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Official Report

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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)

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

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and
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(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

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College*

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Mary Killiktee
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*Government House Leader; Minister
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*Minister of Finance, Chair of the
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Minister responsible for the Workers'
Safety and Compensation
Commission*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, March 18, 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 Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Hon. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak.

>>House commenced at 10:00

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. Inuit who are watching the proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, I thank you and welcome. As well, my colleagues here in the House work to address issues on a daily basis, so I thank them.

(interpretation ends) Today being a Friday, I would like for all Nunavummiut to be proud we have, on each of the House, three amigos, the girl ones, and for making sure that the boy ones are taught how to sleep well. Thank you.

Ministers' Statements. Minister for Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 057 – 6(1):
Training for Inuit Labour**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues and Nunavummiut, as well as my family in Pangnirtung who are watching the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the successful implementation and ongoing support provided to contractors in developing training programs as per the *Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti Regulations*.

(interpretation ends) As stated in the regulations, all contracts with an anticipated labour value of \$1 million or higher and with duration of 12 months or longer in Nunavut require contractors to provide training for Inuit labour. This initiative is a joint effort between the Department of Family Services, the NNI Secretariat of Economic Development and Transportation, Community and Government Services, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Since August 2021, Family Services has worked closely with over seven contractors and is actively overseeing 13 major works agreements in Nunavut and supporting the development and implementation of a robust training plan upon contract award.

Mr. Speaker, the department provides direction to contractors to ensure there are appropriate training components specific to each project. The department helps to determine the appropriate number of hours required, confirms that

training plans are job-specific and suitable for the level of employment, and includes strategies targeting skills development and advancement opportunities on the job.

Mr. Speaker, this joint effort will benefit the participants, municipalities, and potential employers in the private sector and families. I thank all the departments working with us to make this a reality. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister for Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

**Minister's Statement 058 – 6(1):
Summer Student Employment
Equity Program**

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through the Summer Student Employment Equity Program, high school and post-secondary students gain meaningful work experience and get on-the-job-training in the public service.

This program promotes youth development, encourages continuous learning, and creates a pool of experienced employees for our government.

The Summer Student Employment Equity Program is going ahead, despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Summer Student Employment Equity Program will officially launch on April 1, 2022.

Mr. Speaker, in summer 2021 the Government of Nunavut hired 229

students in 19 communities, of whom 192 were Nunavut Inuit students. The Department of Health hired the most students at 54 and 41 were Nunavut Inuit. The Department of Environment hired the second highest at 39 students and 38, or 97 percent, were Nunavut Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the departments and public bodies for continuing to use the Summer Student Employment Equity Program, especially for all the time and effort they put in training and assisting our students to gain valuable work experience in our government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 059 – 6(1): Land
Preparedness**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut and members. With today being Friday, enjoy your day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind Nunavummiut, with the longer days and warmer weather approaching, to be prepared before you head on the land.

Mr. Speaker, Community and Government Services' Nunavut Emergency Management division supports local ground search and rescue groups with training and safety equipment to respond to search and rescue calls.

Mr. Speaker, in 2021 the division activated 202 search and rescue operations across Nunavut. The total number by region included 82 in Qikiqtaaluk, 76 in Kivalliq, and 44 in Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, to be self-reliant and safe, be prepared by having a SPOT device and survival equipment. SPOT devices can be signed out at your local hamlet office. Always check the weather before you head out and notify someone of where you are going and when you plan to return. Bring survival equipment such as a tent, sleeping bag, compass, GPS, Coleman stove, food, extra spark plugs, drive belt, oil, gas, and communication devices like an InReach or satellite phone.

Mr. Speaker, whenever possible, travel with others and seek out advice from an elder or experienced hunters regarding your land trip plans.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the of the ground search and rescue volunteers in Nunavut for their dedication and care of their community members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 060 – 6(1): Child Care Workers Receive COVID-19 Thank You Bonus

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenging time for Nunavummiut, particularly for child care facilities and their staff. As early childhood educators and caregivers to our most vulnerable population, child care workers have been asked to remain open while other places may have closed.

During the most recent territory-wide lockdown, when others continued to work from home, child care facilities were asked to reopen to children of critical workers. Our department recognizes that a number of child care facilities chose not to reopen. However, for those that were able to reopen to children of critical workers during this wave, we want to say a special thank you.

Mr. Speaker, each facility that reopened to care for children of critical workers during the most recent territory-wide lockdown will be given a one-time \$5,000 thank you bonus from the Department of Education. Additionally, each employee who worked during that lockdown period will receive a one-time \$1,000 thank you bonus.

>> *Applause*

I also want to personally thank all child care facilities and their employees for their willingness to respond to our call for support. Balancing work and child care put a significant burden on our critical workers. Mr. Speaker, child care facilities and their staff play a huge role in supporting our essential services during these challenging times. Please join me in thanking them for their commitment to children of critical

workers and our communities. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 061 – 6(1):
North-East Mainland Caribou
Population**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update you on the status of the barren-ground caribou herds of the north-east mainland.

The Ahiak, Wager Bay and Lorillard herds have long been important to Nunavummiut, yet we have little information about the abundance of these herds and therefore are unable to determine population trends.

Mr. Speaker, despite continued challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic, the Wildlife Research Division and 22 HTO-selected observers safely and effectively completed calving ground abundance surveys of all north-east mainland herds in June 2021. There are people here who took part in the survey.

The completion of this survey marks the first quantitative abundance assessment for the Wager Bay and Lorillard herds, and the second for the Ahiak herd.

The survey results are currently being processed and analyzed. My department

plans to hold community meetings to discuss results this winter.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the HTOs in the affected communities and our researchers for contributing to this important work. Nunavummiut want a better understanding of our caribou populations, and my department continues to work to provide quality information for hunters, residents, and decision-makers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 090 – 6(1):
Happy Birthday to Lily and
Megan**

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues and the people of Baker Lake.

Lily and Megan are celebrating their birthdays. They're at school at 9:15 in Baker Lake. My fellow residents of Baker Lake, if you see Lily and Megan, wish them happy birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 091 – 6(1):
Condolences to Family in
Kugaaruk**

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to send my condolences to the Niptayok family in Kugaaruk for the loss of a great friend, a father, a grandfather, and a great hunter.

Mr. Speaker, Avilajuk Niptayok will be dearly missed by many.

Mr. Speaker, me and Avilajuk have same Inuktitut names and my *avvaq* he was, and I send my condolences, love, respects to his family and the community of Kugaaruk and my constituency it is.

(interpretation) To the people of Kugaaruk, you are in our thoughts and prayers, and I love you. I am Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Member for Netsilik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Condolences to the family of Kugaaruk from the House.

Members' Statements. Member for Tununig, Ms. Nutarak.

**Member's Statement 092 – 6(1):
Tribute to the Late Gamilie
Kilukishak**

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish a good day to the people of Pond Inlet and Nunavummiut, as well as my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Gamilie Kilukishak, who was one of my well-respected constituents who recently passed away.

Mr. Speaker, Gamilie spent most of his early life on the land in the Tununig area, but also lived near Arctic Bay and Igloodik for some time.

Gamilie often spoke of Inuit knowledge because he knew how it related to mental wellness. He often advocated for Inuit elders to work with those who have come into conflict with the law.

Gamilie also pushed for spaces for elders to work with law enforcement and mental health professionals.

Gamilie served two terms with the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit, a committee that advises the Government of Nunavut on Inuit language and culture. His knowledge, experience, guidance, and contributions will be of great benefit for many years to come.

Over his lifetime, Gamilie saw many changes and often helped his community members adapt to changes of the modern world while living a traditional lifestyle. He would pass on his traditional knowledge to youth in his community by participating with workshops, meetings, and speaking on the local radio.

Mr. Speaker, Gamilie advocated for *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* to be legislated as a way to keep Inuit knowledge and values incorporated in our legislation. Mr. Speaker, I was very honoured and humbled to have worked with Gamilie and I want to conclude by saying that his contributions will be with us for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in paying contribution to the late Gamilie Kilukishak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Our thoughts are family, from the Legislative Assembly, from the House. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Member's Statement 093 – 6(1): Time for a Change

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity. Before I begin I wanted to say that my youngest son, Joshua Malliki, is celebrating his birthday. Happy birthday, Max Joshua Malliki.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today... I'll speak in English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday we all changed our clocks forward by one hour and later this year we will move back by one hour. Why do we do this? Does this still make sense for our communities or is it something that was introduced over a century ago during a time when the needs of the southern agricultural sector were more dominant than they are today.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is time to end the practice of changing our clock twice a year. I'm not alone. It was very interesting to learn that the United States Senate voted earlier this week to pass legislation to end practice of changing the clock in that country. It is to my understanding that a number of Canadian jurisdictions are also considering moving in this direction.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that ending the practice of changing the clock twice a year would benefit in that we should look at staying on the same time on a

year round basis. Mr. Speaker, I will have a question on this subject for the appropriate minister. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 094 – 6(1): Respect for Traditional Dog Teams

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning to Nunavummiut, and a special "hello" to my namesake, Pitsiulaaq and our little sister Brea, as well as Anguti, Nanauq, and happy baby Kootoo, and to all the children and youth watching today.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning when I went out to greet the day, I was lucky enough to see a dog team take off and it was pretty amazing to see, and very powerful. My ataatsiaq, Tusaaji, told me that dogs are most powerful when they are taking off and when they are coming home, and that those trips home sometimes saved his life. I think that is a story for another day.

Mr. Speaker, there are many trails coming in and out of Iqaluit where dog teams are coming and going, especially in the spring and people are out enjoying the good weather. It's really important for people to remember that they should take care when they are coming and going and be aware of their surroundings, especially if they have pets with them, Mr. Speaker.

Our sled dogs have been trained for generations to have a strong predator and chase instinct which has helped us keep alive as Inuit for generations. It would be

a shame for a tragedy to occur because sled dogs may become entangled with pets and people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that people keep that in mind when they're out on the trails enjoying the spring and that they leash their pets and move them as far away from the sled dog teams as possible, and to take cues from those sled dogs, the *qimuksiq*, and just be really careful out there. As well, we don't park in the middle of the roads here. Those trails out on the land are especially important for those *qimuksiit* and for hunters who are carrying heavy loads in *kamutiit* that might not be easy to stop.

So please stay as far away from the trails if you're going to stop and yield to hunters and dog teams. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

**Member's Statement 095 – 6(1):
Appreciation of Kugluktuk
Hunters and HTO**

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak Inuinnaqtun. Please take care. We too, want to think about those relatives in Kugluktuk. The HTO has supported the traditional food hunt.

(interpretation ends) I just wanted to recognize the HTO for always helping the community of Kugluktuk with country food. Also, to those hunters that deliver food when they get in from their hunting trips and deliver food to the elders. On behalf of Kugluktuk, thank you very much. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 096 – 6(1): New
Constituency Assistants**

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning fellow members, and to my constituents in Arviat and Whale Cove. It's a glorious beautiful morning today.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I have offices now and new staff in Whale Cove and Arviat. I would like to welcome in Whale Cove, Susie Krittterdlik, who will be my constituency assistant, and Lynn Issaluk Emiktowt in Arviat. Lynn and Susie will be my assistants in the times coming up. Perhaps, due to the nature of the work I'm doing, we have moved to Iqaluit, but I want to assure people from Arviat and Whale Cove that I want to stay in touch. So Susie and Lynn will be supporting me in this work. I thank you both.

Also, I am grateful and thankful and it's Friday, Mr. Speaker, also I want to thank and be happy the Toronto Maple Leafs won yesterday. I'm happy with you. Then it was 3-2 over the Carolina Hurricanes. Also, on Tuesday they beat the Stars 4-0.

An Hon. Member: Second time.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): I wonder if they're even working hard anymore because they keep winning. I celebrate with you. Thank you Mr. Speaker, good morning.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. I have no more names for Members' Statements. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Environment, and they concern the issue of polar bear management.

As the minister is very much aware, the management of the southern Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation is very complex.

Speaker: My apologies, Mr. Qavvik. We passed an item. My apologies.

>> *Laughter*

Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. It's just being a Friday.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 057 – 6(1): “Do Not Work” Order

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank you for returning to Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions, and my apologies to the member for interrupting his line of questioning.

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral question No. 57 – 6(1) asked by the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk on March 8, 2022, requesting information on a “do not work” order, which was issued to the Aqsarniit Middle School by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. The member had expressed concern about a communication breakdown.

Mr. Speaker, the question that the member had asked was:

“For the sake of the public's education, can the minister describe how a ‘do not work’ order is issued and how it is communicated with the staff and stakeholders?”

Mr. Speaker, WSCC, or Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, procedures dictate that a written stop work order should follow an oral stop work order as quickly as possible.

Further, the written stop work order should be posted by the employer at the entrance of the worksite.

The stop work order would prevent staff from entering the school but would not apply to workers entering the school to correct ventilation of diesel fumes.

Mr. Speaker, in this case the verbal stop work order was issued on Friday, February 4, and the written stop work order was sent to the school principal on Monday, February 7. As verification that the order had been completed the same day the notice was not posted.

The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission has taken steps to ensure that a timelier issuance of a written stop

work order and verification of it being posted will occur in the future.

The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission is responsible for ensuring that directions issued within a stop work order have been actioned and resolved. The decision to keep the school closed once the stop work order was lifted was not made by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 115 – 6(1): Southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear Management

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, again. Thank you for the warmup.

>> *Laughter*

That gave a heads up to the Minister of Environment.

>> *Laughter*

Good morning to the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, again, my questions are for the Minister of Environment.

As the minister is very much aware, the management of the southern Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation is very complex.

There are a number of jurisdictions and organizations involved in the

management of the subpopulation. Bear with me, Mr. Speaker. They include the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board, the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board, the federal government, the Québec government, and the Nunavut government.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update today on the status of the total allowable harvest for the southern Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the extra time to get ready for this question, and I thank the MLA for questioning this.

Currently as our abundance survey was completed in 2021, we haven't finalized this yet. So the current total allowable harvest for Nunavut is 25, Nunavik has 22, and the Cree have 1, and Ontario has 1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the clarification. Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, his department held consultations on the subject of polar bear management with the Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association back in February 2020. With my previous position I happened to be at that meeting at that time, shortly before the start of the pandemic.

Can the minister indicate if his department is planning any follow-up meetings with the hunters and trappers association within the next few months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Mr. Speaker, yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just so happened to be employed by Environment in previous years and I like Mr. Akeeagok.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the Federal Court of Appeal recently issued a judgement in respect to the Makivik Corporation's appeal of decision made by the federal Minister of Environment to vary a decision made by the Nunavik Marine Regional Wildlife Board in respect to quotas.

My understanding is that the court upheld the appeal. Can the minister confirm if there are any pending matters before the Nunavut Court of Justice on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the question and for the court cases that was related to Makivik, that did not have any bearing on the Nunavut Wildlife Management System and I don't expect that there will

be court proceedings under Nunavut relating to this, but as the member mentioned, this is a very complex file, especially with four land claims that overlap that one subpopulation of polar bears.

There are ongoing discussions with the community, the three jurisdictions, and four land claims. It is probably one of the most complex to discuss regarding the harvest of polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 116 – 6(1): Student Transcripts

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Education. Many post-secondary institutions require students to apply by the end of February, and from what I've been led to understand, the Department of Education typically sends out updated transcripts to support these applications by the end of March.

Mr. Speaker, as many members are aware, last year some of our students were ineligible for acceptance as their transcripts were not received in time, even right up to September. In fact, I have heard some students still haven't received their transcripts from last year. We are now in the middle of March. How many transcripts have been requested, and how many have been issued for the next intake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Education, Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. As previously discussed, to the question raised by our colleague, there were issues with the new change for the student information system and transcripts were affected. However, as of February 16, all of the transcripts that I'm aware of had been sent by email or by hardcopy through the mail. There were over a thousand transcripts that were printed and sent to Nunavummiut. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that update, didn't realize some institutions were accepting electronic transcripts now.

Mr. Speaker, we all know students can face many hurdles trying to access post-secondary studies and I think we can all agree that the government, specifically the Department of Education, should not be one of them.

In addition to the late or non-receipt of transcripts by these institutions, I am also aware of incomplete transcripts being sent out. I am aware of a number of students being impacted by this that also resulted in them being ineligible for admission or even applying for courses that were not their first choice. It has even resulted in unnecessary costs as each time you apply for a program at most institutions there is a non-refundable application of \$100 or more. In fact, I know of one student who had three applications denied in a row last year because of incomplete transcripts.

Parents are extremely concerned about the timeliness and the accuracy of their children's transcripts. What measures are being taken to significantly reduce this issue as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. As we aware, there are a number of out-dated systems within the Government of Nunavut and our FANS office, Department of Education, has a very out-dated system, Mr. Speaker. We have worked to resolve part of the issue by updating the Department of Education's transcript system as discussed. The system was switched over this past year and we're working as hard as we can to ensure that students do not go through unforeseen circumstances.

We are aware that there have been some situations that have been brought to my attention and the Department of Education's attention, in regard to students that may have not received their transcripts. Our best advice is to email FANS, call FANS, or email myself or the Department of Education and we can look into the matter. These escalated files are top priority. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, last week the minister was asked for an update on the Maple Woods Student Information

System that was taken as notice, and in the response provided on March 14, the minister noted, as she mentioned, that the Maple Wood program has been replaced with Edsembli, the new software and that there were some programming issues that impacted the processing of student transcripts and have since been resolved.

