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Thursday, November 2, 2023

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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Tony Akoak, MLA

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak

(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok

(Quttiktuq)

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour

Hon. Joelle Kaerner

(Amittuq)

Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Karen Nutarak

(Tununiq)

Hon. Daniel Qavvik

(Hudson Bay)

Minister of Environment; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok

(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs

Mary Killiktee

(Uqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South)

Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Joanna Quassa

(Aggu)

Bobby Anavilok

(Kugluktuk)

Inagayuk Quqqiaq

(Netsilik)

Janet Brewster

(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Alexander Sammurtok

(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Hon. Pamela Gross

(Cambridge Bay)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Seniors

Hon. John Main

(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

Joe Savikataaq

(Arviat South)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

George Hickes

(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Solomon Malliki

(Aivilik)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Craig Simailak

(Baker Lake)

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(Pangnirtung)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, November 2, 2023
Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Hon. Joelie Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. John Main, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Hon. Daniel Qavvik, Ms. 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): Good morning. Before we begin, Ms. Quassa, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>> *Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning, my colleagues. We will be working hard again today.

(interpretation ends) Today is November the tooth.

>> *Laughter*

I'm just making sure you guys are listening; November 2, so enjoy the morning.

Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 327 – 6(2):
Nunavut Climate Change Youth
Advisory Committee Annual Face-
to-Face Meeting

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, Nunavummiut, *ammalu* my constituency of Hudson Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this past weekend's meeting of the Nunavut Climate Change Youth Advisory Committee here in our capital.

My department created the committee to ensure that the ideas and perspectives of our youth inform our government's climate change policies and programs and to enhance climate change leadership within the territory.

The committee's objectives this weekend were threefold: to enhance their skills as committee members and climate champions; to learn directly from the knowledge of elders about how Nunavut's climate and environment are changing; and to set the committee's work plan for the next six months.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of their meeting, I had the pleasure of sitting with and hearing from the committee members directly, and I am pleased to announce that the youth committee was successful in completing all three of their objectives.

I look forward to seeing the committee move forward as they engage Nunavut youth across the territory, bring forward their advice on climate change policies and programs, and strengthen their skills as climate champions and leaders.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this dedicated committee on a very successful meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 328 – 6(2):
Baby's Safe Sleep Campaign**

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

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtitsijii*, bringing a baby home for the first time is an exciting moment, as my colleague sitting right next to me, I believe, recently learned. From the beginning, a baby's surroundings affect their development and the overall quality of their life. This includes where the baby sleeps. Establishing a safe sleeping environment for infants is critical. Despite all our medical advances in Canada, infant sleep-related deaths, including sudden infant death syndrome, remain the second leading cause of death in healthy infants.

Uqaqtitsijii, evidence shows that a safe sleep environment can reduce the risk of infant sleep-related deaths. The Department of Health is providing resources and training on safe maternal and child health practices while incorporating Inuit societal values. The Baby's Safe Sleep Campaign and community-wide training initiatives are new efforts towards better health outcomes for Nunavut children.

Health recently launched Newborn Wellness Kits that aim to build trust between caregivers and health care professionals as part of upholding a culturally safe health care system. Newborn Wellness Kits contain child care items and resources, carefully selected in preparation for a baby and to support a growing family. Every kit includes items such as an infant sleep sack, an infant health care kit, along with infant and parent/caregiver supplies for the first months of life. Kits also include printed resources on the importance of a safe sleep environment.

Expectant mothers or caregivers will receive a Newborn Wellness Kit during prenatal or well-child appointments. Parents with questions on safe sleep practices should call their local health facility for confidential advice. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 329 – 6(2): QTC
Resources to Support the
Implementation of the Made-in-
Nunavut Curriculum**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Ublaatsiaq* to everyone here listening as well as Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that the Department of Education is working with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association to develop age-appropriate educational resources incorporating historical material from the Qikiqtani Truth Commission report.

A group of educators and staff from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Department of Education will be working together to produce teaching guides, theme kits, and student journals at each grade level to provide engaging educational resources that teach our children... .

Sorry; part of my speech is gone.

We are delighted to be partnering on this multi-year project. We look forward to seeing these important resources and content incorporated into our education system and curricular learning outcomes across the Qikiqtani. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 330 – 6(2): Team Nunavut – 2023 North American Indigenous Games

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

Mr. Speaker, this past July I had the honour of joining Team Nunavut in Halifax, Nova Scotia in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people for the 2023 North American Indigenous Games. Mr. Speaker, this was my first attendance at an edition of the North American Indigenous Games and the atmosphere of having over 5,000 participants from 756 indigenous nations celebrating, sharing, and reconnecting through sport and culture will always be a highlight for me.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Team Nunavut had a very exciting and successful set of Games, bringing home a total of nine medals, including two gold medals.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our two gold medallists, Eekeeluak Avalak from Cambridge Bay in wrestling as well as Tina Kudlualik from Qikiqtarjuaq...

>> *Applause*

...who battled to secure a gold medal in the sport of badminton.

Mr. Speaker, Team Nunavut will soon be at it again, as they prepare for the 2024 Arctic Winter Games in Mat-Su, Alaska this coming March. I would like to remind athletes and parents planning to travel with Team Nunavut that a valid passport is required. For any questions, please contact the Sport and Recreation Division or your territorial sport organization. This process must be started early and sport organizations will be required to provide this information in the near future to ensure their athletes and coaches are able to travel with Team Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to invite members to cheer on their athletes as they gather across the territory this fall to compete for their communities and vie for their chance to represent Team Nunavut and remind all athletes to try their best, have fun, and be safe. Go Team Nunavut! Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Go Team Nunavut!

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

Minister's Statement 331 – 6(2): Food Security Initiatives

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my fellow members and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Department of Family Services' food security initiatives are of deep value to our families and communities. Food feeds our physical selves and brings us together to feed our emotional wellness. Food creates the space from which we can live and learn our culture and language.

Mr. Speaker, Family Services is committed to supporting the stability and growth of community food organizations. In 2023-24 the department provided core funding to four community food organizations in Igloolik, Baker Lake, Clyde River, and Iqaluit.

Through our work in the Nunavut Food Security Coalition, the department funded nine community food security projects in 2023-24. This includes cooking and budgeting classes in Igloolik, Pond Inlet, and Cambridge Bay, a program to teach families to hunt and preserve caribou in Coral Harbour, and cooking classes and breakfast programs in various communities through Nunavut Arctic College.

Later this month in Rankin Inlet, the coalition will host a training workshop

for community-based food organizations. This workshop will provide an opportunity for community food champions to share projects, learn about establishing a society, managing food programs, and funding opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking our food champions across the territory for their efforts to help develop food secure communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kaernerck.

Minister's Statement 332 – 6(2): Remembering the Contributions of David Webster

Hon. Joelle Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, members and Nunavummiut.

I rise this morning in remembrance. On June 7, 2023 the Kivalliq lost a friend and cultural advocate, David Webster, who passed away in Ottawa, Ontario.

Mr. Webster came to Nunavut in the 1960s as a teacher and adult educator in Baker Lake and Arviat. There he met and married Sally Qimmiu'naaq.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Webster is known for the contributions he made to Nunavut, which include initiating the collection of thousands of quotes from Inuit elders about *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* that came together in the book *Uqalurait: An Oral History of Nunavut*. He also helped spearhead the development of the Inuit

Heritage Centre in Baker Lake, and assisted in the development of two national historic sites in the Kivalliq region: the Fall Caribou Crossing National Historic Site of Canada and the Arvia'juaq and Qikiqtaarjuk National Historic Site of Canada. David Webster also served terms as Deputy Mayor and Mayor of Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, in 1991, Mr. Webster was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada for his contributions in helping reverse language and culture loss in Nunavut and for retraining unemployed youth and introducing elders into classrooms to help revive and strengthen Inuit heritage. He is survived by his wife, Sally, children Deborah Kigjugalik, Linda Akumalik, John Ujumngat, Diane Mannik, Peter Qagsauq, and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sharing our condolences to Mr. David Webster's family and friends as we recognize his contributions to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements.
Minister of Education, Ms. Gross, has asked to redo her minister's statement. With time left on the clock, this will be allowed. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I apologize for the little fumble earlier. I think maybe we're starting a bit too early for my page, but I'm so happy to redo the statement. Thank you once again.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that the Department of Education is working with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association to develop age-appropriate educational resources incorporating historical material from the Qikiqtani Truth Commission report.

A group of educators and staff from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Department of Education will be working together to produce teaching guides, theme kits, and student journals at each grade level to provide engaging educational resources that teach our children in the Qikiqtani region the history of the decisions and events that affected Inuit living in the region and their long-term impacts on Inuit life.

Mr. Speaker, this work aligns with our department's made-in-Nunavut curriculum development plan, as well as the recommendations from the Qikiqtani Truth Commission's Final Report. We aim to ensure that Inuit culture, language, and history are foundational in the educational program from kindergarten to grade 12. The content developed through this project will primarily support and enrich social studies and health and wellness, knowing that other subjects will also benefit from this educational initiative.

Mr. Speaker, several years ago, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Department of Education signed a memorandum of understanding recognizing shared goals for a culturally reflective education with an emphasis on Inuit language learning.

We are delighted to be partnering on this multi-year project, and we look forward to seeing these important resources and

content incorporated into our education system and curricular learning outcomes across the Qikiqtani. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements.
Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 440 – 6(2): Kivalliq Inuit Association Hosting Meeting in Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my fellow members and staff, as well as the people of Baker Lake who are listening to the proceedings this morning.

Mr. Speaker, the Kivalliq Inuit Association announced on their website that they will be holding a public meeting in Baker Lake from seven o'clock until nine o'clock. They will hold a public meeting with the Inuit of Baker Lake and they would like to hear from them. They would like to make a decision as to what they will do once the Meadowbank mine is closed and the KIA will be providing \$1 million to be available to the local Inuit.

The meeting will be held at the community hall from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. They will be holding another meeting tomorrow with the people of Baker Lake regarding the usage of the funds. I encourage the residents of Baker Lake to attend this meeting and to comment on the usage of the funds after the closure of the Meadowbank mine.

We have to start planning for 2026, when the Meadowbank mine will be closed. We have to start planning, so I urge the Baker Lake Inuit and residents to attend the meeting tonight and tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 441 – 6(2): Pond Inlet Grade 6 Class Watching Legislative Proceedings

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to Nunavummiut and the residents of Pond Inlet, and especially the grade 6 students at the Ulaajuk School who are now watching the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

The grade 6 students are learning about governmental affairs in their social studies program and their teacher is Jeneca. Jeneca called me yesterday morning to inform me that they are learning about governmental affairs. I told her that we will be holding a session in the morning.

I was sent a photograph of the class watching the proceedings. I send my greetings to them. I would also like to thank the teacher, Jeneca, for welcoming us. Once I get home, I will be visiting the grade 6 students. They will be able to ask me questions as to how the government operates.

Please join me in welcoming the elementary school students in Pond Inlet who are watching the proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr.
Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 442 – 6(2):
Speaking through an Interpreter**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also say
“good morning” to the students who are
watching the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, we hear through *Nunatsiaq News* and CBC's online news that when they quote a person speaking Inuktitut, they always say that they are “speaking through an interpreter.” Although it was a good statement that was made in Inuktitut, they write that they spoke through an interpreter.

Mr. Speaker, the Inuktitut language is the real language of Inuit and a regional language of Nunavummiut. Ever since we were born, we started speaking Inuktitut and there were no interpreters. They were not speaking through interpreters. To those who write and broadcast media, I urge them not to say “speaking through an interpreter” because every time a member speaks in Inuktitut, we understand. They should be saying that they understood through the interpreter.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Inuktitut was the first language of Nunavummiut, a little bit before you and I were here. I'm constantly reading the *Nunatsiaq News* and CBC website talk about quotes of unilingual people or just people who speak in Inuktitut, saying “speaking through an interpreter.”

Mr. Speaker, let me make it very clear that when Inuit speak in Inuktitut, they

do not speak through an interpreter, they speak very fine in their own language, and it is time for the media to stop quoting people who speak Inuktitut as speaking through an interpreter. It puts them down a couple of notches. They speak very well in their own language. Maybe just as a suggestion, the reporter should start writing, “I understood through an interpreter.” That may be more appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, it's time we stop downgrading the usage of Inuktitut in this territory and the rest of the country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 443 – 6(2):
Cambridge Bay Participants at the
North American Indigenous
Games**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to everyone listening and especially to our colleague's constituents in Pond Inlet and those in Iqaluktuuttiaq as well.

