status of Sanikiluaq Community Learning Centre

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic

College. My colleague from Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet recently asked when a new community learning centre for his constituency would be built.

I was pleased to hear the minister state that the community of Sanikiluaq is also being considered for a community learning centre.

Can the minister provide the timeframe for when Sanikiluaq will be getting a new community learning centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker and *quana* to our colleague for the question on community learning centres.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to clarify the comments I made yesterday on this topic. While the college does have an internal list of capital projects, it would like to see more along the Government of Nunavut capital process. So we want it to move along.

The college understands that its request must be considered alongside all Government of Nunavut capital requests. The college does not have its own dedicated capital funding and I apologize if my comments yesterday were misunderstood as a definite capital plan.

What I meant to say is that the college has identified projects for consideration in the GN capital process. The four communities I did identify; Chesterfield Inlet, Gjoa Haven, Nauyasat, and

Sanikiluaq are the ones that the college is introducing and would like to introduce into the capital process.

I hope that clarifies what I stated yesterday and I'm sorry for any confusion. *Quana* Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you minister, for the clarification. I would like to state that I did not produce the questions overnight. I had planned way before I came to this sitting.

Mr. Speaker the building currently being used as a community learning centre is very old. The documentation states that it was built in 1965, 57 years ago, way before my parents were born.

>> *Laughter*

I have been told that it was hauled to the community from Southcamp. I want to quickly show the members where Southcamp is on a map of Sanikiluaq Islands. Here is a beautiful map of the Sanikiluaq Islands. Sanikiluaq is right here and Southcamp is way down there, approximately 90 kilometres south of Sanikiluaq.

The windows do not open and it lacks ventilation.

Can the minister tell us what factors are taken into consideration when the college determines which new community learning centres will be built as a priority in the capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* once again to our fellow colleague for the question. Nunavut Arctic College uses the capital planner to assess any repairs, or any facilities that need improvements through substantiation sheet and that sheet is used by the capital planner, which is forwarded to Community and Government Services.

This indicates CGS's own capital process, which then includes the designation of a project manager, hiring of a consultant to do capital estimates, and it goes through a chain, Mr. Speaker, through the capital planning process.

Repairs or any types of projects need to be calculated. There needs to be estimates for how much the project is going to cost. Then the college will decide based on the capital funds and the building, what needs to be completed, and then this will take several years at times, and it will go through the strategic plan and through the capital process to make those improvements.

I wish that I could give you a proper timeline but I don't have that right in front of me, only because this is just part of the plan, that it is hopefully under consideration with approval from COW that it would be in the next stages. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response, minister. Mr. Speaker, one very limiting factor for

delivering programs at Sanikiluaq's community learning centre is the lack of space. There is no kitchen, so they cannot run cooking programs. There is not enough floor space to run sewing or fur design programs. There is no office for the adult educator to meet privately with students and there is no storage available. There is only enough room for one program at a time. If that program is a multi-year program like office administration or Nunavut Teachers Education Program, no other adult education programs can take place. Sanikiluaq adult learners are not getting the learning opportunities that they need to progress.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to bringing forward a capital project for a new community learning centre in Sanikiluaq at the earliest possible opportunity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* once again for the question. I personally can't commit, but Nunavut Arctic College can commit that for the 2022-23 fiscal year, the NAC has plans to introduce your community of Sanikiluaq into the capital planning process. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 078 – 6(1): Vacant Staff Housing

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is also for the Minister of Human Resources.

In an earlier answer, the minister mentioned that there are 165 move-in ready units available across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, during the recent campaign, I was quite concerned at the amount of empty doors that I found in my riding and when we're under a housing crisis.

My question is: how many vacant staff housing units across Nunavut and how many of those are in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. I did indicate that there are a total of 165 move-in ready staff housing units across the territory. In addition, there are approximately 150 other vacant staff housing units that are in some level of disrepair and require renovations.

To his specific question related to vacant units in Iqaluit, there are 49 move-in ready and approximately 60 additional staff housing units which require repair. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. It's some more concerning numbers.

Mr. Speaker, I guess my next question would lead into: how many indeterminate and term employees have been hired across Nunavut in the last six

months and how many of those came with housing?

In an earlier response, the minister mentioned the number 231, but I was unclear whether it was the new hires, or were those for eligible staff for housing, existing employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. Unfortunately I don't have that level of detail of how many competitions have been successfully completed within the last six months or how many of those have been allocated staff housing. Although I do not have that information before me, I will strive to get that to the member at my earliest convenience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the minister can add my next question to that list as well. Mr. Speaker, my next question is: how many current staff eligible for staff housing are on the wait-list? How many units have been allocated to existing staff on the wait-list period for the past six months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member again for another great question. Unfortunately I do not have that level of

information before me, but I will commit to providing that at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 079 – 6(1): Kugluktuk Housing Needs

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation and they concern the issue of housing needs in Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2020-21 capital estimates include funding for the construction of five new staff housing units in the community. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's most recent annual report indicates "To fully access federal funding through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Nunavut Housing Corporation transferred 10 staff housing units under construction, including five in Gjoa Haven and five in Kugluktuk, from staff housing to public housing units."

Can the minister confirm the status of the Kugluktuk units? (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague is correct; the housing corporation is currently working on five units for Kugluktuk which we

are anticipating to be done this spring to be move-in ready by that time.

In terms of the changeover of staff housing into public housing in the community my colleague is referring to, I don't have the status of that changeover at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Kugluktuk has not received new public housing units since the 2018-19 fiscal year.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation uses a needs-based formula to determine community allocations for the construction of new public housing units.

Can the minister confirm where Kugluktuk currently stands in the Nunavut Housing Corporation's priority ranking list? *Quanaqqutit*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of different measures we use in determining housing needs in any particular community and then try to figure out from there which priority goes to which house or which community.

I am actually trying to figure that system out myself at this time and I would be more than happy when I have the detailed list of where each community is

on the housing priority list I will be more than happy to share that with my colleague or in this case, my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On March 4, 2022, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation announced funding for the construction of new units in Nunavut through the federal Rapid Housing Initiative.

Can the minister indicate if he is expecting additional announcements from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have opportunities to meet with the federal ministers responsible for infrastructure and housing and Nunavut in that sense and there is always discussion around the need for more housing and what programs could we access in terms of creating more available housing for Nunavummiut.

At this time I am not anticipating any more new announcement, but that is not to say that there are some coming that we are not aware of. We are always in conversation with our federal counterparts to try to get more, in this case more housing for Nunavummiut. Many times they are successful like the Rapid Housing Initiative and we are in constant communication to try to find

ways to get more federal dollars to create homes for Nunavummiut.

That will continue, Mr. Speaker and I hope that that will bear fruit in the coming months, but at this time there is none I am aware of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 080 – 6(1): Issues with Medical Travel

Mr. Kaernerker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise and ask a question to the Minister of Health concerning the medical travel for our clients.

Medical travel from the community of Igloolik that I serve, I think that they are given a low priority by our own government for a reason. I have been told, and I wanted to raise it as an issue.

On the date of their travel, or before the date of travel is identified only on the day, a day before travel they are given a call that they have to get ready to go out for medical. Why is this issue on a constant basis?

Those who have jobs who may require day care end up having to deal with personal issues first on their own.

My question is: why are they not informed in advance? Was it due to COVID-19 measures? What does administrative do that allow this to happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. If I understood the question correctly, is it a common situation, or does it refer to just one individual? To make a general response.

When we inform patients in advance and they know in advance that they have a particular day to travel and these are prepared in advance perhaps in their office that it should be that you, if I am leaving I am leaving on this day, if they have to arrange for day care yes I could sympathize that notice must be given way in advance.

If you're given notice an hour prior, yes I would agree it is not good. I would agree with the Member to his comments. The individual should be informing the Office of Patient Relations and these are very beneficial to the health department and very beneficial to Nunavut Office of Patient Relations and if the member is referring to a particular individual that if the person would have not filed a complaint, we have a toll-free number where you may raise a complaint and we should be given notice of any complaints people may have and to rectify problems that may exist. When we are given this notice and if we made a mistake, yes, it was unfortunate and we want to rectify it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernerker.

Mr. Kaernerker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my constituents in Igloolik this is not just a certain individual. Those people that are employed are affected. Elders need an escort and yes I agree with what you mentioned that we should proceed at

times but we need service. His home is okay. There are many issues on the table.

Tammaativvik is always full, the hospitals are always full. For Amitturmiut constituents that need to be seen by a doctor at a set time that refuse to leave for their appointments either to Iqaluit or to Ottawa, is there a number where we can call for clients to call and why they didn't make their appointments because a notice was too late or is there a statistic to that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a number for the member as to the number you requested. I don't have that information. I can return with a response because he is asking for particular details. I will put in a request to our department and get back to him.

(interpretation ends) In terms of medical travel, Mr. Speaker, no-shows for flights in terms of when a ticket is booked, and then for one reason or another the passenger does not show up for the flight, those are a concern for the Department of Health. We are committed to reducing the number of no-shows because at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, that is public dollars that pay for those flights. So we are committed to, on our side of the equation, making sure that the passengers, the medical travellers know when their flights are.