Besides working as hard as you can, what specifically has been done to make sure that this does not occur again? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* again for the question. The new system, the Nunavut student information system, is a robust student information system that ensures that student data is collected accurately, securely, and consistently across Nunavut. This new system was updated this past January 2022 to increase functionality. There have been some programming issues that we've been discussing here today and, in the past, which impacted our student transcript records.

I can assure the House, Mr. Speaker, that the issues and transcripts as of February 16, have all been printed and processed and emailed to the students who have requested. If there are specific details of individuals who do require their transcripts to be updated, we are happy to work with those individuals to ensure that their transcripts are the most accurate.

We are hoping that this new system will have great functionality and create

improvements for Nunavummiut.
Quana, Mr. Speaker

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

Question 117 – 6(1): Status of Chesterfield Inlet Daycare

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear the Department of Education has been assisting daycares in the constituency of Hudson's Bay to reopen.

The department has also been providing assistance to the community of Chesterfield Inlet to reopen the Siqiniq Daycare, and I would like to thank the minister for corresponding with me on that issue.

Mr. Speaker, the community has been actively looking for board members to operate the daycare. Can the minister clearly explain what assistance her department can provide to communities to help them establish daycare societies? 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 daycares. I am excited to announce this past sitting that there have been a number of incentives for daycares including support for offsetting the cost of daycares and reducing fees.

Over the next five years this Early Learning Childhood Agreement with the federal government will provide tremendous support and the Department of Education has and is committed to supporting daycare centres. As most of them are run by non-profits, I would encourage any community that wants to see more daycares, or have daycare spaces open, to contact the Department of Education and our director of early learning and childcare will be pleased to work with the non-profit society to establish themselves if they have not been established, and go through legal registries in the application process to establish themselves as a non-profit society and further supporting them through the process of becoming a licensed childcare facility. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to thank the minister for her response.

Mr. Speaker, Chesterfield Inlet's Siqiniq Daycare closed last October. It has taken sometime to establish a new board of directors in the community. Unfortunately, in the meantime, the daycare building froze up and now needs renovations.

Can the minister clearly explain how her department can provide assistance to the daycares which need renovations and repairs to ensure they meet the appropriate health and safety standards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. The Department of Education works closely with the childcare facilities to ensure that they go through their due diligence to make sure that they are safe spaces for children to go to, as well as going through the process of starting up the facility.

So there are staff within the Department of Education that will travel to our communities across Nunavut and ensure that there is adequate space and that they are safely running or going to be operational and work through the process of ensuring that they are up to standard and up to code, Mr. Speaker. *Quana*.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to thank the minister for her response. Mr. Speaker, it seems that a number of daycare societies have experienced difficulty meeting their administrative obligations. Unfortunately, this occasionally leads to situations where the daycares are closed down due to administrative failures.

Will the minister commit to providing orientation sessions to daycare societies across Nunavut so that they are prepared to meet their administrative reporting obligations? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. Yes, the Department of Education does work with childcare facilities to support any type of training or work to ensure that their staff are receiving, whether it's early childcare training in certain circumstances, or working to meet financial obligation needs. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 118 – 6(1): Update on School Operations in Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in Baker Lake we have two schools; the Rachel Arnngnamaktiq Elementary School and the Jonah Amitnaaq Secondary School. It's quite evident we are still dealing with the COVID pandemic.

I'm wondering: can the minister describe the status of staffing in our schools? Are all teachers and support staff, such as student support assistants, reporting to work, and if not, what percentage of staff members are having to isolate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. The particulars for Baker Lake, there are currently 40.5 staff members in the community of Baker Lake and there are 12 student support assistants. Two of those staff are literacy coaches, three of them are language specialists, two are community counsellors, two are

secretaries, there are five custodial workers, with a total of 66.5 staff in Baker Lake. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In pre-COVID era, at times it was challenging to find substitute teachers. I imagine it must be even harder now. To prevent school closures, in order that our students can continue to attend school, what additional efforts are being made to recruit substitute teachers and support staff such as student support assistants? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I think that education across our country is facing challenges through the pandemic and we are working as best as we can to ensure that the needs of our teachers and students are being met.

I can say that there is a new staff funding formula that is called the student-educator ratio, and this is a new formula that was approved by cabinet when determining the number of teaching staff to allocate to each community. The previous student-education ratio was unpredictable with swings from year to year as enrollment and student attendance changed.

These fluctuations created challenges in terms of staffing and staff housing, but I can say that the previous funding formula did not include all school staff positions, which led to inequitable distribution of some positions, including

our student support staff and language specialist positions.

Our department developed a revised formula to capture all school staff positions and ensure a most consistent and equitable distribution of staff across schools, Mr. Speaker. The department submitted the revised funding formula for consideration and it was reviewed and approved during the winter session of the Legislature in 2020-21, and right now the department is currently on the first year of a three-year rollout, which means a creation and addition of 42 net new positions of student support assistants across our territory.

This new formula has enhanced the supports for our schools across our territory, and right now there are no, not that I'm aware of any, I guess, attraction, benefits for recruiting substitutes. I can say, with the new contribution signing with NTA, there is new increased salary dollars for support staff and for substitute teachers to create higher paid positions for our substitute teachers, Mr. Speaker. I think that was a great thing to entice and encourage more people to go and work in our schools as substitute teachers. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister for your response. I'm glad enhancements, improvements, have been made with the increasing of staff members and whatnot. Enhancements can and should always be made going forward.

Mr. Speaker, now that schools are back to 100 percent capacity, students have

made the observation themselves that when the classes were smaller, like when they were 50 percent capacity, they had more of about one to one contact with teachers. Going forward, will the minister commit to further enhancing and increasing the number of teachers and student support assistants in each school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. It is a great one and I'm pleased to state that Nunavut has the best student-educator ratio in our country, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut is leading the way in terms of the support that's there. It's something that we can revisit at a later time when we're reviewing the *Education Act* again, but for right now, I am pleased to state that we currently have the nation's best student-educator ratio. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 119 – 6(1): Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I noted last week in my questions to the Minister of Finance, the issue of bootlegging is a significant concern to Pond Inlet's alcohol education committee and the community as whole.

As the minister is aware, the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act* was passed by

the Fourth Legislative Assembly and came into force in the year 2021. The purpose of the legislation is to provide additional tools that the government can use to fight bootlegging and drug-dealing.

The current annual budget for the Civil Forfeiture Office is \$250,000. Can the minister confirm how many staff have been hired to date for the office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So far, for the forfeiture office, the director has been hired and I'm just going through my notes here to see if there are any others that are hired, but right now that office is functional. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker *amma* minister. As the minister is aware, the legislation establishes a special purpose fund called the "Forfeiture Fund."

When the government generates revenue from the seizure of property that was obtained through unlawful activities, the money can be used for "making payments to community wellness programs and organizations in Nunavut."

Can the minister clarify how much funding has been provided to date under this section of the legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My staff informed me last week, very excited that this will be our first one under this Act to utilize this, so we are starting and there are no funds specific that we have taken from any yet, but this past week we have our first test, I would say, because that's the first time we're going to be using it under this Act to apply the Forfeiture Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Can the minister confirm how many enforcement actions have been undertaken to date by the Civil Forfeiture Office? I think he just answered that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this past week was our first one, but with this we're going to continue and through this Act that we passed through, it's a very good Act that we need to utilize. I'm very thankful to the staff that are in place now that allows for this to be implemented. I thank the member for questioning this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 120 – 6(1): Public Housing Construction in Taloyoak

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, I was very pleased that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has been working to move forward with Taloyoak's new public housing units.

On February 16, 2022, the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a request for tender for the construction of two new public housing five-plexes in Taloyoak.

The tender closed on Wednesday of this week, March 16, 2022. Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm how many bids have been received for this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking this question.

The tenders just closed two days ago. I don't have the particular details as to how many tender applications that we received and their amounts at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the read the request for tender. Can the minister confirm the timeline for reviewing the bids and awarding the

contract for the construction of Taloyoak's new public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had a number of tenders close over the last few days, so our department and our staff are going through them at this time. Once they have reviewed them and received all bids, they will be reviewing the bids and contracts and going to ensure that they are gone through thoroughly and properly. That might take a couple of weeks to do that, Mr. Speaker.

From there they would move forward. If the bids are not so expensive that we can't build houses, if they are way over budget, then we would have to deal with that at that time, but the department is going over them. I can't give a detailed date in terms of when those dates will come in a particular community, Mr. Speaker. Those times are pretty fluid at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's request for tenders for Taloyoak's new public housing units indicates that "For contracts with an anticipated labour component valued in excess of \$1,000,000 and with duration of 12 months or longer, providing on-the-job training for Inuit workers is a contractual obligation. The successful contractor must contact the Career Development Division of the Department of Family

Services upon contract award to develop a specific training plan for this Contract. Funding to offset training costs may be available from the Nunavut Housing Corporation and from other sources.”

Can the minister confirm approximately how much the Nunavut Housing Corporation budgets per project to support training for Inuit workers and apprentices? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the project moves forward through the contracting process, the long list of to-do list that my colleague spoke of has to be gone through thoroughly to ensure that there are eligible people to take the program and to put the training in, and through that process we will find out if there is an X number of possible on-the-job-training opportunities there are in that contract. From there, we would budget the amount. We will go through that process in the coming days and weeks with the successful contractor in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 121 – 6(1): Transportation Arrangements for Medical Clients

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Good morning to the people of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River, and to all of you. I would like to direct my question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, probably many communities across Nunavut do not have dedicated transportation for medical patients to and from their homes to the airport who are travelling to receive health care. I know it's quite obvious from the lack vehicles and that is why I'm raising this on their behalves today.

In the communities, for people who do not have any form of transportation, when the airport is very far from the town, they have to drag their luggage on the road going to the airport. We have witnessed this in the communities. My question is to the Minister of Health: when patients are leaving or coming back, what sort of system has been arranged? (interpretation ends) How is his department ensuring that transportation is available for individuals who need to get to and from the airport in their community when they are on medical travel? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank my colleague for asking the question. Yes, if I understand the question very well. If it's not an emergency, we follow our policy. If no emergency exists, the transportation to and from the airport, or back to the community, is not part of our responsibility or policy, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

(interpretation ends) Non-emergency transportation from clients' homes to the health centre or an airport is the responsibility of the client, and transportation from a health centre to

home, or from the airport to home, in a non-emergent scenario is not covered under medical travel policy. So that's where we are at currently with regard to that service.

Mr. Speaker, we had previously raised this with the federal government in terms of including this in the medical travel benefit under Non-Insured Health Benefits, but that request was denied by our federal partners when it was raised. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you for the response. However, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I've been given this understanding, in some communities, that the Department of Health contracts the service from private transportation owners, and in other communities the hamlet is contracted to provide the service, such as when there is an emergency service that is needed to transport through ambulance or through their vehicle, which is owned by our local hamlets. There is a contracted service between the health department and municipality. That's why I have brought this to your attention.

Can the minister clarify how often these contracts are renewed or updated? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to my colleague's question relating to different types of emergencies, the member is truthful in her assessment that different

arrangements exist in different communities.

In some hamlets, they have authority to deal with emergency services, such as ambulance services for emergencies where the equipment is available, while in other communities arrangements are made with local taxi companies, or other companies who provide these services.

(interpretation ends) In terms of the contracting procedure, the relationship is between the federal government and the service provider. There are no contracts directly between the Department of Health and the service providers because the funding is coming from the federal government. We act as a support mechanism in terms of that relationship, but to my knowledge, there are no contracts in terms of the emergency inter-facility transfers item.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you for providing a clear answer, which is quite understandable. Yes, I believe we must review the entire system to look for improvements, that much is clear, as to why certain communities face difficulties. Due to various reasons, our constituents in the Arctic need to receive better service provision and to improve our entire system.

Due to these reasons, such as our elderly residents, people with disabilities, or those with mobility issues, where the residents are no longer capable of moving quickly, and many of them have no means of transportation so it really puts them in a difficult spot. I wanted to

point out the difficulties some of our residents' face, so I am voicing it here.

To say this in English, (interpretation ends) can the minister clarify what contracts, policies, or procedures are in place to ensure that patients with mobility issues can be transported to the local health centre to receive the health care they need? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. (interpretation ends) First of all, I would like to maybe correct myself a bit; I may have misspoken. In terms of the previous question, there may be a few cases where there is a contract between Health and a service provider, but I could commit to look into this and get back to the member in terms of a community-by-community summary of what the relationships in place are.

In terms of the mobility concerns, I really thank the member for raising this because of course, as the Department of Health, we want to make sure that all our clients have their needs met and regardless of the mobility issues that they may have. Everybody needs to be provided the same level of service. I can commit to looking into that item further, specifically in regard to wheelchair access or other mobility-related access and the transport issue, *Uqaqtitsijii*.

Also, to correct the record here, I did state that non-emergency transportation is not covered under the policy. Mr. Speaker, I just want to note that there are four communities that non-emergency

transportation to and from the airport is covered and that's due to the distance between the town and the airport, and that is Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Coral Harbour, and Whale Cove are currently covered under Non-Insured Health Benefits in terms of the trips to and from the airport. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 122 – 6(1): Time Zone Regulations

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, his department is responsible for the Time Zone Regulations made under the authority of the *Legislation Act*. These regulations state when the clocks currently need to be changed in March and November of each year.

As I noted in my member's statement, I believe that the time has come to stop the practice of changing the clocks twice a year. What is the government's position on this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If time revolved around me, it would be a perfect world.

>> *Laughter*

For the time change and any of this, we have not had any discussions as a government, and if we did we would include regular members on this topic. Right now, there haven't been any discussions. We are still following what is happening in North America. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. (interpretation ends) Will the minister commit to consulting with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities on this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to commit when our government has not had any discussion on a topic like this. Right now I don't want to commit to anything. If there are discussions, all stakeholders will need to be included if there is going to be a significant change for something like a time change. It will require discussions throughout. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Now my question is: is the cabinet going to look into this? Will the minister commit to providing an update to the Legislative Assembly on this issue during our upcoming spring sitting? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Mr. Speaker, I think our focus is to try and get our mandate ready and into this House. For major policies like this, I don't timeline as when, if, or any discussions we'll be having on this. I can't really commit to it, but if we do, definitely there will be a discussion around this House, in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 123 – 6(1): Update on Tuberculosis Funding

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Arviat. This morning my question is for the Minister of Health.

In March 2018 the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami received funding from the federal government to battle tuberculosis and to work to eliminate this lung disease from Inuit and Nunavut communities, and the amount transferred totalled \$27.5 million, which was for all of Inuit Nunangat.

I wish to ask the minister if any of the funding transferred, whether any funding from this \$27.5 million has been provided to the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and if the Government of Nunavut has successfully accessed any funding for this purpose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Regarding tuberculosis, as the actions required are both large and numerous.

Mr. Speaker, based on my briefing notes, I was led to understand that the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, received \$13.8 million of the overall funds transferred to ITK. The Department of Health also received \$2.5 million from those funds, and it is related to rapid testing modules for monitoring community residents, specifically, in English, (interpretation ends) community-wide screening clinics (interpretation) were done. We offer our thanks to Nunavut Tunngavik, as we continue in our work to eradicate tuberculosis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to ask the minister, \$13.8 million was through NTI. We have used \$2.5 million to date. There is still over \$10 million. Why, when the issue of tuberculosis preventions is important, have they accessed a very small portion of the funds through Nunavut Tunngavik, which is for Inuit to use? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Regarding the funds, we received \$2.5 million. We are expecting additional funds in the years coming.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my understanding currently is the potential for additional funding support out of the pot of funding that is tied for the regional action plan, tied to the work between Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the federal government, and so that is the process that we're following right now. The Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik are in the final stages of working together on a regional action plan and a memorandum of understanding, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of recent developments that work together on an agreement is also now going to include an information sharing agreement with Nunavut Tunngavik and the work is ongoing. There was also a review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner on the release of tuberculosis data. I guess part of the mix in terms of the on-going work, and it is an urgent item.

Mr. Speaker, we do have 50 times the national rate of tuberculosis, and I completely agree with the member that this should be a priority and it's something that we are fully committed to seeing move forward in terms of reducing the prevalence of TB in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's unfortunate, this funding has been available since 2018, but we have accessed a very small amount as a government. Perhaps the government or the minister should be requesting for additional funds, and we

still have people who are dying from TB to this day.

Now, I would like to ask the minister, as we apparently have three communities that have undergone the (interpretation ends) community screening tests, (interpretation) and they are Kinngait, Whale Cove and Clyde River. Those communities were tested to determine the overall numbers of residents with TB.

I know for a fact, due to the COVID restrictions, this screening test will not be doable. Nonetheless, I would like to ask the minister when the community of Arviat would be screened or tested community-wide for TB. I mean, the entirety of the residents should be tested to determine the extent of tuberculosis infections within Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, member. (interpretation ends) In terms of the community-wide screenings, currently we don't have any scheduled community-wide screenings. There have been three completed to date. Health has been doing some work internally to look at the effectiveness in terms of cost benefits to holding community-wide screenings.

In terms of the member's question and Arviat, given the size of the community, a community-wide screening clinic would be logistically very complicated just due to the number of residents and the physical space that is needed to conduct a community-wide screening. Whale Cove, for example, involved

blocking off the community hall for a number of weeks. In Arviat you could take that same model and then extend the time in which a community facility, either a gym or a community hall, would be taken up by that community-wide screening.

