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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Tony Akoak, MLA

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Gjoa Haven)

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(Quttiktuq)

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Minister responsible for Labour*

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible
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Indigenous Affairs; Minister responsible for the
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Bobby Anavilok
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(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)

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

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(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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Services*

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(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
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*Government House Leader; Minister
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Minister of Human Resources;
Minister responsible for the Workers'
Safety and Compensation
Commission*

Hon. John Main
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(Pangnirtung)

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

Karen Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Joanna Quassa
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*Minister of Culture and Heritage;
Minister of Languages; Minister
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Corporation; Minister responsible for
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 21, 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, Mr. Anavilok.

>> *Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anavilok. Now that everyone has returned safely back to our session, I hope you all had a good rest over the weekend and I anticipate that everyone will have a good day, and that too applies to Nunavummiut, and we say “hello” to all those who are watching.

(interpretation ends) Ministers’ Statements. Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers’ Statements

**Minister’s Statement 062 – 6(1): GN
Collections Management
Workshop Series**

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues and all Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture and Heritage is committed to the conservation, protection, promotion, and enhancement of Nunavut’s extensive Heritage Collection.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the department will hold its third heritage collections workshop at the Winnipeg Art Gallery on March 22 to 26, 2022. The department invited staff from Nunavut’s museums and heritage centres to attend where participants will share their expertise and expand their knowledge on Inuit heritage and artefacts.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut Fine Art collection is currently housed at the Winnipeg Art Gallery on a five-year loan. In partnership with the Winnipeg Art Gallery, this workshop provides Nunavummiut who work in the heritage collections field the opportunity to gain experience in heritage collections care and methods to safeguard belongings housed at the numerous heritage facilities in Nunavut. Additionally, hosting the workshop at the Winnipeg Art Gallery allows participants to visit the wonderful Inuit art collection housed at the newly established Qaumajuq Museum.

Mr. Speaker, for many years Culture and Heritage has core funded local heritage centres in Nunavut through its grants and

contributions program. We are proud to be offering these workshops at the Winnipeg Art Gallery and to train more Nunavummiut in heritage collections management. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 063 – 6(1):
Sewing Program in Arviat by
Community Justice**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ensuring all Nunavummiut are well served by our justice system is an important part of our work at the Department of Justice.

Our community justice outreach workers play a key role in this work. Outreach workers strive to ensure Nunavummiut affected by crime understand their rights and have access to all the supports they need to protect themselves and their families.

In addition, many of our outreach workers create and run wellness and crime prevention programs that include traditional skills and activities. In doing so, their work promotes health and well-being in our communities.

With that, I would like to applaud the effort of our community justice outreach worker in Arviat who organized a program that benefited the community on many levels. Our outreach worker organized a sewing workshop with the Hamlet of Arviat at the beginning of December.

Participants learned traditional skills and made 23 parkas for school children who need warmer outdoor clothing for the winter. This program promoted and supported productive lifestyles and the traditional knowledge and values that are important to healthy living.

Our outreach worker, in partnership with the Hamlet of Arviat, looks forward to continuing the sewing program and the department also looks forward to supporting similar projects in other Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 064 – 6(1):
World TB Day**

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

Mr. Speaker, March 24 is World Tuberculosis (TB) Day. The Department of Health recognizes the impacts that tuberculosis has on health and our dedicated tuberculosis teams work hard to not only respond to outbreaks but to keep Nunavummiut informed about treatment, testing, and prevention.

Mr. Speaker, there are many factors to reducing the prevalence of tuberculosis in Nunavut, including increasing awareness and education. Year-round, Department of Health staff develop and distribute resources to help Nunavummiut understand tuberculosis, how to protect themselves, how to access support and services. We do this

with the help and support of partners such as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize our tuberculosis survivors and Nunavummiut currently on tuberculosis treatment; we thank you for doing your part to protect our communities. Mr. Speaker, each tuberculosis case treated gets us closer to our goal of eliminating tuberculosis in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 065 – 6(1):
Pinnguaq Program**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Good morning, my colleagues, and I say "good morning" to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the successful continued delivery of a technology and digital literacy program in partnership with the Pinnguaq Association.

(interpretation ends) This targeted training program is intended to provide digital and technology learning opportunities to adults and youth to enhance employability, enable access to the technology economy, and support positive life outcomes. Courses and workshops include Technology and Digital Literacy, Essential Skills, Employability Skills, Life Management Skills, and Employment Readiness, supporting adult learners.

Mr. Speaker, to date, the program was rolled out in 20 Nunavut communities, trained 296 participants, supported 29 interns at a variety of for-profit and non-profit businesses, and delivered over 15 workshops. It is expected that this training opportunity will be delivered to another 200 participants by the end of May 2022. Family Services has contributed \$867,000 to this program.

The success of this program is attributed to collaboration between Government of Nunavut, the Department of Innovation, Science and Development Canada, municipalities, Katinnnganiq Makerspace Network, Embrace Life Council, Ilitaqsiniq Nunavut Literacy Council, Pauktuutit, Chambers of Commerce, and Microsoft Canada. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 066 – 6(1):
Qulliq Energy Corporation LED
Street Lights**

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to provide my colleagues and Nunavummiut with an update on the Qulliq Energy Corporation's ongoing light-emitting diode (LED) Street Light Replacement Program.

(interpretation ends) In 2017-18 efforts to switch from conventional to light-emitting diode street lights started through generous funding from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. That funding allowed the QEC

to bring this technology to Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, and Kugluktuk, where these light-emitting diode lights now generate significant savings in energy costs.

Mr. Speaker, through additional funding from the Government of Nunavut's Carbon Rebate, the Qulliq Energy Corporation continues its work to upgrade street lights across the territory. To date, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has replaced conventional street lights in 16 communities with new light-emitting diode lights.

Mr. Speaker, with these upgrades, the Qulliq Energy Corporation follows an environmentally friendly path by taking specific safety measures to dispose of waste such as old fixtures and bulbs properly.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation will continue upgrading street lights across the territory until all 25 of our communities are able to benefit from improved lighting, safer streets, and reduced energy costs for local municipalities.

Mr. Speaker, these street light upgrades are just one example of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's commitment to finding alternative energy sources that lead to enhanced energy efficiency and reduced carbon emissions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 097 – 6(1): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Principles

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to help all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, there are many issues and concerns in Nunavut, but *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principles are never used or incorporated in workplaces everywhere in Nunavut and every department.

Mr. Speaker, the lack or non-use of the IQ is an issue. In saying that, the IQ principles need to be practised immediately in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, if it were to be utilized, issues would have been dealt with properly and not ignored for too long to the point that it got out of control and hard to manage.

Mr. Speaker, without *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, we would not be sitting in this House and the beautiful place called Nunavut, Our Land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 098 – 6(1): Time Change

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Good morning to Nunavummiut, the people of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet. My daughter, Cindy, is celebrating her birthday, so I wish her a happy birthday.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to add my voice to those who have been calling for an end

to the practice of changing the clocks in March and November of each year.

I want to acknowledge my colleague from Aivilik for having raised this issue during Friday's sitting of the House.

Mr. Speaker, over the past week, I have also heard a number of concerns from constituents on this issue. They have told me that this practice is out of date and should come to an end.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize and understand that Nunavut will need to consult closely with other jurisdictions on this issue.

I also recognize and understand that there will be discussions concerning such issues as whether we should move to Standard Time on a year-round basis or Daylight Saving Time.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to raising this issue again during our upcoming spring sitting. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 099 – 6(1): The State of Education in Nunavut

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Today I wish to express some of my concerns about the state of education in Nunavut.

First, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our teachers and adult educators for the work they do. Most of our teachers go above and beyond, often to the point of exhaustion. Their mental health and

well-being is important to them and for their students.

Mr. Speaker, despite the hard work of our teachers, many of our high school graduates are coming out of our school system without basic academic skills. One of my constituents recently shared with me his sadness and frustration that some students are graduating from school without the basic skills to get a simple job, much less go on to higher education which would enable them to work in a trade or profession.

Mr. Speaker, I support our high school students having opportunities to learn under the Career and Technology Studies program. However, it must not be at the expense of mastering the essential skills of reading and writing. Too many high school graduates can't get into college or need intensive upgrading before they can actually start a program.

Mr. Speaker, our adult learners also need more support. I have seen that when a person is guided, supported, and mentored, they can go a long way and reach their goals.