Mr. Speaker, this summer, many athletes and coaches from Cambridge Bay participated in the North American Indigenous Games that were held in Halifax, Dartmouth, and Millbrook First Nation in Nova Scotia this past July.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge all of our wrestlers from Cambridge Bay who attended the games: Eekeeluak Avalak, Juisipi Dimitruk, Kiana Ekpakohak, and Kristen McCallum, and their coaches,

Christopher Crooks and Loryn Muswagon, and manager, Paula Czianka.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Eekeeluak Avalak for his remarkable performance and successful achievement of a gold medal in wrestling. I know I speak for all residents of Cambridge Bay when I note how proud we are. It was such a pleasure to watch you shine on stage as you became a crowd favourite, with people tuning in from coast to coast to coast to root for you. I know one day that we will be watching you compete in the Olympics, as you have told me that you're working towards that dream. You are an inspiration to us all, Eekeeluak.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all the coaches, parents, friends, and our community for their continued support of our athletes and for helping them to attend and maximize these opportunities. To all of our youth who took part, please know your community is behind you and our next generation of youth that is looking up to you. Thank you for dreaming, aspiring, and then taking action. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure this morning to welcome some very fine guests into our House this morning from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the President of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Olayuk Akesuk, Inukshuk Aksalnik, Manager of the Qikiqtani Truth Commission Implementation and Programs with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Inukshuk's daughter, Aubrey Sheppard. It's Take Our Kids to Work Day for grade 9 students at Inuksuk High School, so welcome, Aubrey.

I would also like to welcome Simon Cuerrier, Inuit History and Governance Program Coordinator with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. I would also like to welcome Hagar Idlout-Sudlovenick, Director of Inuit Programs and Services with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. Thank you for coming.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Good morning and thank you, Mr. Speaker, for acknowledging me. We say "good morning" to Nunavummiut, my fellow MLAs, and the students who are watching the proceedings. I'm sure that you will be sitting in this House sometime in the future and we're proud of you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituency. Some of my constituents are here and although they have been recognized, I want to recognize residents from Iqaluit-Niaqunngu. I'm very proud of them and I would like to recognize them because they work very hard.

I have worked very closely with Mr. Olayuk Akesuk, who is the President of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. I thank them very much for working with me before I sat here as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Hagar Idlout-Sudlovenick and Inukshuk Aksalnik and her daughter are here. I'm very proud of the fact that she's here. I expect her to sit in the House in the future. I urge her to continue her education so that she could move forward in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to all the visitors. However, I would like to especially recognize someone who is in grade 9. It is Take Our Kids to Work Day, and I would like to say how proud I am of my son, Qulittalik Joanasie.

>> *Applause*

He will be here paging today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in my member's statement, I spoke about the Climate Change Youth Advisory Committee and the important work they are doing on climate change.

Mr. Speaker, this group of young people provides ideas and perspectives that inform our government's climate change policies and programs and those that enhance change leadership within the territory.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to recognize members of the Nunavut Climate Change Youth Advisory Committee and our staff for the critical work they are providing and supporting the work of the advisory committee.

Mr. Speaker, representing the advisory committee today in the gallery across the table is Jennifer Kilabuk...

>> *Applause*

...who is a member of the youth committee, and Cameron DeLong, the Director of the Climate Change Secretariat.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, the other members of the Climate Change Youth Advisory Committee are Seané d'Argencourt-Printup from Iqaluit, Cassidy Devereaux from Iqaluit, Charlotte Lapôtre from Iqaluit, Katie Yu from Iqaluit, Kaylie Naullaq from Sanirajak, and Nolan Qamanirq from Arctic Bay.

Mr. Speaker, our Climate Change Secretariat Division is looking to recruit members from the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions, and I look forward to getting more youth committee members to the Climate Change Secretariat Division.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating this dedicated

committee on providing their service on climate change to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Is that a member's statement? I don't know. Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions.

Before going to the first name, I would like to ask again for all the members to respect the House, respect one another, and I would ask again to shorten your preamble, and most of all, just respect each other in the House and the Rules of the House. Thank you.

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 638 – 6(2): Increase in Grants and Contributions

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question today to the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

Mr. Speaker, the other day, the minister made a statement in the House on the elders and youth grants and contributions increase update and stated that it has increased its elders and youth grants and contributions from a budget of \$800,000 to \$2,225,000, which is fantastic news. For my first question, I would like to ask: how did the minister determine this amount of increase? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kaernerck.

Hon. Joelle Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for the question to Culture and Heritage. It was through the budgetary process that grants and contributions were looked into. Through the process, that's how they determined to increase the grants and contributions funding, through the budgetary process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is: did the Department of Culture and Heritage fully expend its grants and contributions budget last fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kaernerck.

Hon. Joelle Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking that supplementary question. The previous minister at that time before I became minister, when the budget was being put together, tried to have a good review before they came to that amount. (interpretation ends) Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that. My question was, as I'm sure all ministers were paying attention during my line of questioning to the Minister of Finance, on grants and contributions and the delays and how it impacts especially non-profit organizations.

Mr. Speaker, my next question is: what is the expected turnaround time from approval to payment under the grants and contributions administration of the Department of Culture and Heritage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Kaerner.

Hon. Joelle Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the member's questions. Yes, I understand the question. When we are dealing with the grants and contributions, it is stated here that the policies have been changed accordingly to enhance program objectives. Culture and Heritage is trying to make these payments once they get their applicants. They have been keeping track of their payments, and hopefully it will stay on the right path for these payments to go ahead when it comes to grants and contributions applicants. Hopefully, we will do well with the grants and contributions when it comes to providing programs to Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 639 – 6(2): Compensation for Providing Care at Home

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the residents of Kugluktuk and Nunavut and members.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health regarding the fact that when some Inuit are suffering from health issues, they are cared for in their homes. I would like more ideas on how to provide more help to them.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions today to the Minister of Health on compensation for providing care at home.

Mr. Speaker, on October 23 I asked the minister whether there was any kind of financial compensation available for family care providers who look after family members with an illness at home. At that time, the minister stated that there was no such compensation available through his department and he committed to looking into the idea.

During our recent Committee of the Whole debate on the Department of Health's capital budget, I was very pleased to hear the minister say that a family caregiver compensation program could be one way of addressing elder care needs in Nunavut.

Can the minister provide an update on what further consideration he has given to this idea since I first asked about it on October 23? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for raising this issue again. In the *Katujjiluta* mandate, we all know that elders need help and their expectations are our priority. We all agreed on that priority.

When the member first raised this matter, I stated that I would look into it. We have not really worked on it up to now, but once we put together the priorities, we will start with a

jurisdictional scan and look at the Canadian jurisdictions to see what kind of care payments they have for family members. That will be one of our priorities, and I thank the member for raising this issue.

Whenever regular members come up with an idea in the House, there are things that we are asked to do, that we are asked to look into, and I try to use all of my hearing abilities as a minister, and I thank the member for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. Sometimes Inuit lead in some of these initiatives of care when looking after a relative who is suffering health issues and confined to their home.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I understood from the minister's comments on November 1 that a number of other jurisdictions in Canada have caregiver compensation programs. A quick search shows that in Nova Scotia, for example, a caregiver can receive up to \$400 a month for providing care to someone at home.

Can the minister indicate whether he has worked with his officials to determine whether the cost of providing family caregiver compensation in Nunavut would be a worthwhile investment to support more elders to be able to stay in their home communities and age with dignity? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The data or the jurisdictional comparison that the member just highlighted is exactly the kind of work that we would be looking to do to develop this concept in Nunavut.

This is where I have to be careful, Mr. Speaker. My colleague, the Minister of Culture and Heritage, just spoke about the budgetary process and so I have to be careful. I can't commit to things or say that we're going to do things. Whatever we aim to do or bring forward as the Department of Health or any of our partner departments, of course, it would have to go through the budgetary process, through the Financial Management Board, and then ultimately come here to the House for consideration.

When you look at the cost of long-term care, Embassy West, for example, we're paying close to \$17,000 a month, Mr. Speaker. Looking at it from a financial and budgetary perspective, if there are things that we can do to support family caregivers who carry a very heavy burden both emotionally and physically and it can also impact them financially, if there are things we can do to support them in their home community to keep elders in their homes longer, from a purely financial perspective, there would appear to be a compelling argument in terms of a business case. That would be the kind of work that we would be looking to further develop.

Again, I thank the member, and I'm trying to keep my response short, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I agree with the minister on doing things carefully and doing them really good. That way we can make sure that we help Nunavummiut all the time; same as to our government.

Mr. Speaker, I was very encouraged to hear that the minister seems to have given the idea of a family caregiver compensation program further thought. When will the minister be in a position to tell this House whether he will be bringing in a Nunavut family care compensation program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That's going to be a difficult question for me to answer. Unfortunately I can't provide a timeline in terms of when we could potentially bring that for consideration in the House. There are a number of different factors that could play into it, but as I mentioned in Committee of the Whole recently, the work that's being led by Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs on the seniors strategy is really exciting.

When you look at what the Department of Health can do, we have the ability to make improvements and bring on initiatives, but when you look at the ability of the combined efforts in terms of seniors, whether it's housing, family services, or taxation through the Department of Finance, Culture and Heritage, Education, there are so many

different pieces that could come forward and bring improvements. It's really exciting work that's being led.

Unfortunately I can't provide a timeline on the member's question, but I would like to reassure him that his comments have been taken to heart, I have taken them to heart, and I really thank him for pointing out an exciting avenue for us to pursue in the future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 640 – 6(2): Contaminated Sites

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment, Daniel-*ngai*, (interpretation ends) and they concern the issue of contaminated sites in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I was very proud to have participated in our recent televised hearings with the Office of the Auditor General of Canada during which this important issue was discussed.

As the minister is aware, his department is responsible for administering the government's Contaminated Sites Policy and is responsible for coordinating the activities of the Contaminated Sites Liabilities Working Group.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update today on the working group's current priorities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, most contaminated sites in Nunavut are legacy sites that pre-date the establishment of the territory. The Department of Environment is working with other departments to implement the Contaminated Sites Policy.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment maintains an inventory of contaminated sites on Commissioner's Land in Nunavut and conducts site assessments to inform management decisions. Fuel investigations are prioritized based on potential environment and human health risk, and to support decision-making among our Government of Nunavut departments.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment has re-established the Contaminated Sites Liabilities Working Group. The purpose of that group is to provide decision-making and support on procedures and policies for policy making for managing contaminated sites and environmental liabilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also appreciate the information. (interpretation ends) By saying that with your response, my next line of questioning is, as the minister is aware, the Cape Christian contaminated site, (interpretation) and in Inuktitut the place name is Pingurjuaq, (interpretation ends) project is located in my constituency near the community of Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, information published by the federal government indicates that remediation of this site was scheduled to have been completed by the year 2010, followed by a 25-year monitoring program.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify what role his department has in monitoring the program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have assessments regarding the site that the member indicates which are not outdated and will be renewed. It is a priority for field work this coming spring of 2024, but under our jurisdiction, the Government of Nunavut contaminated sites inventory lists 280 sites and the Government of Nunavut has accepted responsibility for 80 sites. Mr. Speaker, it is a federal responsibility, so our department mainly focuses on our area of responsibilities within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In your ministerial portfolio, I really want to direct you to become really concerned, as there is a lot of potential cleanup work in Clyde River, as it is on the other side of the community and the cleanup was not completed. It is quite hazardous. People can fish there and you can see the small hillock from the community. There are materials on the seafloor and many of the materials are decomposing, with

many rusted metals that have surfaced from the old dumpsite. I really want you to be really concerned about this site as it is in close proximity to the community.

My constituency communities, (interpretation ends) Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, you indicated approximately the cost of fully remediating detailed sites. (interpretation) I want clarity on this language as this is quite concerning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her continued advocacy for her constituency. Mr. Speaker, I take note of the member's question in regard to further looking into the contaminated sites that have been identified for the community of Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to finding ways to remediate, we need to find whether it is a priority that will fall under health risks. Our pristine environment is one of our responsibilities and our priority as a department. I will look into the issue surrounding the question with my staff and get back to the member with more detailed information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 641 – 6(2): Status of Collective Bargaining

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Human Resources, who is responsible for the government's collective agreements with the Nunavut Employees Union and the Nunavut Teachers Association.

Mr. Speaker, the current collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union was finally signed in August 2022, just over a year ago. The current agreement expires in September 2024, about 11 months from now.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the Government of Nunavut employees went without a collective agreement for almost four years. This degree of uncertainty is unacceptable, and I sincerely hope that we will not see this situation repeated.

Can the minister provide a clear update today on the status of negotiations between the government and the union? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) I will have to get back to the member on this because I haven't had current updates in terms of where we're at with the negotiations. I know that we have been in discussion with our department. I'll have to get back to the member in terms of where we're at right now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The collective agreement that was finally signed last August contained a number of positive provisions, including paid family abuse leave, paid leave for Inuit cultural pursuits, and increased allowances for employees to access support from psychologists or other mental health professionals. Can the minister assure me today that the government will not try to remove these provisions in the next round of bargaining? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) Like you mentioned, it's great to see new things come up within the agreement that we just signed last time. I can't promise anything, but I don't see anything being excluded or removed from the agreement that we have put in place at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have heard from many public servants that they're really happy with those new additions, so I'm happy to hear that it seems like they won't be dropped off.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to collective bargaining, it is my understanding that the government's negotiators receive a mandate in respect to what they are authorized to offer and accept. However, it has always been somewhat of a black

box to me as to who sets the parameters of the negotiating mandate.

Can the minister clarify if the negotiating mandate is set by the Minister of Human Resources on her own, the Minister of Finance on his own, or the Financial Management Board as a collective? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. The negotiation process is handled between the Department of Human Resources and the Nunavut Employees Union, including the negotiation items.

With respect to how the newly restructured items would be undertaken, it is not part of our plans to remove other issues. Nonetheless, the actual details are in the agreement. We are also reviewing the salary grid parameters to determine how best to restructure. This review is ongoing.