The medical travel program experiences approximately 5,000 scheduled medical travel flight no-shows a year and the new scheduled airline contracts charge a

\$200 fee for flight no-shows and last-minute cancellations.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned that just in terms of the financial considerations that we are looking, we are concerned about, and like I said, we are committed to making sure that we hold our side of the relationship up with our medical travellers and that we let them know when they're travel is and when they are scheduled to travel, but Mr. Speaker, just like any relationship there are two sides and as a Department of Health we also rely on the medical travellers to show up when they are booked at the airport to show up for their flights so that we don't end up incurring these no-show fees. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister that this will be fixed regarding the medical travellers from Nunavut, not just in my riding but throughout the Nunavut region.

Now for the record again, Mr. Speaker, I want to have the minister commit again that this medical travelling thing, the minister will fix this once and for all, for the record. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to request a clarification. The member mentioned "medical travel thing." I would just like clarification as to what specifically he is asking to be fixed and then I could answer the

question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kaerner, please clarify your question so that the minister can answer. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me clarify it. (interpretation ends) For the record, in regard to the medical travellers, I would like the minister to fully commit for those patients that are on medical travel, they will be given a notice of one week advance rather than one hour. Can the minister commit that this will be fixed once and for all? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can commit the department to continually working to improve our services, given the thousands and thousands of medical travel trips that are booked each year through the department. Mr. Speaker, I can't unequivocally commit the department to never providing a last-minute notification for travel because, when we look at that many thousand clients and that many thousand medical issues, there may be very urgent medical issues that come up where patients are put onto a flight with very short notice. There are all different kinds of circumstances in it, so I can't commit to that absolute.

Mr. Speaker, while I have the opportunity, the toll-free number for the Office of Patient Relations is 855-438-3003. We also have a website and an email address. As I mentioned earlier, at the Department of Health, we are

committed to meeting our medical travellers' needs and when there are issues, we will look into them. The Office of Patient Relations does do an excellent job. They track the complaints when they come in and so I would encourage medical travellers and/or Members of this Assembly to submit complaints in writing or through the phone and we will look into them because that is our job in this realm. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Just a reminder to our members, there should be no outbursts in this House; please respect one another. Thank you.

Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Question 081 – 6(1): Taloyoak Youth and Elders Community Centre

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my member's statement yesterday, I spoke about the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency's recent announcement of funding for a number of important projects in my constituency, one of which is a new youth and elders community centre in Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify the extent to which her department has been involved with this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question regarding this. The Department of Culture and Heritage provides opportunities for grants for youth and elders to provide funding for a building or to improve a site. Perhaps they might have but in a request to us before regarding improvements to an existing building and the funds to improve it. We can provide assistance from the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal announcement indicated that the Government of Nunavut is providing \$58,117 towards this project.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm that the Government of Nunavut's share of this funding is being provided from her department's Elders and Youth Facilities Contribution Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The department for improvements to buildings for elders and youth purposes has a grant limit of \$250,000, one moment please. Once I find it here, I can't see sometimes properly. I can't put a proper limit on that amount. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The elders and youth community centre

is also expected to create one full-time position to coordinate cultural programming at the new centre.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to supporting this important project in such areas as providing relevant equipment and learning materials? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department provides funding for different aspects of the program. There is also, for elders and youth, funding that can be targeted towards this and also support for employees, but that too has a limit for operations, for the year, but doesn't cover the entire funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 082 – 6(1): Marine Infrastructure

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 marine infrastructure.

On October 18, 2019, the Government of Nunavut issued a request for proposals for a comprehensive marine infrastructure scoping study in a number of communities, including Chesterfield Inlet.

Can the minister confirm when these studies will be completed and provided to the Members of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) The studies you mentioned for the marine infrastructure and docks and so on, the requirements are being reviewed. Once completed, and it notes that we have been sent direction, we will be providing the documents here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Municipality of Chesterfield Inlet has expressed support for the construction of new marine infrastructure that will strengthen the local fishing industry and provide economic development opportunities.

On August 26, 2019, the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announced that the Government of Canada intends to create a new Oceans Act Marine Protected Area in the vicinity of Southampton Island and Chesterfield Inlet.

The community has expressed concern about the possible impact of this initiative on the development of marine infrastructure.

Can the minister clarify what discussions his department has been having with the

federal government on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans that my colleague is referring to regarding marine infrastructure for the protected area between his constituencies, the work is still being done by that group, but myself as a minister, I have not had any discussions my federal minister on the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Community Transportation Initiatives Program provides funding to municipalities for small-scale marine infrastructure projects.

Can the minister confirm how much funding has been provided to Chesterfield Inlet during the current 2021-22 fiscal year under this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The projects that are funded by more than one party, such as the one my colleague is asking about, as to how much money has been put into Chesterfield Inlet, I don't have

that kind of broken down detail. I'm not able to say exactly how much has been given. I don't have the details in front of me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 083 – 6(1): Ventilation in Schools for COVID Prevention

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the issue of proper ventilation and good air quality in Nunavut's schools has been a concern since well before the current COVID pandemic.

Can the minister describe what kinds of air ventilation and filtration systems are currently installed in Nunavut schools to ensure safe and healthy environments for our children to learn in? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question on ventilation. We know that ventilation is a very important aspect not just in our schools but in our homes across the territory. As result of COVID-19, the concerns over air quality, the federal government has announced funding for federal ventilation improvement program. I am happy to report that our schools across the

territory will see improvements to our ventilation.

In terms of the specific details of what types of ventilation, I do not have that technical information in front of me, but I can say that the Department of Education is working with Community and Government Services to clean the air handling units and to replace the filters in our Nunavut schools.

I can say that with the federal funds that are committed, we will be updating and replacing the filters in our schools. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for the response. I am very glad that further work is being done on our schools to try to protect our children.

Mr. Speaker, since the start for the COVID pandemic, we have all learned a lot more about the transmission of viruses than we ever thought we would need to know.

Different viruses or different mutations of the same virus can be carried on water droplets or in the air and infect those nearby. It stands to reason that improving the air quality in our schools will reduce the spread of the virus.

Can the minister advise us whether or not what they're working on now will be sufficient going forward or will more capital planning need to be done to ensure that the changes we need to make will be able to happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our fellow colleague for the question. I do know that the Department of Education has conversations with the chief public health officer and this is area that they have been discussing. It's out of my realm to discuss the particulars of that question, but I can get back to the member with those details. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for the responses again. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, is there a timeline of when these projects can begin? Will they be done after this summer's sealift or will it be next year or within five years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our fellow colleague for the question. The funding that is coming forward from the federal government is for the upcoming fiscal year 2022-23, so I can say that this work for the ventilation in our school will happen within this fiscal year. I look forward to seeing our schools have the new cleaning of the air handling units and the new filters in place across our territory. *Quana* to the member for the question. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 084 – 6(1): Activities of the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

I was very happy to listen to the minister's statement last week in which he spoke about work that is underway to support community wellness and harm reduction initiatives.

In his statement, he indicated that the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission will "provide funding to community health and wellness committees for activities related to harm reduction and prevention."

For the record, can the minister confirm the maximum amount of funding that can be provided to any single organization? Thank you.

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

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. I'm very happy to speak more about the Ujjiqsuqta Grants and Contributions Policy.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission incorporates corporate social responsibility into its work and this includes educating Nunavummiut about ways to responsibly consume the products that we sell.

As such, the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission developed the

Ujjiqsuqta Community Initiatives Program which provides financial support to eligible organizations in Nunavut communities to help them design, deliver, and promote messaging, activities and information consistent with the Ujjiqsuqta / Let's be Aware campaign.

Getting directly to the member's question, there are three different streams of funding available. There is \$2,500 available for safe and sober graduation classes. There is also \$5,000 that is available for health and wellness committees, and there is also up to \$25,000 for social responsibility initiatives specifically for individuals and organizations that promote informed decision around the consumption of alcohol. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is very much aware, residents of Iqaluit, especially those who live near the Beer and Wine Store, have been raising serious concerns over the past year regarding issues of public safety and how the operations of the store have been impacting the community with respect to such behaviours as public intoxication and break-ins. Many of these problems, including violence on the beach, grow much worse as the weather grows warmer.

Can the minister describe how the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission is working with the City of Iqaluit, the RCMP, the Uquutaq Society and other partners to address these issues? Thank you.

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

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I appreciate the member bringing up the issue of public safety.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is committed to reducing the harmful impacts of alcohol and the GN continues to consult with alcohol education committees, communities, Nunavut Tunngavik and other stakeholders to further enhance our alcohol harm reduction actions.

However, the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission does not have a direct role in enforcement once customers leave our stores.

However, we do contribute in a number of other ways; specifically, the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission works very closely with the RCMP to combat bootlegging and reducing the amount of alcohol-related harm in our communities.