The community of Pond Inlet has requested that more academic programs be offered at the Nunavut Arctic College's Community Learning Centre. Directed academic programs could enable more Inuit to be promoted into managerial positions within the territorial and municipal governments.

Mr. Speaker, finally, I believe that implementing the Inuit way of Inunnguiniq, parenting and child-rearing, into the curriculum would help children, parents, and families become

stronger and more successful members of their community and the territory as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Member's Statement 100 – 6(1):
Happy Birthday to Wife**

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say “good morning” to you, if you happen to be watching the proceedings.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, today is a special day for someone and I would like to wish my wife happy birthday today. It's a special day and we all have our days.

To our three grown kids, if you haven't wished your mother a happy birthday yet, do it.

>> *Laughter*

I would also like to announce that later on this month my wife and I will be celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary...

>> *Applause*

...and I would like all of you to be happy for us. We hope there are many more to come so that when we get old, we can enjoy our golden years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 101 – 6(1):
Tribute to Bill Lyall**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. First of all, *ublaatiaq* to Iqaluktuuttiarmiut. I am sending my best regards to the community today. May it be a blessed day for everybody.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the late Bill Lyall. Over Bill's lifetime, his service to Nunavummiut expanded in many ways. He was a founder of the Arctic Co-operatives, former MLA for Cambridge Bay, business owner, and most of all, a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, and cousin to his beloved family.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Lyall's legacy. He lived as a champion on many fronts, to securing food sovereignty, lobbying for the health of our people, and promoting Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, our community lost a magnificent individual. However, we can still honour and remember Mr. Lyall's contributions through the various events, like the annual New Year's Eve fireworks that he sponsored for the community to enjoy for many years. For those of you who may want to learn more on Mr. Lyall, there is a book that can be purchased at your local Co-op.

From words of his wife, Jessie Lyall, there are plans for a celebration of life when the time is right. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: I have no more names for Members' Statements.

Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 065 – 6(1): Kugaaruk Municipal Service Garage

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning members and people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral question No. 65 – 6(1) asked by the Member for Netsilik on March 14, 2022 regarding the Kugaaruk Municipal Service Garage.

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

Speaker: Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Return to Oral Question 068 – 6(1): Renewable Energy Initiatives

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to supplement an answer I gave during question period on March 14, 2022. The Member of Arviat South requested information on the reason for the delay in the progress of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's Independent Power Producers Program.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to apologize for stating that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is awaiting the review of the Independent Power Producers Program by the Utility Rates Review Council. In stating this, I misunderstood the member when information was requested that referenced the Major Project Permit Application for Chesterfield Inlet and Kugaaruk that is currently under review by the Utility Rates Review Council.

I wish to clarify that the Utility Rates Review Council is currently not reviewing the Independent Power Producers Program as that work is still in progress by the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Once that work is completed, the Qulliq Energy Corporation will be putting forth in the appropriate manner. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 5. As we are closed to the public, there is no recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 136 – 6(1): World Fuel Prices

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently there is a lot of focus around the globe on fuel prices, so I would like to ask the question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

In the last year and a half, oil prices have doubled, leading to some of the highest fuel prices in history.

*See Appendix for full text of Return to Oral Question 65 – 6(1).

Recently the Department of Community and Government Services raised prices by 8 cents per litre on different fuel products.

When I looked back to October 2020, there was a bill in front of this House to allow the Petroleum Products Division, upon Financial Management Board approval, to purchase additional fuel futures.

Mr. Speaker and members, back then it was estimated it would save about \$15 million. With the benefit of hindsight, those savings would be much higher now.

Can the minister update this House on how much saving even \$15 million at that time would have affected fuel prices to Nunavummiut today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, fuel prices are a daily occurrence across the country, but in Nunavut it's not really a daily occurrence where we see fuel prices increase or decrease. It fluctuates depending on a few factors.

Mr. Speaker, as for the fluctuations, we do anticipate that there have been huge concerns around the world crude oil prices and there are savings that could have been realized if we had bought our entire supply of fuel sooner, but at this point we have secured 71 percent of the fuel for the territory's needs. We do anticipate that this will be an ongoing thing, given the world market is quite

volatile at this stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister didn't really answer my question, but I did a rough calculation and just using the prices available then, the Petroleum Products Division would have had a \$15 million reduction in cost even using it across all fuel classes, not just the ones that were raised recently. It works out to about 8 cents a litre.

Mr. Speaker, so not only would there likely have been no increase in prices; they may even have gone down. Is this government planning to bring forward similar legislation to permit the Petroleum Products Division to pre-purchase fuel if or when global markets provide similar opportunities that were available in 2020 and, if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Mr. Speaker, thank you. We are looking at options around how we can best move the territory forward given the high crude oil prices. We will be looking at how we can work with the PPD and given that there have been proposals around the past, around setting up either a commission or a different type of set-up where the PPD operations is better serving the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the member is not really answering my questions. I know this is question period, not answer period, but I'll move ahead. The minister did bring up another piece of legislation that was proposed in the last Assembly to create a commission or something like that.

Mr. Speaker, one of things that has often concerned me with our tight fiscal situation and capital dollars and the need to expand in so many different areas; when we look at the price of tank farms and related infrastructure regarding fuel purchasing and distribution, I still don't understand why we have to use our dollars from the Government of Nunavut that could be utilized in other areas. Where fuel should pay for itself through the Revolving Fund and through some of the adjustments that have been made in the past to allow more flexibility, I still don't understand why capitalization of infrastructure assets isn't done through the Revolving Fund through the Petroleum Products Division.

Like I said, there was a piece of legislation brought forward, but it doesn't have to be a whole commission. There could be an opportunity to provide capitalization of infrastructure assets without going through a full-blown review or dismantling of the Petroleum Products Division. Is that something the minister is willing to bring forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. If we do go that route, we understand that capitalizing our PPD

division to pay for the bulk fuel storage capacities and other infrastructure that sustain the operations will likely mean that fuel prices will increase again. With that in mind, we are trying to look at options going forward, but I will take the member's question into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 137 – 6(1): Qulliq Energy Corporation Remediation of Contaminated Sites

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues and fellow residents of Baker Lake. Have a very good day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and they concern the issue of remediation of contaminated sites.

As the minister is aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation's most [recent] annual report indicates that "During 2016, the corporation determined that the containment method in use at one of its contaminated sites, located in Baker Lake, was no longer functioning as intended...in September 2016, the corporation proceeded with its remediation plan, which included a lined landfarm cell and a trench. The remediation of this site was completed during the summer of 2019. However, due to some concerns raised by residents, the corporation is looking to a bigger landfarm away from the community and has requested another parcel of land away from the hamlet."

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that further remediation still needs to be done. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for the question. With the remediation, (interpretation ends) the QEC initially worked with the Hamlet of Baker Lake to move the landfarm farther away from the hamlet. On February 8, 2022 a formal agreement between the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Petroleum Products Division was signed to move the soil from the old Qulliq Energy Corporation landfarm to the Petroleum Products Division landfarm. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for the response. I'm glad work is being continued on that project.

Mr. Speaker, I have received a number of community concerns regarding the risk of hydrocarbons leaching into Baker Lake itself, the actual lake, which is the source of the community's potable water.

As the minister is aware, the Department of Community and Government Services is currently working on upgrades to the community's water infrastructure.

Can the minister clarify the extent to which the Qulliq Energy Corporation is working with the Department of Community and Government Services to protect our community's water source from contamination? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for the question. I will have to give back to you and I may be able to give you the response today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, again for the commitment to get back to me with more information.

Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy Corporation's most recent annual report also indicates that "the corporation has identified 27 sites [in Nunavut] where the concentration of petroleum hydrocarbons and other pollutants in the soil exceeds environmental standards. The contamination of certain of these sites occurred when other parties were responsible for the use of and/or held tenure to the sites. Management has estimated that remediation would cost approximately \$39.0 million."

Information previously published by the Qulliq Energy Corporation indicates that there have been efforts to resolve outstanding jurisdictional issues with the federal government related to responsibility for contaminated sites that

were inherited from the Northern Canada Power Commission. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague for the question. (interpretation ends) The QEC is included in the Contaminated Sites Management Working Group, a territorial effort to address contaminated sites with the Government of Canada. The Government of Nunavut Department of Environment currently has the lead to move the file forward with senior officials of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 138 – 6(1): Public Housing Program

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am always pleased with the hospitality shown by the people of Iqaluit, so I thank them for that.