It's logistically very complicated, but it's something that we are continuing to evaluate. We're fully committed to working with Nunavut Tunngavik and our other partners to reducing the prevalence of TB in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 124 – 6(1): Police Act

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice and they concern the new territorial *Police Act*.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, a new territorial *Police Act* was passed by the Fifth Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the new *Police Act* received assent on June 8, 2021, but it has not yet come into force. Can the minister confirm when he expects to bring this Act into force? Thank you.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a firm date as to when we're planning to put this into implementation, but once I do, I'll definitely share with our members on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the response. As the minister is aware, one of the important elements of the new *Police Act* are provisions to allow the territorial government to enter into agreements with independent investigative bodies to conduct reviews of serious incidents involving the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

These are the type of incidents where an individual is killed or seriously injured during an interaction with the police. I would just like to take a moment to acknowledge those families that are living that experience and I send my care to them.

I am aware that a number of Canadian jurisdictions have established structures and processes in place to conduct this work, and it is my understanding that the department has undertaken discussions with other jurisdictions concerning this issue.

Can the minister update the House today on what progress has been in this area? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I share deep thoughts with the families that are going through this and the members that have to go through this too. It's a very difficult field in policing, so I share that solely with what the member just commented.

As for the partnerships, we are in very serious discussions with a southern jurisdiction and I'm hoping that I will have an announcement this coming spring, but right now the discussions are continuing to take place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for that response. I also extend my care and thoughts to those members who are impacted by sometimes very traumatic work experiences.

As the minister is aware, the legislation provides that he may make regulations concerning such matters as the appointment of civilian monitors and cultural advisors, which are positions that have prescribed responsibilities under the Act.

Can the minister update the House on which stakeholders are being consulted by his department in the development of the new regulations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a priority for our department to get this through. At this time, from my understanding we have not consulted with any of the stakeholders yet. The discussions on getting a partnership has been one of our top priorities. Any of the other parts of the Act are going to fall through and with that, once we start getting into those regulatory and need to have discussions

with appropriate partners or stakeholders, I will definitely keep the House informed on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 125 – 6(1): Kugluktuk Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to the people of Kugluktuk, Nunavummiut, and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, and they concern the subject of water and wastewater infrastructure in Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, his department’s 2022-23 capital estimates include funding for upgrades to Kugluktuk’s water infrastructure.

Information provided by the minister’s department indicates that design of the project will take place during the 2021-22 fiscal year and that construction will take place during the 2022-23 and 2023-24 fiscal years.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm the status of the tendering process for this project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Kugluktuk missed our Committee of the Whole appearance when my department

presented our capital estimates for the next fiscal. He is correct in that we are proceeding with improving the intake system in Kugluktuk.

Once our legislature proceeds with approving the budgets we would tender out the design and construction of that project in due time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, his department issued a request for proposals in March 2021 to develop a business case for a solution to Kugluktuk’s sewage lagoon, which has experienced a number of problems.

A contract was awarded to perform this work in May of 2021. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Kugluktuk wastewater repairs; we are working to resolve ongoing issues with the wastewater lagoon and at this time there are planning studies to be completed and my department has committed \$350,000 from the Canada Community-Building Fund to complete and identify a long-term solution for Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. (interpretation ends) Can the minister provide an update today on the status of his department's work to obtain federal funding for projects related to drinking water and waste water infrastructure? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my department works with the municipalities on their capital needs and we do have several projects on the go regarding water and wastewater. We have different federal pots of funds for those purposes. I don't have specific information but I commit to follow up with the member on those particulars regarding Kugluktuk projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 126 – 6(1): Daycare Space in Sanirajak

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thought I was forgotten.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Good morning to my fellow residents of Amittuq.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my question to the Minister of Education, and it concerns the lack of space for daycare in Sanirajak.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, early child learning is extremely important to help

prepare children for life ahead, Mr. Speaker. The community of Sanirajak currently does not have a daycare. Although it has a daycare society, which is a committee, they are having problems getting a space. Can the minister clearly explain how her department assists communities in accessing or acquiring buildings to use as a community daycare? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. The Department of Education is happy to work with non-profit organizations in securing spots for daycares and sometimes we've seen there are government assets that are open and available in communities for daycare facilities, and sometimes it's the municipality that operates or houses the daycare space. There are various instances across our 60 daycare facilities across the territory that are operated in various ways, but for the member's constituency of Sanirajak, the Department of Education would be happy to work with the non-profit organization to support their daycare needs. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the information you provided. I'm glad that the department is willing to assist with the daycare in Sanirajak. (interpretation ends) Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister responded by saying there are 60 facilities identified by the Department of Education as daycare facilities in

Nunavut. How can the minister reconcile this figure with actual numbers of daycares, such as those associated with schools, how can we ensure a facility is appended to our school in Sanirajak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. If I heard correctly, the member was asking how the Department of Education can support the school to receive a daycare. Mr. Speaker, with the current Government of Nunavut, new projects that are coming forward, there are opportunities for discussion to create daycare spaces specifically in schools and some of our communities do operate daycare facilities within the high schools and those facilities vary and not all schools have those facilities, but we would welcome a discussion with the member through letter. If the community is requesting, we will be happy to look into the situation. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that the minister is willing to assist and support the Amitturmiut I represent.

I would like to move on to another question, Mr. Speaker. Under the current *Education Act*, district education authorities can choose whether or not to provide early childhood programs in their community.

Now, can the minister provide an update on how many district education authorities and in which communities

currently provide early childhood learning programs and, if she cannot provide that information now, will she commit to providing it in writing to the Regular Members' Caucus? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* for the technical question to our member. I would be happy to provide that to the members through a written response. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 127 – 6(1): Update on FANS Program

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another question for the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the transcript issue that I spoke of earlier, another government-created barrier to education is the processing of FANS applications.

I noted with great interest some of the responses to media questions during recent COVID pressers. In one instance, it sounded like the minister was actually blaming students and institutions for delays in having FANS applications approved. As you can imagine, I did receive a number of calls from students and parents expressing their dissatisfaction with that position.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure there can be some back and forth on applications missing information, but isn't it the job of the

department to make sure students receive all the support possible to ensure their applications are submitted correctly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. The FANS department is going under review and we do have legislative FANS milestones that we're working to improve the FANS program. As we know, it has been a longstanding issue and with COVID-19 affecting some instances for students' delayed payments, it's unfortunate that that did happen and there are different circumstances for each person who may have had issues with their FANS. There were also instances with an institution.

Nunavut Arctic College also created a student enrolment form and I believe that that enrolment form did hinder some of our students not completing their FANS enrolment form and the confusion has been addressed. The Department of Education is working to change our system and I look forward to implementing the legislative review at a further date. I will be happy that I can present this as soon as possible, but there is a plan to enhance the FANS program, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that update from the minister. It leads right into my next question. I have spoken to a number of parents and students where they had reached out to get updates on their FANS or submit

applications and many had to wait weeks, if they were responded to at all.

Will the minister commit amending the FANS policy during this review to include a minimum timeframe for responses to be made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. There are interim solutions to address immediate issues with the FANS process, and some of them are to develop standard email responses, which the department does and there is a timeframe that in policy that FANS does have; usually a two business day turnaround for communicating back to FANS recipients on emails.

However, during peak times, this can be a five-day turnaround, Mr. Speaker. There are also plans to immediately address the small tweaks in the process and work to update the procedures manual, and also, enhancing communications to our speakers. These are all gaps that are being addressed as speak and we working to secure. That FANS process is being addressed immediately and we have been addressing each case as escalated files and working to ensure that students are held, being in touch with, and have been responded to. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke earlier today of unnecessary barriers put in front of our students. The

two issues I've raised today have directly impacted students attending post-secondary education at all. I personally know of students who had planned to further their education, but have either postponed or even cancelled that goal due to the complications arising from accessing these government programs.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, some students have more personal supports than others. Most can't afford to cover school and travel costs and patiently wait for their FANS application to be processed. Will the minister commit to supporting an increased role for FANS and student records staff to work with students more directly with their applications so that every student that wants to continue their education can do so, regardless of their personal situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* again to the member for the question. As stated, we are addressing the issues with FANS and are working to identify issues and gap analysis and will be happy and are happy to work with students when they do come forward through email or phone, and work to address concerns or issues. With this review and hopefully a new FANS database and program, we will see significant improvements to the FANS system.

As we know, it has been a long-standing issue and we want to secure and ensure that students are receiving the best support that they can, and with this FANS review, Mr. Speaker, there are

going to be great milestones that we have to work on, but the Department of Education has already committed to working on this issue and I'm very excited for this process to alleviate student stress if there any. I'm always there if people do reach out. The Department of Education is there, FANS is there, to support students when they need that support. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period is now over. Mr. Hickes.

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

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? I hear no nays and question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes.

Before we proceed with further questions, we will break for lunch and report back at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 11:55 and resumed at 13:29*

Speaker: Hello, Inuit. Welcome back. Before lunch, a member had asked to extend the question period and there was no nay, so we are extending it for another 30 minutes.

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

Question 128 – 6(1): Medical Travel

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health and they concern travel programs, specifically medical travel.

Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering if the Minister of Health can tell us a little bit about the reporting relationships of people who work in medical travel and specifically about how many different divisions do people responsible for medical travel report to, whether they work at the regional level, headquarters, and specifically about the roles of the people who are organizing the medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you to the member for the question. In terms of medical travel, we do have a number of different offices and divisions and layers of staff who work together.

Mr. Speaker, the medical travel program is a large responsibility of the Department of Health with roughly 21,000 round trips per year. When you think about those numbers, it's a lot of work in terms of booking tickets, booking accommodations, and then managing the travel issues that may arise along the way.

Generally speaking, we have the headquarters operation or the headquarters part of medical travel, as I understand it, and then there are regional offices, and then at each community health centre there are also staff. I guess

my response to the question is all those different areas or divisions work together in terms of managing medical travel. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that there are so many issues that arise due to just all the different layers of reporting and ways of working when different divisions and regions are working together, I'm wondering if there is consideration to centralize at least the reporting of medical travel clerks as well as anybody who is responsible for administering medical travel programs in order to ease the flow of information, including and importantly, I think, policies and procedures that, as we know, recently due to the pandemic have been changing quite often. I know that sometimes that can create a little bit of misinformation or misunderstanding if there isn't a central group that is responsible for sharing that information and training staff. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. In terms of centralizing the reporting and whether that would be beneficial, I believe that would be something that had been considered under the Medical Travel Policy and program review, which I have mentioned previously. In terms of that review, it included looking at client and escort communications, the medical travel support resources, medical travel operations, the human resources,

financial operations, and data management and reporting.

Uqaqtitsijii, the project implementation in terms of making improvements after the review, it's ongoing. As I mentioned previously, implementation of changes was delayed due to COVID, but we are anticipating getting that back on track in terms of implementing the recommended changes after that review.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the absence of any significant operational changes, I'm just wondering, Mr. Minister, if the teams that are spread out and reporting to different areas, whether or not those kind of on-the-ground medical travel coordinators get together on a regular basis to share information, training, and ideas, and how that happens.

I would just like to take a moment to recognize that one of your excellent team members of travel programs, Jhammea Ramos, is spending her last afternoon at travel programs today, and she was an integral part of that team, and a joy to see every day, and apparently is moving to QGH. I can tell the team over at QGH that their potlucks are about to just get so much better. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I appreciate the member's suggestion, as I take it, in terms of whether there will be benefits to staff getting together to share

information or experience. I'll take that under consideration.

Mr. Speaker, we are continually looking for ways that we can improve the client and escort travel experience. We know that one of the issues that health has is capacity at the community level, in terms of the medical travel staff based in health centres, and that is an area that we are currently working on making improvements to, specifically adding more staff at the health centre level to support or medical travellers and improve the service delivery.

(Interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 129 – 6(1): Child Care Facilities Receive COVID-19 Bonus

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Arviat. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Education regarding the minister's statement "Child Care Workers Receive COVID-19 Thank You Bonus" money. It's a good news story, I just want to see how good of a story it is.

Mr. Speaker, in the statement, each daycare facility got \$5,000 during the lock down and each employee that worked during the lockdown got \$1,000. How many facilities and how many workers received the bonus thank you funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the

question. Yes, this is a great initiative and the news release coincided today of this announcement. Our daycare facilities that were open during the lockdown period from January 10 to 14 will be receiving the bonus. There are five daycare facilities from across our territory that will be receiving the \$5,000 bonus and there are 29 employees that work within those five facilities that will be receiving their thank you bonus as a staff for working during that period. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister give us more details on where these five daycare centres are, what communities, so we'll know how widely spread out the bonus was? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. We have child care facilities: one in Iqaluit, one in Pond Inlet, one in Igloolik, one in Rankin Inlet, and one in Taloyoak that will be receiving the bonus. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is good news but I wish it would have been better in terms of I wish there were more day cares that could have taken advantage of this bonus.

Was there any advertisement from the GN or the education department to

encourage and let the daycares know that they would receive some kind of funds to help them stay open during the lockdown? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. During the lockdown period, there was email communication between the Department of Education and the daycare facilities asking if they would open up during the time to critical industry workers. Some volunteered and we are very thankful for those that did volunteer to open up their daycare facilities. While we recognize that we could not provide the bonus to all facilities, we recognize that child care workers are often underpaid for the important work that they do.

To help address this issue, I am happy to inform members that under the Canadian-wide Early Learning Childhood Care Agreement with the federal government, we will be working to establish a Nunavut-specific wage grid for early childhood workers. This wage grid will address existing wage inconsistencies and support the growth of child care positions and improve wage fairness.

I will also add that the Department of Education provides annual funding to child care facilities across the territory, including operational and maintenance funding, training, and over \$2.5 million in wage enhancements this year. As we look forward to implementing the Canada-wide agreement, this support will only increase. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 130 – 6(1): Territorial Corrections Act

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, all.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Justice and they concern the new territorial *Corrections Act*.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, both he and a number of other members sitting here today voted in favor of introducing a new *Corrections Act* during the Fifth Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the *Corrections Act* received Assent on June 6, 2019, but it has not yet come into force. Can the minister confirm when he expects to bring this Act into force? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a timeline in when it will come into force. There are five factors that we need to do within our department in order for those to start getting into force. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. As the minister is aware, one of the important elements of the new *Corrections Act* is the creation of a new position called the investigations officer. This is an

independent office-holder whose main role is to ensure that "decisions made by corrections staff are following appropriate guidelines under the appropriate legislation." The investigations officer also ensures that necessary inspections and reviews within correctional facilities are being undertaken when necessary.

In July 2021 the minister's department issued a request for proposals to fill the position. The request for proposals closed a few weeks later. Mr. Speaker, on March 9 of this year, the government published information indicating that the request for proposals has been cancelled.

Can the minister clarify why the request for proposals was cancelled and can he indicate when a new one will be issued? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the information on the reasons why it cancelled. An RFP is being reissued as far as I know, related to the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Information contained in the department's request for proposals indicates that "Following the creation of the Investigations Office, the Investigations Officer is required to undertake a review of the disciplinary process." Will the minister commit to tabling the results of this review in the Legislative Assembly once it has been completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once I get the document, I'll make that determination, but right now, it hasn't been produced and that hasn't taken place. Once I do, I'll definitely take it as a factor and I note that the members are interested in this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 131 – 6(1): Kivalliq Medical Travellers

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow-up on the need for accommodation for medical clients who travel through Rankin Inlet.

I thank the minister for his replies to my previous questions on this issue and also for his recent correspondence which provides further information. I also thank the minister for reinstating the day room policy in response to my concerns.

For the benefit of listening Kivallirmiut, can the minister confirm that medical travellers travelling through Rankin Inlet who have a layover greater than two hours will be eligible for a day room at a local hotel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, I can confirm that, and so I would encourage medical travellers who may be passing through Rankin Inlet, if you are going to require a day room, if you have a wait longer than two hours, to please let the medical travel staff in your community know in advance if possible. That way the staff can work to make sure that the room is ready and the arrangements have been made in advance of the travel. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister has indicated that medical travellers must request day rooms from their home community health centre prior to their medical travel. However, as we know from patients' experiences in requesting escorts, it is not always health centre staff who have the final say. The Medical Travel office has the authority to book travel and accommodation.

Can the minister clarify who makes the decision on whether to give a medical traveller a room or not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) If I understand the question correctly, it's regarding day room services, it's not regarding escorts. Am I correct there in my understanding?

Okay, so in terms of the day rooms and making the determination, I believe it's

solely based around the length of time that the individual is going to be waiting, whether it's using that two hour threshold, in terms of if it's longer than two hours then the day room would be approved, and if it's shorter than two hours then the day room would not be approved.

As for who specifically does the decision making in that case, that's a level of detail I don't have in front of me right now, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In some cases long layovers are unexpected and due to such events as weather or mechanical issues with the aircraft.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that signs are posted at the airport and in the Kivalliq communities to inform medical travellers that if they are experiencing a long layover, they are entitled to a day room and where to call to make the necessary arrangements? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the member's question, it's multiple commitments in one, I believe, that is being asked for, the commitment regarding the airport and then a commitment regarding... I believe that the information is already contained within the packages that medical travellers receive from the staff at the community level, but I can commit to

verifying that piece and I will commit to verifying that the information is posted at the Rankin Inlet Airport.

Mr. Speaker, while I have the opportunity, I would just like to thank all of our dedicated medical travel staff across the territory who work very hard to make sure that our medical clients have as smooth a trip as possible, and I can say this with full sincerity. Mr. Speaker, they really do care about the well-being of our medical travellers and so for that, I thank them. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Question 132 – 6(1): Housing Status of Cabinet Ministers

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): That was unexpected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do wear a mask, (interpretation ends) but today I take my mask off to be crisp and clear.