In addition, we train all of our staff, all of our sales staff, to check identification to ensure that we are not providing alcohol products to minors and we are under explicit instructions not to sell alcohol intoxicated individuals. Whenever possible in our stores we routinely remind customers not to consume alcohol in public and to wait until they get home to open and consume their products. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague from Tununig raised important questions last week concerning the government's implementation of its *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut* strategy, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in November 2016, over five years ago. Can the minister confirm the timeline for updating this strategy? Thank you.

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

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank the member again for another excellent question.

The member is correct that the report steps to reduce harm was tabled in 2016 and as to a timeline as to when we can expect to update this specific item, the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission and the Department of Finance does not have a date set. Right now our priority is reviewing and updating the *Nunavut Liquor Act* itself.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to add a little bit of further context. In 2010 the then Minister of Finance convened an independent *Liquor Act* review taskforce to undertake a review of the Act and provide meaningful recommendations for changes to the Act. The taskforce completed territory-wide consultations between 2010 and 2012, and the taskforce final report titled *Halting the Harm* provided a number of recommendations on ways to reduce alcohol-related harm as well as strengthen the *Liquor Act* itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 085 – 6(1): Decentralization

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me once again. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Human Resources as they concern the issue of decentralization.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the Government of Nunavut's current business plan indicates that "In order to provide opportunity for Inuit employment in government across the territory, the GN is committed to the policy of decentralization and strives to maintain over 60 percent of the public service outside of the capital."

Can the minister indicate today approximately how many of the GN's decentralized positions are currently vacant? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. Decentralization is a major objective of the current government as well as all past governments since the decentralized model was taken into effect.

Mr. Speaker, at that time it was decided upon that decentralization would ensure that at least 60 percent of GN positions would be in decentralized offices. As to the member's specific question as to the vacancy rate in those decentralized communities and offices, unfortunately I

don't have that information before me, but I can look into that and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the minister. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, both Naujaat and Coral Harbour are considered to be non-decentralized communities. The number of employees means the number of opportunities is limited.

Can the minister indicate what specific employment initiatives are being targeted for non-decentralized communities?

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to thank the member for a very excellent question.

As the member had indicated, there are very limited employment opportunities in non-decentralized communities. As such, in those communities, there are very specific jobs which are available from teachers to health professionals and public safety enforcement.

One strategy that the Department of Human Resources and the Government of Nunavut is doing to target those non-decentralized communities is through pre-employment training initiatives to provide training and support to assist those in those non-decentralized communities to get the necessary training and qualifications that are

required to fill those jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the minister. (interpretation ends) The government's most current statistics indicate that there are over 700 vacant GN positions in Iqaluit. It is in my understanding that the lack of staff housing in the capital means that many of them will remain vacant for the foreseeable future.

Will the minister commit to work with department to identify opportunities for relocating these positions to non-decentralized positions, including Naujaat and Coral Harbour?
(interpretation) Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would love to say "yes" but that is a bit difficult. The member is correct in the most recent Inuit employment statistical report, Iqaluit did have 737 vacant positions. However, those positions are offset by over 400 casual employees as well as a further 400 relief employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 086 – 6(1): Income Assistance Policies

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to

the people of Pond Inlet and have a good day.

(interpretation ends) My question is to the Minister of Family Services.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I have heard concerns from a number of income support assistance clients regarding the policy which requires them to submit their bank statements.

Can the minister clearly explain why it is necessary for Income Assistance clients to show their bank statement in order to receive the benefits? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Ms. Nutarak for her question. With regard to the Income Assistance clients, if they are going to the department for support they must sign an agreement that they will provide the necessary documents.

(interpretation ends) It's a last resort for people who don't have income coming in. In the agreement that they signed, they also agreed that there is no additional financial supports coming, including employment or other means. That is the reason why, in the agreement they signed, that statement has to be reviewed by the income assistance workers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that income assistance is provided as a last resort to individuals who are unable to find employment or generate income. Some people manage to get a little extra money to feed their family or buy necessary items by selling a piece of artwork or receiving a gift from a friend or relative. However, this impacts the amount of income assistance they receive.

Can the minister clearly explain why the benefits for income assistance clients are reduced when they find small ways to get ahead in their financial situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that very good question. With the previous government, the income also has a threshold set out within a month, and the income threshold has gone up. (interpretation ends) Depending on the family size, the additional money that can go inside the home is up to \$700 a month without impacting the income assistance support. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your answer, Minister Nakashuk. Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the minister and her staff are always looking for ways to improve our income support assistance programs.

Approximately 40 percent of our population access these benefits every year.

Can the minister provide an update on what changes or reforms to Nunavut's income assistance programs are currently being considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm sorry, but can she clarify her question, (interpretation) as I didn't hear part of it. Thank you.

Speaker: Can you please clarify your question, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted the minister to provide an update on what changes or reforms to Nunavut's income assistance programs are currently being considered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for clarifying the question. In terms of what changes are taking place, as I stated, and the current changes that were made in the last government, the income that could come into a family home that is dependent on income assistance, usually the threshold was at \$300 but now it increased to \$700 without having to affect their income assistance, but also, when we talk about what support

can take place without...I'm trying to think of the program.

(interpretation) I can't recall the name, but we also ask them about what they do. (interpretation ends) A productive choice is what I was trying to refer to. The department is trying to review that also, but also there have been some changes in that area in terms of what productive choice can the clients do to ensure that their income assistance is not impacted as well. Those are things that the department is reviewing and has reviewed. That's one of the programs, but also the training allowances depending on the programs that they apply into, for example, a community learning centre. There are some financial supports for people who are on income assistance. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members take note that the time allotted for question period is now over. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to extend question period. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There is a nay, so we will proceed to the next item on the order paper. 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. I recognize the Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Item 12: Reports of Standing and
Special Committees on Bills and
Other Matters**

**Committee Report 002 – 6(1): Bill 4,
Write-off of Assets and Debts Act,
2020-2021**

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 4, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation, and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Bill 4, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*, will be placed on the order paper for Friday, March 18, 2022.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

**Tabled Document 018 – 6(1): Letter
from the Municipality of
Chesterfield Inlet to Fisheries and
Oceans Canada Concerning Small
Craft Harbour**

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Today I wish to table a letter from the Municipality of Chesterfield Inlet to the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada concerning a feasibility study for a small craft harbour in Chesterfield Inlet.

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

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. If you have documents to table, please raise your hands. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

**Tabled Document 019 – 6(1): Letter
from the Aiviit Hunters and
Trappers Organization
Concerning the Southampton
Island Caribou Herd**

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table a letter from the Aiviit Hunters and Trappers Organization concerning the important issue of the Southampton Island caribou herd.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to review the letter with care, and I will have questions for the appropriate minister during our winter sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

**Tabled Document 020 – 6(1): Letter
from the Kitikmeot Inuit
Association Concerning
Resolutions Passed at the 2021
Annual General Meeting**

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table today a letter from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association concerning resolutions recently passed at their 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to review the document with care.
Quanaqqutit, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 2, and 3 with Mr. Hickes in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 15:26 and
Committee resumed at 15:53*

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

Chairman (Mr. Hickes): Good afternoon. I call the committee meeting to order. In the 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: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the 2022-23 capital main estimates, Bill 2, and the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2022-2023 – Education –
Consideration in Committee**

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have officials that I would like at the witness table. To my left, I have Deputy Minister Rebecca Hainnu, and to my right, I have Barry Cornthwaite, Manager of Capital Planning, as well as I have Ibrahim Suleiman, Manager of Capital Planning, Mary Kilabuk, Manager of Policy, and Arielle Stockdale, Director of Policy. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Gross. Does the committee to let the member's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. As you have already introduced your officials, please proceed with your opening comments, Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to present the Department of Education's proposed 2022-23 capital estimates, which total \$17,730,000.

The 45 schools across Nunavut represent a significant capital investment and commitment to education. Our schools host 10,441 students from kindergarten to grade 12, with 1,930 in the Kitikmeot, 3,328 in the Kivalliq, and 5,183 in the Qikiqtani region.

Mr. Chairman, the following are capital projects that have already begun and will continue during the 2022-23 fiscal year across Nunavut:

- The design contract for the Sakku School project in Coral Harbour was awarded in August 2019. The project will give Coral Harbour access to a

healthy and code-compliant building, a large gym, and more services for young children and their parents.

- The construction contract for Iqaluit's École des Trois-Soleils addition was awarded in May 2021. The school addition will eliminate the need for shared spaces at Aqsarniit Middle School and Inuksuk High School.
- Taloyoak's Netsilik School will continue the design phase. Our department wants to ensure the community and all stakeholders are consulted. COVID had an impact as local consulting could not take place. The new high school will eliminate the current overcrowding at the school.

Our department will continue to upgrade various IT infrastructure projects. There is a need to replace or repair intrusion alarms, CCTVs, paging systems, and telephone systems. There is also an additional need to replace the Internet-capable devices, such as computers, modems, routers, SMART Boards, and printers, to ensure they are capable of working with current software.