My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

I want to begin by saying that I am pleased that the housing corporation's tender for the construction of Clyde River's 15 new public housing units closed on March 16, which was Wednesday of last week. The

community urgently needs these units, which is why I am happy to mention it.

Mr. Speaker, I'll say this in English. (interpretation ends) I recognize and understand that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's current method of allocating new public housing units to communities is based on wait-list numbers and current housing stock.

Can the minister confirm where Qikiqtarjuaq currently stands on the priority ranking list? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Now, with respect to the communities where new public housing units will be built, along with the prioritized allocation method from the most to the least needy communities, involves several numeric measures, namely, the identified point systems in the communities.

This includes the total population, the number of housing units available, the length of time and number of residents on the waiting list, then the total points are tallied, which is then used to determine to weight each applicant's points. This applies if it is a large community or even a smaller community and this is how the process is undertaken.

With regard to Qikiqtarjuaq, it currently stands 15th on the list of communities that are to be allocated more housing units in terms of prioritized communities. Out of the 25

communities, Qikiqtarjuaq is no. 15.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is indeed unfortunate, albeit I comprehend the reasons as many needs exist throughout Nunavut, as every community is challenged with housing shortfalls. Although I clearly understand that reason, it is still regrettable to hear. However, we will eventually reach our spot within the priority listing, so we will expect that in the future.

I would like to ask another question. (interpretation ends) In order for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to be able to allocate new public housing units in a fair and transparent manner, it needs to have accurate and up-to-date information concerning community wait-lists.

Can the minister clarify how frequently local housing organizations are required to provide updated wait-list numbers to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's headquarters and district offices?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We try to use the best and fairest practice that allows equitable distribution and when I hear members state that either it is unfortunate or regrettable being 15th, it is higher than number 16 or even 25, as these communities betwixt that would feel less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, the LHO or local housing bodies are the ones that send out the figures to the NHC and are asked for regular updated figures of their total populations, and especially people locally who are on the waiting lists. They can also give us an updated list any time of the year.

Prior to Nunavut Housing Corporation allocating new houses to the communities which can occur a couple times a year, and prior to setting up the numbered priority list, all communities receive a copy of an updated list of residents on their waiting lists, after being asked to send out these figures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that response. Now, many people in Nunavut on the local public housing waiting list have patiently awaited housing for years, some of them multiple decades. Some residents have been waiting so long that they have grandchildren now, and they submitted their names when they came of age.

Residents fill out the forms annually, and further, today, many residents have, as a result, lost patience and all hope of ever getting a housing unit, so many residents see the numbers rising, and feel trepidation in updating their forms so they give up, which is even more dissuading as they lose their place.

They are informed via local radio, letters and even newsletters about the need for updated forms by the local tenant

relation officers in order to keep their place in the line-up. What I would think, is this term in English, (interpretation ends) it is my understanding that local tenant relation officers have been working to ensure that residents keep their applications for housing up to date.

(interpretation) Many people continue to do that, but as the timeline stretches past a decade, many residents are loathe to even update their applications, feeling disheartened by the whole process. In my other constituency community, many residents have expressed their despair, as they have never been provided housing even when on the waiting list for many years.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister clarify how the Nunavut Housing Corporation is ensuring that tenant relation officers have the necessary support and resources to do this important work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The tenant relations officers continually receive support from the Nunavut Housing Corporation, especially when they identify areas where further support is required, especially in the regional division offices of NHC, so, this assistance is ongoing.

Furthermore, whenever new training modules are available to the NHC officers, they also offer the training if required. Mr. Speaker, we know people are tired of being on these waiting lists,

as during the 2021 fiscal year we had over 3,120 or thereabouts of residents on the lists.

It may be very difficult to be on the waiting lists, but that's how many people are currently on the waiting lists, Mr. Speaker. I encourage you to continue to apply for housing; otherwise the Nunavut Housing Corporation won't know what level of demand is out there. I hope, as the film saying goes "continue to keep applying for housing and don't give up until you get sleepy." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 139 – 6(1): Government of Nunavut Surplus

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Finance.

In the last Assembly, a member posed a question to the finance minister that confused a number of people and it has come to my attention recently that some people still believe that the GN has a surplus in the billions of dollars.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we know that is not the case, but for the sake of clarity, can the minister describe what is meant by the term "accumulated surplus" in the public accounts documents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking me such a detailed finance-related question.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to provide a response. Mr. Speaker, as I previously noted just the other day in my closing comments in Committee of the Whole during my finance appearance, I had the pleasure of working in the GN Department of Finance's Financial Reporting Division and produced two sets of public accounts during that time.

Mr. Speaker, the term "accumulated surplus" refers to a line on the balance sheet which shows the difference between GN assets as well as the GN liabilities, and where the assets exceed the liabilities that term is used as an "accumulated surplus." However, there is also another term for surplus and that's in relation to the income statement, where the revenues are in excess of the expenses and that's another form of surplus. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Out of the amount of nearly \$3 billion of the government's value, what is the insured value and how much insurance costs are needed to make sure that these assets are protected? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just trying to find that information that I have right before me.

If I recall correctly, the member was asking of the \$3 billion in assets, how much of that is insured and how much we are paying. I would like to thank the member for the question. I don't have the...sorry, Mr. Speaker, I do.

The GN's property insurance covers assets valued at about \$1.2 billion for schools and \$1 billion in other buildings as well as \$70 million for building content and \$500 million for tank farms, and finally \$38 million for vehicles and other equipment.

Mr. Speaker, the GN and the Department of Finance are budgeting about \$8.7 million for the insurance premiums in the upcoming fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for giving us that information. Hopefully we don't have to dig into the insurance; we've had our share of problems with that.

Mr. Speaker, how does the Department of Finance work with other GN departments and agencies to make sure that the amount of coverage for insurable assets carried is sufficient to make sure that we will get the replacement value of an asset that has gone? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. The predominant partner that the Department of Finance works with to determine property values and insurance premiums is the Department of Community and Government Services, and the Department of Community and Government Services has an asset management system in place, which they use to track the value of all of our assets held by the Government of Nunavut. That information is relayed over to the Department of Finance risk management, who then conducts appraisals and provides updates to insurers accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 140 – 6(1): Caribou
Harvesting Numbers for Amittuq**

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, members, the people of Amittuq, and all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment, and they concern the Baffin Island caribou total allowable harvest of 250 tags.

I would like to start by asking: how many caribou tags were allocated to Sanirajak and Igloodik of the 250 tags? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me quickly look at the numbers I have here. For this year, Igloodik has ten tags and Sanirajak has four tags. That is the total allowable harvest within the 250 tags for the Baffin region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for providing those figures. How are tags allocated to communities by the Department of Environment? How do they determine what the numbers will be for allowable harvests determined for local HTOs? Are the 250 tags distributed or allocated? Can you explain how those numbers are determined? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board is given the 250 tags and they represent every community in the Baffin region, and they determine what will be allocated from the 250. We have 25 communities and that is how it initially started. Some communities will go beyond their allowable catch, but the TAH is constantly adjusted by the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that clarification. I believe the moratorium on

caribou was a pilot project and the population numbers are constantly changing in the Baffin region, animals or wildlife are constantly changing in population. The caribou are constantly migrating. The allowable harvest is never enough for hunters in the Baffin region. The 10 tags for Igloolik are used up pretty quickly.

Has the Department of Environment made a submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to have the moratorium on Baffin caribou suspended? My question is: has the Department of Environment met with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board concerning the 250 caribou tags and discussed having it suspended? Where is that at the moment as I would like to know the status if possible? That is my question, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the Baffin Island caribou population, concerns were continually voiced about the extreme low numbers resulting in a population study. Due to the scientists' determination that the numbers were too low, a moratorium was enacted in conjunction with the NWMB, the RWOs, the local HTOs, and government undertook consultations that resulted in a tag system with 250 TAH, or total allowable harvest. This system was not limited in terms of the total number of years it would remain; this system has continued.