However, the actual agreement is being completed by the Department of Human Resources and the Nunavut Employees Union, and I will be informed as to the progress in these talks which I will pass on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 642 – 6(2): Usage of GN Staff Housing in Arviat

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning"

to the people of Arviat. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Human Resources and they pertain to Return to Oral Question 596 – 6(2). That was a return to oral about the government staff houses being used by the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

In the minister's reply, the minister stated, "The Nunavut Housing Corporation allowed the NCCD to utilize" two government "staff housing units in Arviat for approximately four weeks during the assembly of two modular units."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to get confirmation from the minister whether the NCC is still using the staff housing because this refers to past tense and I believe that modular units are being used now. Last night there was a telehandler and a construction type vehicle in front of the staff housing, and this morning they were not there and they were at the construction site of the NCC. Can the minister confirm whether these government staff houses are still being utilized by the NCC Development Corporation? Thank you.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that follow-up question. We often collaborate with the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation (interpretation) as they are also responsible for the staff housing units, so we continue to work with them on these issues. As I stated previously, when an emergency arises, they are temporarily used. However,

they generally do not cause hardship when government employees want to enter the unit.

With regard to the NCC employees temporarily using the units, the agreement was from October 30 up to the completion of the (interpretation ends) modular homes (interpretation) construction, and they were supposed to move out by October 30 into the buildings they are working on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There seems to be a blurring of lines here. I understand fully that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is responsible for making the staff houses in communities that are requested by Human Resources, and Human Resources is the authority to decide who goes into government staff housing. Was the Minister of HR consulted that the Nunavut Housing Corporation was going to authorize the use of these staff houses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. We have an (interpretation ends) allocation committee (interpretation) that decides who is going to be moving into staff housing. They are the ones who make those decisions, but the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation (interpretation) is involved. We work with the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing

Corporation (interpretation) on housing issues.

As I indicated earlier, when there's a need to move our staff to staff housing, they are involved when there's an emergency situation. I can say that we work collaboratively on that. The Department of Human Resources is responsible for that, but as I said, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is also involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister said that they use government staff housing units when there's an emergency situation. In Arviat, there is a bunkhouse that is privately owned that can be used by the construction workers. I know that it is currently vacant and it was vacant last month.

I will now ask the minister a question. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the minister stated that the issuing or authorization of houses go through a housing allocation committee. Did the Nunavut Construction application go through a housing allocation committee? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. They did not ask the Department of Human Resources if they could use staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 643 – 6(2): Accommodation Options for Medical Travellers

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that medical travel clients who are Inuit are not being given the opportunity to stay at the medical boarding homes if they are Government of Nunavut employees.

For the benefit of the listening public, can the minister clarify his department's policy with respect to Government of Nunavut employees being permitted to stay at the medical boarding homes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. In terms of boarding homes, we had quite a lot of discussion on boarding homes during this sitting and I welcome it because it's an important service that is provided to Nunavut Inuit through the Non-Insured Health Benefits program. It's a program that we're always looking for ways to improve. We work very closely with our federal partners.

For Nunavut government employees, their medical travel benefits are provided through a separate stream. It's an employee benefit, so ultimately, it's through the Department of Finance and so the Government of Nunavut

employees are provided accommodations during medical travel. Typically, it's in hotels and there is no policy that prevents Government of Nunavut employees staying in boarding homes. There are some boarding homes that are able to accommodate Government of Nunavut employees into boarding homes. It's a choice that the employee has in that case.

It's largely driven by capacity issues at existing boarding homes where, when we're tight for capacity, the priority is given to Non-Insured Health Benefits clients, which leaves the Government of Nunavut employee medical travellers to stay in hotels. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and minister, (interpretation ends) for explaining that. Mr. Speaker, sometimes medical travel clients have to stay in another community for long periods of time in order to receive medical care. If they have to stay in a hotel in Iqaluit, for example, it can get very expensive to eat out every day. I add that when you're put in the hotels in Iqaluit, a lot of these hotels don't have kitchenettes; you're put in just a bedroom. In addition, not everyone has enough money to pay for these meals up front even if they can get reimbursed afterwards.

Can the minister describe what kind of support is provided to medical travellers to ensure they have sufficient money on hand to pay for their meals if they are not able to stay at the boarding home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of Government of Nunavut employee medical travel, there is a single standard medical travel referral process that exists for all clients and escorts, regardless of whether they're through Non-Insured Health Benefits or through the Government of Nunavut. The Department of Health is involved in authorizing travel and facilitating the medical travel. In terms of the benefits for Government of Nunavut employees, the transportation, the accommodation and the meal benefits are provided through the Department of Finance.

As I previously mentioned, prepaid meal and ground transportation expenses are not available. There are some exceptions in very rare cases that Finance may allow for accountable advances to employees to pay while on medical travel, but it's something that we are committed to working on as a business plan priority. In this fiscal year, Finance, in consultation with Health, is developing an employee survey for employee medical travel to guide improvements on program delivery. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response, minister. Mr. Speaker, many Inuit, whether they are GN employees or not, would prefer to stay at the medical boarding home where they can be with other Inuit and where they don't have to worry about having enough money to pay for meals.

While I recognize that the Government of Nunavut's health benefits for employees do cover accommodation and meals, it is not clear why those benefits are not used to pay for their meals and accommodation at the boarding home in the same way that Non-Insured Health Benefits pay for food and accommodation at the medical boarding homes.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to working with the boarding home operators and his department's medical travel staff to provide Inuit medical clients who are also GN employees with the option of staying at the medical boarding home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. In regard to your question, we are currently working with the Department of Finance, and we will make sure that we work with the operators and look at some of their ideas or what they would like to see. We will be looking at how we can improve it.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I'll just reiterate that there is no policy that's preventing GN Nunavut Inuit employees from staying in boarding homes. It's more an issue of capacity. I think, through the item that I mentioned earlier in developing an employee survey, that's going to be an important exercise to guide our future improvements.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 644 – 6(2): Patient Travel from Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Health who I have yet to direct questions to during this fall sitting, so let me direct some questions to him.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if the Department of Health conducts surveys, for example, the number of medical travel patients from Baker Lake who travel either to Rankin Inlet or Iqaluit or Winnipeg. Do they have monthly figures on the number of patients who have to travel for medical reasons from Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Yes, we know how many clients are travelling from which community to their point of destination. Travel through Rankin Inlet is one of the frequent questions we hear. We're looking at how we can improve the system.

Some communities are asking the airlines if they could go directly from their point of departure to their destination without going through Rankin Inlet and fly directly to Winnipeg. This route may be considered by the airlines, as they fly from Arviat and Baker Lake, but it depends on the flight schedule and the day they are flying out.

However, we do monitor monthly travel numbers, so we do have the information

available and we wish all travellers to be safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. I'm very glad that you know how many medical travellers are going from point A to point B.

In the Kivalliq region, we usually have to go through Rankin Inlet. There are quite a few medical patients who get stuck from their point of departure to their destination and we hear of people looking for accommodation.

Has the Department of Health looked at the possibility of building a boarding home in Rankin Inlet or have they looked at possibly leasing a building, to say it in English, (interpretation ends) lease an infrastructure to use as a boarding home? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Yes, we have looked at the numbers and we are looking at how we can improve the system for people who get stuck between their departure and their destination due to weather. We see them sleeping in the terminal, which is not very good to see.

We did start an initiative to lease rooms from the hotels. We have been doing that since last year and it has definitely provided easier logistical support, but it does create another expense. We prefer that all medical travel patients remain

safe and we began the initiative for that reason.

We have discussed the numbers here in the House and they seem too low. I'll respond to you in English. (interpretation ends) In terms of the prefeasibility numbers, as has been discussed in this House, they are low in terms of looking at a boarding home in Rankin Inlet and whether we need to move to the next step of a feasibility study.

Looking at some of the factors, looking forward, looking at the new long-term care facility, looking at the dental services in the community as well as what we are hoping to stand up again, the birthing centre in Rankin Inlet, through stronger staffing, looking forward, there are things that are moving us towards a feasibility study for looking at a boarding home in Rankin Inlet. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the responses. I'm glad the department is now looking at doing a prefeasibility study on either building or leasing a boarding home in Rankin Inlet. I think it's time to make it happen with the feasibility study and not just look at it. Far too many times we all have heard stories of people getting stuck in Rankin Inlet either because of weather in their home community or the airline going mechanical while in Rankin Inlet.

Can the minister respond to when a feasibility study would be done? Would that be in next fiscal year or is that something five years down the road that

a feasibility study would be done on whether building a boarding home or leasing a boarding home in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: You answered some of those types of questions before, but you can answer it in a shorter version. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of when we would move to a feasibility study, we would be looking to move soon. We would be approaching Indigenous Services Canada to ask for financial support to complete the feasibility study.

Mr. Speaker, I'm trying to keep this short, but I have to mention that when we talk about working with Indigenous Services Canada, we have a huge item that's also on the table and it's the funding agreement for Non-Insured Health Benefits. It's a big item of concern for the department right now. I should mention that because it is in the same funding stream. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Question 645 – 6(2): Transient Housing

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation regarding the issue of transient housing.

Mr. Speaker, I have been raising this issue for a number of years and in response to my written question, the

Nunavut Housing Corporation had indicated that in the fiscal year 2019-2020, the housing corporation had leased over 200 units for transient use, costing approximately a quarter of a million dollars a month and in excess of \$3 million a year.

I was wondering if the minister would be able to provide the House with an update on the transient housing situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently we have 140 units under MOUs from across the different departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been indicated in the past that the Nunavut Housing Corporation does not build staff housing units in Iqaluit because there is a viable private rental market. However, it also has stated that if the supply does not meet the demand, the NHC will seek opportunities to build multi-unit buildings and staff housing units in Iqaluit and other large communities.

Mr. Speaker, looking at the CMHC's Northern Housing Report, it has indicated that Iqaluit is undersupplied with significantly higher demand of a limited supply which has resulted in a critically low, virtually non-existent vacancy rate in the rental market. This is the fourth consecutive year that Iqaluit's

vacancy rate in the rental market has been below 1 percent.

The construction and leasing priorities are discussed and determined in consultation with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Human Resources. I would like to ask if this specific matter has come up in discussions and, if not, will the minister commit so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This discussion or issue comes up all the time because there is a real lack of housing everywhere in Nunavut. Less than 1 percent is very low in terms of vacancy and it does come up in a lot of discussions, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Another issue that I have raised with the Minister of Health is the utilization of transient housing units by the department here in Iqaluit. The Minister of Health had indicated that 48 units are currently being leased in Iqaluit for use by transient employees, removing these 48 units from Iqalummiut that really are in desperate need of units to rent.

I would like to ask if the Minister of Human Resources would support the idea of the Department of Health submitting a business case to the Department of Finance proposing a budget request for construction of staff

housing units in Iqaluit, separate from and in addition to the NHC's annual staff housing budget request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a loaded question. It's something that we would definitely have to take a look and see the pros and cons of doing that. I don't foresee anything coming to our department on that, but if it does, it definitely deserves a good look, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 646 – 6(2): Selection of Participants for Tournaments

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my constituents and my fellow MLAs and ministers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services regarding recreation and sports activities.

Our young athletes go out and play in tournaments and some of them are very talented. I would like to know what the process is for selecting athletes to participate in tournaments. Can the minister inform me of the process to select athletes for tournaments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my fellow MLA for the question on the selection process within sport and recreation.

Mr. Speaker, there is a non-profit organization that forms the (interpretation ends) territorial sports organization (interpretation) that operates separately from the government, but they are provided assistance for tournaments that help select our athletes for the larger tournaments.

For example, we provide support for the athletes like the basketball association and the volleyball association. These associations select the athletes who will participate in tournaments. During the tryouts, they are provided support for their transportation so that they can go to the tryouts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for that response. Perhaps the minister can relay the information to the public that young athletes can go and try out. I know that in each community there is a recreation committee. The associations that he just mentioned are not in most communities. How can you relay this information to the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This association is for all the communities. It

represents all the communities of Nunavut and they try to inform all the communities as to which stages and competitions they are going to be able to try out for.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the municipalities all have recreation committees. My department provides monthly reports around activities and events. They provide information to the municipal recreation committees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past, the athletes did have tryouts, but it seems like they don't even go through that process. We don't hear about the tryouts in our communities. Can you provide that information back to our communities so that more of our young people can participate and are treated equally so that they can go try out for the games? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These bodies operate independently from the government, but we use them as both our link and partners so that these events can proceed smoothly. We want every community to participate in these sporting events and communities anticipate these events, including many of our youth. We will try to provide this information as we want to host exciting and fun tournaments within sport and recreation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 647 – 6(2): Marine Protected Areas

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Good morning to the residents of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment and they concern the issue of marine protected areas in Nunavut.

As the minister will recall, his predecessor made a formal minister's statement earlier this year in which he indicated that:

"In recent years, the Government of Canada has proposed several land and marine protected areas in Nunavut without much input and consultation with our government."