Our department will continue with its ongoing lifecycle repairs. Lifecycle items include major components of buildings, such as foundations, boilers, generators, roofs, siding, flooring, wall finishes, windows, and air handling units. These components require periodic repairs or replacement if they haven't met or exceeded their intended lifespan.

This budget allows us to prioritize our capital projects in collaboration with the

Department of Community and Government Services. Additionally, this budget also prepares us for any needed repairs or replacements, enabling us to minimize any potential impacts to the delivery of school programs.

Mr. Chairman, our department has various small capital projects which will continue in 2022-23. This budget not only covers projects that are often health and safety related, but also small projects such as wheelchair ramps, chairlifts, and mould remediation.

Lastly, each year we review requests for school buses and departmental vehicles. In 2022-23 we will continue to review and prioritize the busing needs across the territory.

I look forward to your questions, comments, and analysis as we review the Department of Education's capital estimates for 2022-23. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Is there a regular member who wants to provide opening comments? Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased 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 Education.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's proposed capital estimates for 2022-23 total \$17.73 million in funding for three community-specific projects in the communities of Coral Harbour, Iqaluit, and Taloyoak as well

as four budget items to provide funding for various Nunavut-wide capital needs in such areas as maintenance, school buses, and information technology.

The Sakku School Renovation project in Coral Harbour has been an ongoing project in the government's planning process for a number of years. Regular members understand that the department has chosen to proceed with a major renovation of the current school, while taking into consideration a number of environmental concerns. This project will also include a new community learning centre and members encourage the minister and her staff to work closely with Nunavut Arctic College staff to ensure that the community's adult learners will continue to have quality space for their programs.

The addition to Iqaluit's Trois-Soleils French School will provide additional classroom and gym space. In past the French School Commission has worked with the Iqaluit District Education Authority to access space in other schools to deliver a number of programs and physical education activities.

Members have been given to understand that the project will also receive federal funding to incorporate a daycare on the premises. It is to be hoped that the newly added spaces at the French school will be shared with the non-francophone population of Iqaluit in the spirit of reciprocity and collaboration.

Members look forward to updates on the school project for Taloyoak, which is currently the only new school included in the government's five-year capital plan.

Schools in a number of communities have experienced overcrowded conditions for a several years while other communities have seen changes in population and demographics. These circumstances have resulted in schools using unsuitable areas to deliver programs and instruction due to the lack of space.

It has further been noted that the Department of Education has submitted a number of school projects for the government's preplanning process that have not yet been approved for inclusion in the capital plan. Members look forward to receiving an update on school projects that will be coming forward in the government's long-term capital plan.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's capital plan also includes four budget line items for the upcoming fiscal year: small capital, ongoing lifecycle, school buses, and IT infrastructure. The ongoing maintenance of buildings and other infrastructure, as well as the upgrading of equipment is important to ensure a safe and healthy environment for Nunavut's students. Members support the Department of Education in its efforts to access federal funding under the Canada Infrastructure Program's COVID-19 Resilience stream to address ventilation improvements across Nunavut's schools

Mr. Chairman, different communities face different challenges with respect to providing busing services. Members look forward to receiving updated information on how school busing services are currently being provided in communities across the territory. The lack of storage for buses to protect them from the elements and from vandalism is

also an issue facing many municipalities. Members encourage departmental staff to coordinate with their counterparts in the Department of Community and Government Services in the allocation of funding under the Parking Garage Program, taking the need for school bus parking into consideration.

Mr. Chairman, computer technology is now a standard tool in the delivery of education programs across Nunavut and the regular members recognize the ongoing need to upgrade the technology and related devices. Members note that the department's information technology funding also covers the purchase of such items as closed-circuit television systems, speech enhancement systems, and intrusion alarm systems.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2022-23 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education. I am confident that individual members will also have comments and questions as we proceed. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Just before we get started in the questions, are there any general comments to the opening comments? Seeing none, as this is a one-page budget on page G-3, Corporate Services, Department of Education, \$17,730,000. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some questions regarding Sakku School renovations. (interpretation ends) Information provided by the government indicates that the total cost to renovate the current Sakku School over the next four years come to more than \$45 million. In comparison, the proposed cost to build a

new school is an \$11 million difference to Taloyoak's school, and renovate the current school to include the new community learning centre is estimated at just over \$34 million.

Can the minister clearly explain why the government decided to renovate the Sakku School when it seems that building a new school could be considerably cheaper? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The Sakku School in Coral Harbour, our department in 2020-21 approved budget for Sakku School for construction. At that time it was \$27,600,000 and at that time the amount of the bid received for construction was \$55,500,000. With 101 percent increased cost from our legislatively approved capital budget, the Government of Nunavut made the decision to cancel this tender for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Since that time, our department began working closely with the Department of Community and Government Services and Finance to ensure Sakku School in Coral Harbour gets the renovations it requires. After discussion during the summer of 2021-22 with CGS and Finance regarding the Sakku School project, our department was advised that the best course of action would be to request the additional funding required for the project as part of the 2022-23 capital estimates.

Based on the most recent class "A" estimates, the department is requesting \$45.1 million for the design and build of Sakku School as part of our capital plan

for 2022-23. Tendering for the construction will occur this fall of 2022 and construction beginning the summer of 2023.

The completion of this project will give access to a healthy and code-compliant building, a large gym to the community, and more services for young children and their parents, as well as services for students who need additional supports.

My department was approved for federal funding from Canadian Heritage of approximately \$10.8 million to be put towards the École des Trois-Soleils addition and daycare expansion. With this funding, it supplements the total budget for this project in Iqaluit. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I ask about whether Coral Harbour can get a new school which is cheaper than renovations. I didn't mention the French school. I know this school that we are talking about (interpretation ends) is from kindergarten to Arctic College. (interpretation) How would you deal with the students while renovations are happening? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would like to turn the question over to Mr. Cornthwaite to answer this technical question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Cornthwaite.

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for allowing me to answer. Before the department decides to do a renovation project versus saying new build, we look at the existing school. Consultants were hired and they went to the school and they found the school was very strong. Basically the bones of the building were still in very good shape which makes sense for it to be added to.

It is an addition renovation project Coral Harbour and it will be done in phases. What that basically means, Mr. Chairman, is that the phasing will take into consideration the students. As one section is being done, the students will be moved into a safe area. Then when that area is done, the students will move around the school similar to what did in the Inuksuk High School project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you for the response. (interpretation ends) Information provided by the government indicates that the business case for the Sakku School project presented three options; to leave it as it is, to build a new school, or to renovate the current school.

The minister's recent correspondence to the Regular Members' Caucus notes that while Coral Harbour will not be getting a new school, after the intensive renovation, Sakku School will be like a new school.

Mr. Chairman, you can fix a snowmobile like a new shine, but it is still a machine. Can the minister clearly explain in detail what specific factors led to the decision

to renovate the current school instead of building a new school?

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. For the particulars of the history of Sakku School, I would like to ask Mr. Cornthwaite to answer that question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Cornthwaite.

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister for allowing to me answer. Like earlier when I was explaining to the Assembly that decisions had to be made with regard to a renovation, building a new school, lot availability in a community, all the different aspects were looked at.

Many meetings took place with the city fathers in Coral Harbour, the DEA, the MLA at the time, and the decision, based on all of the information that was before us is before CGS. The best value for our dollar was to renovate the existing school because it is very sound, and add onto it, giving it a new gymnasium, a daycare, and enhanced technology that the existing school doesn't have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): I would like to thank the minister for providing us with the additional information on Sakku School, especially about the proposed solution to address the accumulation of water in the crawlspace

of the school. Water has been a problem in this school since it was built.

The proposed solution includes installing a water barrier made up of sand mixed with bentonite, a material typically in Wyoming, United States of America, which is 3,000 kilometres to the south of us. It is not clear to me that the material bentonite has been proven to work successfully for the arctic waterproofing in the arctic environment. What assurance can the minister provide me that this water barrier system will actually work to correct Sakku school water problem?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Maliki. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. There are risks associated with water and the issue is under consideration. The design team has built a plan around that issue, Mr. Chairman, and this issue is being worked on. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Maliki.

Mr. Maliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I mentioned, the mixture that you mix with sand and gravel, can you explain that to me please, whether this has been tested in cold conditions? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would like to defer that question to Mr. Cornthwaite to answer the technicality. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: I thought that might be the case. Mr. Cornthwaite.

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister for allowing me to answer. The product has gone under extensive testing. To describe it to the members, it is similar to a very absorbent material, like kitty litter.

I am not making it sound too simple, but the kitty litter so it will all absorb any water that is coming from the water table to keep it away from underneath the school and I know it will work because it has been told to us by the engineers and I have been underneath the school and I am confident the methodology that has been described by our consultants will indeed work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Cornthwaite. Mr. Maliki.

Mr. Maliki (interpretation): That is enough. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have some question on there, but the absorbent stuff, about the kitty litter kind of [piqued] my interest.