This winter or just recently, there was another survey held to determine the ratio of calves, and they now have a

good idea of the rough population estimates. The survey results were reported to the Baffin region HTOs, and further, it was relayed to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and a recommendation will be forthcoming to slight increase the overall numbers of tags for harvesting. However, it will only be after a management decision is made, where we will know the total numbers of caribou available for harvest in the Baffin region, but for now the tags remain at that amount.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to state that another survey is being conducted now South Baffin around the area of Iqaluit, where they are flying over the island looking at how healthy the calves are in the Baffin region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 141 – 6(1): Minimum Wage

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to everybody in Iqaluit and Nunavut watching today. I thank the member for her remembering uncle Bill to us this morning. It was a great way to start my week.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice, who is responsible for the *Labour Standards Act*.

As the minister is aware, the *Labour Standards Act* and regulations made under the legislation address a number of issues that are important for workers in Nunavut, including the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, under section 12.1 of the legislation, the minister is required to review the minimum wage rate on an annual basis and report his findings to the Legislative Assembly.

The last review was undertaken in 2019, and the minimum wage went up to \$16 per hour on April 1, 2020, almost two years ago.

Can the minister confirm when the next review of the minimum wage will be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't have a firm date on when the review will take place. From what I understand, it gets reviewed from time to time, and as she noted 2020 was the last time, and that's throughout the country. We review that very closely for the minimum wage within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. On Wednesday of last week, Statistics Canada released an update on the Consumer Price Index. Statistics Canada's update indicated that "In February, Canadian consumer prices increased 5.7% year over year, up from a 5.1% gain in January. This was the largest gain since August of 1991...price increases were broad-based in February, pinching the pocketbooks of Canadians."

Mr. Speaker, inflation rates are now at levels that we have not experienced in

over a generation, and I am very concerned about the increasing unaffordability of food and other basics for lower income Nunavummiut.

Can the minister clarify how his department's annual review of the minimum wage takes into account such factors as inflation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of factors that do take place for minimum wage and inflation is one of them. For sure, it is a shared concern that prices are going really high, really fast. It's a shared concern throughout our cabinet on how to help Nunavummiut and help especially those that are on minimum wage. Those are the very things that we go through when we're reviewing this, and I applaud the member for raising this in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Speaker, if someone is being paid Nunavut's minimum wage of \$16 per hour were to work 40 hours per week for 52 weeks per year, their annual gross income would be just \$33,280.

From the minister's perspective, can he indicate if Nunavut's minimum wage is actually a living wage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must quote that Nunavut has the highest minimum wage in the rest of Canada. That's something that we try to do. Through our labour standards, we encourage companies to do more than a minimum wage, and a lot of companies do go beyond that because our staffing is so scarce. Through that, a lot of those do get taken into factor, and I'm just being informed that our review will be done this summer as part of our regular review within the minimum wage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 142 – 6(1): Search and Rescue

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my colleagues and the people of Nauyasat and Coral Harbour, have a great day.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. I want to follow up today on the issue of search and rescue.

Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue earlier in our winter sitting, the minister indicated that he would be bringing forward Nunavut concerns to his upcoming meeting with federal, provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for Emergency Management.

Mr. Speaker, this meeting took place on Thursday of last week. Can the minister update the House on these discussions? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Aivilik for asking that question on search and rescue. Mr. Speaker, I met with my ministerial counterparts on emergency management on Thursday. The meeting didn't focus on search and rescue, but the different emergency response plans throughout Canada, such as... .

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the agenda topics covered such things as disaster response in cases of flooding or wildfires, things of that nature, as well as topics covering such things as a national alert system for if any Canadian who is in danger, they can receive an automated message on either their device or on television or what have you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response. Now, for some context, we who live in the Arctic regions do not experience fires of that size, as we have no forests, so I wanted to know if it had been brought up as a matter of information.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the 2019-2020 annual report under the territorial *Emergency Measures Act* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 1, 2021. This report indicates that Nunavut Emergency Management delivered search and rescue ground training

courses in Iqaluit, Arviat, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay during 2019-2020.

Can the minister indicate when these courses will next be delivered in Naujaat and Coral Harbour? (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking about search and rescue training opportunities, as we completely agree with the need for training and totally support local training. In fiscal year 2021-22 we identified ten communities that would receive the training modules, but we were unable to visit three communities. At this time I can state that Naujaat will be visited this week to offer the training to the local SAR group. However, based on the information available with regard to Coral Harbour, I don't have any actual dates listed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the good response. (interpretation ends) As I noted in my previous questions to the minister, his department's Community-Based Search and Rescue Contributions Policy expires on April 1, 2022, less than two weeks from today. Can the minister confirm the timeline for reviewing and updating this important document? (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, regarding the policies related to search and rescues, along with other CGS policies related to emergency management, we are working to update and condense the various policies, and this is part of the work being undertaken. However, I can state that even though the end date of the policy is close, it will remain in effect beyond the sunset date and we will continue to pursue that goal of updating all the relevant policies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 143 – 6(1): Churchill Boarding Home

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, for many years, Nunavut's Department of Health has been sending Nunavut residents to Churchill for medical services, especially for dental surgery.

Can the minister provide an update on how often the Churchill Transit Centre is used on a weekly, monthly, or yearly basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question about dental challenges. The Churchill Transit Centre has been quite instrumental in accommodating patients and escorts sent down to

Churchill for dental services, especially children.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) the member is correct that the paediatric dental clinics which normally service clients from the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions are the primary reason why currently we send medical travellers to Churchill.

In terms of the annual numbers for the boarding home, I don't have those numbers in front of me, but I can tell the member that the department does track those numbers. I don't have those numbers in front of me, but I would be willing to look into that and get that detailed information to the member as soon as I can. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The most recent public service report indicates that the Department of Health has 8.5 positions in Churchill. Can the minister tell us whether the individuals filling these positions are from Nunavut and what jobs they fill? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The employees are from Churchill. The boarding home is in Churchill. The employees are in Churchill. I'm not quite sure what the member is trying to get at in terms of whether the employees are from Nunavut.

Maybe the member was trying to ask regarding Inuktitut language speaking aspects. We do try to provide services at that facility in Inuktitut. However, given the labour market and the specialized nature of those language skills, I know that can be difficult to fill, to get staff who speak Inuktitut or are bilingual in Inuktitut and English.

Mr. Speaker, the Churchill Boarding Home is the only boarding home operated by the Government of Nunavut using its own employees, so it is a bit unique in that regard. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the department has invested considerable funds in renovating the dental clinic in Rankin Inlet. Will the minister commit to providing more dental services in Rankin Inlet to reduce the need to travel to Churchill for such services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He has changed his line of questioning and he is now moving on to dental services. I can answer questions on the issue of the boarding home.

(interpretation ends) There are employees at the boarding home in Churchill who do provide high-quality service. We are really thankful for their contributions. COVID-19 has posed big challenges to the employees and the operations.

The Churchill Boarding Home has worked closely with the Department of Health, Non-Insured Health Benefits, and Manitoba Public Health to ensure that enhanced safety and hygiene measures are in place to protect medical travellers and boarding home staff from COVID-19. The boarding home has modified their operations to meet social distancing, infection control, and public health order standards. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. I believe there was a connection between his line of questioning and dental health.

Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Question 144 – 6(1): Pond Inlet Water Infrastructure

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you say my name, I feel like I should be yelling out, “Bingo!”

>> *Laughter*

My questions are for the Minister of (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services (interpretation) and they concern the issue of water infrastructure.

(interpretation ends) During our current sitting, a number of my colleagues have been raising the issue of water infrastructure. It is very clear that a number of communities are facing serious situations.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, his department issued a request for proposals in June 2021 to develop a

business case for new water treatment facilities in Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, and Grise Fiord.

In August 2021 the federal government announced \$1.8 million in funding to support planning for the design and construction of new water treatment facilities in these three communities.

When this issue was raised in the Legislative Assembly in September last year, the minister’s predecessor indicated that this work was anticipated to be completed by March 2022. Mr. Speaker, it is almost the end of the month.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the planning for Pond Inlet’s new water treatment plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. Mr. Speaker, my department had engaged a consultant to complete a schematic design and business case for a new water system in Pond Inlet and I can say “bingo,” the anticipated completion date for this work is still March 31, 2022. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. (interpretation ends) Can the minister clarify if his department plans to issue separate tenders for all three new water treatment plants in Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, and Grise Fiord or does his

department intend to combine all three projects into a single tender? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't specify whether or not these projects will be bundled together or not, but we will be looking at options how we are procuring these given how different capital projects have been coming up way beyond our budgets. We're trying to do the best we can in light of this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister.
(interpretation ends) Information published by the minister's department indicates that "The community's aging facility has deteriorated, and occurrences of system malfunctioning and failure are frequent. One of such incidents happened in fall of 2019, when the existing water intake system failed. Since then, the community water supply has been hinged on a temporary intake system whose long-term durability is not guaranteed. This transitory setup may collapse at any time, invoking a water emergency in the community."