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, work has been underway in respect to the Southampton Island Area of Interest, which may lead to a new marine protected area near the communities of Chesterfield Inlet and Coral Harbour. Can the minister clarify his department's current involvement with this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Kivalliq

Inuit Association have collaborated to promote Southampton Island area of interest for potential designation as a new *Oceans Act* Marine Protected Area. Mr. Speaker, the area under consideration covers the near-shore ocean around Southampton Island and Chesterfield Inlet in the Kivalliq region. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut officials provide insight and feedback on assessments and consultations through both the working level co-development committee and executive-level steering committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, his predecessor informed the Legislative Assembly that the Department of Environment is working to develop a new Protected Area Strategy. Can the minister provide an update on the status of this work and can he indicate when the new strategy will be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. To answer the member's question, we are still in the initial stages and it is too early to confirm what strategies will be in place for the Nunavut marine protected areas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the community of Chesterfield Inlet needs new marine infrastructure and more economic development opportunities. For example, the potential for a scallop fishery has been identified by the community, which is a perfect example of a sustainable blue economy initiative. Can the minister assure me that his department will oppose any attempt by the federal government to block economic development initiatives such as this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for questioning that area and having an interest for his constituency of Chesterfield Inlet North. Mr. Speaker, that level of detail is not in front of me, so I will get back to the member directly as to answer his questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 648 – 6(2): Air Transportation in the Kitikmeot

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, Nunavummiut, Kitikmeot residents, and my constituency communities of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk.

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I tabled correspondence during yesterday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly that was submitted by the president of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association concerning the issue of air transportation services in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the important work that the Kitikmeot Inuit Association does for our people.

Mr. Speaker, the president's correspondence raised a number of concerns regarding the state of air transportation in the region, including high fares, high freight costs, and reduced service.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister assure me that he will provide a formal response to the president's correspondence, and can he assure me that his reply will be shared with all Kitikmeot MLAs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will be a response. This was addressed to our Premier; as it is a government-as-a-whole issue that our good friends from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association have identified that there are concerns and I share those concerns with the president. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, the Government of Canada issued an

announcement in April of this year in which it indicated that it had reached an agreement with Canadian North on new terms and conditions respecting the merger that had previously been approved.

Mr. Speaker, the federal announcement also indicated that quarterly auditing by an independent monitor would take place and that there would be “regular oversight...to ensure that the public interest is maintained.”

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm what information, if any, is currently being shared with his office by the federal minister in respect to these oversight mechanisms? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was very unfortunate when the Minister of Transport Canada lifted those terms and conditions. As part of those terms and conditions, we had an advisory board that oversaw those terms and conditions.

With the new terms and conditions that the Minister of Transport has laid out, there is no information sharing on that front at this point as they are deemed as business-wise confidentiality. That’s one of the continued discussions I am having with Transport Canada on these. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize and understand that this is a complex issue and that the territorial government does not have the authority to simply order the airlines to lower fares and improve services.

Mr. Speaker, we know that Canadian North is the primary service provider to Nunavut and we know that it is jointly owned by the Makivik Corporation and the Inuvialuit Development Group.

Mr. Speaker, it has been suggested to me that it is time for Nunavut interests to achieve an equity stake in the airline. Mr. Speaker, is the minister open to working with the Inuit development corporations to explore options in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government, through our medical and duty travel contract, has secured the airlines for the next two years to ensure that we have some form of say in how the airline is currently working and it’s something that we continually assess. Also, whether to have equity or not, all options are out there, but our current practice right now is using our government contracts to influence the airline costs. That is what we remain to ensure that Nunavummiut don’t suffer from high costs, but we are suffering right now as a result of lifting those terms and conditions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Question 649 – 6(2): Municipal Parking Garage Program

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my colleagues and to everyone in Nunavut as well as my constituents.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, and they concern his department's Municipal Parking Garage Program.

Mr. Speaker, information published by the department indicates that the program provides funding to municipal corporations to “plan, design, build or purchase municipal parking garages required to store critical municipal equipment.”

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the hard-working employees at the Municipality of Igloolik.

Can the minister confirm how much funding is available under this program for the upcoming 2024-25 fiscal year? (interpretation) 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 the question. Mr. Speaker, we are very excited about this program and we had initially requested \$4 million in the last and this current fiscal year, '23-24, and are requesting \$8 million for 2024-25. Mr. Speaker, we have several proposals that we have received and working with the hamlets around this, and we hope to be making some good progress as we

proceed throughout the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Municipal Parking Garage Program is an application-based program and that it is the responsibility of municipal corporations to submit applications to the department. Can the minister confirm which municipalities have applied to date for funding under the program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of the April 10, 2023 deadline, the department had nine municipalities submit proposals, submitting for the planning phase of the project as well as the design phase. We approved nine proposals, six of which are in the planning stage and three of which are in the design phase. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for answering my question. (interpretation ends) Information published by the minister's department concerning Igloolik's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan indicates that the municipality is also experiencing problems with its maintenance garage. Can the minister clarify if the Municipal

Parking Garage Program provides funding to assist municipalities with addressing problems with these types of facilities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I will say is that for the next fiscal year, 2024-25, my department is seeking funding and we went through the Committee of the Whole process to set aside design dollars to proceed with local government priorities. Under that, we do have the Igloolik Maintenance Garage as one of those projects to be considered for funding alongside the Arviat Fire Hall as well as the Whale Cove Fire Hall. We want to proceed with those three projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 650 – 6(2): Registered Education Savings Plan

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question today to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, many families work hard to save for their children's education through a federal program that matches a portion of those savings, up to \$500 a year or \$7,200 lifetime, called a Registered Education Savings Plan.

Mr. Speaker, especially important today after a recent media coverage where regional Inuit organizations are unexpectedly denying student funding

due to a lack of funds, is the minister familiar with this federal program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Qavvik,

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, in all honesty, I am not aware of that program. I wish to know more in that area within my responsibilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As mentioned a couple of days ago in a line of questioning I had for the same minister, Nunavut Arctic College has a number of degree programs as well as many other programs. Is the minister aware that Nunavut Arctic College is not listed on the national list of designated educational institutions that permit students to use funds provided by the federal government under this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were not aware for the member's line of questioning and I thank the member for bringing that information. I lost my train of thought, Mr. Speaker. The question in line, I do not have that information in front of me, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am assuming that the minister won't have this information as well, but I would appreciate a response when he does have the information.

Mr. Speaker, what criteria does Nunavut Arctic College need to meet that would allow students wanting to study in Nunavut to be able to access all the funds in their Registered Education Savings Plan to support their education here in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within our Nunavut Arctic College Registrar Division, our team ensures that our students receive financial payments in time and also looking into ways to making our students succeed in education. Working with families is also one of the priorities within our Student Services Division. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There is a nay. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing

and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. I recognize the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

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

Committee Report 025 – 6(2): Report on the Review of the 2023 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut: COVID-19 Vaccines in Nunavut

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present the *Report of the Standing Committee on the Review of the 2023 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut: COVID-19 Vaccines in Nunavut*.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing on this report on September 22, 2023. The standing committee's hearing was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and was televised live across the territory and throughout the globe. The hearing was open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery, and was livestreamed on the Legislative Assembly's website. The transcript from the standing committee's hearing is available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

Mr. Speaker, witnesses appearing before the standing committee included a number of senior officials from the Office of the Auditor General of Canada and the Government of Nunavut's departments of Health, Executive and

*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 25 – 6(2).

Intergovernmental Affairs, and Community and Government Services. Mr. Speaker, the standing committee notes its appreciation to these witnesses.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's report contains six sets of formal recommendations directed to the Government of Nunavut, which cover a number of thematic areas, including:

- Pandemic preparedness and emergency planning;
- Annual reporting;
- Orientation, training, certification, and licensing of health care staff;
- Public Health Surveillance; and
- Inventory management.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to note for the record that the standing committee is requesting that the government provide a comprehensive response to this report, pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member has moved that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed.

Tabling of Documents. Item 13. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 184 – 6(2): Minister of Health's 2022 Public Health Act Annual Report

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table in the House this report, (interpretation ends) the Minister of Health's 2022 *Public Health Act* Annual Report. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Tabled Document 185 – 6(2): Contract Activity Report 2021-22

Tabled Document 186 – 6(2): Procurement Activity Report 2021-22

Tabled Document 187 – 6(2): Lease Activity Report 2021-22

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table today the Contract Activity Report, the Procurement Activity Report, and the Lease Activity Report for the 2021-22 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34 and Tabled Documents 1 – 6(2), 120 – 6(2), 163 – 6(2), and 174 – 6(2) with Mr. Hickes in the Chair.

In accordance to the authority provided to me by Motion 22 – 6(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, we will break for lunch and report back at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

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

Chairman (Mr. Hickes): Thank you. I would like to open the Committee of the Whole. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34 as well as Tabled Documents 1 – 6(2), 120 – 6(2), 163 – 6(2), and 174 – 6(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 31 and carry on with the review of the 2024-25 capital appropriation for the Department of Health, followed by the review of the Department of Finance, which includes Arctic College, and then proceed with the following departments: Justice, Environment, Family Services, Culture and Heritage, and the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree that we deal first with Bill 31?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025 – Health – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Main, do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, yes, I do. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to allow the witnesses to appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you. Just for the record, Minister Main, if you could introduce your officials.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have Deputy Minister Megan Hunt here as well as Executive Director of Corporate Services Greg Babstock. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'll go to the first name I have on my list. Please, committee members, acknowledge the Chair if you want me to add your name to the list. Ms. Brewster.

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

I just have a follow-up question to last year. Last year on Wednesday, November 2, I asked the minister about the thresholds for the size of the

community and what other metrics are considered in the decision to build a birthing unit or a birthing centre into any new health centres that are built in communities.

I did look back in my emails because the minister, in his response, indicated that he didn't have the specific threshold in front of him and he would look into it and respond in writing. I haven't been able to find that response. It might be my terrible filing system. However, I do wonder if the minister can give us an update on what those thresholds and metrics are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question and I apologize for any lack of follow-up.

In terms of the threshold for a birthing centre being put into a community, in terms of birthing centres, they're currently only formalized in the regional hubs and the only one that's operational is Iqaluit and the Qikiqtani General Hospital. The birthing centre in Rankin Inlet is currently not accepting expectant mothers from the region. That's primarily driven by staffing issues. Cambridge Bay is in a similar situation.

Moving forward, we want to strengthen our service provision in terms of birthing and see it available in more communities and closer to home, but in terms of what the threshold is for "This community is large enough to support a birthing centre and this community is not," there is no hard-set threshold as of yet. I think the questions, if I recall correctly, came from reference to Arviat's planned...it's

not planned yet, but scoped out expansion. That has been identified due to the community's size as well as the birthrate as being an element that would be included should that project move forward into planning.

Other than saying that we need a certain population threshold to justify that type of investment, I don't have any specifics to offer in terms of what that threshold would be. We are working on initiatives to expand or re-strengthen midwifery work in Nunavut and a lot of it is around human resources as well as legislation, but there may or may not be a capital component to that as well in the coming years. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you for that response, minister. I can't stress enough how important it is to give Nunavummiut the opportunity to give birth in their home community, surrounded by everybody who will be caring for the mother and for the babies that are born. The hardship of convalescing away from your community and away from your family is not just an impact on the parents who are convalescing; there is an impact on any children who are left behind while the parents are away.

I just would like to fully support birthing centres in new builds. I know it's an operations discussion as well, so I'll bring that part up at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all I have.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Main, did you want to...? Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I appreciate the member's comments and I will, for the second year in a row, look at what specifics we can provide in terms of the threshold or the metrics that we would look at for birthing centres. It is an O&M component, but from a high level, what we're trying to do in Nunavut right now is stabilize the delivery of care services in terms of our staffing Nunavut-wide. Once our staffing situation has been stabilized, we will be in a better position to move to add to expand in the future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name I have on my list: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me a second time. I'm not going to have a question; it will just be a closing comment on the topic of long-term elder care.

Mr. Chairman, when a project is put forward and a budget is being asked for, the project should go forward or should not go forward on its merit. It should not be stopped or go forward because of who presents it for the budgetary request.

Mr. Speaker, for the record, the current minister voted to delete the exact same project three years ago. If that project had not been deleted, we would probably be breaking ground right now; maybe we would be in the midst of constructing these two long-term care facilities in Qikiqtani and Kitikmeot. That is the biggest beef I had, the fact that the exact same project could have and should have

gone ahead, but we have a chance here to make it go ahead.

To end on a positive note because we shouldn't always be negative, and I believe I was not negative, I'm just making a point, I'm very thankful that the Government of Nunavut Department of Health takes care of our elders that have to leave town and the ones that don't leave town through home care. I'm very thankful that the Department of Health and the Government of Nunavut don't charge elders for when they are put in a long-term care facility or elders' care facility. In other jurisdictions, elders have to come up with the money or the family would have to come up with the money in order for them to stay in long-term care or elders' care.

I'm very thankful that the Nunavut elders are being taken care of to the best of the ability of the Department of Health, but as I stated, a project should go or not go because of who presents it. It should go or not go based on its own merit. Lastly again, I'm just thankful that the Government of Nunavut, through the Department of Health, is taking good care of our elders to the best of their ability. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name I have on my list, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the capital budget and the member's comments, I would like to thank him for ending things on a positive note. I think that it's fair to say that as minister in my relatively new role here, changing opinions and changing positions on topics is not something that's out of the norm for me, and I

thank the member for quoting extensively from past debates. To be honest, I was quite flattered that he was speaking, pulling from, but I don't want to dwell on the past.