Mr. Speaker, I realize that the Acting Premier is unlikely to have the answer to my question right at this moment, but if she could provide a response as a return to oral question for Monday, I would appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, in our previous Assembly, there have been questions raised about whether ministers are living in Iqaluit or not. For the record, Mr. Speaker, what is the status of housing for all members of cabinet? Do they have leased units here in Iqaluit, or what is the housing status in their home community? Do they lease or own or stay in a public unit or staff

housing, Mr. Speaker? That is my only question for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Deputy Premier of Nunavut, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. I would like to take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker: The question is taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 133 – 6(1): Out-of-territory Residential Care

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of discussion around repatriating our elders around this table and around the territory for a number of weeks, months, and years, but there is a whole other demographic of our population that are receiving out-of-territory care through the Department of Family Services.

My first question to the minister is: how many Nunavummiut receiving out-of-territory residential care at the moment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. With respect to people from Nunavut who are in out-of-territory care,

I do not have the corresponding numbers readily available, and I can take it as notice while I research the information relevant to the question about the actual numbers of patients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do look forward to getting that number.

Mr. Speaker, what services not available in Nunavut are the causes for these people to have to seek services out of territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. There are various issues related to health and some through the Department of Family Services and for the disabled who are wards of the state also leave the territory. I do not have information on other cases, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What are some of the things Family Services is doing to repatriate as many of these Nunavummiut as possible, as soon as possible? Or what things need to be done? I'm asking for both service delivery and infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. 24-hour care clients, or clients that need constant care, if there were services here it would be good, especially in the continuing care facility in Igloolik for those who need physical support. Those are the ones I could mention. I could also answer more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 134 – 6(1): Kivalliq Medical Travel

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and it's a follow up to the Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet's questions with regard to medical travel layovers in Rankin Inlet.

I appreciate the department's initiative in securing day rooms for medical travellers that are spending more than two hours in Rankin Inlet. I'm assuming the hotel shuttle will be picking the medical travellers from the airport, to and from the airport.

I'm wondering: is there a contingency plan should the hotel shuttle break down? How will the department make sure the medical travellers will get back to the airport in time to catch their flight? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member

for that question. When they are put up in a hotel they do have shuttle service, but if the shuttle broke down and they had to use a taxi, that is something they would have to pay for out of their own pocket. There are situations where assistance is hard to provide. If they had funds set aside if they are travelling, since there are situations that may come up that you do not expect and funds would help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 135 – 6(1): Mould Remediation

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker for recognizing me again. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation and it is with regard to mould.

On March 9 the minister made a statement announcing 14 communities had been remediated for mould. Which communities were the communities that were found to have mould? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The mould prevalence in quite a number of units has been worked on since 2017, in Taloyoak, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, Kugaaruk, Sanirajak, Iqaluit, Kinngait, Arviat, Cambridge Bay again, Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, Kugaaruk again, Kimmirut, Taloyoak,

Coral Harbour, Rankin Inlet, Nauyasat, Kugluktuk again. Those are the ones.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Those are the ones.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are so many community names listed, I doubt I can mention them all.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, it says that there are 11 communities that received the mould remediation work. I ask if my constituency communities of Sanirajak and Igloolik will receive any additional cleaning services, or will there be any other communities included at a later date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2022-23, Gjoa Haven, Kugaaruk, Sanirajak, Qikiqtarjuaq, Igloolik, Kinngait, Qikiqtarjuaq, Grise Fiord, Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, and Whale Cove. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's great. I have no more questions from there. Our communities will be included, that's great.

There are many communities, no doubt, that have to be worked on. It's a problem from overcrowding, perhaps. I would like to thank the minister for moving forward with these despite housing shortages. The communities I serve, Igloolik included, also have housing shortages. I just want to thank you. This is just a comment, not a question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Just being a comment. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Hon. Deputy Premier of Nunavut, Ms. Gross.

Item 11: Responses to Petitions

Response to Petition 001 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 002 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 003 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 004 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 005 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 006 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 007 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 008 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 009 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 010 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 011 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 012 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 013 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 014 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 015 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 016 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 017 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 018 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 019 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 020 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 021 – 6(1): Elder Care

Response to Petition 022 – 6(1): Elder Care

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling a response to petition 1 – 6(1) to 22 – 6(1), dated November 19, 2021, involving building elder care facilities in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, providing quality medical care to Nunavut elders is a priority to the Government of Nunavut. It's important to remember that elder care goes beyond health care and requires a government-wide approach.

The Government of Nunavut remains committed to meeting the long-term care needs of Nunavummiut and providing quality care in a culturally appropriate manner.

Mr. Speaker, we will carry out our mandate actions in collaboration with the Sixth Assembly, with broad input from elders, families, communities and partners to enable Nunavummiut to age

with dignity and care. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Deputy Mayor...

>> *Laughter*

...Deputy Premier of Nunavut, Ms. Gross.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 024 – 6(1): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers 2020-21

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured today to table the report respecting benefits paid to ministers under the Ministerial Benefits Policy for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 14. Notices of Motions. I recognize the Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 011 – 6(1): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Monday, March 21, 2022, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that the date of reconvening of the House for the spring 2022 sitting of the second session of this

Sixth Legislative Assembly be [May] 25, 2022.

Thank you, *Uqaqtittijii*.

Speaker: 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, 3 and 4, with Mr. Savikataaq in the chair.

Members, in accordance with authority provided to me by motion 9-1(6), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 10-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 14:07 and Committee resumed at 14:20*

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

Chairman (Mr. Savikataaq): Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to our Committee of the Whole procedures. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 2, 3, and 4. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

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

Economic Development and Transportation, the Department of Justice, the Department of Environment, (interpretation ends) Family Services, and if permits, the Department of Culture and Heritage and the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2022-2023 – Economic
Development and Transportation
– Consideration in Committee**

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I do, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: For the record, Minister Kusugak, please introduce your officials and then proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My officials with me today, to my immediate left is Mr. David Kunuk, Deputy Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, and to my immediate right is Mr. John Hawkins, Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation.

Sorry about that. I'm so used to talking about Community and Government Services, a great department.

Ullukkut, Mr. Chairman. I am here today to review the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's capital estimates for 2022-23.

Mr. Chairman, the department is proposing \$14,955,000 in spending in our capital estimates for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

The majority of these expenditures are for airport improvements and are supported with federal funding under the National Trade Corridors Fund, which is a federal program that funds up to 75 percent of the cost of approved projects.

Through this program, Nunavut was approved for six new airport terminal buildings in Kugluktuk, Chesterfield Inlet, Nauyasat, Whale Cove, Kimmirut, and Rankin Inlet. Due to rising costs associated with COVID and global shortages, we could not award tenders last year and had to go back to the federal government to request more funds. They have committed an additional \$12 million to these projects, and therefore we are requesting an additional \$4 million in matching funds to proceed with tendering this year.

This budget also includes two additional projects that were approved for federal funding under the National Trade Corridors Fund in the summer of 2021: mobile equipment shelters for seven community airports and the Qikiqtarjuaq Port project.

The mobile equipment shelters are for Arviat, (interpretation) Pond Inlet, Grise Fiord, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Kugaaruk, and Kugluktuk (interpretation ends) as these airports currently do not have equipment shelters. The facilities are

sized to include space for commercial cargo activities, which can be leased to the private sector to improve the way cargo is handled in those communities. We are seeking \$10 million over five years for Nunavut's contribution to these projects.

The Qikiqtarjuaq Port project is an investment in strategic economic infrastructure that will transform Nunavut's offshore fishery and allow our territory to realize a greater share of the economic return from this important resource. We are seeking \$13.3 million over five years for this project.

The department has a range of items under Other Projects, including \$1,498,000 for a lifecycle payment for the Iqaluit airport. Under the terms of the project agreement, the GN has a continuing obligation for these payments throughout the 30-year term.

Mr. Chairman, maintaining our airports requires that we have reliable mobile equipment, and efficient and safe airport facilities. We do this through two projects:

- The first, the Transportation Equipment and Facilities project, is for heavy equipment costing more than \$250,000 and for facility maintenance, repair and upgrades.
- The second project, Small Capital, is for expenditures of less than \$250,000 and is used for mobile equipment and smaller facilities projects.

To meet procurement, production and sealift logistics, the department requested a total of \$3 million for these

projects through the interim appropriation process in 2021. We are still seeking an additional \$500,000 for our small capital projects to complete site works.

We are also requesting \$500,000 in the Small Craft Harbours project, which allows municipalities to apply for funds to assist with minor improvements to community docks, boat launches, and breakwaters.

The department is requesting new funding for an economic development lifecycle project of \$750,000. This fund will be put towards supporting regional community visitors' centres as well as assets that are owned by the Fisheries and Sealing Division.

The department has been successful in accessing federal government funds to do an upgrade for the Coral Harbour Airport apron lighting through the Airports Capital Assistance Program, and sealift improvements in nine communities through the Oceans Protection Plan. Both of these projects are 100 percent funded by federal programs.

Mr. Chairman, this plan includes important investments in our air and marine transportation infrastructure. We are rehabilitating existing assets, replacing others, and where there is a demonstrated need, upgrading or expanding our capacity.

With that Mr. Chairman, we are available to address any questions you may have. (interpretation) Thank you very much.

Chairman: Thank you. Does a regular member have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus on its review of the proposed 2022-23 Capital Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed capital budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year is \$14,955,000. This represents an increase of approximately 30.6 percent from its 2021-22 capital budget.

Mr. Chairman and members, in 2016 the Government of Canada announced a new Trade and Transportation Corridors Initiative. Over the past six years, a number of transportation infrastructure projects have received funding under this initiative, including renovation and expansion of the Rankin Inlet Airport Terminal Building and the planned construction of new airport terminal buildings in the communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Kimmirut, Kugluktuk, Nauyasat, and Whale Cove.

On August 9, 2021 the federal Minister of Transport announced a "top-up to the initial major investment of \$22.5 million in 2018 for five airport terminals in Kugluktuk, Nauyasat, Kimmirut, Whale Cove and Chesterfield Inlet...the additional investments announced today will ensure the projects are fully completed to meet the needs of these airports." Members look forward to the timely tendering of these projects.

On August 9, 2021 the federal Minister of Transport also announced \$30.0 million in funding for a project to

construct "new shelters to house heavy equipment essential for air operations, and to store cargo in the communities of Arviat, Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, Pond Inlet, and Grise Fiord. Mr. Chairman and members, the project involves the construction of seven shelters to be leased to private sector carriers and operators in these communities." Members look forward to further clarification on the proposed leasing agreements.

On August 4, 2021 the federal Minister of Transport announced \$40.0 in funding towards the construction of a new deep water port in Qikiqtarjuaq. This project has the potential to support Nunavut's fishing sector. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this major project.

Mr. Chairman and members, the spring 2017 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to Parliament included a chapter titled Civil Aviation Infrastructure in the North. One of the Auditor General's recommendations was that the federal Department of Transport "...should lead the development of a long-term strategy for northern airport infrastructure. The strategy should clearly outline the role that Transport Canada will play in addressing the infrastructure needs of remote northern airports." Mr. Chairman and members, the federal government's response to this recommendation was that Transport Canada "...will work with territorial governments and other federal government departments and stakeholders to identify shared priorities for northern transportation infrastructure, including, but not limited to, northern airports." Members continue to encourage the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative

Assembly concerning its work with Transport Canada in this area.

In June 2019 the Legislative Assembly approved a \$512,000 capital carryover for the Pangnirtung Airport Relocation Project. Given the lack of federal funding for this initiative, members continue to encourage the minister to clarify the government's plans with respect to this project.

Mr. Chairman and members, during the Committee of the Whole's consideration of the proposed 2019-2020 capital estimates, members were informed that the department would be updating its *Nunavut Airports 20-Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment*. Members continue to look forward to the updated report being tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The 2018-2021 business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation indicated that one of its ongoing priorities was to "...complete planning work for remediation and removal of decommissioned airport terminal buildings" in a number of communities. This work has not yet been completed in Qikiqtarjuaq, Coral Harbour, Nanisivik, or Resolute Bay. Mr. Chairman and members, recognizing that there may be a lack of jurisdictional clarity with respect to responsibility for certain facilities, members continue to encourage the minister to publicly clarify the department's schedule for the decommissioning of the buildings that have not yet been remediated or removed.

In August 2015 the department's Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy was revised. The

policy's "sunset date" was March 31, 2020. Schedule A of the policy concerns departmental support for "access roads and community marine infrastructure." Funding for projects under Schedule A is provided from the department's operations and maintenance budget. Schedule B details departmental support for "small craft harbour capital contributions," which are funded under the department's capital budget. The 2018-19 annual report on the administration of the program was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 4, 2020. However, the 2019-2020 and 2020-21 annual reports have not yet been tabled. Members look forward to the ongoing and timely tabling of departmental annual reports on the administration of this important program, as well as the timely release of the revised or renewed Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy.

On October 18, 2019 the Government of Nunavut issued a request for proposals for a "Comprehensive Marine Infrastructure Scoping Study." Mr. Chairman and members, funding for this important work was provided through the federal Oceans Protection Plan. Information published by the government indicates that Worley Canada Services was the successful proponent. Members continue to look forward to the results of this study being tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The department's proposed 2022-23 capital estimates include funding for "small capital projects" and "transportation equipment and facilities." The majority of this funding is for the acquisition of mobile equipment for Nunavut airports. Mr.

Chairman and members, a portion of this funding was approved in June 2021 through the passage of the *Interim Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2022-2023*.

The department's proposed 2022-23 capital estimates also include funding for economic development facilities lifecycle improvements. Members look forward to ongoing updates on work undertaken through this funding.

Mr. Chairman and members, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2022-23 Capital Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to the detailed questions? Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, minister and your officials.

Mr. Chairman, I regret that neither of my constituency communities are included in the Economic Development and Transportation capital estimates. I would like to see improvements made to my constituency communities as there are many improvements required that are not being met in the community with the marine infrastructure or (interpretation ends) breakwaters.

In part of the other community it has a breakwater in the Aggu riding, and Amittuq is divided by the breakwater, as it is on the Aggu side. In the ministers' opening statement, if the funds are approved, it would be used for infrastructure for both this fiscal year

along with next year and the \$500,000 made available to the hamlets.

This \$500,000, is it possible to prioritize these two communities when it comes to accessing the \$500,000, because it would make a difference if we could make improvements to the breakwater along with other marine facilities in my other community.

Both hamlets, if approved, which I would support, and I ask the minister to approve, as it could make numerous beneficial improvements to the people of Amittuq, which they have never had before. If this money is approved, I would like to place it in my constituency riding of Igloolik and Sanirajak.

In the Fifth Assembly, I started asking for that infrastructure and it will again be requested in this Sixth Assembly, but I have yet to even see plans for my riding outlining future developments, so I see nothing in place or even planned. This seems morbidly suspicious and extremely regretful to see that. It is sadly status quo for the department.

Mr. Chairman again, in speaking about our infrastructural deficits, I would again speak about our dilapidated air terminals we are stuck with. We were told that there will be six air terminal buildings being renovated or constructed, yet Igloolik as I want to re-emphasize, Mr. Chairman.

The air strip is now too short, and the air terminal is too crowded, so I would ask that this be included in the capital estimates, and to see some improvements made or expanded, and again for Sanirajak, the air terminal was built in 1992. I'm just estimating, but it

is aging. When we pass by Rankin Inlet, it is perfectly fine. When it comes to capital estimates, do government employees who deal with these ever go to the communities to look at the infrastructure to see what condition they are in? Do they ask questions about what is needed in the community, what the safety concerns are and so on?

I do my best to see improvements in my riding of Amittuq. Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, we will see improvements in the other communities. I would like to see this department have improvements in all communities. When you have two communities, you try to give a balance to voicing the needs of those communities and I try to be fair.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation should look at the Amittuq area and see what they need. We have a lot of needs and improvements to be made. Our young people do not have any recreational facilities. They have to be outside. The reason I bring this up is we have to see some benefits coming from the government and from the Legislative Assembly. We repeatedly say that the young people are our future, so we should be building them a solid foundation and that is what I believe in.

Maybe we should look at building them the facilities that are required. We can't get everything we want and there are probably reasons for that. Mr. Chairman, this money for 2022-23 of in the amount of \$14,955,000 is quite a lot of money. Of course we are never going to have enough money, but I would like to say to my colleagues that if we are going to

approve this amount, I would like to say once again that we have to focus on my two communities through this department and look at possible improvements in my riding.

I'm sure there are going to be a lot of questions from the members and possibly your department can look at having discussions with the federal government so that we can see further improvements, marine infrastructure, and so on. I try my best to represent my communities but it seems like I don't get heard. That's the case when you're representing two communities. I'll leave it at that, Mr. Chairman. I have never seen anything being offered to the Amittuq area; we are a part of Nunavut. Thank you once again, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the opportunity to make general comments.

Chairman (interpretation): That is just a general comment. Please keep your replies to the opening comments as short as you can. According to the list I have, Mr. Qavvik is next.

Mr. Qavvik: We're on question period? Comments? I'll be on the question side.

Chairman: Okay, sorry for the misunderstanding. Anyone on general comments to the opening comments? If not, okay, I have no more names for general comments.

We'll now proceed to a page-by-page review of department's estimates, starting on K-3. Just to let members know, there are two parts; K-3 and K-5. K-3 is Transportation. Limit your questions just to transportation. When we get to K-5, Economic Development,

and then you can ask about economic development.

Okay. Any names for K-3? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to start off with the Iqaluit project, obviously as it's in my part of my own backyard.

One of the things I noticed in the substantiation sheet, it talks about these monies being utilized for operations and maintenance payments, capital payments, and lifecycle payments, but there isn't a breakdown within the substantiation sheets on how much of this total goes to each category. Would the minister be able to lay that out for me? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Oh man, here starts my fight with the mask. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just give me a moment to find the breakdown of those particular details please, Mr. Chairman. Bear with us.