Can the minister indicate how his department is working with the Municipality of Pond Inlet to ensure that the community has safe drinking water until such time as the new water treatment plant is constructed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. Mr. Speaker, we are working with the municipality on their water needs and looking at the temporary intake system that is in place for the time being. Should any concerns or immediate threats arise, we will work together with the municipality and I will keep the member informed on any updates on this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 145 – 6(1): Kugluktuk Power Plant

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Kugluktuk, Nunavummiut, and members. Have a great day.

My question is regarding the new power plant to be constructed in Kugluktuk.

(interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation and they concern the issue of Kugluktuk's new power plant.

As the minister is aware, Kugluktuk's existing power plant is over 50 years of age, built in 1968, and in need of replacement.

Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has been working towards the design and construction of a new hybrid diesel-solar power plant. Federal funding for this project under the Arctic

Energy Fund was announced in August 2019.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation's most recent annual report indicates that design work on the project was "delayed due to budget constraints and extensive civil work required for the site." Can the minister provide an update today on the cost of the project? *Quanaqqutit*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the proposed power plant for Kugluktuk, (interpretation ends) it did go out for tendering bids, but the Qulliq Energy Corporation received higher than budgeted. The timeline for this one will continue and hopefully be completed by 2024-25. I don't have the figures for the budget on this, but I can tell you that they are usually around \$35 million and up. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the reply. (interpretation ends) You may have answered this one already, but the Qulliq Energy Corporation's current corporate plan indicates that construction of Kugluktuk's new power plant was supposed to have started during the current 2021-22 fiscal year. Can the minister provide an update on the timeline for this? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I responded to that already, but I can look into this matter and give the member an update through letter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the response. (interpretation ends) Information published by the Qulliq Energy Corporation indicates that the hybrid diesel-solar design of Kugluktuk's new power plant is intended to "improve fuel efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emission footprint."

Can the minister indicate approximately how much less diesel will be used on an annual basis by Kugluktuk's new power plant in comparison to its existing power plant? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to his question, yes, diesel consumption will be greatly reduced. I'm just looking to see how much the savings would be. It is written here somewhere.

It would a lot less diesel than what they are using now. They would probably use less than half of what they use today. Once I get more information, perhaps

later today, I can share that with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 146 – 6(1): Fibre Infrastructure

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to first send my sincere condolences to Mr. and Mrs. Manning in Sanikiluaq and to everyone in Sanikiluaq that are mourning the loss of a young man.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of the government's fibre optic infrastructure plan.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of confusion surrounding the issue of the planned route for the new fibre optic project. Mr. Speaker, at one time a branch line to Sanikiluaq was part of the plan, and this is something that I support.

For the record, can the minister clearly describe how Sanikiluaq fits into the government's plan for fibre optic infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the proposed fibre optic project the Government of Nunavut is presenting is looking at Iqaluit as the target community. The member is correct that there have been

options explored around impacting other communities, but at this time, the current project that we are proceeding with at this point is looking at Iqaluit. In the future, if there are potential ways to link other communities and if funding is supplied as well to those increases, we will consider those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response, minister. Yes, it's a great opportunity for Sanikiluaq to be linked to the Nunavik line as there is an active line that was installed there last year.

Mr. Speaker, in October 2021 the minister's department issued a request for proposals for an "independent and objective review and analysis of the Nunavut Marine Fibre Project and to assist the Government of Nunavut in the development of a Strategy Oversight Framework." The documentation indicated that "consultants are engaged and are actively providing input into the routing options."

For the record, can the minister clearly describe what routing options are currently being considered by his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanase: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The two options that I think are at this stage in the game that are being looked at are a link between Salluit through the Kativik Regional Government link, as well as a southern

location not through Nunavik, so those are the two options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response, minister. That's great to hear. Fibre optic closest to our territory could be a lot cheaper compared to a southern Canada link.

Mr. Speaker, on October 19, 2019 the federal government publicly announced that it would be providing \$151.0 million towards the undersea fibre optic cable project through the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan.

When the fibre infrastructure plan was discussed during the Committee of the Whole's deliberations of March 9, 2022, 12 days ago, a recent news story was referred to which indicated that a departmental official had indicated that the cost of the project is expected to increase due to "inflation and supply chain delays."

For the record, can the minister clearly indicate how much of a budget increase is expected? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Going back to the routing options that were presented, the other option, I don't have it in front of me, but the other option or route being looked at is through Milton, Newfoundland, next to Salluit.

As for his final supplementary question, we are budgeting \$209 million for this project and we hope to stick to that budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 147 – 6(1): Climate Change

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment and they concern the important issue of climate change.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Jimmy Oleekatalik for representing Taloyoak's hunters and trappers organization at the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference in Scotland. I understand that he spoke about the proposed Aviqtuuq protected area near Taloyoak.

Mr., Speaker, climate change is affecting the entire world, including the north. We can see the impact of climate change with our own eyes.

As the minister is aware, his department is responsible for the government's Climate Change Secretariat. The 2021-22 budget for the department included funding for nine positions. Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm how many of these positions are currently filled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm trying really fast to find that information, but if my memory recalls, they're not all fully filled at the moment. I don't have that firm number

in terms of how many positions have been filled out of the nine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, his department's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to update Nunavut's Climate Change Strategic Plan. Mr. Speaker, I believe that is extremely important that we have a plan to address this issue.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm when the government's updated Climate Change Strategic Plan will be ready to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague just mentioned that this work is being started. Once all that is taken into consideration, I'll definitely look at bringing it forward and I hope that through the strategy, our fellow Nunavummiut provide as much input as it is very important. This is one area that we are hugely impacted, but at the same time it's not necessarily us that is causing it. Those are the very things that I want to see as part of the strategy. I don't have a firm date as to when it will be completed, but I do look forward to getting that strategy finalized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the government's current business plan also indicates that the Department of Environment's Climate Change Secretariat has been working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to "reduce costs associated with housing through technological innovation."

During this sitting, a number of MLAs, including myself, have asked questions about alternative energy initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm how the Climate Change Secretariat is working with the Qulliq Energy Corporation on alternative energy initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of fronts that our Climate Change Secretariat is working with the Qulliq Energy Corporation in terms of increasing alternative power, and I think last year we introduced a renewable energy program that supports homeowners that can connect solar and wind into their homes, which reduces the power usage.

As part of the Net Metering Program that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is trying to develop, we are right in there as part of the Climate Change Secretariat of involving and including all the work that's taking place.

There are a number of fronts that our Climate Change Secretariat is trying to help and assist the Qulliq Energy Corporation, the housing corporation, and any other organization that would

like to be helped. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 148 – 6(1): Vacant Staff Housing Units

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on my line of questioning last Tuesday to the Minister of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday the minister stated that there are over 300 vacant staff housing units, of which nearly half are not move-in ready across the territory. The minister has previously stated that staff housing is in crisis, yet well over half of the vacant units here in Iqaluit are not move-in ready.

Mr. Speaker, when can we expect to see these badly needed units brought back into useful inventory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. That is a very excellent question that needs to be asked. Mr. Speaker, I would like to see those units renovated as quickly as possible so that they can be utilized and provide much-needed housing for the many Nunavummiut who are facing a housing shortage. Mr. Speaker, however, the renovations of staff housing units is not the responsibility of the human resources department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is: how many competitions are on hold because of the lack of available units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is true that when we realized that we were in a very precarious situation, the Staff Housing Allocation Committee did begin limiting the amount of staff housing being allocated through the competitive process. Mr. Speaker, at the time the practice was allocating two job competitions for every vacant staff housing unit, recognizing that the significant amount of job competitions are unsuccessful.