Stuff like kitty litter and whatever this stuff is it absorbs to a point and then it leeches it back out. If it is in the ground water level, what is going to stop it from getting over saturated and then leak out anyway? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would once like again to turn the question over to Mr. Cornthwaite for this technicality question. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Cornthwaite.

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for allowing me to answer. How it was described to me is the example I gave. It may not be the best example, but it is very absorbent material and it basically absorbs, but what was also in the letter from the consultant they are also sealing bedrock that is underneath the school and sealing the soil that is underneath the school, the sand, so that will be sealed and no water will come up.

The material that I talked about will be on the outside of wall because the new wall will be built so water cannot get in.

If something happens, the leech out that has been asked, there will also be below grade sump pumps to catch any water that may leech out from the material.

The most important thing to remember is that there is not constant water there so the material that is absorbing will have time to dry out before the next season. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going on to the next topic, the new school for Taloyoak, I was going through the substantiation sheets and I could not find anywhere on what size this.

Can the minister elaborate on what size of a new school that will be built there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The Taloyoak school will be... . Sorry. Just one moment.

Chairman: When you're on, Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. For the technicality of that question, I would like to take it as an advisement and get back to the member with the particular details of the size of the school for Taloyoak. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I wanted to know what the size was, then you could compare construction cost with building a new school in Taloyoak. If it's going to be \$34 million, and then renovating the Coral Harbour one for \$45 million, I just can't fathom a renovation can cost \$10 million more than a new school. It just does not make sense to me.

The excuse that well we got \$11 million for the French school renovation, therefore we could put that in there while the \$11 million could have fixed up another school.

Can the minister explain why, again, so that we can understand why it costs \$10 million more to renovate a school than it is to build a brand new school;

everything new and shiny in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. The price for the Sakku School was 101 percent higher due to the timing of the project during the COVID-19 pandemic as we see inflation of materials all over the world and particularly for building materials. So the price for Sakku School was a lot higher because of this. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated that the first bid was \$55 million and that was the COVID prices. Prices have come down since then and in the substantiation sheet, it is going to go to tender in 2022 and the prices have stabilized. Is the minister stating that these are still COVID prices and that is why the renovation is higher at \$45 million? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* once again to our colleague for the question. The Sakku School in Coral Harbour is K to 12 with an additional CLC, community learning centre attached and the Taloyoak is a new high school. I hope that clarifies the size difference that one school is K to 12 with a CLC and the other is just a high school. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One is a new high school and the other one is a renovation. To my understanding in reading the substantiation sheet, they are not adding too much. The structure for the Sakku School is there. The structure is there. They are going to renovate it, but the actual structure, as the official said is very sound and that is why they're renovating it. The structure is there and they are going to add another CLC, which I assume will be pretty small.

That is why I wanted to know the size of the Taloyoak school so we can compare construction costs because the Taloyoak school, if this is the trend, there is no way that they are going to make it for \$34 million because it is going to go tender almost at the same time as the Sakku school, so what assurance can the minister give us that the Taloyoak school is not going to be way above budget just like the Sakku school renovation is? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. The minister does not have information from the Taloyoak school. I am wondering if they may have some information on the per metre costs that might help alleviate some of these concerns. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Can I please have a new witness, Mr. Suleiman, to the witness table? *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Proceed with the switch. Thank you, minister. Mr. Suleiman.

Mr. Suleiman: Thank you, minister, for the question. Can you please repeat the question? I think I have missed it.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I stated earlier was that it is \$45 million to renovate a school, which the structure is already there. They are just going to renovate it. They are not actually in is making it much bigger, and then a brand new high school in Taloyoak is \$34 million, so we are \$11 million less for a brand new school and there is no size, how many square metres the Taloyoak school is.

I want to get a comparison on the construction costs between renovating a 1,000 square metre school and how many square metres is the Taloyoak school to compare construction cost between a renovation and a brand new shiny school. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you for that clarification, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. Suleiman.

Mr. Suleiman: Thank you, Chairman, for the question. When we are comparing the two different schools, we go through a rigorous process with Community and Government Services with regard to these estimate.

We go through a class D class up to class A to kind of figure out what the total cost is going to be.

Specifically around the gap, there are many facets to that; one of them being location, the other being the increase in cost that has happened over the time.

To be honest, what we can do is grab all the class “A” estimates to find specifically why it is at this point in time. I do not have any specific reason why it is different.

Chairman: Thank you. If you can acknowledge the Chair so that the person running the mics can know when to switch them. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Location okayed. If you look at the transportation routes, Coral Harbour is actually closer to the shipping lane than Taloyoak is, so I do not think that does not fly about location unless they are talking about land development.

As for material costs, neither of these have gone to tender yet, so I assume the material costs will very similar to either one and I’m just having a really tough time, unless one is so much smaller comparing the two. Normally a renovation is cheaper than a new school so is the minister saying that due to location and material cost the big cost difference between the two? Thank you.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
(interpretation ends) I would like Mr. Cornthwaite to answer that detailed question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you for that. Mr. Cornthwaite.

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is challenging at any time to discuss different communities in Nunavut. The most important thing is to

try to understand the Coral Harbour project itself. It is a major demolishing of a school that was built many years ago. Right now it is shaped like a big U with a CLC on one corner and a big hallway coming around all cement foundations, but the CLC is going to be demolished.

This same school is going to be taken down to the bones, then the new CLC is going to be built separately from the school. It won’t be part of the school anymore. Then at the same time 1,000 square metres will be added onto Sakku School, so it will increase the school by one third larger with a large gymnasium, a daycare, science, and more CTS space than the existing school to enhance the education system in Coral Harbour.

The project Taloyoak is a high school. It is a smaller school because it is only a high school and it is being built in an area where we are able to construct easily in that community. The hope is because of the size difference, construction costs is approximately \$10,000 a square meter which would mean the school in Taloyoak is only 3,400 square meters, the Sakku School is much larger than that by 1,000 square meters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. That is why I wanted to know the size of the difference so we could compare construction costs because it just seems like maybe it would have been more cost efficient to build a new school in Coral Harbour instead of renovating an old school.

I'll go on to my next point anyway. For the Taloyoak school, on the substantiation sheet on page 3 of 4 it says "An expansion was found to best meet the projects social, environmental, and financial goals." That is written there and yet they are building a new school. Can the minister explain? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. That is correct. The difference is at one point in time there was going to be an addition and it evolved into a new high school. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. Can the minister explain why the department is going against when they found that the expansion was found to best meet the project's social, environmental, and financial goals? How did an addition become a new school, so I could just understand because there is one community getting a new school and the other getting renovations? Were the same standards used? Thank you.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. Right now the community of Taloyoak has one school from kindergarten to grade 12, so roughly ages 5 to 18 in one school. We know that that school is currently overcrowded and over its capacity. The overcrowding has many negative impacts on the students,

such as bullying, physical aggression, and confrontations.

This would impact the ability to uphold Inuuqatigiitsiarniq policy of the DEA and support an Inuuqatigiinniq environment. The current school is not designed for the number of students and staff attending. This is a potential health risk for the occupants of the school without enough learning spaces to create a difficult nor near to impossible ability to the educators to deliver a full educational program. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, she mentioned it's all one school and there are bullying issues and stuff and I don't disagree that it's over capacity. It's stated right there. It's at 107 percent at the Taloyoak school.

The new Sakku renovation is going to be one building and it's going to be K-12. Are the bullying issues non-existent in that then, because all grades are together? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana* Mr. Chairman. The difference is between the school, although Sakku School will remain K to 12, Sakku School will be increased by 1,000 square metres, increasing the capacity and the size of the school and have more space for the students to enhance learning opportunities in the community. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like some kind of assurance that the Taloyoak school is not going to mushroom over budget too. They had the best estimates they had for Sakku School and it went up by 100 and something percent like the minister said. I know the minister has no control over commodity prices, but what steps are going to be taken to make sure the department is not coming back for more money to complete this project or delay this project, due to financial costs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana* Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. The process is that, right now, we are going to go ahead with the Taloyoak school at a lot sooner of a time frame to get the best estimates for the project resulting in a lower cost for the school. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: I'll just comment for now. I hope you are doing the same thing for the Sakku School by going early to try to get best early costs too then. Thank you. I am done.

Chairman: Thank you. That's just a comment. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Sakku School was built in 1979. I am pretty sure it has water damage from the crawl space.

My question is: how does the department take into consideration when such environmental factors as mould and ventilation issues in schools when determining whether a community requires a new facility or an addition to an existing facility? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have Mr. Cornthwaite answer that question. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Please proceed, Mr. Cornthwaite.