Here we go. If we look long enough, Mr. Chairman, we find them. Thank you for your patience, colleagues.

The budget for the 2021-22 on the Iqaluit International Airport Improvement project for O&M annual service payment for this 2021-22 season was \$11.4 million, 2022-23 was \$11.7 million, 2023-24 is \$12.1 million, 2024-25 is \$12.8 million. The capital costs annual service payment for 2021-22 is \$12.8 million, also for 2022-23 the same thing, 2023-24, and 2024-25 it's that figure. In terms of lifecycle annual

service payment: for 2021-22 is \$1 million, 2022-23 it's \$1.5 million, 2023-24 it's \$1.8 million. Sorry, interpreters. In 2024-25, it is \$856,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you to the minister for providing that detail. I'll keep a running track of that. I'd like to jump over to the Kimmirut airport. I know in previous years there's been a lot of talk on the runway itself being in need to be either moved or extended. I can't remember the exact issue. I know this is just for the terminal itself being replaced, but is there any opportunity? I know we have had three airports that have concerns on the length, or location to my recollection, over my years in this House, of Pangnirtung, Kimmirut and Nauyasat on the length of the runways.

Are there any plans for the department to be pursuing any projects where the runway length, or location is going to be examined? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate where my colleague is coming from.

In terms of the terminal building, I think they are pretty straight forward. In terms of looking for funds for airport runway extensions and, or relocation; those at this point are very cost prohibitive. It is a very expensive venture in any community to start relocating airports or extending runways.

Those conversations are still with the federal Transport discussions. We are not having them in House yet to see what we can do that way at this time. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to jump to another lily pad. I will go over the Qikiqtarjuaq port project.

When I look at the substantiation sheet it talks about in the project “risks” and obviously a number of infrastructures probably has the same line in it, “general cost, uncertainty, and construction delays may be significant risks.” It seems to be a common these globally, not just here in Nunavut.

My first question under that category would be: if the bids do end up coming in higher than the budget appropriation, what are the department’s intentions? Would they be looking at more money to keep the scope on track, or would you be reducing the scope, and if so, what are some of the considered crucial elements to this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As my colleague could appreciate, it depends on where we are on those. If it comes in on scope then we would proceed. If it is going to be over, by how much, right?

If we can do it within the allotted amount of money we have, then we would go forward. If not, if it is higher

than what we were anticipating then we would have to sit down and take a hard look at what other options we have going forward.

Not to not answer the question; it really depends on what kind of numbers we get back once we get to that stage, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know over the past number of years, Inuit organizations have been very interested in this project as well.

Are there any opportunities to leverage, or avoid duplication of, especially on the infrastructure side of things, to maximize the benefit of this port infrastructure to maximize the benefit to the community and to the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very much so. This is one of those projects that is community driven with a lot of support from the fishery industry.

At the end of the day, this project has to support and be supported by the fisheries organizations and companies, which include the birthright corporations that are involved in the fisheries. They have to support this and hopefully they will get involved in this build for this project to be successful and moving forward.

Those discussions have been very limited because of the COVID restrictions we have had, but moving

forward, we have to have buying and support from key players in the fishing industry. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same project on the O&M impact, it talks that the port will be expected to operate under contractor through a port authority, or through a similar entity, and that there is not anticipated to be any direct GN staff. I have heard of port authorities and things like that, but I'm not familiar with the way they operate.

I would appreciate it if the minister could just enlighten me on: would there be any anticipated cost implications, or how that type of structure operates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I'll let that go through. It is O&M but it has a bearing on this capital project, so Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really don't want to get into the O&M side of capital projects, but maybe I could have my deputy respond to that answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Which one of your officials?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: The deputy of... . Yes.

Chairman: Oh. Thank you. Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It could be operated by the hamlet, but as to who would fund that or how it would be funded, we have

not gotten into that yet, but we will. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will let that one lie for now, but I will follow-up. Like I said, I don't claim to know everything and definitely I don't know much about port authority and how that structure would work.

I would like to again, jump to another lily pad where we talk about facilities lifecycle; \$750,000. In the scope it talks about visitor's centre here in Iqaluit, the regional visitors centre in Rankin Inlet, fisheries research vessels and then it talks about multi-departmental Government of Nunavut buildings.

When we are talking, especially when you get into ships and things like that and updating building infrastructure, \$750,000 isn't going to go too far, but it doesn't really talk about what is going to be done with these funds, other than just those categories. Maybe if the minister could just give a little more detail on where some of these funds are going to be expended. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get into where these funds are going to be extended, maybe not with exact numbers in terms of figures, but we are looking at, in terms of the Pond Inlet visitor's centre, doing some exterior renovations, like painting, heating and hot water systems, replace and repair, or repair.

The Rankin Inlet vehicle, the Nuliajuk Fisheries search vessel probably will be multi-year project, but we are looking at additional berths near the laboratory, retractable haul stabilizers, general repairs to be determined, and major structural repairs to the Arviat visitors centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list: Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and your officials. In your opening comments, on page 3 of 4, I'm excited to see the \$500,000 in the small crafts harbour project, which allows municipalities to apply for funds approved.

I have a question: when will these funds be made available to municipalities to apply? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each year in March we have call letters going out going out to the municipalities and groups of interest to let them know that funds for such things as that are available to be applied for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you for the answer. Is there a limited amount of allowable funds per community? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because we have such a

small amount and there is always a large interest in it, the maximum limit we look at is around \$300,000, following policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you. Is this on a first come, first served basis for municipalities to apply? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: No, Mr. Chairman. We assess all the applicants at once and go from there. We try to get as many communities in that fit into the budget allotment as we can, but we view them all at the same time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the material costs, for example, on community docks, does your department cover the cost of shipping? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, we do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik (interpretation): I'm done.

Chairman (interpretation): You're done? (interpretation ends) Okay. Next on my list: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question and to thank George Hickes for asking about

runway extensions, it has been under discussion a long time in Naujaat. It seemed that it was going to proceed, but it didn't happen.

However, I would now like to ask this question. (interpretation ends) Your department's 2018-19 *Annual Report on the Administration of the Community Transportation Initiatives Program* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 4, 2020. When will the 2019-2020 and 2020-21 annual reports be ready for tabling in the legislative? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Lots of 2020s in there, but Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, we're really hoping that it's going to happen in 2022. Mr. Chairman, we will see if we can have it...we're hoping to have it tabled this time around, but we will shoot for the next session, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for the response. (interpretation ends) On May 5, 2021 your department issued a request for tenders for the construction of Kugluktuk's new airport terminal building. The tender closed on June 11 and on May 6, 2021 your department issued a request for tenders for the construction of new airport terminal buildings in Chesterfield Inlet, Naujaat, and Whale Cove. The tender closed on June 10, 2021. On August 5 the government issued a notice of cancellation for both of these tenders.

On August 9, 2021 the federal government Minister of Transport announced a top-up to the initial major investment of \$22.5 million in 2018 for five terminal airports in Kugluktuk, Naujaat, Kimmirut, Whale Cove, and Chesterfield Inlet.

What is your department tabling for this new tender for this project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Just a moment, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once this budget has been approved with the additional funds, we would be going out for tender with the Kivalliq ones together. That would be Whale Cove, Naujaat, and Chesterfield Inlet as one package, and then the Kugluktuk one as a separate package. After that would be Kimmirut.

We have to wait until the budget has been approved before we put out a tender otherwise we will get asked why we are putting out tenders before we're approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister for that response. Why are they in one package when there are three separate communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The terminals are pretty much the same, so we wanted to put them out in one contract and for one contractor to do them, and that way we can get them done faster and cheaper. That is what we were thinking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to return to the extension of the runway in Naujaat. Even when I was mayor we pushed for this, and I will continue to push for the extension or to move the runway.

It's only going to become more expensive the longer we wait. The longer you wait, the more expensive it will be. It's already expensive, so if we wait it will be even more costly. Can we, I wonder, put in a proposal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Ma'na.* Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within the Kivalliq region, I too have served in the capacity of a mayor wherein I worked with the regional mayors for many years, and part of the discussions revolved around the runway in Naujaat, along with other restrictions faced by the other communities.

Nonetheless, there is a limit to expansion because it can become obscenely expensive, and we have limited funding. With no extra funds specifically set aside for runway extensions, and Canada, via the federal government, must fund the

expansion or construction of the runways, and we have no discretionary funds towards that.

Therefore, it is so hard to move forward with actual runway extensions because we have no funds. It is prohibitively expensive to construct runways that conform to current standards, so due to these very high costs, we tend to get stalled even after plans are made since we depend on the federal government to bear the costs of these airstrip extensions with no funding being available.

Only the Department of Transportation has specific funds for that purpose, and we have met with their representatives, and I believe I have a meeting scheduled in the short-term to discuss the airport challenges and issues, including extensions to allow for larger aircraft. So I will commit to bringing these challenges up at those meetings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that response. Yes, this is a long time in the works already. I would also like to ask if the Coral Harbour runway lights will receive improvements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have put in a request for those improvements for Coral Harbour. As of today, we have not yet been approved. Once they are approved we will proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too, would like to see this proceed. I have seen, when we go to the land in Coral Harbour, the lights went out one time. They freeze, so this does need to be approved. It's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm done.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment, but the minister wants to comment, so Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I want to assure my fellow member that this is a priority. If it does get approved, then we can proceed to do the improvements as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The next on my list: Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask, regarding to what he mentioned earlier about the terminal buildings for Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, and Naujaat being on one tender; when they are one tender, the last time when they did this, it was too expensive. In 2021 they cancelled requests for proposals, and now this season they're going to be bundled again. What will happen if it's overpriced again? Are you going to look for new requests for proposals on a separate, individual basis after that, to meet the shipping dates and cut off dates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we process these tenders as the government, we have agencies that deal with and review contracts. We deal with that department regarding the terminal buildings, whether on the basis of the contract. What is the best, cheapest option? We work together. They advised that bundling it would be the cheapest way to do this.

They are the experts, and we agreed with that process. We currently believe that we have additional funds, and that costs are going down. We see this proceeding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the Rankin Inlet airport terminal extension, (interpretation ends) when is the request for tenders being put out? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the end of this month we will put out an RFP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): I don't always agree with my mask as well. For Chesterfield Inlet, the dock has been identified and they've put in a request through me, and I wanted to mention this here under the \$500,000

allocation. We also don't want to miss part of what is available to us as small communities. We are always put behind the big communities when hamlets are submitting proposals to be treated the same way, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question. That was just a comment. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contract in Rankin Inlet that I mentioned at the end of the month will be made known, and with regard to an expression of interest, we have one at the moment, and at the end of the month it will be reviewed.

For the smaller communities and larger communities, we totally agree with communities. In fact, the question on Whale Cove, Chesterfield Inlet, Kimmirut, Nauyas terminals, and these small airports are also considered diligently. When the tenders come out and for any projects that are identified, we try and maximize as much as possible. It is just unfortunate we cannot deal with everyone at the same time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list: Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister and your officials, my question concerns first of all, what the status is with the dock in Pond Inlet. Could you give us some background? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The dock in Pond Inlet, from my understanding, is near completion and there are some minor adjustments needed, but it is near completion for the small craft harbour. The warranty for example, and some changes are near completion. Perhaps this summer we are envisioning a completion date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. This is very good news. Due to not having a dock, someone died in the open water and no one could to rescue them. The question is on the mobile equipment shelter, it was mentioned that Pond Inlet is included with the seven communities getting these.

Under schedule it says (interpretation ends) "Design is expected to expected to commence 2022-23 with construction starting 2023-24..." (interpretation) What is that status of that right now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The proposed funding is before you now and from here we will start going into the design and so forth. Upon approval here, that will be the next step. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister.

Last question. Although you did state that when you want a new airport, or to move an airport, it is very expensive. Perhaps Pond Inlet could be considered as a hub for the High Arctic, and that it will be able to receive jet service in our community, because Pond Inlet is already the hub and many visitors come into the community. Ships and cruises ships come in. I am also pleased that the visitors centre was renovated.

Chairman (interpretation): I think that was just a comment. (interpretation) Next on my list, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): I'll take this off for the first time here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. It's great to see you, along with your staff.

I do have some questions concerning the marine facility. This has been expected for a long time; in fact for over 20 years. My first question concerns fisheries. Have you had correspondence with marine fisheries concerning the marine infrastructure? As we know it will be quite a big project. Have there been any discussions with the fishery companies and businesses? Have there been any discussions to date, considering the high cost of the project that will take place?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Qikiqtarjuaq the marine dock in the community is at its early stages. It's not at a design stage yet. Only after approval of the budget will we finally get started.

When it does go ahead, we will do our studies and we will look at how much it will cost. We have to start answering all the questions about how we will expend the budget upon approval today. On the fisheries side and as to how fishing companies may utilize it, we are working with our department and we have a number of divisions here.

Fisheries is one of those areas under economic development and transportation. For Qikiqtarjuaq's marine infrastructure, there is a lot of work done and collaboration is done with the fishers for Qikiqtarjuaq and with the local committees and also with Baffin Fisheries, in view of moving forward and the constant progression towards planning. It is an ongoing issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Yes, this is great to hear. In a way it is unfortunate for some who want other projects going ahead in the community, but a lot of people are pleased with this and it is the project that is getting a lot of support.

Just to mention here, the fisheries, with their involvement anticipated, it is great. If we continue, and looking at fishers and companies who know what is required and needed, and fishermen who have a complete understanding of what it is like to be fishing offshore, they have ascertained a lot of knowledge on areas we don't have any knowledge of. Looking at the fisheries and Baffin Island being included, it is something that I am very pleased with in that it reflects cooperation. However, the marine dock, under the proposed

estimates, looking at the request, in 2020 as of March, it seems to have started then.

With that now, my question is: as this is anticipated to start moving forward, are any further consultations required in our community due to other capital that are required? We have also tried to pursue trying to get a new medical centre. Does this delay other projects when this certain project was given preference with a large budget? Does that delay other proposed projects? If you can understand me, that is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you were asking, as I understand you, whether the marine infrastructure project will impact other projects, we don't work that way. When it is required in a community, whether it is marine infrastructure, or other projects, we focus on priorities and that is how we operate. It could be a marine infrastructure project at the same time as a terminal.

There are priorities that are really needed, so concerning the marine infrastructure project moving ahead, there will be other projects that will have to be a part of it outside of the government. There are also fuel tanks, freezers, so on and so forth that require capital as well, and these are things that will be expected in the years coming. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that clarification.

This is not for my community, but when you travel around the communities, you look around and see what it required in that particular community. My colleague, Mr. Hickes, mentioned it earlier and asked a question regarding the relocation of airports.

When I was mayor for the hamlet, I heard about the relocation of the airport in Pangnirtung. I don't live there, but I was also happy that it was going to be relocated. Could you give us an update on what is happening with the relocation of the Pangnirtung airport? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did have discussions about relocating the airport and it used to be under Economic Development and Transportation and we had discussions about accessing funds through the federal government to relocate, but we were denied our request for those funds.

Though that is the case we will keep trying and will continue having discussions with the federal government to relocate airports if required. If there is no money, then it is not possible to relocate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that explanation. When you first

become a Member of the Legislative Assembly you have quite a lot of questions to the government. We usually try to fill the needs in our communities and I'm sure there are studies before doing anything. You probably hire consultants to look over the proposed project and I'm sure that costs quite a lot of money.

We spent a lot of money to study before we started the deep sea port project. We had consultations with community members.

My question is: after wanting to relocate the airport in Pangnirtung, I'm sure there is a file somewhere that is not being used anymore. I wanted to know that status of that relocation because when a government changes, we will have to fight to relocate that airport again during the Sixth Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, with the previous studies, they are not just deleted. The files are kept and if we are going to put forward a project again, we look at the file and see what has to be updated and improved and what laws have changed and so on. There is always ongoing change, but the projects are not just deleted or put in the garbage. When there are monies available we want to make sure that we have the files handy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): My last question is regarding marine infrastructure. In Clyde River, there was a request to make improvements. What is the status of the breakwater, or marine infrastructure, that they wanted to build in Clyde River? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For Clyde River it is not under our department. That project is through Fisheries and Oceans that started that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Following my list of names... Ms. Killiktee, are you done?

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): I'm done.

Chairman (interpretation): Okay. Following my list of names, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon again, minister and your officials. Looking at the substantiation sheet under capital projects for the Iqaluit International Airport, it was budgeted for \$1,498,000. This construction was completed in 2017. Looking at page 2 of your substantiation sheet the Iqaluit International Airport, the project agreement is for a 30-year term, ending in 2047.