Mr. Speaker, however, as to the question of how many job competitions have been put on hold, I do not have that figure before me. However, I can look into it and provide it to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Fifth Assembly, there was a bill brought forward to start a GN staff housing down-payment assistance program. Mr. Speaker, although it seemed like a very positive move forward to help address some of the demand on staff housing, and I've had a number of constituents and I'm sure many members that were here in the

Fifth Assembly had constituents come to them asking why that policy didn't go forward, and unfortunately I wasn't able to give a solid answer, but I know of people that if that policy would have passed, they would be homeowners today if they had money saved up and that was the point that would have put them over the edge.

Mr. Speaker, my next question is: is this minister going to be bringing forward similar legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that specific question. Mr. Speaker, it is true that the previous government did attempt to bring forward a homeowner savings matching program for our Government of Nunavut employees.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I do not plan on reintroducing this program. Mr. Speaker, there are significant complications with that program that need to be taken into consideration before it is reintroduced or before it is even capable of being reintroduced.

Mr. Speaker, the tax implications alone of that program would have a significant portion of the GN contributions going directly to the CRA. Mr. Speaker, a majority of GN employees who would benefit from that homeowner savings matching program are most likely to be our employees in the higher income tax bracket.

Mr. Speaker, although I do not plan on reintroducing such a program at this very moment, it does not necessarily mean that it's off the table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The time allotted for question period... Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask for unanimous consent to extend question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There is a nay. Before going on to the next item, we will be taking a lunch... Sorry. My apologies. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. I have one.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 025 – 6(1): Speaker's List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements

I have one document to table today, which is a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements.

For the benefit of the newly elected members, I wish to briefly explain the purpose of this document.

As of today, there are approximately fifty pieces of territorial legislation that contain statutory requirements for annual

reports and other items to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

These reports contain important information concerning the administration of Nunavut's laws and other matters.

My office tracks the status of these tabling requirements and draws the attention of the House to outstanding items.

As members will note, a number of departments are currently up to date with respect to their requirements.

These include the departments of Education, Environment, Finance and Health, as well as the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

A number of departments are currently not up to date with respect to their requirements, and I encourage ministers to take note of these items.

My office also tracks requirements that fall under the responsibility of independent officers of the Legislative Assembly.

I will conclude by noting that this list is tabled towards the end of each of our winter, spring and fall sittings.

As this is the last day of the First Session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly, I am tabling the document today, which I encourage all members to review with care. Thank you.

Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of

Bills. Item 16. Motions. I recognize the Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 011 – 6(1): Extended Adjournment

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

(interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, 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 the Sixth Legislative Assembly be May 25, 2022.

(interpretation) 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. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 3, and 4 with Mr. Savikataaq in the Chair.

We will now take a lunch break and report back at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 11:53 and
Committee resumed at 13:30*

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

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the review of (interpretation ends) Bill 1, (interpretation) followed by Bills 3 and 4. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement to first deal with Bill 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 01 – Interim Appropriation
(Operations & Maintenance) Act,
2022-2023 – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman: At least we can agree. I would like to ask Minister Lightstone: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, Minister Lightstone, please introduce

your officials and then proceed with your opening comments. Minister Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, members. To my left is Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr. Chown, and to my right is Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr. Mansell.

It is my honour to appear before you to present the first bill of our Sixth Assembly: Bill 1, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2022-2023*.

Through this bill we are asking to increase the Government of Nunavut's appropriations by \$539.5 million in 2022-23.

Approving Bill 1 will authorize our departments to spend money in the upcoming fiscal year, which begins on April 1.

Your approval will allow departments to compensate employees, release funding to outside organizations, pay bills, and undertake other usual spending activities in service of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, in most years the Minister of Finance comes forward during this winter session of the Assembly and asks for a full year's worth of appropriations, enough to cover departmental spending for the 12 months between April and next March.

However, due to this year's adjusted legislative calendar and to respect that our Sixth Assembly only recently developed our shared mandate, I am seeking only a portion of our annual funding needed now.

Bill 1 will ensure our departments can legally operate after April 1 while we develop and finalize our full operations and maintenance request for the Assembly's consideration during the spring session, which will start in May.

At that stage you will have an opportunity to discuss each department's appropriation request with the responsible minister and their officials. This follows the same approach our previous Assemblies took after past elections.

For now, we are seeking broad approval of this appropriation bill. The bill itself shows you the breakdown of interim appropriations by department.

To determine each amount, officials at the Department of Finance worked with colleagues in each department and territorial corporation to review actual spending patterns and cash flow needs during the first four months of the past few years.

Based on this analysis, the amounts before you will allow departments and agencies to comfortably operate until we consider and approve the 2022-23 Appropriations Act.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions about this bill and the need for interim appropriations generally. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Do any members have any general comments? Okay. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a brief comment; I won't be asking

any questions on this bill. I think it's quite straightforward. I'm sure all of us, including myself, will have many questions on the delivery of programs and services across the territory.

I realize that, from an accounting standpoint, the government cannot have an unfunded government to cover our day-to-day needs for the interim, so I will be supporting this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on any general comments, so if we can go to Bill 1 in your legislative binder and we will go clause by clause.

Bill 1, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act*, 2022-2023. Clause 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Interim Amount Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2023. Total Interim Appropriation. \$539,523. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to Bill 1. Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 1 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 1 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Closing comments, Minister Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, members. I believe Mr. Hickes put it very well. I appreciate your support on this bill, which allows our government an interim appropriation to fund our operations for the first-quarter of the fiscal year, and I look forward to returning in a few months' time when I introduce the full appropriation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Lightstone, please proceed with your opening comments on Bill 3.

**Bill 03 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2021-
2022 – Consideration in
Committee**

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I am here

to present Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2021-2022*.

Through this bill we are seeking your approval to increase the Government of Nunavut's total operations and maintenance appropriation by \$33,179,000. This would raise our overall spending authorities by about 1.5 percent to just over \$1.9 billion.

There are two parts to this supplementary appropriation. We have provided you with briefing material that explains the details, and I will summarize it here.

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Our Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is seeking \$22,179,000 so that the government may extend financial support to northern airlines.

Given the impacts of COVID on air travel and its importance to our communities, the government has been providing just enough money to help the airlines break even while maintaining flights.

Our process is for airlines to estimate their revenues and expenses over the months ahead. Based on these forecasts, the GN provides enough of a contribution to help the airlines break even. Airlines then must report back at the end of the period to show actual revenues and expenditures. These reports are audited by an accounting firm. Airlines may keep whatever funding they needed to break even over the period and must return to the GN any extra funding.

Between April 2020 and September 2021 the GN made available \$109 million to airlines. Of this, airlines returns about \$53 million, and the Government of Canada contributed nearly \$36 million. In total the Government of Nunavut contributed about \$20 million to airlines over these 18 months.

Our government has since agreed to extend another \$12.8 million in respect of the period between October 2021 and December 2021. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs managed these costs using a combination of internal surplus, monies returned by the airlines, and federal resources.

The airlines are now seeking support between January and March 2022. Together they estimate the need for \$22,179,000 to break even. As the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs does not have enough appropriations to cover this request, it is seeking supplementary appropriations through this bill.

Justice

Mr. Chairman, the second part of this supplementary appropriation relates to the Department of Justice. The department requires an additional \$11 million to address a budget shortfall within its Law Enforcement Branch.

This shortfall is due to cost overruns by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). The RCMP projects a total budget deficit of about \$16 million this year for its policing activities in Nunavut. By agreement, the Government of Nunavut pays for 70 percent of these policing costs.

As such, our share of the RCMP's deficit is about \$11.8 million:

- \$3.6 million is to cover expenses for extra duty pay across the territory's 25 detachments;
- \$3.6 million is due to higher-than-budgeted indirect costs; and
- \$4.6 million is to cover rising unit costs for individual detachments.

The Department of Justice is able to manage some of this amount internally but requires a supplementary appropriation of \$11 million to cover the remaining cost overruns.

Mr. Chairman and members, this completes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions about this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Do any members have any general comments before we proceed? I hear none, so we can go to the Bill 3 document starting on page 4. I'll just give everyone a few minutes.

Okay. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. \$22,179,000. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister has been very vocal on numerous occasions on why there isn't a purchase option with the funding that we provided to the airlines over the last couple of years. I just wanted to ask a simple question: has the minister moved forward or is the minister moving forward on purchasing shares of any airlines through this agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's question. At this time we have not had those discussions. If we were to consider looking into buying ownership of the airline, it would cost a significant investment, something that \$22 million would not cover.