I think, looking at the present and the future and the Arviat elders' home in particular, it is a facility that needs extensive work in the upcoming years. Given that the member didn't ask any specific questions on it, I'll just offer some information. There are short-term renovation requirements to some real significant parts of the building, there are building infrastructure items in the early-medium term that are identified for replacement, such as the roof, and these are coming in at millions of dollars. It was mentioned in our opening comments, but the member didn't pick up on it.

From the Department of Health's perspective, what we're looking at for the Arviat elders' home that we're hoping to bring forward, that we have identified as a priority for planning, is either to renovate it and expand it or replace it. It's key for us to maintain the existing capacity within Nunavut. We don't want to see what happened in Baker Lake repeated, where a facility unfortunately was lost to our assets in the territory. For the coming years, we're going to continue working on new facilities as well as maintaining and possibly expanding our existing facilities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday, after Mr. Simailak's questions, the minister

indicated that there's prefeasibility study in Rankin Inlet. When are you going to decide whether they're going to be building that facility or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main: Did you catch that on the mic? It depends on a few factors, but a prefeasibility study shouldn't take that long.

As I indicated yesterday, in Committee of the Whole, there are a few new factors that we're looking at that might change the dynamic or the potential need. We are planning to approach Indigenous Services Canada and seek funding support to conduct a feasibility study. Our earliest timeline to have that work completed would be the end of the fiscal year, by end of March or into April of 2024. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, all. I thought I was done my line of questioning, but Minister Main just quickly spoke about the Arviat elder care facility and how they're now starting to plan on either extensively renovating it or replacing it in the coming years. Why is that not being considered for the facility that was in Baker Lake, which is a Government of Nunavut asset, and was being used as an elder care facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) In terms of the Martha Talirug Centre, there had been considerations given to reopening it in terms of its former role, but right now, our efforts are focused on repurposing that facility to make use of it for a number of different community health needs, including mental health as well as others.

That's an item that we're currently working on and it's partly driven by the situation at the health centre in Baker Lake, which is very small. We're delivering tuberculosis programming out of a broom closet basically. We're bursting at the seams in Baker Lake. Where it's right across the street, we are working with CGS on bringing that facility back online for health needs in the community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. If I understand correctly, the reason why the Martha Talirug Centre is now being considered for extensive renovations or replacement by the Government of Nunavut is because of the size of the health centre in Baker Lake "bursting at the seams." Is that what the minister is saying? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main: It's not exactly what I'm intending to say. Maybe Mr. Babstock can offer some more details in terms of the Martha Talirug Centre, the building across from the current health centre, in terms of the work that we're looking at, if you will allow.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Babstock, go ahead.

Mr. Babstock: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks again for the question. The Martha Talirug Centre has been one of those projects that we have been working on for quite some time. Where we are right now with it is the functional plan has been developed in conjunction with our operational staff and we're in the process now of completing a building condition assessment such that we can then inform going to detailed design for the renovations, at which point we will get, again, another class estimate and then we will be able to determine how best to fund those renovations. They will either be going through ongoing lifecycle if it's of a value that's sufficiently low enough. If it's a larger capital project, we will be coming back to the Legislative Assembly with a capital project request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Babstock. If you can please clarify, so the plan is to turn it into some other government asset for government use after renovations, not to reopen as an elder care facility. Can you please clarify it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Same line, Mr. Babstock.

Mr. Babstock: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our intended plan for the Martha Talirug Centre is to use it as a bridge to help expand the facilities and

the services that we can provide, given that the health centre is of such a small size. We have always been planning and looking to get a new health centre planned for Baker Lake and we have taken the first step on that through this capital plan with getting it pushed through as a planning project.

The intent for the Martha Talirug Centre is to get us through the next five, six, or seven years, until the new health centre can be put in the community and help maintain the services that we're providing and delivering within the community. It's essentially looking to be an extension of the health centre while we're in the process of developing the new building that will encompass all of those services in a single facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you again for the responses. I keep going back to what the minister said and what they're planning now for Arviat and it could take millions of dollars to renovate or replace it. The same could be said for Baker Lake. It could be done there as well. There is other infrastructure that could be renovated as an extension for the current health centre until the new health centre is built. Would the department be willing to consider that so that they use another infrastructure for an extension of the health centre and also work on doing extensive renovations to the Martha Talirug Centre and reopen it as an elder care facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I understand where the member is coming from and I appreciate his interest in this area.

When we look at the Martha Talirug Centre, there are a number of code issues there where we would run into in terms of the fire retardancy, with the corridors in the building, so there are a number of kind-of-hard barriers we would push up against if we were looking to open it for residential care. That's why we're going in this direction. We want to make use of the facility for Health.

As for the Arviat facility as well as the Gjoa Haven and Igloolik facilities, which are being prioritized for planning potential expansion-wise, that flows out of the mandate where it's identified in our mandate that looking at adding additional capacity to existing facilities is an item, so it's flowing out of there. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you again for the explanations. I'm wondering, the Arviat facility and the Gjoa Haven facility and whatever else we have in Nunavut for elder care facilities, I think Igloolik has a facility, do they currently meet codes? Does it mean that the corridors are wide enough, are the doors wide enough, or are they pretty much in the same situation as the Martha Talirug Centre building in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, they meet the requirements. I think the next oldest facility in our asset mix is Arviat and that's where I highlighted some of those concerns we have around keeping the building operating and to adequate standards. We don't want to lose any of our existing capacity; we need every single bed we have right now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you again for the minister. It would be a lot easier, I must admit, if the elder care strategy was actually completed to make me feel more comfortable with this. The minister mentioned how it's in the *Katujjiluta* mandate to continue working on existing facilities.

At this moment, I'm not too sure how I'm feeling. I'm not too comfortable about what has been said here, how the minister mentioned that they're looking at doing extensive renovations in Arviat or even replacing it, which would be millions of dollars, which is what they could do for Baker Lake. It could have started planning two years ago.

Can I get a response as to why that hasn't been thought of at the beginning of this Assembly and government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for raising this again. As I mentioned earlier, we have

heard loud and clear from standing committee as well as members in Committee of the Whole that there is a desire for more facilities in more communities. That has come through loud and clear.

Looking at our mandate, the top of the list right now is to get Rankin Inlet complete, Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit rolling on through planning and design and into construction, while the existing facilities are also being maintained and/or potentially expanded. I think, after that, a natural progression, if there is still a desire from the members, would be to look at additional facilities.

I can't commit to anything specific, but there has been some discussion around potential alternative models that might work, that could be beneficial for Nunavummiut. We're trying to balance our priorities, but it's all driven by the mandate. That's where the starting point was roughly two years ago, a little bit less than two years ago in Cambridge Bay. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank again, minister, for the response. I'll just do one last statement here. Yes, it has been almost two years since we all put together this *Katujjiluta* mandate. Elder care has always been, I think, at the top of our lists or wants. Here we are almost two years later and we still don't have an elder care strategy, which some of your budgets are being tied into, yet we haven't seen this elder care strategy. It's just more of a statement. I don't have any more questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the questions. We understand the frustration, but it is an important piece of work. As was mentioned previously, supporting elders is much larger than just long-term care. At the Department of Health, there are a lot of different levers we can pull on or add to in terms of providing better care in territory. It's exciting work from where we sit. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just before I continue, I would just like to get clarification on one of Mr. Simailak's questions and the response. The minister stated that the facility in Baker Lake cannot be renovated back into residential living because of the building code requirements.

As we know from COVID, there has been an immense amount of attention on residential facility building codes. With the existing facilities in Arviat, Igloolik, and Gjoa Haven, if those walls get broken down to make an addition or any major renovation to a facility, what building code standards would have to be conformed to? Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently, those existing facilities are grandfathered into the new long-term care building code standard, a national standard that has been released. There are two; there is one for the operation and there is one for the capital side of things. Our new facilities, Rankin Inlet being an example, are in compliance with those new standards.

In terms of the expansions to the older facilities, if you will let Mr. Babstock take a crack at that. He's much more technical than I am. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Man of many hats, Mr. Babstock, please proceed.

Mr. Babstock: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to specifically the Martha Talirug Centre, one of the key considerations there is the fact that there are no washrooms in each of the client rooms, which is a significant code consideration. As a result of that, that is a major renovation and it would essentially mean tearing down the building and building new. There is no renovation that could happen to the building considering that it was mentioned that there are certain restrictions and regulations around fire and egress time. It would essentially mean redoing walls. It would be stripping it down to the studs.

We partner with our project management team at CGS that helps guide us through all of the code requirements through our engineering and architectural experts that guide us through the code requirements, and we take that advice from them to ensure that we provide a safe, appropriate and comfortable living experience for all elders across all of our facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'll leave it alone at that. Any other names? We're looking at the Department of Health. Directorate. \$21,720,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded with the Department of Health?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Minister, do you have any closing comments? Minister.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For my closing comments, I'm going to quote from *Hansard* eight years ago. No, I'm just kidding.

>>*Laughter*

I want to thank all the members for their comments, including the Member for Arviat South. I think that it's clear that elder care is a really important issue for everyone in this room and I really appreciate the support and the votes in favour here. Please know that the Department of Health is pushing hard.

The people sitting next to me and the people who are not here are working very hard trying to implement our mandate and I would like to thank them very much. Sometimes we push them right to the breaking point, so we have to make sure that the staff are well taken care of, but thank you very much for your consideration and your approval here today. (interpretation) I thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I'll ask members to remain in their seats. Sergeant-at-Arms, you can excuse the witnesses. We will proceed directly to the Department of Finance once the new officials and everyone can get ready, so we will take a one- or two-minute break. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 14:03 and resumed at 14:04*

**Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2024-2025 – Finance –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman (Mr. Malliki): I would like to call this committee meeting back to order. I would like to ask Minister Kusugak: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

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

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials in.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Jeff Chown, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left is Dan Carlson, transformational lead for the department.

Mr. Chairman and members, I am here to discuss Bill 31, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025*.

Through it, the Department of Finance is seeking just over \$8 million in 2024-25 to continue our work to replace the government's core financial and human resource software. This will be the third

year of the project. The system will benefit and be used by all departments. The Department of Human Resources and Community and Government Services are co-leading this important initiative.

This appropriation would add to the nearly \$32.5 million the Assembly has already approved. In total, we continue to work within the project's original capital budget of \$41.55 million.

In 2022-23, following a successful competitive procurement process, the government chose to move forward with Oracle Fusion Cloud. Fusion Cloud is a powerful platform that will provide our employees with the modern tools and technology they need to administer our government. Far more than a simple software upgrade, Fusion Cloud will improve how the GN is able to operate and serve our public.

Currently, in 2023-24, our focus is to configure the system for the Government of Nunavut. This involves a great many decisions that, together, will shape how the system will work. We acquired access to the system this summer and are working with Oracle now to validate our thinking. We want to make sure the decisions we make are the right ones to support Government of Nunavut operations and administration for years to come.

Looking ahead, we intend to start rolling out the system in 2024-25. This is why I am requesting your support for an appropriation today. We will bring the system online in phases, turning on different parts of Fusion Cloud throughout next fiscal year. We are excited for our employees to start using

the system so they can experience the benefits for themselves. At the same time, we do not want to rush the rollout. This is a complex project, and it is important we are aware and comfortable with the risks before turning it on. I look forward to sharing the implementation plan with you when it is developed. Meanwhile, our team continues other work in support of the project.

- We are learning Fusion Cloud workflows and starting to understand how to adapt GN processes to best take advantage of them.
- We are preparing data for migration.
- We have initiated a third party review of how the GN can control access, authenticate users, and audit system events.
- We continue to actively involve employees from across departments. This is very much a GN-wide effort.
- We have started to review financial and human resource directives. We will update them where required to encourage modern operations while maintaining our government's core vision.

The GN has significant work ahead of us. We appreciate your support as we continue to move this project forward in 2024-25. Thank you.

My officials and I are available to answer your questions, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? I recognize Mr. Hickes. Please proceed.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the proposed 2024-25 Capital Estimates of the Department of Finance.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed capital budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year is \$8,056,000. On April 13, 2022 the department issued a request for proposals for its new Enterprise Resource Planning System. Information provided to the standing committee by the department indicates that the contract for this work has been awarded to the Oracle Corporation for its "Fusion Cloud" platform. The standing committee encourages the government to ensure that the notice of this award is publicly posted on its contracting site.

The standing committee notes that the Legislative Assembly approved \$15,131,000 for this project for the 2022-23 fiscal year and \$17,363,000 for the '23-24 fiscal year. \$10,449,000 in funding for this project was carried over during the recent spring sitting of the House.

The department's substantiation sheet for this project indicates that it will replace the government's current finance and human resources systems. However, the extent to which public agencies and territorial corporations, including the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and Nunavut Arctic College, will utilize the proposed new system remains unclear.