Does the Iqaluit International Airport already need improvements when it was just completed in 2017? Can the minister

enlighten me on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Iqaluit airport, it is a lifecycle improvement. For example, they require a de-icer and three vehicles and one firetruck. Those are some of the improvements that are required at the Iqaluit airport. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Okay. \$1,498,000 in total. That is the total cost for a de-icer, fire truck, and I didn't see anything about making improvements to the terminal itself. This amount of money will be for the de-icer and the fire truck. Did I understand that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, those are for the operations of the air terminal and that's the total cost of the de-icer and three vehicles and one fire truck. That will be the total cost. Yes, Mr. Chairman, you understood correctly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that

response. There is a 30 year agreement for the Iqaluit air terminal. Right underneath it, the, in English (interpretation ends) "The GN is obligated to include the rehab annual service payment as part of the monthly availability payment to the Arctic Infrastructure Limited Partners." I guess my question is: under this agreement, will the GN be always paying the Arctic Infrastructure Limited for the next 30 years with the amount of \$1,498,000? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there will be a gradual change in the amount, but that's what we pay, approximately, over the next 30 years. We will see changes in the coming years.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying the 30 year payments. Before we move on, the two communities I represent, Igloolik and Sanirajak, in English again: (interpretation ends) when it comes to these other airports, with my constituencies of Igloolik and Sanirajak, are the airports up to date with their life span? I guess that's my question. Are they still up to date with the life span? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're

coming to the end of their lifecycle, and when we're nearing the end we start discussions about replacement of the air terminals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you for that clarification. As I stated in my general comments, the buildings are aging and Igloolik is a decentralized community. As you just explained, in the upcoming year when you are requesting capital funds, we can expect to see some consideration on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we start to talk about new airport terminals, it will be one of the terminals that we talk about. We don't terminals every year and we have to also deal with other infrastructure that are requested. If it is a community freezer or some other infrastructure, they can usually be done by Economic Development and Transportation, and we deal with them piece by piece, and once we talk about airport terminals again in the near future, it will be part of the discussion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Yes, I hope that some very good considerations are given for my constituents.

Let me move on to airports. Capital funds you are requesting for Rankin Inlet

is quite a lot of money. Where was it? For 2022, will the Department of Transportation be paying for all of this or will you get assistance from the federal government if the budget is approved? Will transportation pay for it solely or will they get help from the federal government or some other government? I would like to know how that is going to be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We usually get money from the federal government for that purpose and 75 percent will be paid by for by the federal government and Government of Nunavut would pay 25 percent. That is how it will be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is good. So the federal government will cover around \$45 million and Nunavut will pay around \$15 million? Let me move on to something else, ports or marine infrastructure.

One of the MLAs asked about marine infrastructure or docks or ports, or just shelter, and it is going to be a budget of \$500,000 if it is approved by Committee of the Whole, and I think I understood that you will have a comprehensive review. I also stated that I would like my fellow Amitturmiut to be looked at more. How would this \$500,000 be divided up? If my two communities requested \$250,000 or half of the

\$500,000, how would you divide it? It doesn't seem like very much. Would communities who didn't get any be the first, or what would the maximum be that each community can request? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The requests from the communities are reviewed by experienced people. For example, in 2021 there were four communities that received funding: Kugaaruk received lights for the port; around \$270,000 in Nauyasat; there was some work on marine infrastructure, it was around \$100,000 in Pangnirtung; the clean-up of the shoreline was \$15,000; and in Sanirajak the review of the proposed port was \$96,000. We try to review them following priority needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for explaining that carefully and for the fact that you review them properly whenever there are capital money requests. This is not a real question. I don't have any more questions. This is just a general comment. Please make proper considerations. It's okay if you don't respond to this. I want people from Amittuq to get benefits as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a general comment. However, the minister can address that comment if he wishes.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was listening to my colleague when he was speaking, and I know that all the communities in Nunavut have to be dealt with in an equal way.

I have been an MLA for a long time, and also a hamlet councillor for a long time, and I know the smaller communities have to have the same strong voice as the larger communities and they deserve the same things as the larger communities. I believe in that. We all have to be dealt equally, across Nunavut, and we have to help each other, no matter if they are big or small communities. We all have to work together. My officials know about that too. I thank my colleague from Sanirajak for bringing that up and it is very well understood, Mr. Chairman. That is all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. According to my list, Mr. Simailak is next.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and to your officials. On the subject of the Qikiqtarjuaq Port Project, on your substantiation sheet, page two of four, it reads "The Government of Nunavut has identified the need for the development of a deep sea port within the community of Qikiqtarjuaq. This is a priority shared by the municipality and Qikiqtani Inuit Association." I am wondering what exactly does that mean? Does that mean they are also going to be a funding partner in one way or another? Or is this strictly going to be funded by the federal government and the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, right now on that same substantiation sheet, it shows that 25 percent of the cost of this will be by this government and 75 percent by the federal government.

Moving forward Mr. Chairman, this is not a project only solely of two proponents, the Government of Nunavut being one. There are major components in this that include buildings needed to be supported by port operations, including radio communications, marine repairs, security crew, crew changes, they will need to deal with bulk storage, fuel storage, pump station, they will need warehousing; a minimum of 500 square metres, they will need freezer containers, maybe six freezer containers, grey and black water systems, roads to the systems, lighting. There is a lot more to this component.

There will need to be buy-in and support into this project if this project is going to go beyond and be successful. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is kind of where I was heading into other funding partners. There other things that will be coming afterwards once the port is built, and if there is no buy-in from anyone else, these extra costs will then be incurred, I suppose, by the Government of Nunavut. I do not know how much that would actually be extra. I actually find it quite alarming how quickly a major project

can be fast tracked because I do not remember this being in the five-year capital plan in the last Assembly. That is why I was asking if there are any other funding partners.

Moving along, further down on the same sheet, it says "To date, the lack of a suitable deep sea port for larger vessels to utilize in Nunavut has resulted in a substantial degree of economic leakage from the territory to Greenland and Newfoundland." Exactly how much of economic leakage? Was there a study done? There are no numbers there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to respond to my colleague, this is for planning and design. That is the stage we are at right now and if through the planning we find that there is no support, that the proponents that are heavily interested in this project do not buy-in or do not step-up, then it wouldn't go beyond planning. It has to go through planning and design. If people walk away from it or if there is no interest to support this other than the government, then it wouldn't go beyond planning and design. That is why it is important to do a planning and design phase, Mr. Chairman.

I don't have the figure in front of me in terms of what kinds of loss revenue, but when they crew changes and when they are having to go out of our territory to go do crew changes and fuel up and offload their fish, and their catch, that is revenue that could probably be taken off and benefit the communities like

Qikiqtarjuaq, for example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate where the minister is coming from, but if these questions are not asked in the beginning and some of the project proceeds, like even the planning and designing, and then later a year from now the department will come back and say, “Well we already invested a million dollars, it would be shame to let it die now.” So that is why I am questioning it now.

Moving along again, still on the same sheet “Additionally, the lack of a port has severely limited the economic development opportunities available to the territory and to the community of Qikiqtarjuaq itself.” I’m wondering, what other economic development opportunities they are thinking of that would be born if this port were to proceed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated, if the planning proves that it would be a lot better to spend a million dollars on planning and saying “This isn’t going to work” than spending \$40 million on a facility and say, “This isn’t going to work.” It’s important that we go through a planning phase and I believe that’s money well spent. The money you spend on planning and design is money well spent. You find out early enough that there’s nobody supporting this and let’s walk

away. I don’t think the intention would be of the government to say, “Well, we spent a million dollars; we better keep going.” I think that the money to plan and design is necessary.

There are business opportunities out there. The Qikiqtarjuaq community would benefit from people who would operate the coolers, the freezers, housing, and the shift changes. The hotels would be supported by that. The fishery itself would benefit by that. Maybe the local fishery association could do a small fish plant and processing to supply the region or the territory.

You also have tourism that would be had by this. Now you have a facility where tourist ships and other vessels could come in to port. There are tourism possibilities from this. There are a lot more possibilities of this happening, and tourism and any help to the small communities like this means a lot. I see opportunities like that and I’m sure there are a lot more that the community of Qikiqtarjuaq could venture into, but those are just some of the things that it would benefit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list for K-3. Do members agree that we’re done with K-3, \$14,205,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Agreed. On to K-5. Economic Development. \$750,000. Do we have any members that have any questions?

An Hon. Member: Agreed.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Do members agree that we have no questions on the \$750,000? No? Okay. Do members agree that we are done with the total capital expenditures on K-5 of \$750,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Capital Expenditures. \$14,995,000. Do members agree we're done?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to thank the minister and his officials. Minister, do you have any brief closing comments? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you very much. Very briefly, Mr. Chairman, I just want to reiterate that when I spoke about supporting all the communities in Nunavut, I am sincerely committed to that. Our department is committed to helping all the municipalities. We have many contribution agreements with all the municipalities. If it is small craft harbours to access road funding and things like that, we will continue to work on those. We will continue to work better and work harder and support all the communities, whether they are small or large. It's important that the territory move forward in terms of economic opportunities and we are proud to be a part of that and we will continue to work to strive to do better in that department.

I would just like to take the opportunity to thank my new Deputy Minister of Economic Development for joining our

team and not so new member of our economic development on my right for all the support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let's have a good day.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table. We will take a 10-minute break and come back to do Justice.

>> *Committee recessed at 16:04 and resumed at 16:18*

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

Chairman: I would like to call the committee meeting to order. I would like to ask Minister Kusugak: do you have any officials... ? Sorry; I read it here too. I would like to ask Minister Akeeagok: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: For the record, Minister Kusugak, please introduce your officials...sorry. Akeeagok, sorry, sorry, sorry. For the record, Minister Akeeagok, can you please introduce your officials and then proceed with

your opening comments. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been a long day.

To my left is Stephen Mansell, Deputy Minister; to my right is Mubashir Mahmood, Director of Corporate Services with the Department of Justice.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to appear before the Committee of the Whole today to present the Department of Justice's 2022-23 capital estimates.

We are seeking approval of \$11,299,000 for the Department of Justice's capital expenditures for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

(interpretation ends) The Department of Justice continues to work closely with its partners on the construction of the Aaqqigiavik Correctional Healing Facility as we enter final year of the project. We seek your approval to fund this project for 2022-23 under the Corrections Branch.

As indicated during my appearance before the standing committee, the budget for the Aaqqigiavik Correctional Healing Facility has been adjusted to complete phase 2 of the project. The adjustment is due to a number of factors, including supply chain issues, cost overruns, and staffing issues due to COVID, and some essential change orders.

Due to its age, the Kugluktuk Correctional Centre (Ilavut Centre) has been facing structural concerns and requires some emergent renovations. We

are requesting approval for the design and construction of this project.

Mr. Chairman, the department is also seeking approval for \$1,100,000 in the minor capital budget. Our minor capital includes:

- Three new vehicles for the Corrections Division.
- Acquiring new five snowmobiles/all-terrain vehicles; four for the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility and one for the Correctional Inuit Cultural Support Program in Iqaluit.
- Courthouse security upgrades, including key scan, door security, and upgrades to camera monitoring system.
- Utaqqivik (Community Residential Centre) office window and camera replacement.
- Office tenant improvement in Building No. 1106, Iqaluit, for more spacing and new reception area for Community Justice Division.
- Office tenant improvements to the NCC Building in Pond Inlet to create enough office spacing for the two positions of community justice and two positions of corrections staff.
- Iqaluit Corrections Warehouse Racking – Steel pallet racking will replace unsecured wooden racking.
- Information technology systems and infrastructure to replace the aging computer system of justice.

- Building maintenance and improvements, covering the repair and maintenance costs associated with vandalism and emergency repairs at the seven correctional facilities and the Nunavut Court of Justice building.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I will now take any questions or comments from committee members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does a regular member have opening comments? Please proceed, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Now that I'm trying to take this off, it's all tangled up.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll now read these opening comments as written.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus concerning its review of the proposed 2022-23 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice. The department's proposed capital budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year is \$11,299,000. This represents a decrease of 0.45 percent from its 2021-22 capital budget.

Members recognize that the construction of the new Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility will significantly increase Nunavut's capacity to house adult male offenders within the territory. Members also recognize that the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility project is in its final year of construction.

During September 2021, the Legislative Assembly approved *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2021-2022*. The bill included \$1,307,000 in proposed supplementary funding for the purchase and installation of a new fire pump for the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility project.

During the minister's recent appearance before the Regular Members' Caucus, members were advised that additional funding would be required to complete phase 2 of the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility project due to a "change contingency." The department's capital estimates reflect this.

In English, (interpretation ends) members are pleased that the department is moving forward with renovations to the Kugluktuk Ilavut Healing Centre. During the minister's appearance, members questioned how long the expected lifespan would be for the Kugluktuk Ilavut Healing Centre will be after renovations are completed. Members look forward to further clarification on which proposed renovation option has been chosen for the Kugluktuk Ilavut Healing Centre.

(interpretation) In Inuktitut, the department's proposed 2022-23 capital estimates include funding for a number of minor capital projects. Members recalled that the department's 2021-22 minor capital projects included security camera upgrades at the Nunavut Courthouse. Members also note that one of the 2022-23 minor capital projects include additional courthouse security upgrades. During the minister's recent appearance, members questioned the rationale for the upgrades at the Nunavut Courthouse.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2022-23 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? I have no more names for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the department's estimates starting on E-3. Just for members, E-3 will be Directorate and we have two pages, and then it will be E-6 for Corrections, so we will start off with E-3. \$1,100,000. I'll give the members a few minutes; if not, do members agree on \$1,100,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go on to E-6. Corrections. E-6. \$10,199,000. Any members have any questions? Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) The capital budget you are requesting is \$3,439,000. Please correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Minister. I should have said earlier, good day, minister and your officials.

The Aaqqigiarvik Healing Centre, \$3 million, will it be for actual healing? ... (inaudible) ...

Okay, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I apologize. I'll start again. Good afternoon, Mr. Minister and officials. Will the \$3 million estimate for Aaqqigiarvik rectify things, or will there be additional requests or proposed budgets should that amount be insufficient? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Aaqqigiarvik, as I mentioned, being in its last year of construction, the proposed funding I think will meet the needs of the budget. These funds are being requested and are included in our proposed budget. I fully anticipate that the completion date is near since the construction began and is on schedule to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite hear the response. Here under the capital estimates details, does this follow the recommendations made by the Auditor General? That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were a number of recommendations concerning the building of the new facility. The recommendations were followed and will be a part of the completion with the new building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The next name on my list: Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we on E-6? Okay. Looking at the breakdown here... If I may first ask, on page 3 of 6 in the substantiation sheets, is this the

breakdown we may ask questions on?
That is my first question. Thank you.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Yes, it is.
Okay, I will speak now. (interpretation ends) I just had to make sure.

(interpretation) I want to ask a question here on the [Aaqqigiarvik] healing centre and the proposed estimated figures, perhaps I didn't understand the line item right. It will be a healing centre and there are many individuals who would normally be incarcerated and are unilingual. Sometimes you have elders too. Where is interpretation or translation included? Could someone point that out to me?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) That will be an O&M question, but I'll let the minister just inform us of the process for interpreters. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This would be part of O&M under employees for the purpose of interpreting. Those services are made available to date.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Yes, thank you. Furthermore, when they require interpreters, is it only when they request interpreters that you hire interpreters? How does that work?
Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): That question is really about O&M, but we

are dealing with capital estimates. It's up to you if you want to answer the member's question.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be a great question to ask in the May session, and I will be able to respond then, but at the moment our Inuktitut speaking staff deal with anything that is spoken in Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Killiktee. Oh, you are done? The next name on my list is Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome minister and your delegates. I am just wondering about the new fire pump and whether not any of Iqaluit's water and sewage infrastructure issues, especially of late, could potentially have an impact on the utility of that fire pump? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, perhaps Deputy Mansell can respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. The original reason we had to purchase the fire pump was because the pressure was low on the line there, and so since purchasing it, it's done the job we needed it to do which is increase the pressure in order to charge the sprinklers

and things in the building. It's doing what we bought it for, but I can say the reason we needed in the first place was because of low pressure in the line. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering as well about the Makigiavik facility and the work that's planned on that, whether or not that fire pump actually is also connected somehow, because from what I understand those buildings are somehow connected and whether or not it's the same line and system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That pump is designed just for the new building that's in place. For the other building, Makigiavik, it hasn't been identified as an issue, so it is functional as it is right now for Makigiavik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you for that response. I'm learning this process as well and not wanting to ask the wrong questions at the wrong time. When we talk about the work being done on the new out building and secure yards for recreation, is that during this phase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The outbuilding is phase 2, so they're working on that. The recreational side was phase 1 and phase 1 is all complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate everybody's understanding that this is a new process for many of us and some of us are going to stumble a little bit.

I'm curious as well about how this phase will impact both the staff as well as inmates, especially knowing that there was a recent outbreak of COVID in the facility, and what the plans are. Are inmates and staff being moved around and how is that being handled? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Phase 1 being complete has been a huge help with the outbreak of COVID and through that, we have been able to section off those that have contracted COVID and have been successful. To date, right now, I got word today that there are no cases in that facility right now, so I applaud the staff for that.

With phase 2 completing, which is the kitchen and where the staff would put there, once that's done, the current practice of staff doing eating and having to bring their stuff into their cars or to a locker, those won't be happening because the facility is going to be

sufficient to help staff and our clients.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you for that, minister. I'm just wondering if there are any additional specific safety features within the buildings that are needed or are being incorporated into the work that's about to occur. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget that's before us is to resolve all those. I think doing it in two phases has helped and identified a lot of that, and in my opening comments there was a requirement for it to be adjusted, which is part of that. I'm happy to report that those concerns would be built in as part of this budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll go now just to the standard question that I have been asking anybody who is coming to us for funding or for approval for funding for any kind of renovations to buildings and that is whether or not all of the fittings...
.

I'm sure that when it comes to a corrections facility, there are many ways to mitigate risk of harm to self and others. I'm just wondering if you can talk a little bit about that just to reassure us that because I think, if memory serves

me correct, during one of the phases, the team did come to ask for additional funds in order to install safer, I believe, bedding and beds and things like that and I think it was declined.

I am really concerned for the safety of the people that are in that building and want to be assured that all of the fittings and everything is being done to keep everybody safe from self-harm and from harming others, and if you could talk a little bit about that, I would appreciate it. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Aaqqiariarvik all those have been taken into factor and it is an expensive venture that we've taken, and safety has been paramount to this and fixing that up.