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for allowing me to answer. The Department of Education typically uses three different thresholds when deciding on developing a new school or renovating a school, those being the condition of the school; the conditions of the schools are provided to us by Community and Government Services and we have a condition rating for all schools in Nunavut; the second is utilization, how crowded the school is, so you have to be aware of the crowding of the school; the third one is the age of the school. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Cornthwaite. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't know if I should be comparing the school to a unit, like a house, but the houses that were built in the 1960s and 1970s that get renovated over a time and our HAP had mould damage. Even when

they are renovated the mould smell always comes back. I'm just worried that this is an old building. I won't say how old I was, but will you be monitoring the mold if after renovations there was mould existing or returning.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. We have a contract with Blue Metric and Blue Metric is hired to do mould testing throughout the entirety of the project until its completion.
Quana, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Are you done, Ms. Nutarak?
(interpretation ends) I'll go to my next name on my list. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question (interpretation ends) that relates to the small capital. Arson and vandalism are ongoing concerns in a number of Nunavut communities, with schools often being targeted.

What specific infrastructure measures are put in place to deter arson and vandalism in Nunavut schools?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. One of the enhancements to the small capital will include CCTV cameras to enhance the security of our

school and this funding also goes, if there ever is any vandalism, to go to the related clean-up of these projects and we are also going to, for any doors or hardware to doors that we need to ensure that they are going to be locked. If there are any changes to doors, for example, we will be able to update them and change the school locks in the environment of an emergency.

Those are a couple of areas where we are going to enhance security and vandalism for our schools. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the smaller communities the schools are very important and there is constant vandalism, especially in the spring time. We would like to make sure that they are properly protected, and they're not cheap. If they have surveillance cameras, not just something that you plug but something that is better.

(interpretation ends) One last question that I have is; how often does the department assess the conditions of its 45 schools to identify needs of small capital repairs? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. We want to ensure our schools are safe and that they aren't being vandalized and these things happen unfortunately in our communities.

We see windows being replaced. However I can report that what we are using in the schools for the windows are called hammer glass windows. They are a little bit more durable and stronger to ensure that we are not always replacing windows.

I urge all parents and children to do their best to keep our schools in the best shape that we can because as stated, our schools are an environment that hosts so many of our community members, our young learners, and we want an environment for them to thrive in.

If children or anyone in the community sees vandalism happening, to report it to go through the proper authorities with the RCMP and go through the justice system if that type of vandalism is happening. We want to see and ensure that our schools remain in the best shape possible. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Just before I go to the member, the member had mentioned closed circuit television cameras. Are images received on those cameras stored onsite or offsite?
Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Those camera's images are stored onsite, but we have a headquarter system here in Iqaluit where we can access the images from the cameras. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that additional information.

(interpretation ends) As this is my first year and I haven't done my community visit at all yet up to Clyde River, but I just want a brief update under the project details, page 2 of 4, there are some projects completed in 2020-21, but not limited to, and it shows Clyde River. I see a Clyde River playground. I just need brief detail on that as I don't know how far it's at or if it has been completed. This is just so I will know. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Killiktee.
Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. I can report that the Clyde River school playground was completed two years ago and installed and the children in the community are using the playground. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just before I go to my next name, just going back to the closed circuit television cameras, when it was mentioned that there is availability to access images through headquarters is there storage at headquarters? I'm just thinking if there are circumstances, which unfortunately we have seen too many of lately is a total loss, would there be images before the fire happened as there would be nothing left after.
Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is that capability to review the images after an incident. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that clarification. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. *Ullukkut*, minister and your officials.

Looking at this substantiation sheet for the expansion of the Taloyoak school, it says here the department usually begins planning for an extension or a new school when the utilization rate is at 85 percent. Looking at the student enrollment for 2020-21 it was at 107 percent with 334 students.

Now my question is: As a starter, what is the utilization rate for the Sanirajak school, which we call Arnaqjuaq School. Is there a number you can provide me before I go into a detailed question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The utilization for Taloyoak is 107 percent and for Sanirajak's school, it is at 94 percent. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the answer provided. Now, with this new school which is going to cost \$34 million and looking at my constituents of Sanirajak, in your business case summary, the current school is overcrowded and is over capacity. The school in Sanirajak is also overcrowded due to both the elementary and high schools are in one school. I do believe it's time for the department to consider that either way, elementary school or high school would also be a possibility since you just mentioned that it's at the 94 percent.

Therefore I'm assuming, but I hate making assumptions, but this 94 percent seems to be a good number to get a new school.

Now, in saying that, Mr. Chairman, it also stated that the number of students alone is over 319 and growing each year. Is it the same thing for Sanirajak's school that the student numbers are growing and, if so, what is the capacity limit of that school to hold all the students in that school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kaerner. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I sympathize with our colleague and the request. Every community in Nunavut has demands.

In regard to Sanirajak and other communities, we have detailed information with the utilization and enrolment in each school and they vary in size with the utilization. I do understand and sympathize that Sanirajak's school being at 94 percent in seeming that the number is pretty high for utilization. I do know that every request for capital preplanning must go through the government process of prioritization, including consideration at the interdepartmental committee for capital planning. The ICCP committee is made up of representatives from each government department and public agency.

Because there are many projects across the Government of Nunavut which need financial resources, the GN's funding capacity is limited. The Department of Education's recommendations for school

capital projects are not always approved, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Education will continue to put forward preplanning requests each year for schools that are indeed in need of renovations or additions.

The preplanning phase is just used to gather information and prepare a business case before projects are proposed for a future capital plan. Our department has two projects waiting for the completion of business cases for consideration on a future capital plan and they include Arctic Bay, Inuujaq School, a major renovation, and Iqaluit's Nakasuk School, a major renovation. Our department submitted two schools for consideration for preplanning, including Kimmirut, the Qaqqalik School, a major renovation, and Kugluktuk High School addition.

For the fiscal year of 2021-22, there were no education projects that were approved for preplanning and for this year too. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the information that you provided, minister. I was just asking about the capacity of Arnaqjuaq School in Sanirajak. What is the capacity limit at that school at this time now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question on capacity of Sanirajak's school. The capacity right now for the existing capacity of the school is 331

students and there are currently 216.5 students enrolled... Oh, sorry. My apologies; 294.5 enrolled in the school. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. I was just about to question your math. Mr. Kaernek.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just about to say the same thing.

Does that mean this Arnaqjuaq School in Sanirajak meets the needs of an addition or at least an expansion to get the capacity up to the level? How does the department consider when it comes to adding a new addition or expansion of the old school? Which is followed, the student enrolment rate or the student attendance ratio or the capacity of that school, like how much they have to be at the school?

How does the department categorize these when it comes to expanding, adding an addition, or getting a new high school? How does the department categorize these when it comes to these capital projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kaernek. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. I would like to say that we have 45 schools currently in Nunavut and schools are our biggest asset for our communities' education and well-being of our students. With the 45 schools, I can report that there are 10 schools

across our territory that are at 94 percent or higher. In our territory that's a large portion of our schools are at a very high demand for exceeding the existing capacity.

For each school, they have to go through a needs assessment and to go into the preplanning phase. With that preplanning, there is going to be a development of a business case, which the school would go through to renovate or create an addition or a new school. Those are taken into consideration when the selection of the new schools goes forward. This process isn't one that happens overnight. Like any capital projects, these projects take time and usually take eight years to go through the capital planning process. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Gross. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the information that you provided. Since you have mentioned the business case of how the preplanning starts, to my understanding, did I hear you correctly that Sanirajak's school is not in need of a business case in the preplanning stages at this time around for the next fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kaerner. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question, and as stated, our schools are a really great investment for Nunavummiut. We do want to see renovations and projects proceed, and with 45 schools there is

great demand to continuously renovate or put additions or create a new school.

The planning process, as stated, takes seven years for the capital planning process, which happens in year one. In year two it is also still in the planning phase but this time with a facility planner and that is when the feasibility study happens. In year three there is project planning that happens as well as facility planning. Year four is the design development and year five is when the tendering process starts, preconstruction activities occur, and then the construction phase happens in year six, seven, and eight.

These projects do take time and the department has worked on projects and they are always projects up for consideration. As I stated, there are currently 10 schools in our territory that are at 94 percent or higher in capacity.

For the fiscal year of 2021-22, I would like to reiterate that there were no education projects that were approved for preplanning as well as for this current upcoming fiscal year. I would like to state that for these projects I can't give a definite answer as to when the Sanirajak school will see renovations, but we are hopeful that all of our schools can go through this process and we do have more schools that would also like to see these renovations, additions, or possibly a new school. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that, minister. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that detailed information, minister. It takes quite a

long time for this preplanning to get a new school and year this and year that, but it comes to a point, looking at this Taloyoak school on page 2 of 3, you sort of touched based on the current overcrowding and being over capacity and the bullying part with the elementary school and the high school. This has been a concern to the constituents of Sanirajak or Amittuq, that they believe it is time for the Department of Education to add; not renovate, an addition or expansion, or get a new high school for the students to have a safe school.

I guess my question is: I did not hear next year or all of these years so I'm guessing year 6, so if today is 2022, by 2028 they will be getting school. Is that what I understood? Can the minister clarify that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I will go to the minister, but just in the meantime for the member, it would be very difficult for the minister to commit further Assemblies on what projects they approve or not approve, but Minister Gross, if you can give a timeline for the member's school. Thank you.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. At this point the Department of Education cannot give a timeline for that question. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your... Let me try to be on the capital side of this here. As the minister is aware, the other community that I represent of Igloolik has three schools, and unfortunately they are all on the Aggu side. Can the minister at least, when it comes to

preplanning phases for the capital projects, prioritize Sanirajak to get an additional school rather than probably getting a new high school?