The standing committee notes that the scope of this project appears to be expanding. In its response to a

recommendation contained in the Auditor General's recent report on COVID-19 vaccines, the Department of Health indicates that it will "work with the other Government of Nunavut departments on the design of the human resource modules within the newly-procured Enterprise Resource Planning system. Module deployment is scheduled for fall 2024. The system will track the completion of orientation and training programs for health care staff, monitor whether their licences and certifications are up to date, and provide regular reports of overdue training and expired licences or certifications." Mr. Chairman, the standing committee encourages the minister to clarify what other kinds of specialized tracking the new Enterprise Resource Planning system will be able to perform.

Although the standing committee recognizes the importance of the government having functional accounting systems and financial applications, members continue to caution the department to be mindful of the importance of ensuring that the cost and complexity of such systems and applications are appropriate to the government's size and human resource capacity. Mr. Chairman, it is important that the department examine what lessons can be learned from the government's past experience in procuring other major systems and software, including the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Motor Vehicles Information System and the Department of Family Services' Case Management System. The federal experience with the Phoenix Pay System may also be instructive in this regard.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2024-25 Capital Estimates of the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question. As you indicate in your opening comments, “We will bring the system online in phases, turning on different parts of Fusion Cloud throughout next fiscal year.” My only question is: how many phases are there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Quqqiaq. We’re in general comments. Detailed questions will come in momentarily. I open the floor now for detailed questions. Mr. Quqqiaq, can you re-ask your question, please.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was in the opening comments. That’s why I asked that question. I just wanted to know how many phases we are talking about. Is it two phases, three phases, or four phases for “turning on different parts of Fusion Cloud throughout next fiscal year”? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the questions from my colleague. We’re looking at three main phases at this point. They would be human resources, finance, and

payroll leading into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That’s my only question. I’ll probably have questions later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the chair of the standing committee mentioned in his opening comments, this is a question that has come up in the past. It’s a bit unclear about if and what territorial corporations will utilize this Enterprise Resource Planning System and when. Will these also be phased in and staggered? Those are my first questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are working through those, for example, the payroll, maybe for the housing corporation and then Nunavut Arctic College; there will be invites and phases in from the arm’s-length corporations. Maybe I could have Mr. Carlson give a little more detail on that line, Mr. Chairman, through you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Please proceed, Mr. Carlson.

Mr. Carlson: Thank you and thank you for the question. The Government of Nunavut currently provides pay services

for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Nunavut Arctic College. For that reason, as the minister mentioned, that's why they will be brought in for pay as part of this project. What we have not decided yet, and this would be in a future decision, is whether and when to bring in the territorial corporations for other aspects of the system. Currently, we are not planning to bring in the QEC, the NHC, or the college for the system widely. That would be a future decision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Carlson. Moving on to my next line of questioning, it has been made clear to the standing committee that there is a clear lack of control and oversight over the Petroleum Products Division. I would like to ask the minister if he would prioritize the Petroleum Products Division in the schedule of bringing in Government of Nunavut related parties into the Enterprise Resource Planning System. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In short, Mr. Chairman, they will be in the system. In terms of where on the batting order they will be in, we don't have that level of detail at this time, but most definitely, that sector and the department will be included. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. I have no more names on my list. Do any members have any questions? (interpretation ends)

Members? (interpretation) It seems there are no more questions. (interpretation ends) Finance. Centrally Administered Funds. Total Capital Expenditure. \$10,358,000. Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do the members agree that we're done with the Department of Finance?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Any closing remarks, Minister Kusugak?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate all the work that Mr. Carlson and others have put into this to date. We will do our best to keep you fully informed of its progress and thank you for your time today, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

Members, please stay in your seats while we're waiting for the minister for Arctic College to appear before you.

>>Committee recessed at 14:19 and resumed at 14:21

**Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2024-2025 – Nunavut Arctic
College – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman: I would like to call this committee back to order. We're going to deal with Nunavut Arctic College. I would like to ask Minister Qavvik: do you have officials that you would like to

appear before the committee? Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials in.

For the record, Minister Qavvik, please introduce your officials and then proceed to your opening comments.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my immediate left and your right is the President of Nunavut Arctic College, Rebecca Mearns; to my right, to your left is Vice-president Jackie Price, and we have on the side in the visitors' area Anuj Verma, Capital Planner for Nunavut Arctic College.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am pleased to be here today to present Nunavut Arctic College's proposed 2024–25 capital estimates requesting \$2.3 million for the upcoming fiscal year. The breakdown of funding is as follows:

- \$500,000 for small capital;
- \$1,500,000 for ongoing lifecycle; and
- \$300,000 for information technology, or IT, infrastructure.

Funds allocated for small capital support the college in meeting its daily

operational needs, including vehicle maintenance and replacement, and furniture. For 2024-25, Nunavut Arctic College has earmarked funding on vehicle replacement and repair in Arviat, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit, as well as the Piqqusilirivvik Cultural Centre in Clyde River.

The college's largest capital request is for ongoing lifecycle. This funding allows the college to maximize the life and use of its facilities through repairs and replacements. The college has earmarked funds to replace, renovate, and upgrade facilities in Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Clyde River, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Sanirajak. Remaining funds will be used for emergency repairs that are required throughout the year.

Information technology is a foundational support for post-secondary institutes continues. This area, which is continuously growing and shifting, requires consistent investment to keep up to the technology available. For fiscal year 2024-25, the college is requesting \$300,000 to enhance and upgrade Nunavut Arctic College's wireless infrastructure across the territory. This work lends itself to the college's goal to continuously secure Internet access for the delivery of its programs and to support members of its community.

These are the capital plans for the 2024-25 fiscal year. I am happy to answer any questions at this time. *Quana, qujannamiik, nakurmiik, merci beaucoup*, and thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have

opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development as the Committee of the Whole begins consideration of the proposed 2024-25 Capital Estimates for Nunavut Arctic College.

Nunavut Arctic College's proposed capital budget for 2024-25 is \$2.3 million with the proposed funding being allocated to three budget lines to address small capital, ongoing lifecycle and information technology needs across the territory. The level of funding being requested has been consistent over the past two fiscal years.

Documentation provided by the government indicates that a number of vehicles and equipment will be purchased under the college's small capital budget, although it is not clear what specific vehicles and equipment will be purchased in 2024-25 and for which facility.

Many of Nunavut's community learning centres are old and require ongoing renovations to enable community-level programming to continue being delivered for adult learning opportunities and post-secondary education. Committee members encourage the college to prioritize which community learning centres require urgent replacement, renovation, or expansion and submit proposals for inclusion in the government's capital plan.

Members further encourage the minister to work with the board of Nunavut Arctic College and its industry partners to take advantage of infrastructure opportunities to deliver mine and trades training in communities outside of the regional centres.

Online learning has become a popular and viable route for accessing education and training opportunities for adult learners. Members support the college's efforts to expand program delivery through investments in new technology and encourage officials to continue exploring alternative options for remote learning.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2024-25 Capital Estimates of Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? I don't see any. Please go to page M-3. Nunavut Arctic College. Headquarters. Capital. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2,300,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Chairman is sitting there and is unable to ask this question himself, I'll ask it on his behalf.

The community learning centre in Coral Harbour is impacted by the renovations at the Sakku School. What is the current status of the community learning centre in Coral Harbour? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The adult basic education is delivered at the current community learning centre. For the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, it's in a different location. In terms of the renovation for Sakku School, it includes the community learning centre. Mr. Chairman, the project is being undertaken by the Department of Education, which includes the community learning centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I recall correctly, the member representing that riding was asking questions to the Department of Education on it and they didn't acknowledge that it was going to be a separate piece of infrastructure, but they basically deferred it to Nunavut Arctic College as the community learning centre is under the realm of Nunavut Arctic College. I was just wondering if the minister would be able to give a little bit clearer of an update of the status of that project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Good question. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the most part, I have been on the other side and on the new side, I would like to ask my president to further elaborate on that question through you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Mearns, please proceed.

Ms. Mearns: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for that question. This is a part of the education capital project. The college is slated to take over one of the portable classrooms that's being used for I think they were calling it decanting. As the classrooms get moved out of the school for renovation, there are portables that are being utilized for classroom space. Once the K to 12 students move back into the school and the portable is no longer being utilized by the Department of Education, the college will then take possession of that portable classroom and it will be renovated to meet the needs of a community learning centre.

I believe, previously, the blueprint for the outlines have been shared with the Members of the House, but certainly it's something we could share again if people do want to see. It's quite similar to the project in Kugaaruk when the school was replaced and there were portable classrooms remaining. We have been able to take those and utilize them as community learning centre space within that community. That's what we will see in Coral Harbour once the Sakku School project is complete. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you for that response. Mr. Chairman, I guess that leads to my next question. Existing programming is being offered within this current school right now. I would just like to get some assurance that there won't be a break in service delivery during the period of when students would be moved from the existing piece that's within the school when it's moved

outside, so the timing of those renovations that are going to be needed to make it more suitable for an adult learning atmosphere, the timing of that is going to be kind of critical in this component. I would just like to get some assurance that there will be no break in service delivery for the adult students in Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for asking that question. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. Mr. Chairman, the current students that are at the community learning centre are there in that building to ensure that the service for education is not interrupted. For the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, it's in a different location and we want to continue having the community learning centre be provided for the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get a little bit closer to home now.

Mr. Chairman, in recent correspondence to the standing committee, to the chair, there were a number of capital projects that were listed and one of the projects listed in there is the Iqaluit student residence repairs that's at a class "A" estimate stage. I know, a number of years back, there were foundational issues, that there was quite significant shifting of the student residences behind the college. Is this the same residences that this budget is being appropriated for or requested? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The short answer is yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. Is this still a continuation of the same issue or have there been new issues identified that need to be remedied? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. Through you, I would like to get the president to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Mearns, please proceed.

Ms. Mearns (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Once again thank you to the member for that question. This is the same residence. As you mentioned, there was significant shifting in the foundation and these buildings are either nearing or have surpassed their lifecycle. As we looked at the cost of a repair to the foundations and the shifted...I can't remember. The posts that are there in the ground to hold up the building, because of the shift, the amount that it would take to renovate, we looked rather to the replacement of those buildings as opposed to a major renovation, which would still not

lengthen the life of those buildings in a way that would be beneficial to the college. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you. As it's at a class "A" estimate of the project, could I get a little bit more information on the actual scope of work that's being intended to be done under this money, then, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The project is still in the planning stages moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Typically, when a class "A" estimate stage is reached, the planning stage is done and it's basically at the design phase at that point, if not, even later. I would just like to get a little more clarification on what type of repairs are anticipated to be made to those units.

As the president just mentioned moments ago, the long-term plan is to go to a replacement and that the renovations aren't going to significantly extend the lifespan of those buildings. I would like to get a little bit more information on the scope of work that is going to be needed to be done now that will actually continue them to be used as a residence until such as they can be replaced. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My president has more knowledge in that area, so I would like to defer that question to the president through you. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Mearns, please proceed.

Ms. Mearns: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The class "A" estimate that we did have was for the renovation of that building. However, we will not be proceeding with the renovation and will be, rather, looking to create a new scope of work that would replace the existing building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the scope is changing, there is a detailed amount in the substantiation sheet of \$218,000, so I am a little unclear. If the scope of the work is unclear at this time, how is that amount determined? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The planned renovation stage or planning stage was before the Assembly and has changed to... . My apologies, Mr. Chairman. The planned renovation was in the initial stage, but I lost my train of thought. (interpretation) What did I say?

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, my apologies. My president has much more information into that area. I would like

to defer that question to the president.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Ms. Mearns, please proceed.

Ms. Mearns (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The amounts that are there for the renovations, if I understand correctly from what I am reading here, are the additional renovations to other buildings. My apologies; I believe we are talking about two different projects at the moment.

We had initially submitted a relevelling of the Q-units, but that is not the amount that we see here for renovations. These would be more general renovations of other student buildings that we do have and other work that needs to continue for maintenance and renovation in those other units as well.

We are talking about two different projects. The relevelling has been put to the side to re-scope and replace the Q-units, but we do have funding in our small capital budget to allow for renovations of other student units. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that response. I would just like to get clarification. The \$218,000 that is being requested in this appropriation right now is not involved with the Q-units at all. I am assuming, and I hate assuming anything in here, that it's the new residential units that are across the street from here, that there

will be some painting, carpeting, that kind of flooring, and that kind of renovations done. I would just like to get that confirmation on the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, my president has much more details on that project. I would like to defer that question to the president through you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Ms. Mearns, please proceed.

Ms. Mearns (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you to the member for the question. You are correct; so we have the Q-units on one side of the street and on the other side, I believe we have 515 through 519, so within those units there is some required maintenance to happen there. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Following my list of names, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is to the minister. (interpretation ends) In the past years the government had indicated its intention to build a mine training centre in Nunavut, however the 2024 to 2029 five-year capital plan does not include any projects specific to mine training.

Are any plans underway to provide any mine training infrastructure in specific communities or in the regional centres? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Nunavut Arctic College has identified the need for a specialized training facility that is dedicated to mining and the transportations trades.

While discussions on a mine training centre may conjure an image of a separate entity, the college sees this as a natural progression for trades training in Nunavut by building a phase one within the community of Rankin Inlet to Sanatuliqsarvik, Nunavut Trades Construction of Trades.

Mr. Chairman, this project is currently in planning phase as it was included in the Government of Nunavut 2021-22 capital plan which will still be in the pool depending on resources within our Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the minister. For the smaller communities it seems that it was going to be put up in Pond Inlet. Is this still the idea? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking that question. The President of Nunavut Arctic College must have more detailed information. I would like to defer that question through you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Mearns, please proceed.