For the Kugluktuk centre, this is the reason why we're asking for this money, is that there are safety concerns and structural concerns that are taking place within the current centre, and we're asking this House to help us fund that project so we can get to the safety level of our clients and our staff.

I think we go through each one of our seven facilities and make sure that the safety concerns are taken into consideration, if there needs to be changes or adjustments made, those are done through the eyes and the lens of safety for the clients and for the staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Following my list of names: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What has been the impact of the COVID-19 on all the facilities and healing facilities in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our seven facilities that we currently have, three of those have been impacted by COVID in terms of the clients and staff. We mitigate that and we go through that. One of the factors of the Aqaggiarvik Correctional Healing Facility for this budget is due to COVID and inability for the construction company to bring the construction crews in. Having the lockdown, it did have an impact, and it's reflective in this budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you minister, for that response. (interpretation ends) As of today, what is the status of Inuit employment at Aqaggiarvik or all the correctional facilities in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: That is an O&M question. I will leave it up to the minister whether the minister wants to reply to that or not. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would prefer to have this question asked as an oral question. I think there is

approximately 15 percent, but I don't have the information in front of me. I can give you a copy so you can have the information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. We are at a learning stage. (interpretation ends) The 2022-23 capital projects substantiation sheet for Aqaggiarvik Correctional Healing Facility project indicates that "a full staffing review was completed and a business case was submitted in 2020-2021 for new staffing level requirements. Hiring and training of new staff must be completed prior to the completion of construction." As of today, what is the status of this work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. .

Chairman: Thank you. It's related to the capital project there, so I'll let that go. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are 17 that are new staff, which is an increase in the staff level. We have also received funds to train the new staff and to add it further. There are (interpretation ends) four classes trained so far. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for his response. This will be my last question.

(interpretation ends) The federal government recently announced adaptations to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program to respond to impacts of COVID-19. The program was created to provide provinces and territories with short-term funding for projects that support ventilation improvements in public buildings. Is your department currently considering applying to this program to make improvements at territorial correctional facilities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague. He seems to know a little bit more about funding that is being made available. I will look into it and if it's required, we will apply for funds to make improvements on the ventilation system and also look at what's available to make improvements to the systems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next on my list: Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For the Ilavut Centre renovation project, it indicates there are two options. The project indicates that "Option A is a short term" and Option B is recommended. Which of the two options have been approved? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To say it in English, (interpretation ends) Option B (interpretation) is the longer term and that's our preference. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The existing structure continues to be operational throughout the project. The renovation and expansion will introduce new administrative space for the custody and community staff. Do you have a number on the new rooms or offices? Do you have a number? *Quanaqqutit*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently we're adding another office, but for the rooms themselves, we're refurbishing them to renovate that section. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just a quick question. There are going to be office renovations in Pond Inlet. Where will these positions work from during these renovations?

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now the plan is to renovate it, so we haven't sought to see if there's additional space within the NCC building or whether to work at home. Rest assured, we will make sure those staff that are already in place will have workplaces while this renovation takes place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. Last call. Alright. Do members agree that we're done with E-6, \$10,199,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we are done with \$11,299,000 on E-2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded the review of Justice?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to thank the minister and his officials. Minister, do you have any brief closing comments? Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you very much to my colleagues and thank you for your good questions, the new members especially.

I would also like to thank my officials. We have made plans for improvements so that the inmates have a better place. I also wish to thank the previous ministers who initiated this project and at the end stage, I am the minister now and it seems so easy to do, but it is challenging.

I would like to thank everyone who started this project and every single one of you, the officials to my right and left, as well as the people who are working hard behind the scenes. I thank our staff. I'll leave it at that. I am happy that I was able to appear before you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table. We will take a five-minute break and come back here to do Environment.

>>Committee recessed at 16:57 and resumed at 17:05

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

Chairman: Good afternoon. I would like to welcome everyone back to our committee meeting. I would like to ask Minister Akeeagok: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. David Akeeagok: Mr. Chairman, yes, please. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: ...(inaudible)...introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

To my left is Deputy Minister Jimmy Noble Jr.; to my right is Nikki Nweze, Director of Corporate Services.

Mr. Chairman, thank you, and my fellow members of the Committee of the Whole, I am pleased to be here today to introduce the Department of Environment's capital plan for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

For this fiscal period, the Department of Environment is proposing a capital budget of \$4,350,000. This expenditure will permit the department to concentrate on two program areas: Wildlife Management and Parks and Special Places. This includes the replenishment from wildlife office renovations budget last fiscal year were added back to the 2022-23 fiscal year.

(interpretation ends) Within our Wildlife Management and Wildlife Research divisions, we will be replacing old mobile equipment. This equipment is used for patrols to ensure compliance with wildlife and other legislation, and to support wildlife research activities.

The Wildlife Management Division will also focus on renovations of wildlife offices to create a safe and good working environment in which staff can deliver the department's mandates and programs.

Mr. Chairman, our Territorial Parks and Special Places have an important role in the protection and promotion of Nunavut's natural and cultural heritage. They provide positive recreation and tourism services to meet the needs of Nunavummiut and our visitors.

All our work is done in keeping with the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement for Territorial Parks and the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Canadian Heritage Rivers in Nunavut.

The major project of the Parks Division in the 2022-23 fiscal year will continue to be related to the development of infrastructure for the new Agguttinni Territorial Park, north of Clyde River.

We will continue to monitor and maintain infrastructure in all of our territorial parks and campgrounds throughout Nunavut: Ovayok in Cambridge Bay, Sylvia Grinnell/Qaummaarviit in Iqaluit, Katannilik in Kimmirut, Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga in Rankin Inlet, Kekerten in Pangnirtung, and Kugluk in Kugluktuk, including the campground territorial parks: Tupirvik in Resolute Bay, Tamaarvik in Pond Inlet, Pisuktinu Tunngavik in Pangnirtung, and Inuujaarvik in Baker Lake.

We will also continue the development of infrastructure as recommended in the new master plan for the Kugluk Territorial Park in Kugluktuk and for the new Kinngaaluk Territorial Park in Sanikiluaq.

(interpretation) In closing, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's capital plan is focused in the areas that clearly support the needs and priorities of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am now available to respond to any questions or comments you may have. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does a regular

member have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and your officials.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus on its review of the proposed 2022-23 Capital Estimates of the Department of Environment.

The department's proposed capital budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year is \$4.35 million, which represents an increase of approximately 93.3 percent over the 2021-22 fiscal year. This increase is primarily due to budget adjustments. The department's current five-year capital plan indicates that its annual capital budget is projected to return to \$2.25 million in the 2023-24 and subsequent fiscal years.

The department's proposed 2022-23 capital estimates provide funding for facility renovations and small capital projects, which include the replacement of mobile equipment and the development of infrastructure in territorial parks. Members encourage the minister to publicly clarify which departmental facilities will be renovated during the 2022-23 fiscal year.

On September 10, 2019 the federal and territorial governments announced \$4.7 million in federal funding under the Canada Nature Fund to support the establishment of a new territorial park near the community of Clyde River.

Members encourage the minister to begin the practice of tabling an annual

report in the Legislative Assembly which details the department's activities, expenditures, and initiatives in relation to Nunavut's territorial parks system, in addition to containing information concerning such measures as the annual number of visitors to our parks. This work would benefit from cooperation with the Tourism and Cultural Industries Division of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. This type of reporting would be of benefit to all members in evaluating the impact of the parks program. Members also recommend that the department's annual reporting provide detailed information concerning its usage of terrestrial and marine mobile equipment and other capital assets.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2022-23 Capital Estimates of the Department of Environment. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? I have no more names for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the department's estimates starting on page I-3, which is the only page. Program Management. \$4,350,000. Do any members have any questions on I-3? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I only have one question that comes to mind and it's regarding the Clyde River territorial park development.

When I look on page 4 of 5 in the substantiation sheet, it talks about land and it says, "The Department of

Environment and Qikiqtani Inuit Association are considering how Inuit-owned land parcels will be addressed.” There are a couple of different options there; the first one excluding Inuit-owned lands from the park boundary, and second, to negotiate a park-specific appendix.

When you negotiate these types of appendixes, is there typically monies exchanged? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. For creating territorial parks where there are Inuit-owned lands, it is usually: do we swap or do we exclude them? To date, there have not been any monetary exchanges related to territorial parks where there are Inuit-owned lands. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: When the *Nunavut Agreement* was signed off on and there were portions that remained Inuit-owned lands, very intelligently, our negotiators managed to target some mineral-rich areas of the territory. Has there been any research or studies done on any mineral exploration in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not to the extent that the national parks go through. Usually when we are doing these we do a tabletop to

see if there are any mineral rich areas and also rely on the local folks that are a part of the planning committees.

Where there is identified land from Inuit, those are ones where we would do a land transfer or have discussions in terms of whether to exclude or include. That is the extent that we do when it comes to whether there are minerals in the territorial parks, and with the territorial parks it is not as stringent as a national park. Is something does happen, through our legislation we are able to adjust the territorial parks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So when that study was done on this parcel of land, was there enough mineral opportunity to take a look at it from that standpoint? I speak mainly as we do have limited GDP opportunities in this territory and mining is one of our key industries for creating wealth within our own territory. I just don't want to handcuff us for opportunities of future development. I just want to get confirmation from the minister on that, please. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they were selecting the land and the area, it was one of the areas that through tabletops they review as to whether it has minerals or not. To this point there hasn't been, and this would be an ongoing discussion through our joint community planning committee meetings, along with the Nunavut Joint

Planning Committee. I want to assure the members that if there are any mineral rich areas that we all of a sudden and the community wants to change it to a mine, our territorial parks are flexible enough to make those determinations. It is one that we use to attract our visitors and the people that utilize this. So through that, I give trust in our joint committees for Nunavut and for the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if the minister could explain how that process would work. I'm thinking if we look at Baffinland Phase 2 as an example. There are a lot of proponents, but there are opponents as well. So if it is down to the community to decide and through the legislation there is some flexibility, as the minister had mentioned, how would something like that progress if 30 years down the road we find out there is a diamond potentially in the area and a private organization wants to come in and extract it. What would that look like? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through our IIBA processes there are stages where this can be explored, and if and when there are minerals that are attractive, our territorial parks legislation allows for it to be changed or made smaller, and that would be through our master plan work.

There is a huge, almost a wall, of how the master plan gets into place and the

approval process is, which leads to the territorial minister to sign off on that, which would be myself. If it needs to be adjusted, we would follow that same process for looking through any of our territorial parks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would devolution have an impact on this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not for any of our parks. Those were already selected, and for the purposes of devolution, we are using our territorial legislation to recognize parks and special places.

So as a part of this, when land is being sought, we do go through our internal processes of our environmental assessments through our department, which would include the Devolution Secretariat in this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, Mr. Noble, and I didn't catch her name. I have a question for small capital for \$250,000 or less. It is in regard to the Sanikiluaq Territorial Park development. To my understanding there are materials that are ready for a park infrastructure project. I'm wondering if your department will

commit to tendering out the project this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once we get the approval for this, because this is a part of the budget, then the next phase would be for tendering for it to be built within, and that is what our anticipation is, that we would tender those out and get the work done.

Right now, for the last two years we have been suffering in terms of trying to get any work done within our territorial parks, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. I am very anxious and with your approval and passage of this budget, we will march on and get those much needed community projects that are out waiting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the answer, minister. Joe must probably know also the new transportations are in very good use. Under small capital for this fiscal year, 2022-23, for \$120,000, which communities are getting these transportation and what transportation will be purchased? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that list with me. As in past practice, when we do get approvals for this mobile equipment, we authorize the managers of each of the

regions to talk with the conservation officers for parks and find out what's critically needed, and use those funds to purchase the mobile equipment. So that's the practice that we currently have. I don't have a list of which communities would get it right now, but we'll definitely be committed to providing a list once those are completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We'll be looking forward to getting that list through the chair of the committee. Mr. Qavvik? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister and your staff. I want to ask a question regarding the substantiation sheets for capital projects, (interpretation end) capital project substantiation sheets, small capital lifecycle, page 2 of 4, (interpretation) for the Kivalliq. It states, (interpretation ends) "standard replacement of regulatory mobile equipment as per the following schedule: snowmobile, three years; ATV, four years; boat, fifteen years; (interpretation) outboard motor, (interpretation ends) five years; trucks, ten years." (interpretation) In my constituency communities there are old boats and outboard motors. I want to know if they will be replaced. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our staff review if any minor equipment needs to be replaced. Once the funds are approved, I will present to you the description of the items that will be

replaced. Perhaps I can provide a more detailed answer at that time. Once our funding request is approved, our staff will assess the boats to determine their age and if they are still usable in close collaboration with our conservation officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for the response. Both communities that I represent should be thought about. Thank you. That is it for me.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a comment, not a question. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The capital carryover for Pond Inlet regional office window replacement project (interpretation) What's the status of this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Yes, the window replacing project.

>> *Laughter*

Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I think the Chair, or former minister, is very familiar with that and the woes that our department has to go through sometimes. It's still in our budgets. It's still a capital carryover and we're hoping that this action will happen. For the member's benefit, when we do get approvals for renovations, the next step is then we go

to the Department of Community and Government Services to start tendering or start the work, and they get on the queue as part of it. I think our Chair kind of alluded to it with the way he brought it to me, but that is still our department's priority is to get that done. Through our capital carryovers that's been approved that's what we're hoping that that will proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Nutarak. Following my list of names, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am grateful for the questions of our fellow members. I feel more confident also with his responses because he explained it very well. I want to ask and the legislature approved \$1,127,000 in (interpretation ends) capital carryovers for this project during the June 2021 sitting. This has to do with the Aggutinni Territorial Park for Clyde River. As of today, what is the status of this project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, member, for that good question. It will proceed after it was carried over and at this time we are requesting additional funding that is included in the \$4 million. We really want the project to proceed. The funds have not been used and we are now trying to get approval for the funds that we want to use to issue a tender related to the park in Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you. I am happy with your answer. Turning to my other question, (interpretation ends) what other funding applications has your department submitted to the federal government under the Canada Nature Fund?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. We applied for funding through that fund for the park in Clyde River and we received the funding. We have submitted a request through another funding source, but I don't have the information here with me. We requested \$4.7 million through the (interpretation ends) Canada Nature Fund. (interpretation) We have expressed our appreciation to them and we have asked for more funding that I don't have in front of me right now. Mr. Chairman, through you, I can provide that information later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will be expecting that. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question is regarding tourism and parks in Nunavut. We have been affected by COVID-19. In English, (interpretation ends) what has been the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on territorial parks usage and visitor numbers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There has been a huge impact, probably one of the more impacts than any. Through COVID lockdowns, we had to close our parks; we couldn't meet as joint planning committees. The list is huge and no visitors allowed have been a huge impact for our parks. I look forward to the day that we will bring back the tourism and also the people to enjoy the parks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Following my list of names, (interpretation ends) last name on my list, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you and welcome. I was just listening to the responses and can you tell me: is there an annual inventory done of all the mobile equipment and are they up to date? How new are they? I think that in one of the responses, he said that there wasn't one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'll just remind members to address him as minister. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do have an updated list. We do have an inventory of what each of our offices, whether it is for parks or for the wildlife, for the mobile, for any of our equipment. What I committed today was that if we...what we're going to buy as part of this mobile replacement, I am committed to providing that. If there is a demand for a list of what we currently own, we can make that available to the House through the Chair. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I apologize.

So then it's just absolutely 100 percent that the budget is based on current inventory and depreciation or a breakdown of the mobile equipment so far. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So far, yes, but as this is small capital and these are the reasons why it sometimes gets fluid is accidents happen or mobile breakdown happens where there is critical need and it needs to change. I leave it and trust it with our staff in terms of figuring out where the mobile equipment is purchased, and then yes, that's an inventory that we're prepared to do.

For planning purposes, our staff have depatriations and that, but if the vehicle is more usable and then there is another office, those are determined in consultation with our officers and our regional managers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just the other question around that is whether or not there are facilities to properly store and maintain all of this mobile equipment to ensure its longevity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's what we strive for and a majority of them are like that, but each of our offices, because there are replacement offices that I'll be seeking and hopefully we will see if that could accommodate this, but it all depends on each of the communities. Some communities have been built that are outdated or might not have it and there are some that we currently have entered into that did not have mobile space. We often look around the communities for assistance, but for the purpose and majority of the times, yes, there is space to store them and keep them in safe keepings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that subject, when you have a community where there isn't sufficient storage space that is actually GN storage space, how does that impact the insurance on those pieces of equipment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For security, we try to utilize any way possible. If there is no garage in that community, we most likely resort to sea cans as our vehicles or mobile equipment, so those are in that care. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more

names on my list. Do members agree that we agree on \$4,350,000 on I-3?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to thank the minister and his officials, and give the minister a chance for brief closing comments. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues. The funds we utilize are very useful for Nunavut. I would like to thank my staff who are very hard-working individuals and others too who are not here and I would like to applaud them. We definitely will make very good use of our capital.

I would like to thank my colleagues for asking very good questions and for talking about what they want to see themselves. Support has been clearly shown to us through this exercise. With that, I want to thank you, my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table and we will take a five-minute break and then we're going to start with Family Services.

>>Committee recessed at 17:41 and resumed at 17:46

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

Chairman: Good afternoon. I welcome the committee members back to continue our committee meeting. I would like to ask Minister Nakashuk: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Good afternoon. Yes, I do.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, Minister Nakashuk, please introduce your officials and then proceed with your opening comments. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. Good evening. To my right is Deputy Minister Yvonne Niego, and to my left is Dwayton Tonge, Director of Corporate Services.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to present to the Committee of the Whole the proposed 2022-23 Capital Estimates for the Department of Family Services.