Right now we find ourselves in a position where the COVID pandemic still has a significant impact on our airline industry. We're now at the point where the airlines are equally dependent on our subsidies as we are on the crucial services that they provide our communities. As such, we cannot just abruptly end the financial support that we have been providing; otherwise that would have a detrimental impact on our communities. That is why we are here today to request this supplementary funding of \$22 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I acknowledge and know very well that the money that has been requested today is for the ongoing support of the airlines and does not include a purchase option, but the minister has been very vocal on numerous occasions that there should be an option.

The minister just mentioned a significant amount would be needed to accommodate such a purchase. What amount is this government looking at spending on purchasing shares of Canadian North or any other airline? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the questions. I truly do, however, the amount is so significant that we have not even considered looking into it at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is saying the amount is significant and that it's not something that's being explored at this time. Are those discussions still on the table? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way that I see things is, I think it is prudent that we always have informed decisions, especially when it comes to this table. With that being said, ensuring that all decisions are truly informed, I think it is important to note that nothing is ever off the table before such significant decisions are made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next on my list: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon minister and to your officials. With regard to assistance to the airlines, I believe Canadian North just announced a brand new route; Iqaluit-Toronto. I'm wondering do they still need our assistance if they're incorporating introducing brand new routes and will this bill also be assisting in funding this

new route that they are introducing?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the excellent question. This bill is to support the airline operations for the period of January to March of the current year, and the new proposed route that Canadian North had announced is coming into effect this summer and as such, would not be receiving any of this subsidy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister and your staff.

Now, the total funds are quite large which the airlines will be eligible for, based on the amounts listed in the agreements. Nonetheless, some regional communities only receive sporadic services or (interpretation ends) very minimal at two to three times a week (interpretation) and I wonder what impact this would have on communities that receive less flights currently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry; I didn't catch the [entire] question. Would the member mind repeating that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki, if you can ask your question again. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was asking, since that is quite a large sum of money for the airlines, for the company, I was asking: on the service end, will we get more service in communities? Some smaller communities get service from the airlines (interpretation ends) two to three times per week. (interpretation) That is how it is in Coral Harbour and Nauyasat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Sorry. (interpretation ends) I understand the question and in relation to the services provided, I would like to ask that Deputy Minister Chown provide a response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Chown.

Mr. Chown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. The agreement does require a basic amount of travel into each community. Those minimums must be met by the airlines.

However, the airlines do have regular discussions both with the Department of Health and Department of Economic Development and Transportation with regard to flights and demand in the communities, and if we end up in situations where flights are cancelled or there is a backlog of essential travel occurring, then we will have discussions with airlines and they will either adjust the routing where appropriate or add

temporary additional flights to try and address those demands.

We do expect as things open up again that as the demand is there, it will result in increased flights despite the minimums in the contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. My other question; \$33,197,000 is a large sum of money. Will the airline scheduling increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. This is a significant amount of money we are requesting. However, the subsidy to airlines is a necessity at this time. In order for the airlines to continue to meet the obligations under our contract, the airlines still will require a minimum amount of scheduled flight services, and at this time it is looking like the airlines might be returning to pre-COVID level scheduled flights in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Anyone else? I just have one clarification here. Would it be a fair statement to state that the funds that the airlines have been receiving since almost two years now are meant to keep them afloat and not make a profit? Is it fair to say that the northern airlines have not made a profit in almost two years? Minister Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a fair assumption. We are providing a subsidy to assist the airlines to break even with their Nunavut operations. For the first 18 months we have provided \$109 million, of which they have returned \$53 million in either reimbursing duty and medical travel or any surpluses that they may have had. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names. Total Department. \$22,179,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay. We will go to the next one on page 5. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department. I'll just give you 30 seconds. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a reoccurring supplementary appropriation it seems to be, for the last number of years. I know the former Minister of Justice mentioned on numerous occasions on negotiations with Public Safety Canada and Indigenous Services on accessing First Nations Policing dollars. What is the status of those negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for the question. He is correct that the RCMP have been facing successive budget deficits in recent years, and the Department of Justice has been requiring supplementary appropriations to offset these deficits.

However, I would like to recognize the Department of Justice's efforts in working with the RCMP to develop their budgets and their reporting processes. There has been significant improvement in the information that is received and the understanding of the financial strains of the RCMP.

The member is correct; the former Minister of Justice had an indication that there were some negotiations about receiving some indigenous policing financial support. It is my understanding that those discussions are still ongoing. The Minister of Justice is working closely with the federal government to open up new options for funding in the territory that will allow for increased services as more reasonable cost share rates. I look forward to reporting back on these initiatives in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the Minister of Justice is successful in his endeavours in accessing First Nations Policing dollars, will the minister commit to not changing the Government of Nunavut's budget or decreasing the Government of Nunavut's budget with relation to receiving those funds? What I mean by it is maintaining the budget status quo as it is right now and adding any agreements that could be made with Public Safety Canada so that we can actually make improvements to the RCMP service delivery across the territory, including the housing and detachment component. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was an excellent suggestion. Unfortunately, I cannot make a commitment on behalf of the Minister of Justice. However, I do realize that the Government of Nunavut and the Department of Justice's portion of the RCMP budget has seen successive shortfalls and it would be prudent to correct those budgets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department, \$11,000,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 2. Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No. 2, 2021-2022. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$33,179,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Bill 3 in your legislation binder for clause-by-clause review of Bill 3. Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operation and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2021-2022*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2022. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$33,179,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to Bill 3. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 3 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 3 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Closing comments, Minister Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the members for your support in this bill and recognizing that the funding to subsidize the northern airlines is an effort to break even and is set based on their forecasts. I would like to note that hopefully their

actual revenues for the period will be in excess of their revenues and they will not require the full appropriation.

I do appreciate your support on this and the same goes for the Department of Justice and the need to provide supplementary funding to offset the RCMP overruns. I would like to recognize that the RCMP provides a crucial role in ensuring the safety of our communities. I would like to thank the Chair and members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lightstone. Minister Lightstone, you can proceed with your opening comments for Bill 4.

Bill 04 – Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to present Bill 4, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*.

As this is the first time our Assembly is considering this type of legislation, I will provide members some added context.

When our government acquires buildings, vehicles, or other things, we call them assets. Assets have value to us because we can use them to deliver services to Nunavummiut, often over many years. We track the value of our larger assets, such as buildings, tank farms, and mobile equipment, and report their value each year in our financial statements.

Assets are not always physical. For example, debt owing to our government is a type of financial asset.

Our departments, led by the Department of Finance, work to ensure our financial statements accurately reflect the value of our assets, which change over time. Sometimes the value of our assets goes up, like when we renovate or expand a building, build a new one, or buy new equipment. Often the value of our assets goes down as we use them. Each year an asset grows older is one year less of its useful life and so its value goes down.

We report annually the slow and steady reductions to asset values, the normal wear and tear on a building, as depreciation costs through our public accounts.

The actual asset-level calculations and tracking happen behind the scenes in our departments and follow standard accounting rules.

Of more interest to members are the larger or more sudden reductions when the value of an asset drops quickly or unexpectedly. In these cases our *Financial Administration Act* requires me to submit these to the Assembly as part of a specific write-off.

Specifically, sections 24 and 82 of the *Financial Administration Act* require an Act of Write-off whenever an asset decreases in value by \$20,000 or more.

These Acts are a usual part of our government's financial operations. I expect to present one for each fiscal year.

The purpose of these Acts is to draw your attention to sudden or large drops in asset value.

As members, we are not involved with the actual accounting adjustments themselves nor do we need to be. The Government of Nunavut follows Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and our departments manage the asset-level calculations behind the scenes. Our accounting processes and decisions are subject to annual audit. However, as members, we should know about and have an opportunity to discuss some of these sudden or unexpected accounting adjustments.

A downward accounting adjustment to the value of a public asset is a "write-down." When an asset loses its value completely, the adjustment is a "write-off." You will hear me use both terms when describing this bill.

With this introduction out of the way, I would like to focus on the contents of the bill itself.

Through this bill we are seeking authority to reduce the financial value of government assets by about \$843,000.

- The Nunavut Housing Corporation has reduced the value of its housing assets by about \$323,000. This total includes a write-down of eight housing units damaged by fire and mould (about \$300,000) and a write-off of a public housing unit destroyed by fire in Cambridge Bay (about \$20,000).
- Nunavut Arctic College has written off about \$114,000 in debt owed by

the now-defunct Kivalliq Mine Training Society; and

- The Government of Nunavut has reduced the value of the fuel in its petroleum products inventory by just over \$400,000.