Ms. Mearns (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) and thank you to the member for that question. The proposed training facility in Pond Inlet is being led by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. I can confirm we do continue to meet with them to look at how we can work together in that project.

Many of my staff have been engaged and meeting with them. The college is always open to looking at how we can support additional training in additional spaces within our communities, so that working is ongoing with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you, Ms. Mearns. I now want to hear more about this equipment that I cannot recall the Inuktitut term for, but regarding a (interpretation ends) simulator (interpretation) and I wanted to ask if it is still in Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Throughout the three regions in our territory, there are four simulators within each region. There is also one spare in case those simulators break down. Those heavy equipment operator simulators are in Pond Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Minister Qavvik. I was curious to see how they are and what state they are in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Operational-wise, my president has much more information into these simulators are used. Through you, I would like to defer that question to Ms. Mearns. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Mearns, please proceed.

Ms. Mearns (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Unfortunately, right now they are not utilized to the state that we would like them. The training is led through our Industrial Trades Division, under the Dean of Trades and the Chair of Industry Trades. Right now, the Chair of Industry Trades is in the staffing process.

Following that, we are then looking to staff the regional mine training coordinator that would help in leading

this training and facilitating. As we work to staff up those positions, we hope that the new staff would be able to lead the direction and what that training can look like at the community level.

As they are portable simulators, the idea is to have them located in each region but allowing them to travel to different communities as well.

Overall that's the goal, and we hope to utilize the community learning centres in the future to do that. Once we have our staffing up, that's really key to being able to deliver these programs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Ms. Mearns. In conclusion, when are these positions going to be filled? That is my question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) It's operational, but it has to do with capital so I will let it go. Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The Chair for Industry Technology is currently vacant. It is Nunavut Arctic College's priority to fill that position. That chair oversees industry trades technology within our Nunavut Arctic College. It works with our three mine training coordinators within the three regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Before we go on to the next person, we're going to have a 10-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 14:54 and resumed at 15:13

Chairman: I would like to call this committee back to order. The next person on my list is Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just have one question, but it depends on how the minister answers the question.

(interpretation) Last year in the month of December, there was an employee that went to Chesterfield Inlet regarding the adult learning centre. What is the status of that report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My apologies, Mr. Chairman. Our capital planner, Marrison Wilman, was at Chesterfield Inlet to conduct site assessment within the community learning centre that the member is asking for.

My apologies, Mr. Chairman. Our capital planner, Marrison Wilman continues to travel throughout the territory to find conditions within Nunavut Arctic College's community learning centres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't catch that. (interpretation ends) What were the results of the assessment? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Hold on, Mr. Chairman. Just give me a second.

Mr. Chairman, on the Chesterfield Inlet Community Learning Centre site assessment, the capital planner found that... . We do maintenance within our community learning centres and there were carpets that were found to be old and need replacing; the window in the adult educator office does not close properly; the backdoor handle and lock need to be replaced; and work order issued that was made on May 26, 2027. These concerns have been catalogued as the college compiles its 20-year needs estimate for capital planning. The college for Chesterfield Inlet was built in 1982. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I think you answered the question, so I'll go on to the next name. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, minister and to your staff. I've got just a few questions, I think, but like Mr. Sammurtok, we will see what comes from responses.

There were talks about vehicle purchases, replacements, and whatnot. Can you please explain to me or list which communities are getting vehicles

for the Arctic College facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After my statement, the vice-president can further elaborate as to how we allocate new vehicles to communities within the territory. Mr. Chairman, Nunavut Arctic College identifies the greatest needs within communities that require equipment in terms of vehicle allocation. It is through the college's educator that can assist in terms of how we can allocate vehicles, but the vice-president can further elaborate on that question through you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Price, please proceed.

Ms. Price: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question, following the response from the minister. The capital process, especially regarding vehicles, is an ongoing process. Our capital planner maintains good communications with middle and senior management within the college and through those conversations, needs are identified and the college can make decisions based on the capital budget it has.

Currently, the college has identified one community needing a new vehicle and that's for Clyde River at Piqusilirivvik. The college is considering a new bus for that facility at this time, but again, as the year goes on and during these months before spring, it's when the college will really start to engage communities and

learn about their small capital needs. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the responses. When can we expect to see which communities are on the radar to receive a vehicle, a more detailed list? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, we are still in the early stages of allocating requirements for vehicles. We will be more than happy to share that information as we move forward into the months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Months can lead into a year or years. Is there a more definitive time frame as to when you can expect to see a list? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The listing of the vehicles to allocate a vehicle for a community, we have to see the list of the communities that require vehicles, but it must happen before the sealift cut-off dates for the new current year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have expected a better answer with better timelines. When you take into account vehicle purchases and equipment purchases, you usually have to go through a tendering process once the budget is approved. The tendering processes take quite a bit of time to flow through. I'm kind of surprised that we don't actually have a more listing of maybe even on the five-year capital plan as to where communities are going to get vehicles. Can we see something like that, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this stage, we do not have the information as to how we will purchase new vehicles for a community, but before the winter hits, we will have a better understanding of the allocation of which community will be getting a new vehicle and that will have us time to purchase and put out a tender to purchase vehicles before the cut-off for sealift season. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. The community learning centre in Baker Lake is being utilized somewhat efficiently, I think is the right word, with the upgrading program, the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, and there's something else going on there, and also

the Piqusilirivvik satellite campus is run out of the college facility. Is Baker Lake on the radar to receive a vehicle? If not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member's suggestion has been noted and we will be further evaluating the stage of allocation for a vehicle for a community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for the commitment on that part.

Moving on to my next line of questioning, Baker Lake, as you mention in your opening comments, is on the list for some renovations. For the record, can you please state the budget amount that's being asked for the renovations and if you can also please state what renovations are on the scope of work for the Baker Lake Community Learning Centre? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I would like to get the president of Nunavut Arctic College to answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Mearns, please proceed.

Ms. Mearns: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry; just one moment. I want to make sure I'm looking at the right amount. Sorry. Just one moment, please.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry. Although I can't go into detailed amounts at the moment, we have identified, obviously, ongoing lifecycle for replacement of items, one of those main items being fuel tank replacement and painting and patching of the building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. I was actually hoping that there would be mention about trades-related renovations. We all know that Baker Lake has been a mining town for over a decade now and the community learning centre is severely underutilized. This community is over 2,000 people who are constituents now of mine and all we have is high school and then upgrading and the Nunavut Teacher Education Program running out of the community learning centre, which is used from 9 to 4. Where's the investment for training? Why don't the renovations include any trades-related scope of work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's concerns into having a mine training centre for his community. As I stated, the Government of Nunavut has identified the project that has been put forward to consideration. For a lot of our

mine training, mine training within Nunavut requires third funding and that requires proposal writing and contributions to find suitable instructors, classroom space, and it ties into career development where we need the resources to have mine training centres in our Nunavut communities. A mine training facility or a training centre is one of our top priorities for our college to undertake for our Nunavut citizens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't exactly get an answer. Why isn't Baker Lake on the list for renovations to include mine-related training? He spoke about other places, but it wasn't really detailed. Is Baker Lake on the list for mine-related training? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Qavvik, please answer his question.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I appreciate the member's concerns and wants for his community at Baker Lake, but at this time, we have not identified to provide training for his community. We do understand that mine training in our territory is one of the greatest needs as a lot of our working Nunavummiut are employed with mining within the territory.

At this point in time, mine training is our top priority and we will continue to find ways. Once the chair of industry and technology is filled, we can have a better understand of where we can put mine

training into communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I do appreciate that you're brand-new to this position, so I'm trying to take it easy on you, but it's something that I have been working on for a number of years now, so the passionate side of me is coming out on this subject. If it was a regional hub, I do believe it would be coming online a lot faster.

Earlier to my colleague from Mittimatalik, you mentioned in answer to her question that the Qikiqtani Inuit Association is working on a facility and you also mentioned third party funding is needed for some of these programs to happen, whether it's related to mine training or investments and whatnot.

Mr. Chairman, I do know first-hand in Baker Lake, a private company, Peter's Expediting Ltd., has been trying for years to start up mine training in Baker Lake. They secured third party funding. They secured a partnership with Yukon College, which is now Yukon University. All they needed was assistance from Nunavut Arctic College to get it going and it never got off the ground. The company told me themselves that it's a lot easier working with Yukon College than it is working with our own Nunavut Arctic College.

Earlier when you said that the Qikiqtani Inuit Association is working on a facility in Pond Inlet, I would be curious to know how your partnership is going to work with them to get it off the ground

faster when Baker Lake was trying to get it going. If I can get a response from somebody over there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past, Nunavut Arctic College had previously partnered with the Department of Family Services to fund Nunavummiut to participate in an underground mining training program. The delivery of all mine training courses, again, I said earlier that mine training is not base funded, so we have to find a third party funder to undertake courses or training for Nunavummiut.

I would like to get the president to further elaborate on that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Mearns, please proceed.

Ms. Mearns (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question and to the ongoing support of wanting to see additional training available in the community.

I confirmed that our staff did work with the company that you spoke of out of Baker Lake and we moved as far as we could. I think one of the items that we do need to note here as well is that for training and adult education or post-secondary designation of programs, that goes through the Department of Education. So for another university or another college to come in and deliver programs, they require that approval

through the Department of Education as well.

We're always open to working with others from community organizations or companies to look at opportunities, and I invite the member to come and discuss further with us the type of mine training that they would wish to see.

Mine training is a big umbrella of different types of training opportunities, whether it's trades, whether it's operating equipment, and many, many others. To discuss that further, we'd be more than happy. The conversations with Qikiqtani Inuit Association are ongoing as to what that relationship would look like for delivery of programs, based on the space that they're creating.

As the minister mentioned, there are many aspects to consider when it comes to mine training and the types of opportunities we can deliver. We are always open to looking at what we can do, while at the same time, still operating within our reality of college.

As the only post-secondary institution located in the territory, it is often about balancing what we can do at the time, and growing where can and pushing growth where we can as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the responses. I appreciate her invitation for me to come and talk with them. I would like to reverse that. I invite you all to come to Baker Lake and see the facility and meet with the private sector. This should have

been done years ago, and every year since the mines opened up. I invite you to come to Baker Lake and chat with all of us over there and see what we can do. Hopefully, we can incorporate something into the next capital plan.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to move on to my next line of questioning. Earlier we talked about how there are four simulators in Nunavut, three of which are operational, and one is on standby in case one breaks. How much is a simulator? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To clarify, there are four simulators per region; one is there. At this time, I cannot provide that level of detail to the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. If he can commit to getting back to me with the dollar figure at some point. I would like to know where the simulators exactly are. Is it just three regional hubs and Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: My apologies, Mr. Chairman. I did not catch that question. Can the member please repeat?

Chairman: Mr. Simailak, can you please repeat your question?

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was asking where the simulators are in each region, in which communities. He said there are four simulators per region. Where are they located? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the member's previous, two questions ago, I'd be more than happy to fly to Baker Lake and meet with the member, along with my team.

(interpretation) I can meet with Baker Lake residents, and anywhere if I'm in Nunavut, if they want to ask me questions, invite me. I'm willing to go to the community as long as I have an opportunity to visit anywhere, to the communities of Nunavut.
(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, those three simulators are located in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for the response. My last line of questions, I think, is on the wireless infrastructure. You're asking for some money and I believe it's to connect to the CANARIE. Are you also looking at securing some Internet to go with this? Would that be through Qiniq or Starlink or Galaxy that was announced about in your public service? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After my statement, I would like to get more elaborations from the vice-president.

Earlier in my opening comments, I stated that we're asking for \$300,000 for information technology (IT) infrastructure and that ties in with Galaxy Broadband, InukNET, PanArctic, and the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, who formed the organization, providing the network service and management support services for the network. The community is a federally funded organization that supports and funds Canada-wide research and education. The CANARIE network is a commercial network versus Starlink, where Starlink is personal.

I would like to get more elaborations from the vice-president through you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Price, please proceed.

Ms. Price: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to the member for that question. As the minister indicated, the college was super proud to announce its partnership with Galaxy Broadband and InukNET to connect the college to the CANARIE network. The budget item that the members will see is related to securing hardware for select communities in Nunavut so that the CLCs have the equipment necessary to receive that Internet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker...Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'm not the Speaker; I'm the Chairman. Next person on my list is Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have just a couple of things that I forgot to touch on earlier.

In the substantiation sheet for the \$1.5 million in ongoing lifecycle, it lists a number of projects and I spoke specifically to the Iqaluit residence unit renovations, but I'm a little curious as to the amount totalling in there. The budget request is for \$1.5 million and the six items that are listed in the substantiation sheet come to \$1,659,000. Coincidentally, the \$159,000 overage is the exact same amount as the Cambridge Bay student residence water line connection, but also it states at the bottom of that same box that "The remaining funds will be used for community projects listed above and cover any emergency repairs that are required throughout the year."