It was touched upon by Arviat South that with the new high school and the expansions of the other school, there was a difference between \$45 million and \$34 million, which is kind of a \$10 million difference just for renovating a high school. Can the minister give me assurance that \$10 million for expanding Sanirajak's school would be a necessary rather than getting a high school with the capital projects for the next fiscal year and then fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kaerner. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. I can say that when Igloolik or any of our communities and their schools come up for the preplanning phase, that's when it's determined what process is going to happen. I will state that the department does use school utilization for planning for the future and we usually use three factors to help determine the future educational spaces. The requirements for this are the age of the facility, the condition of the facility, and the utilization of the facility.

As stated, there are many projects that we would like to see in the capital planning process and our communities would like to have... We have 16 that we would like future developments on in terms of schools, new schools, or renovations or expansions. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's nice to know that there will be 16 future developments. I would consider that and I would sure like to get another assurance from the minister that at least prioritize within that 16 future developments that there will be at least an expansion to the school in combination for those elementary school and high school. I just overheard you stating that with this Inuusiqtattiarniq Policy and Inuuqatigiitsiarniq Policy, and I do believe it falls under that category to at least have a future development. Can I get assurance that Sanirajak's school will be prioritized with the 16 future developments in the future? That is my last question and comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question from our colleague. I would like to say that all of our schools are areas where we do take into consideration, so I can say to our colleague that schools in his riding are in consideration and we cherish all of our schools and we would like to see expansions, renovations, or new schools in our communities.

The funding pot is very limited and we can only put forward a few schools at a time and we're hopeful that in the near future, the schools particularly in Igloolik and Sanirajak will come through with a preplanning process. As I noted, they are in the top ten for capacity.

With that, I don't know how many years; I can't commit to how many years it will take, but hopefully in the future they

will. For ease of mind, Taloyoak's Netsilik School, for the fiscal year of 2017-18, that's the year that it started and it was approved for preplanning. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just before I go to my next name, I would just like to remind committee members to please let me know if they wish to be added to the question list. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

I'll just start off with, I think, some easy questions. The 2022-27 draft capital estimates included funding for Iqaluit's Trois-Soleils addition project and the documentation indicates that the inclusion of a daycare was part of the renovation, pending federal funding. I'm wondering if that daycare is still part of the expansion.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Oh, thank you. Sorry.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. Yes, the École des Trois-Soleils will include a daycare. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies to everybody. This is a learning curve, I think, for me

and I'll try to be better at saying thank you.

I'm also wondering about the capacity for École des Trois-Soleils. Making space for students kind of across the city, I know that for a number of years, other schools have accommodated those students for different programs like physical education programs and things like that because of their lack of space. I just want some reassurance that this build will be beneficial to all students in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question or questions. The École des Trois-Soleils addition and daycare expansion will have the capacity to host, I guess, 60 spots within the daycare. As a non-profit society, it will be up to the board to make decisions on admission into the daycare. The CSFN has had discussions and I think are understanding of the hospitality of the DEA and the use of other facilities in Iqaluit. I cannot speak on behalf of the CSFN, but I do think that with reciprocity being there, I think they have taken that into consideration for future use of their school gymnasium. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. I just caution the use of acronyms. The CSFN is the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut, just for people's notification. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just thinking about safety. For the new builds as well as for

any renovations, do the designs include unobtrusive suicide prevention designs to ensure the safety of students, staff, and any public who might be using that space? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. The schools do include safety measures for suicide prevention, including breakaway hooks and areas for stalls, for example, in the bathrooms to collapse should unfortunate events happen in our schools. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Do new designs and renovations include safe spaces for students and staff or any public using space that are experiencing any kind of trauma, such as mental health issues, where they might need some time away in a room that is entirely safe for them to be able to centre themselves? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. Yes, there is space within our schools for our students to go and share their feelings with school counsellors. Each school has that space for students to go and speak with the *ilinniavimmi inuusiliriji*. Sorry about my Inuktitut. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can assure the minister that she never has to apologize to me about her Inuktitut and probably anybody else in this room. Thank you.

I'm also wondering about just with safety in mind and the number of times there are incidents in communities where communities are asked to shelter in place, and those are usually around potential for gun violence or for harm to come to anybody who might be outdoors.

What I'm wondering specifically about sheltering in place because of firearms incidents is whether or not any new schools or retrofitted schools are adding some measures of safety to protect those children, workers, and any public who might be in that space during a shelter in place where firearms might be offloaded at the school. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* once again to our colleague. I can say that our schools do different procedures, including lockdown and lockout, and they practise each of those once a year. They also do six fire alarm drills in the schools.

I would like to turn it over to my colleague to my right to further explain additional enhancements for school safety. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Cornthwaite.

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for allowing me to detail the answer. In our schools we have addressed it by installing what's called an intruder door handle system, so it's actually the door handle to classrooms so the teacher can lock herself or himself with the students in case of a violation happening in the school. We have installed special glasses that can't break in the schools. We have the CTV to protect the students in the schools.

We have done several things in our new designs as well as assisting schools to ensure that the lockout will be able to address the issue of safety for the students, as well as we have also been developing an actual sliding door panel for the window that might lead to the classroom. Once again, if the students have to be locked in the classroom, there's a method they can actually blank out so the person going down the hall cannot see anyone that's inside the classrooms. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Cornthwaite. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate those responses. When we talk about and you mentioned fire drills, I think it was six a year, I'm curious about... I know in my personal experiences, having children go through the school system here, sometimes they don't always have the proper shoes or the proper footwear or the proper clothing, and the weather can cause potentially a lot of harm if they have to spend any time out of doors, either expectedly or unexpectedly. I'm wondering about muster stations as well as whether or not new builds or

renovations include outbuildings that are specifically designed to keep students safe if they have to exit the school quickly. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you for linking that to capital. Minister Gross.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question to our colleague. Each school is equipped with a crisis response manual and outlined in the manual is information for the educators and school leaders to establish muster stations and give full detail on the procedure for these types of situations. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't think you really answered the member's question, but maybe the member might want to touch on it again. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I was actually just thinking, okay, that does. Just to be clear, are you saying that in fact no, that outbuildings that would keep children, workers, and public safe... ?

>> *Phone ringing*

Sorry. I will continue while the phone rings.

Is it true then that outbuildings that are meant to keep or could possibly keep people safe in the event of having to exit a school are not part of that design? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. That's another good thing about having

masks; we can't see how red somebody's face gets.

>> *Laughter*

Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get back to the member on the particulars of that question as the details are unknown to me at this point in time. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to just switch really quickly to small capital. There's funding set aside for student servers and mobile device management that would provide necessary tools for students to manage their school-assigned projects and research online, I guess, from a distance. I wonder what the Department of Education is doing to ensure the safety of students when giving out devices that can have children go online and whether or not that's part of the plan for those devices. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. I can say that all of our devices go through the IT department and are locked and websites are locked and there is control to monitor the sites to ensure that there are websites that are not accessible. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just feel free to advise me if I'm overstepping here. Thank you for that response. As part of locking these devices, is there also education provided to the students about how to safely use those devices to protect themselves from online predation such as not sharing their whereabouts, their full names, or any other personal information? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. You were blurring the lines a little bit, but there is a capital component to it, so I will allow it. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to the member for the question. The schools are equipped with cyber safety and teach the students about cyber safety. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response, minister. In the back of my head, I'm thinking about how excited I was when Netsilik School was being built in Taloyoak, I think I was about seven or eight, and just how amazing it is for every community that does get new infrastructure like this, how exciting it is for everybody, from the little children all the way up to the older people.

I'm wondering: just to be sure, I know that this has been an issue in the past, are all these new builds as well as other projects or renovations sufficiently insured? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question to our

colleague. I can say that our buildings are insured throughout the process. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you. I have more questions, but I would like to give other people an opportunity as well, so I'll just ask one more related to the new builds. What we know is that 35 percent of Nunavut Inuit between 15 and 99 self-identify as artists and that creating arts is very healing. Often there are intergenerational artists within families and when we think about how we connect people to the education system, this could be of great value. I'm wondering whether or not each of the new buildings or retrofits include space for creating art and teaching art programs to our students. Thank you.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. I think this is a two-fold question because it is up to the DEA to choose what they would like in their schools and to choose what classrooms are going to go into their school, whether it's being renovated or a new addition or creation of a new school.

I can report that in the process, the schools do have local art that's integrated into the school so that our students do see local art in our schools and can be proud of our identity, our territory, and the local artisans. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that response. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and to your staff as well.

On the subject of renovations, the elementary school, Rachel Arngnamaktiq Elementary School in Baker Lake was built a few decades ago and it badly does need some renovations done to it. I actually took a tour with your predecessor just about a year ago, down there touring the elementary school, and we were actually advised to watch our step when we were down walking through the hallway there because some of the flooring is actually taped down.