The bill before you shows the specific amounts of each adjustment.

I would like to draw your attention to the timing of this bill, which relates to the fiscal year that ended in March 2021. The accounting adjustments shown here and that I am asking you to formally authorize occurred before the Sixth Assembly was elected and have already been incorporated into the 2020-21 financial statements.

This is a result of the 2021 election timing, which pushed back bills the Assembly would normally have considered in October. Looking forward, I expect to introduce write-off bills in the fall session. Still it is important that this Assembly has an opportunity to review, question, and ultimately validate the write-offs.

Mr. Chairman and members, this completes my comments. I would be pleased to take any questions about this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the co-chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Ms. Brewster, go ahead.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister.

As Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am happy to make

some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 4, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*.

The standing committee recognizes the overall purpose of the bill, which the minister described in his opening comments.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members asked a number of questions concerning petroleum products inventory management and the Nunavut Housing Corporation's management of its fire damage and replacement program. Members look forward to the timely tabling of the Petroleum Products Division's annual reports.

This concludes my opening statements. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Any general comments? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to draw attention to a couple sections of the minister's opening comments on page 2, the fourth and fifth paragraph. It talks about the need under the *Financial Administration Act* to submit these write-offs to the Assembly as part of a specific Write-off Act any time there is a decrease in value of \$20,000 or more.

Mr. Chairman, it also states on page 3 in the second-last paragraph, "it is important that this Assembly has an opportunity to review, question, and ultimately validate the write-offs."

Mr. Chairman, there's a portion two paragraphs above that that very much

concerns me, where it says “The accounting adjustments shown here and that I am asking you to formally authorize occurred before the Sixth Assembly was elected and have already been incorporated into the 2020-21 financial statements.”

Mr. Chairman, there have been a couple of back and forth in this sitting about the need to make sure that monies are appropriated before they’re committed. This is again a glaring example of this department not doing that, and I make a motion to remove the total amount of Bill 4 and delete it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes, do you have a copy of the motion? Alright, we will take a five-minute break to get a copy of the motion in Inuktitut and English, five-minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 14:10 and resumed at 14:24*

Chairman: Order. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate you recognizing me. At this point I would like to withdraw the motion that I proposed and request that the Chair go directly to clause by clause. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay. We shall proceed. Go to Bill 4, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*. In your binder there; Bill 4 in your white binder.

Okay. I’ll start over. Bill 4, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*. Do members agree to clause 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Well, you know, I think I’m going to have back and actually count. I don’t know. I’ll go back to clause 1. This will go with a show of hands. Do members agree with clause 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Members that disagree with clause 1, that nay it?

Some Members: Disagreed.

Chairman: Clause 1 is nayed. Do members agree with clause 2? Show of hands.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Members who disagree with clause 2?

Some Members: Disagreed.

Chairman: Clause 2 is nayed.

Chairman: Do members agree, show of hands, with clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Members who disagree with clause 3?

Some Members: Disagreed.

Chairman: Clause 3 is nayed.

Chairman: Members who agree with clause 4, show of hands.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Members who disagree with clause 4?

Some Members: Disagreed.

Chairman: Clause 4 is nayed.

Chairman: Do members agree that Bill 4 is defeated?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Minister Lightstone, closing comments?

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, what can I say? I do not understand why the previous finance minister did not bring forward this bill prior to the public accounts being backdoor tabled. However, I guess I will have to reintroduce this through a new bill.

I would like to add that the recording of these accounting adjustments in the financial statements does not result in any cash disbursements. These are all non-cash transactions, and on occasion the financial statements are finalized before the bill is presented in the Assembly. This is not a precedent. This is a common occurrence. This allows the government to present financial statements in a timely manner to us and to the public.

I would like to add that the financial statements and the public accounts are

usually tabled in October, prior to bills of this matter while they are still under review. As this bill did not pass, then the government will have to go back and amend the financial statements that will result in the Auditor General identifying this as an error in the financial statements and likely providing a qualified or negative audit opinion.

Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this bill is to be transparent over required accounting adjustments needed to comply with the public sector accounting standards. There is and has never been any intent to undermine the Assembly or the authority of this Assembly. There is little to no benefit to the public or this Assembly by defeating this bill.

Again, Mr. Chairman and members, I have no understanding why the previous finance minister did not introduce this bill prior to tabling the public accounts. Going forward, when we have a new ERP, I'm hoping that this will be accomplished in a timelier manner, and the time being, we will continue to have to produce our public accounts in a timely manner while also going through the regular process of seeking legislated approval for non-cash transactions, such as write-offs and write-downs.

This is something similar to what you will see in the spring with our capital carryovers, which often happen in two rounds. In the spring we produce the majority of our capital carry-forward requests and then we follow up in the fall with any additional capital carryovers which we didn't catch on the first go-around.

Mr. Chairman, I don't understand the member's intent behind putting forward a motion to delete the items in this bill. It's unfortunate that the bill was defeated...

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. Adam Lightstone: ...but I will be coming forward with an identical bill because I must. It is legislatively required for us to request these write-offs. I guess that concludes my closing remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. This concludes the business we had before us in the Committee of the Whole and I will now rise to report progress. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

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 Bills 1, 3, and 4 and would like to report that Bills 1 and 3 are immediately ready for third reading, and that Bill 4 has been defeated and is not 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? Mr. Main. 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.

Third Reading of Bills. I recognize the Minister of Finance, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 01 – Interim Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) 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 1, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) 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. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 1 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. I recognize the Minister of Finance, Mr. Lightstone.

Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2021-2022 – Third Reading

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2021-2022*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 3 is ready for assent.

We will take a break and report back when the Commissioner of Nunavut arrives.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 14:37 and resumed at 14:50*

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, will you please ascertain if the Commissioner is prepared to enter the Chambers to give assent to bills.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Eva Aariak (interpretation): Good afternoon. As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following bills:

- Bill 1, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2022-2023*;
- Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2022-2023*; and
- Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2021-2022*.

Those are the bills.

The light of spring now brightens the sky and the promise of the warmth of summer will soon be here.

I hereby prorogue the First Session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly and summon all members to meet in this

Chamber at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow for the opening of the Second Session. Thank you very much.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a meeting of the Management and Services Board for tomorrow at 10 a.m. in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 22:

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

15. Second Reading of Bills

16. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 22, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 14:56*

Appendix – March 21, 2022



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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

Return to Oral Question

Asked by: MLA Quqqiaq

Asked of: Minister Joanasie

Number: 065-6(1)

Date: March 14, 2022

Subject: Kugaaruk Municipal Service Garage

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer I gave during question period on March 14, 2022. The Member for Netsilik asked whether my department will provide additional resources to the Municipality of Kugaaruk to support an increase in employees at the their new municipal service garage.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to confirm that my department has received a request from the Municipality of Kugaaruk for \$500,000 to support the construction of a new 6-Bay Public Works Garage through the Municipal Green Infrastructure Fund. The application indicated the Municipality would use

this funding to construct the new garage with energy efficient materials that will reduce the fuel use and operational costs related to operating the facility. The application is currently under review, and the response to the Municipality will be issued upon completion of the review. I would like to commend the Municipality on taking the initiative to pursue external funding opportunities to improve infrastructure in the community of Kugaaruk.

I would also like to note that Kugaaruk was successful in receiving \$305,000 from the Community Small Projects Fund, formerly Gas Tax Small Projects, in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, for the renovation of an existing parking garage.

My department does not currently have plans to increase funding to Kugaaruk to support additional staff or costs associated with staffing their new garage. This is because the hamlet's funding request is a proposal for capital funding to support the construction of the garage.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to providing capital funding toward municipal projects, the Department of Community and Government Services provides operational funding to non-tax-based municipal corporations. In advance of any new municipal infrastructure being completed, my department works with the municipality to assess the changes to operational costs. Where costs will increase, my department pursues additional funding to ensure the funding allocated to that community is aligned with their changing operating costs.

Mr. Speaker, where the capacity exists, my department is in support of municipal corporations taking on increased ownership managing their infrastructure needs. My department will be following up with the Hamlet of Kugaaruk regarding their proposal and the longer term operational costs associated with their project.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.