The Department of Family Services is requesting a total of \$1.1 million in capital funding for 2022-23. This will address office space/ tenant improvements, the replacement plan for

windows, vehicles, furniture, and equipment across the territory. Addressing these needs will improve service delivery, employee productivity, and better functionality of existing space.

Mr. Chairman, the department is committed to strengthening the delivery of quality services to Nunavummiut. This capital request is critical in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of program service delivery in communities across Nunavut. I look forward to your ongoing support as we work to better serve communities across the territory.

I welcome any questions or comments that members may have as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Does a regular member have any opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Sammurtok.

Sorry for the confusion here. Ms. Killiktee, please proceed.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): 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 Family Services.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services' proposed capital budget for 2022-23 includes a small capital budget for projects, including repairs, renovations, and replacement of equipment, including vehicles. In

English, (interpretation ends) members appreciated receiving updated details on the department's proposed expenditures over the five-year period of the capital plan.

Mr. Chairman, the regular members have noted that a significant portion of the department's small capital budget will be allocated to replacing the windows at the Qimaavik Women's Shelter in Iqaluit. While members fully support such needed renovations, questions have been raised with respect to the costing of this project.

(interpretation) In Inuktitut, members have been given to understand that the department currently has no plans to build additional shelters across the territory but instead encourages community-based societies or municipal organizations to undertake such planning themselves and submit proposals for operations and maintenance funding. The regular members would appreciate receiving further information that can be shared with municipal groups and organizations on how the department may provide support for such initiatives.

In English, (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the small capital budget of the Department of Family Services for the 2022-23 capital estimates also includes funding for vehicle replacement. Members appreciated receiving a detailed breakdown of the proposed vehicle replacement schedule over coming years.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2022-23 Capital Estimates of the Department of Family Services. Individual members may have questions

and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to talk about what's not in the budget. I had some oral questions earlier today on the type of services and facilities that would be needed across the territory to repatriate family services clients that are sent out of territory for their care. I'm not going to ask the question; I'm just going to make a statement that if there are facilities that are going to be needed in the future so that we can bring our residents back home, I would expect to see something in the capital plan in the next couple years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Any other members for general comments? I have no more names for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the department's estimates starting on D-3, which is the only page. \$1.1 million. Ms. Brewster.

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

Just to start off, is the building that Qimaavik is housed in a GN asset? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for asking that question. The Qimaavik building in Apex that you referred to is owned by the Department of Family Services, but the facility is operated by a society. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister for that response. The cost of these windows would seem to many people that it is very high, and I'm just going to give you the opportunity to explain to us why those very important windows will cost \$395,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the question. First may I say the shelters in Nunavut are government-owned assets. There are not many. These are critical buildings and as being government assets have to be replaced a number of times by local municipalities, and actually by CGS.

Some have been considered hazardous when they can't be closed, being windows in shelters for women, and they have been raised constantly by Community and Government Services that have been reviewing the windows. The windows that need replacement are no longer made and the windows on the top floor have to be replaced, and the cost estimated was done after a study was done. They preferred much thicker

and safer windows as a replacement.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you for your response, minister. I think just in looking at the substantiation sheet just for each of the 24 tempered glass windows, the cost is \$85,000 just for the windows, which is about \$3,500 per window. I'm not as good at math as my colleague next to me, but just a quick calculation showed that.

I'm not sure why they cost so much and what the added safety is. Earlier, I think this week, I asked questions about new builds of schools and whether or not those schools and buildings have some added safety into them in the event, for example, communities have to shelter in place.

What we know about, especially about women's shelters, is that there is a greater risk of violence happening because everybody knows where the shelter is. If somebody wants to track down somebody that they are abusing, they're likely more able to do it.

I worry about the safety of people inside that shelter, especially in the event that someone is discharging a firearm at the building or in the direction of the building. What I wonder about is whether or not the tempered glass that Family Services plans to purchase is actually bulletproof or how it would slow down any firearms discharging into that building via these new and costly windows. Thank you, minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you. As I mentioned earlier the glass being requested are much safer and 24 windows would have to be replaced and the cost is broken down here. I don't know whether they would be bullet proof or not. They are not, apparently, but they are safer and there are plans for their purchase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response, minister. I'm wondering as well whether or not the windows that will be brought up and installed have sufficient privacy screens, or whether or not you can see out of them and not see into them.

Earlier this week we had a discussion about shades and there are some shades that let light in but don't let people see what is going on inside.

I'm wondering, just for the safety of the clients, their children, and of course of the workers of that within that shelter whether or not those windows provide that extra step of privacy so that people can't be seen from the outside. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and for the question. In terms of the windows, it has been considered

and are planned with that in mind. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for your response. The other question I have about the windows is whether or not the fixtures are... I have asked this of other ministers, as well who are doing renovations or new builds, whether or not the windows are designed to ensure the ultimate safety for clients or people within that building to ensure there is unobtrusive suicide prevention designed into them.

If we think about the usual door or window cranks, it is something that could be used to wrap a ligature around and that sort of thing. I'm just wondering if that has been put into part of the process of obtaining these new windows. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for the question concerning the windows. The types of windows have been reviewed with safety in mind and that is how it has been planned. For that reason too, they have been very expensive to procure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if I did get the response. It's a lot to take in here, being

new to this process. I'll move on and just ask the minister about how the renovation process will take place and whether or not clients will have to be moved out, and where will they be moved to if they have to be moved during construction?

What steps are being taken most importantly, to ensure their safety during the renovations, knowing that windows will be removed and that is a possible entry point for somebody who doesn't have good intentions and that we don't always know who the workers are that are hired by contractors or people to do these installation, and what assurances are there that those workers won't be connected somehow to any of the clients and possibly want to cause harm to them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'll give you a bit of leeway as it is sort of connected to that but if you could just stay on topic here. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just to provide a bit more information in terms of the process; to get the windows ordered as usual practice is that the request for tender would be issued, once this approved, it would take at least four months for this to be received, if the time is correct. It takes two or three months to complete the package of these kinds of windows, and it takes about four months for the manufacturer... I guess that would be the first step is the four months for the manufacturer to build the windows, and then it takes about two or three months to get the RFT package out and tender the website for about four weeks. Then finally, if

possible, through sealift, the earliest hopefully would be in July. That would be the process of it. I might not have answered your question, but the timeline for these windows is that timespan. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, minister, and thank you Mr. Chairman. I think the message I got from the chair was maybe that I might sort of overstepping the parameters of this discussion today because it's supposed to be about capital projects and expenditures, but I think it is really relevant to the conversation. I'm sure that there was a conversation about what would happen with inmates during a construction periods and that's why I asked it. I hope that I didn't overstep, and I thank you for your time today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a comment, so we'll go to our next on the list: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the substantiation sheet, page 2 of 9, in the business case summary at the very bottom, it says that "Vehicles are an important asset to our Family Wellness team as they are used for transporting children, youth, and adults at risk to a place of safety." Is there any additional liability insurance that allows a government vehicle to be used for private citizens? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you will allow, Mr. Tonge to respond to that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tonge.

Mr. Tonge: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is a discussion that we have had with risk management, and they have indicated that that is covered through the insurance. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you. I would like to go back to Ms. Brewster's line of questioning, just for a moment. I think it is a relevant question that during the construction period we do know that there is a plan in place to keep the residents of that shelter safe during the construction process, when windows are removed and being replaced. It says it's anticipated to take a couple of months to do all that, so I'm just wondering, I know family services is looking after the safety and well-being of the residents and staff, but I do think it's a relevant question that there is a plan in place. I don't need to know the plan, I don't think we need to publicize what the plan is, but I just need to have some level of comfort that there is plan to make sure that those staff and residents are maintaining their safety. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member. With Ms. Brewster's questions, the clients will stay at that location during the renovations and we will ensure that we are going to have someone looking after them during the renovation stage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Just following the names on my list: Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question regarding the 2022-23 capital estimates for \$220,000. How does the department evaluate the condition of furniture in its community-based offices? What kind of criteria do they follow and who determines if and when it needs to be replaced? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for that question. The offices are in different location and they are not all the same. We know that if there is a renovation required, usually it is the individuals who work there that know the conditions. Not all of our employees have offices of their own. Usually if there has to be a modification to a new office, then we also do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the amounts, we do want to know how everything is decided. In the communities, your office, how does it work with the communities to access such buildings as surplus government employees or empty housing units to provide safe shelters, youth homes, or other spaces to support Nunavut's most vulnerable residents because they need help and there are communities without safe shelters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for that question. That is part of the capital planning process. The Department of Family Services would like to look at that idea because we know that not all communities have safe shelters and our employees sometimes have to utilize transitional homes before the clients are moved to the safe shelters.

I am very pleased that we have community hubs and there are five communities that have been identified, and we also get information from the RCMP or the health centres and our staff. We have five communities identified. We will be building safe shelters in four communities. It will be accessible by the elders and by the youth and also provide activities. We are in the planning stage for now, but those are the plans of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no further questions, but I just want to comment that, because of course our constituents are going to be asking us questions about government facilities, how they get refurbished, how they get utilized for other purposes. It's better if we have the information readily on hand and to provide the information to our communities. I just very much wanted to say thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a comment. According to my list, the last name is Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister and your officials. I have one question: if you go over budget due to unforeseen circumstances, would you make a supplementary request? That is what I wanted to know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member. For those communities that need vehicles, the main concern we have is if the windows don't come in by ship, or if they miss the shipping season, then we would have to fly them in. That would be one of the unforeseen circumstances. That's about the only concern we have right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister.

I have another question. Would there be monies available for the communities that don't have safe shelters, just in case one of those have-not communities can have access to the funds to build one? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for that question. We're looking at the community hubs and those are the only ones we have at the planning stages. I'm talking about four communities: Arctic Bay, Baker Lake... let me look... well we would like to see more safe homes, and should the hamlet want to rent a home to be used as a safe house, they can have a discussion with our employees and start the planning stages of opening up a safe home in their community. The monies from Nunavut Tunngavik are available for such purposes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The next name on my list is Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It might not be a real question, but in Pond Inlet last year, in 2021-22, they purchased two vehicles. Do they still have the two vehicles? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me look into that. It is in here. Yes, they have two vehicles in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for the response. I thought the other vehicle may have broken down, but that is okay. They will be purchasing furniture. Is it office furniture or house furniture for the shelter? We will be getting a shelter in Pond Inlet. Is it for the shelter or for the office of Family Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for the question. The furniture is basically for income support offices or the office of Family Services and they would be added to the budget of the shelters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The next name on my list: Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In your opening comments you stated that there will be office space and tenant improvements. Can you elaborate on that?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The office that need to be renovated or upgraded. Renovated. Family Services and income support have different offices. They offices in

different locations in Nunavut, but it is for all of Nunavut. It is for the places that really need the renovations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Anavilok. (interpretation ends) Oh. Sorry. Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Do members agree on \$1,100,000 for Family Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree we have concluded the review of Family Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would like to thank the minister and her officials and if the minister has brief closing comments.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank my colleagues for approving this, or agreeing to this. Now we can start planning for the items that were just approved.

To everyone who works at Family Services, thank you, especially the ones that help with the planning. They figure out what needs to be improved and they present it. We have few staff, but they are very good workers and they work really hard and they are able to produce things like this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Nakashuk. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the

officials from the witness table. We will take a five-minute break and start with Culture and Heritage.

>>Committee recessed at 18:25 and resumed at 18:29

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

Chairman: I would like to welcome everyone back to continue our continuation of standing committee here. I would like to ask Minister Quassa: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. Joanna Quassa: Yes, I do.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: For the record, Ms. Quassa, please introduce your officials and then proceed with your opening comments. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On my left is Wendy Bens, Acting Deputy Minister and Director of Corporate Services, and on my right is Allen Kunuk, Director of Policy and Planning.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and colleagues. I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the Department of Culture and Heritage's 2022-23 capital estimates.

The department works toward ensuring that the Government of Nunavut preserves, develops, and enhances Nunavut's culture, heritage, and languages for all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, the capital estimates for the Department of Culture and Heritage for the 2022-23 fiscal year is \$700,000. Since fiscal year 2015-16, the annual ongoing capital budget has been \$500,000 for heritage facilities contributions. For 2022-23, the Department of Culture and Heritage is requesting a \$200,000 capital budget increase, for a total capital budget of \$700,000 for the heritage facilities contribution.

The heritage facilities contribution is used to provide funding for heritage infrastructure in Nunavut. We provide this funding to non-profit, community-based organizations and municipal corporations for the development and/or renovation of heritage facilities or relevant associated structures and objects.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that the department revised its Grants and Contributions Policy in 2021 and one of the revisions was to allow for multi-year funding under the Heritage Facilities Contribution schedule. This increase will better enable the department to provide additional support for current and future heritage infrastructure initiatives in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, I will be pleased to respond to any questions that members of the committee may have. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does a regular member have any opening comments? Please proceed, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus concerning its review of the 2022-23 Capital Estimates of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year is \$700,000 for its ongoing capital contribution program to renovate heritage facilities across Nunavut. This represents an increase of 40 percent from its 2021-22 capital budget. The department revised its Grants and Contributions Policy in 2021 to allow for multi-year funding under the Heritage Facilities Contribution schedule.

The department's capital contribution program is allocated to non-profit community-based organizations and municipal corporations for the development or renovation of heritage facilities and relevant associated equipment. According to documentation provided to the standing committee, a total of 29 community entities have received funding through these agreements since the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Members note that the revised policy has been extended so that the range of eligible facilities include but are not limited to museums, art centres, and performances spaces. Members encourage the minister to begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly which details

the department's activities, expenditures, and initiatives in relation to the Heritage Facilities contribution program. The reporting of specific work that has been done with this program would be beneficial to all members in evaluating the impact of the program.

During the minister's appearance before the Regular Members' Caucus, members questioned which entities received funding and in which amounts. Members also questioned the extent to which the department has been working with Inuit organizations.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2022-23 Capital Estimates of the Department of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to the detailed questions? I have no more names for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the department's estimates starting on page F-3, which is the only page. Directorate. \$700,000. Agreed? Do members agree on the \$700,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded the review of Culture and Heritage?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms...I would like to thank the minister and her officials, and if the minister has any brief closing comments.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the longest time on the hot seat.

>> *Laughter*

I thank you very much. We are thankful, particularly to my officials who are here with me, as well as all of the officials at the Department of Culture and Heritage. They work hard to assist their fellow Inuit when they request support for their activities. I thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): I thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table. We will take a five-minute break and go on to the Legislative Assembly.

>> *Committee recessed at 18:41 and resumed at 18:43*

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

Chairman: Good afternoon. I would like to welcome the committee members back to committee meetings. I would like to ask the Speaker of the House, Mr. Akoak: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let Mr. Speaker's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: For the record, Mr. Speaker, please introduce your official and then proceed with your opening comments. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The man to my right is John Quirke, Clerk of the Assembly.

I am pleased to appear before you and members today to present the proposed 2022-23 Capital Estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

I am pleased to note that the proposed 2022-23 capital budget of \$250,000 has not increased since the 2021-22 fiscal year. The proposed 2022-23 capital budget will be used for minor capital projects, including equipment upgrades and furniture replacement for offices of Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Office of the Legislative Assembly, and the offices of independent officers of the Legislative Assembly.

That concludes my opening comments. I thank you and members for your support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Ma'na*, Mr. Speaker. Do any members have any general comments before we proceed to the detailed questions? I see none and we're ready to go to the page-by-page review of the department's estimates starting on A-3, which is the only page. \$250,000. Do members agree with \$250,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded the review of the Office of the Legislative Assembly?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to thank Mr. Speaker and his officials. Mr. Speaker, do you have any brief closing comments?

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you all for asking a whole lot of questions.

>>*Laughter*

This budget is for office use for yourselves and any requests that you ask of us, we will go ahead with it. Thank you. I would like to thank my official beside me, John Quirke. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table.

>>*Laughter*

Members, please go to Bill 2 in your legislation binders.

Alright, we're ready to go clause by clause. Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2022-2023*. Do members agree with clause 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree with clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree with clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please go to the Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2023. Total Capital Appropriation. \$204,047,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to Bill 2. Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 2 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 2 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Any closing comments... ? Sorry. No. I will now rise to report progress.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

Your committee has been considering Bill 2 and would like to report that Bill 2 is ready for third reading. 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? Ms. Gross. The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. I recognize the Minister of Finance, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 02 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2022-2023 – Third Reading

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2022-2023*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 2 is ready for assent.

Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 21:

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
 - Motion 11 – 6(1)
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 3
- Bill 4

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Before we adjourn, I wish to make a statement.

Speaker's Statement

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our Sergeant-at-Arms, Charlie Audlakiak.

>> *Applause*

As my colleagues will be aware, Charlie is a well-known hunter who had a distinguished career in the justice system.

He was deeply involved in land programs for offenders, and we thank him for his commitment to the well-being of our people.

Charlie's first day of duty as our Sergeant-at-Arms took place on March 6, 2018, at the beginning of the Fifth Legislative Assembly, and he has served this House with dignity and dedication.

Today marks Charlie's final day as our Sergeant-at-Arms. After many years of service, Charlie is retiring to spend more time with his family.

I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to Charlie Audlakiak and to wish him the very best in the years ahead.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) Thank you.
(interpretation ends) In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 9 – 6(1), this House stands adjourned until Monday, March 21, 2022 at 10 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 18:54*