Looking at your five-year list here, I don't see Baker Lake or any other schools, I think, on the list for renovations in your substantiation sheet. I'm wondering: when will the elementary school in Baker Lake be put up for consideration by the government to do some renovations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Right now the school that our colleague is talking about in Baker Lake was built in 1988 for K to 5 and renovated in 1998. They are at 60 percent right now, so it's hard for me to give a time frame on when that will come through the process.

As I stated earlier to our fellow colleague's questions about Igloolik and Sanirajak, there are 16 schools that will eventually go through that process and I cannot comment on the particulars of

Baker Lake's elementary school. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for your response. Moving along as well, still on renovations but for the high school, it's quite well known that right across Nunavut, Inuit, we are really good with our hands, and we've had Agnico Eagle gold mine operating just outside of Baker Lake for 12 years now. I'm wondering: has there been any consideration into incorporating any of the trades training fields as part of renovations to our schools?

Looking to the next few decades, mining will be a big part of Nunavut and I believe it should be considered, putting in a trades training component into our high schools. Has that been put into consideration for capital planning? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Very good question. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. In regard to trades training, I would like to turn it over to our Deputy Minister, Ms. Hainnu, to answer that question. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Hainnu.

Ms. Hainnu (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to address the question. Every year in the spring the local district education authorities are able to put together learning plans and

what is outlined by the DEA can include training for sewing and hunting or other things. The DEA can select what they want to be taught.

If you want tradespeople, then the DEA can choose a trades program for grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 so that they can plan for their future. You should also be aware that students are not staff and they will not be made to work in a school. The private businesses go and fix things in the school. Thank you for the question.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Hainnu. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, deputy minister, for your response. Moving along, in your substantiation sheets under IT infrastructure, earlier you were talking about CCTV, but on page 3 of 6, there are projects deferred due to the lack of available funding and there's a list of communities that are being deferred. Is there a timeline of when those will be put into action and make the CCTV operational? There were a bit of concerns with bullying and whatnot and Mr. Cornthwaite mentioned that the CCTV should catch some of that on file. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. The reason why we are coming forward to the Committee of the Whole is to request funding to supplement CCTV system replacements. There are a number of communities that require updates to their systems and

Baker Lake's elementary school is one of the communities that do require a system upgrade. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that going to be coming up in the next fiscal year, in two years, three years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. We are here to ask for an increase from \$1 million to \$3 million for the CCTVs and, if approved, these CCTVs will happen next year. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that clarification, Minister Gross. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Moving along onto to the subject of buses, I'm wondering: which communities are currently requesting a new school bus? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. We do realize how important buses are and I can state that Pangnirtung and Cambridge Bay requested additional buses and Cambridge Bay's bus arrived this past sealift and Pangnirtung is coming this fall. The DEAs of Kugaaruk and Gjoa Haven have requested assistance with running community school bus services

and the department is currently reviewing results. We also have requests from Pangnirtung, Kimmirut, Clyde River, and we just received one today from Naujaat. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker or Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. It is close; Deputy Speaker. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. How many communities currently operate buses provided by the Department of Education and how many have busing services provided under third party contracts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. This is a detailed question. In Qikiqtani we have two communities under contract, with the remaining with the Department of Education; in the Kivalliq we have five communities under contract and the remaining with the Department of Education; and in the Kitikmeot all busing services are provided with the Department of Education. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for the response. Looking at the three regions, I'm wondering: is there a trend now to put them all under the GN? Is the Kitikmeot the first to do that or are there any concerns? Looking ahead, I'm wondering if you're going to be asking for more money later on for capital to buy buses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I will clarify. Sorry. One of the communities in the Kitikmeot is run through a contractor; the remaining is with the Department of Education. The trend is for the Department of Education to go with the contractor and not through the Department of Education. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that response. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Ongoing concerns have been raised about the need for storage or garage facilities for school buses to keep them safe from vandalism and bad weather. How does the department assist communities to ensure that bus storage needs are met? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. This question would be deferred to the Department of Community and Government Services, as it is infrastructure within the community's needs. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Just to clarify: is the minister asking the Minister of Community and Government Services to respond to the question?

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. No, I'm not asking for the

minister to respond; just to note that the process would be to go through the Department of Community and Government Services to request that infrastructure for the buses or bus in their community. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that clarification. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me once again. I have a few questions. When (interpretation ends) my colleague, Savikataaq, (interpretation) was asking questions, (interpretation ends) location (interpretation) was mentioned. Coral Harbour's (interpretation ends) municipal boundary (interpretation) is very large and there are a lot of good locations if you're going to be setting up a new school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, I couldn't hear the question. Can the member please repeat the question? *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Maybe if I speak in English, it will be clearer.

(interpretation ends) If we want to make a new school, location is no big deal in Coral Harbour because the municipal boundary is large. There would be a location for that new school if we can change the government's idea. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for clarifying that. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to our colleague. I take that as something that's noted for the department when considering school or schools in Naujaat. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Just to clarify, minister, the member was talking about Coral Harbour, where the school is currently being planned to be expanded. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I meant to say Coral Harbour. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. If I may, Mr. Malliki, from what I understand, we're approving a budget here today based upon an expansion of an existing school that you just said you're still open to considering building a new school. Can you clarify for the House, please? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. No, I'm not saying a new school. I misunderstood. I thought he was speaking about Naujaat.

I can say that Sakku School has already gone through the preplanning phase, so it is not a new school; it is the project in front of us, the renovation to Sakku School with the addition. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for clarifying it. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that clarification. (interpretation ends) How far into contracting it out is the

department? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. This fall the tendering process will begin. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: In that case, we've got no more say on the project for Sakku School. Am I correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to the member for the question. I can say that this project went through extensive consultation with the community of Coral Harbour, also with the DEA, and with people in the community that are stakeholders. I can turn that technicality because he was a part of the process to my colleague, Mr. Cornthwaite. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Gross. Mr. Cornthwaite.

Mr. Cornthwaite: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for allowing me to answer. Yes, as the minister said, we went under extensive community consultation. We flew back and forth several times to Coral Harbour. The consultants crawled all around the existing building. We went and looked at different lots. All the different options were reviewed and the option that was picked that was the best value for the Government of Nunavut was to renovate and add an addition to the existing

school and build a new CLC for the community. Thank you.

The only thing to keep in mind, I would like to add, is you still have time to give input on the school design because the school is in design. There is always time for the community to provide input on what they want inside the newly renovated school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that, Mr. Cornthwaite. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for those good responses. With regard to the renovation of the school and with Arctic College part of that school, is the Arctic College portion of it included in the renovation of the school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is correct. The community learning centre will be part of this new project, but it will be its own separate building away from the school but as part of this project. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that, minister. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): They mentioned the community learning centre for (interpretation ends) Arctic College. (interpretation) How much is that facility going to cost? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. This project envelope includes the whole project for the renovation of the school and the CLC. The total project cost includes both renovation and the CLC for \$55.5 million. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki, please.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm hearing a different figure now, where it was \$45.15 million, and we're now looking at \$55 million, so we have an increase of \$10 million. Can you correct me or clarify on that point? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I was reading the wrong paper. That was the old estimated cost. Our colleague is correct; the total project cost for Sakku School is anticipated at \$45,150,000. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, minister, for that clarification. My other question is on the adult learning centre. How big will the adult learning centre be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. It's Arctic College that consulted on the sizes of that CLC particulars. I can say, however, that the CLC's cost is approximately \$3.5 million. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the \$11 million that can be saved by the government, the \$34 million for the new school, I can't really understand how the government can save money. Yes, we want a school in Coral Harbour. (interpretation ends) Sooner or later they're going to have to build a high school. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would like to defer the question to our Deputy Minister, Ms. Hainnu, to answer that question. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Sorry.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Malliki...or sorry, Ms. Hainnu, I was distracted. My apologies. Ms. Hainnu.

Ms. Hainnu: It's okay as long as your phone wasn't ringing.

>> *Laughter*

No worries. (interpretation) Thank you. That's a very good question. I won't state the cost. I can say that we would like to see more schools, but the school renovation is something we worked very hard towards and we constantly requested funding. We just didn't have enough funds during the COVID pandemic. The original estimate was 101 percent over and for the renovation of the new school, the \$45 million figure,

compared to what we originally estimated and what we estimate today, the remainder is something we're requesting for funds today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Sorry, Ms. Hainnu, your microphone is off. Ms. Hainnu, please.

Ms. Hainnu: Okay, there? (interpretation) I'm sorry. Thank you. We requested and we have requested many times on the budget different numbers that have been laid down. In 2020 that we started off with and when we had to talk about the 2022 fiscal year, what we requested is more because we were in shortfall in previous estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Before I go to Mr. Malliki, Mr. Simailak.

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

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and this motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 2 and would like to report progress.

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

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Simailak. 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 Management and Services Board meets tomorrow at 10 a.m. in the Tuktu Room.

Orders of the Day for March 16:

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 Wednesday, March 16, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:01*