We all know that emergencies do happen. There are water breaks, there are fuel spills, and things just happen, yet I'm looking at a commitment of even more than the budget that's being requested here, so I am concerned that if an emergency arises, how would Nunavut Arctic College address any repairs that needed to be made on an emergency basis if their entire budget is already committed to these six projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to call upon the capital planner, Mr. Verma, to further elaborate through you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to change the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please do. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness in.

Minister Qavvik, please introduce your new witness.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left and to your immediate right is Anuj Verma, Capital Planner for Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Verma, please proceed with answering the question from the member.

Mr. Verma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the members. We have to allocate funds from the projects which have not been started or are on hold due to several issues and from those projects, we use as the contingency funds if there are any that arise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the members.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you for that. Next line of questioning, and it may be a very quick and easy answer; I think the first part of it will be a very quick and easy answer, is the old residence here in Iqaluit that's located by the airport still on the books under Nunavut Arctic College? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The old residence has been surplused back to Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next person on my list is Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if this question was asked, but I would like some clarification. No update report on physical status of community learning centres has been tabled to date. My question is: when will we see an update? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I would like Vice-president Ms. Price to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Price, please proceed.

Ms. Price: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The college 100 percent appreciates the interest and importance of community learning centres across the territory, and we appreciate the interest in the assessment report that was tabled in the leg. a number of years ago. The college currently does not have plans to table or develop an updated report. With that being said, the college continues to visit and work with Community and Government Services to ensure that we have a solid understanding of the state of our facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be nice to see an update and it would be nice to see an update probably in the 2024-25 fiscal year. It would be great. Even before our spring sitting, it would be nice.

To my understanding, for Kugaaruk, portables are being utilized for the Arctic College students, and to my understanding, no community learning centres have been identified for major renovations or replacement in the upcoming 2024-29 capital plan. However, the ongoing lifecycle budget includes projects for repairs in Sanirajak, Clyde River, and Baker Lake.

My question is: are there any plans for the future to build a new Arctic College in Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, the college follows the capital plan process that is before Community and Government Services.

For the community of Kugaaruk, our capital planner visited the community in May 2023 for the community learning centre in that community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would these portables be

utilized by Arctic College in Kugaaruk? I can see them being utilized for programming if there is a new Arctic College. Let's say for example, there are three simulators in Cambridge Bay. I can see one of the simulators being brought to one of the portables and being utilized for mine training. We do have a mine that's in Goose Lake by B2Gold.

To my understanding, there are [fewer] workers at that site from my constituency communities of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak. I see a potential for some training in Kugaaruk with the portables so that my constituents can start working and have the experience and knowledge to work on the mine site. That's just a comment and I will move on to my other constituency community.

According to the education minister, our Netsilik School, after April 1, 2024, with the ongoing lifecycle budget they will be applying and, if approved, they will be renovating the Netsilik School. Our Netsilik School is with Arctic College. Is Arctic College being added to the renovations during the Netsilik School renovations because they are both attached together and in one building? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I would like Mr. Verma to supplement that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Verma, please proceed.

Mr. Verma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the members, for the question. It will go into planning at some point, but we haven't decided yet. As soon as we have the updates, we would like to present it to the members as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the members.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be moving back to Kugaaruk. I see a lot of potential for these portables to be utilized for programming, especially when the contribution agreements have increased for the Department of Culture and Heritage. There was an elder who wanted advice and help to do some programming. I see a great future for these portables to be utilized.

My question is: since Arctic College is utilizing these portables, can the community of Kugaaruk, the residents, the elders utilize these portables to do their programming, especially when it comes to contribution agreements being increased significantly? That is my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, with those types of requests or suggestions, I urge all Nunavut communities to speak to their adult educator within their communities. They are Nunavut Arctic College's first point of contact in terms of what kinds of programs that can be

offered in a Nunavut community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next person on my list is Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and his officials. I have a question regarding the Piqqusilirivvik school, which is included here. The estimated costs for 2024-25 which includes the flooring and the windows replacement work.

My question is: for the floors and the windows replacement project, I question that since the Piqqusilirivvik facility in Clyde River has been in operation for many years, and definitely needs other renovations. What other critical renovations have been identified other than what is listed? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the capital estimates, due to his intimacy with the plans, I would like to use your authority and redirect the question to my capital planner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I am not very good with names I forgot your name already.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you. My apologies, Mr. Chairman. To my left, Anuj Verma, Capital Planner for Nunavut Arctic College.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Please proceed, Anuj.

Mr. Verma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the members. For the Piqqusilirivvik we are expecting the completion of the project next year, after the sealift. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the members.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not talking about the completion of the project. You indicated that you are going to be working on the windows and the flooring, but since the building has been in operation for some time and is very well utilized, my question is: After having reviewed the building, what other renovations are you looking at other than the windows and the flooring. That was my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Piqqusilirivvik learning centre has been identified for repairs and maintenance. As the member stated, the condition of the flooring and windows are not good. We will have a better understanding by 2024. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we're on the subject, my next question is: do you look at the facilities on a yearly basis, or do you review all the learning centres once

a year in every community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I'd like further elaborations from the Vice President, Ms. Price. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Price, please proceed.

Ms. Price: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for their questions. The capital planner is responsible for doing the site visits for the Nunavut Arctic College facilities. As the college has facilities across the territory, we try our best to get to as many facilities as possible, but there a lot of extenuating circumstances that may impact our schedule.

I understand that our capital planner, Mr. Verma, who is here, has identified sites for the next five communities, Clyde River's not on that list for the next five, but the member's suggestion has been noted.

I'd also like to state that the college's senior management does have good communications with our directors working at Piquasilirivvik, so, your recommendation has been noted and we'll make sure to follow up with them directly. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): I'm sure scheduling is quite hard at times, and

you indicated that you'll be visiting the next five communities, because of course that's how hard scheduling might be, and there are limited resources.

One thing that keeps coming up that has been brought up on quite a number of occasions is some of the college facilities do not have daycares. In some of the other communities, there are daycares built into the facility, and again, in my community of Clyde River, there is absolutely no daycare in the community. This is one subject that we brought up when we were visiting.

Have you considered the possibility of the college facilities having built-in daycares? Have you had any discussion on this subject? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of when we identify and have the resources to build new community learning centres, that this community learning centre provide daycare for the college students.

The member's suggestions have been noted, but the college does identify the modern times of including daycares within the community learning centre construction in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for the response. We'll expect a further response. To another area, is mobile equipment for the

Piqqusilirivvik to be included, and the minor capital for Piqqusilirivvik, is it part of the process. The vehicle, is it a kind of bus, van, or what kind of vehicle is it? Thank you. I'm asking about whether it would be used for picking up and dropping off people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer the member's question, yes, it is a bus. The college is considering a new bus for Piqqusilirivvik. It has been earmarked in the details of allocations for a vehicle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. I want to mention that it is needed as the facility is outside of the community of Clyde River, on the outskirts, not really close to town, to the community. Residents of Clyde River also use the Piqqusilirivvik, and it really was impacted during COVID, and it was used a lot by the community.

There's more desire to seek education there, as it is open to other communities. The facility is well used, and we should proceed with the facility, and I just mentioned that. We support it. I don't have any more questions, just a comment. Thank you for the opportunity, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand my colleague's desire for her constituency, which my department now retains. In terms of the Nunavut Arctic College, actually we now comprehend the needs expressed by the Member for Clyde River which they requested.

This will be included in the list by Arctic College, and just to provide some context, at Piqqusilirivvik, they have three Hondas or (interpretation ends) all-terrain vehicles (interpretation) including one canoe or (interpretation ends) one boat trailer (interpretation) as well as a snowmobile at this facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Next person on my list is Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to submit my first question in terms of my background as a previous adult educator for our community learning centre. My first question is: do the president and the minister receive these community wish lists that all communities send annually? They are submitted by the adult educators annually as a requirement, basically the (interpretation ends) needs assessment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our adult educator has a yearly callout for the community to identify programs within the community. I would like the vice president to further elaborate on this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Price, please proceed.

Ms. Price: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the member. I am afraid that I didn't quite catch the question. If it is okay, I would like to ask the member to ask the question again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Nutarak, please re-ask your question.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I was asking if the yearly needs assessments are shared with the executive level or even ministerial level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Price (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you to the member for restating her question.

In August 2022, the college was proud to announce that it had hired an individual to act as Dean for Community and Distance Learning. This position oversees the community learning that is happening in our community learning centres. Since this individual joined the college, they have been working to understand the role of the division and understand the needs at the community level.

While the needs assessments forms are still being asked for yearly, developing a mechanism to ensure that they are collected and shared with various levels

in the college, we're still working on that. We are always happy to receive correspondence directly to the college, either through the minister or through the adult educator. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Ms. Price. (interpretation ends) In the needs assessment, almost every year the community of Pond Inlet has requested if Pond Inlet could become a hub. We always want to become a high arctic hub. In the needs assessment we have requested for our college to become a high arctic hub. At our college, we have offered more academic courses in the smaller communities. In becoming a hub, having a regional college, maybe smaller than the regional campuses, we can support the smaller high arctic communities. We have had other communities like Grise Fiord wanting to go to Pond Inlet to go to college. Because we have no housing, it was impossible.

Has the college ever looked into making Pond Inlet a regional centre?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising the needs of wanting a high arctic regional hub. At this time, it's early to say whether that can happen within two, three, or four years. It all depends on the resources that we have within our

Government of Nunavut resource funding availability. We're very tied into the housing strategy that we find to be one of the highest priorities in our government and also having new health centres, alternative energy like power plants.

To further elaborate, I would like the vice-president to supplement additional details through you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Price, please proceed.

Ms. Price: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to the member for that question. The college certainly appreciates the call from Pond Inlet. As mentioned in an earlier response by President Mearns, the college has been engaged in consistent conversations with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, who is working to develop a research and training centre in Pond Inlet. Those are positive discussions and we look forward to seeing where they go in the future. That's the extent of our development in Pond Inlet at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Are there any more questions? I don't think there are. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Arctic College. Headquarters. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2,300,000. Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded Nunavut Arctic College?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Minister, do you have any brief closing comments?

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee members for approving \$2.3 million that will be in good use for Nunavut Arctic College. Our students heavily rely on the information technology that will give them more access to education and network through online learning and research within that network that you just approved.

Also, we will continue to maintain our community learning centres across the territory and provide additional mobility needs within the territory. For that, I thank everyone's questions. I look forward to working with the team and provide much additional capital needs within our territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses. Before we proceed to the next department, we're going to have a brief break for 10 minutes.

>>Committee recessed at 16:18 and resumed at 16:31

Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025 – Justice – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would like to call this committee back to order. I would like to ask Minister David Akeeagok: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

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

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them in.

For the record, Minister David Akeeagok, please introduce your officials and then proceed to your opening comments.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Stephen Mansell, Deputy Minister, and to my right is Mubashir Mahmood, our Director of Corporate Services.

I am pleased to appear before the committee today to present the Department of Justice's 2024-25 capital estimates.

We are seeking approval of \$3,339,000 for the Department of Justice's capital expenditures for the 2024-25 fiscal year. The Department of Justice is seeking approval of two capital projects: renovation of the Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre correctional facility and minor capital.

(interpretation ends) \$2.2 million is requested for the Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre renovation. The facility is experiencing infrastructure issues with respect to water, sewage, power, and insufficient office space. This project has been facing delays due to the COVID pandemic and unexpectedly high costs in

the request for proposals response. The department is therefore working with the Department of Community and Government Services to re-scope the project to focus first on addressing urgent mechanical and electrical upgrades. The required renovations will enhance the facility's functionality and safety and extend the lifecycle of the facility.

The Department of Justice is also seeking approval for \$1.1 million in the minor capital budget. Our minor capital items include:

- One truck (\$85,000) and one SUV (\$60,000) for the Corrections Division in Iqaluit and one SUV (\$60,000) for the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility. \$25,000 will be used for vehicle maintenance. These new vehicles will replace existing ones that have high maintenance costs.
- There is not enough office space in Pond Inlet to accommodate four justice positions, two positions for corrections and two positions for community justice. \$100,000 has been allocated for renovations in the NCC building to convert the boardroom into four workstations for these positions.
- Information technology systems and infrastructure funding of \$200,000 is requested to replace aging computer systems and for fibre optic connection to buildings.
- \$250,000 in funding is requested for building maintenance and improvements, covering repairs and maintenance associated with

vandalism and emergency repairs at the seven correctional facilities and at the Nunavut Court of Justice building in Iqaluit.

- \$70,000 in funding is required for additional steel pallet racking to complete the replacement of wooden racking at Correction's warehouse in Iqaluit to improve safety.
- The Nunavut Court of Justice building in Iqaluit is seeking funding in the amount of \$250,000 to construct an additional cell and an interview room to accommodate additional prisoners and resolve delays caused by insufficient interview space.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to answer questions from committee members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness concerning its review of the proposed 2024-25 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice.

The department's proposed capital budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year is \$3,339,000. This represents an increase of 147.3 percent from its 2023-24 capital budget. The primary reason for this

increase is due to the cost increase for the Ilavut Centre renovation.

Members note that the department's proposed 2024-25 capital estimates include \$2,239,000 in capital funding for the renovation of the Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre. During the review of the 2023-24 capital estimates, members encouraged the department to consider including solar panels and other alternative energy while planning the design of its facilities, including Kugluktuk's Ilavut Centre. In a ministerial letter to the standing committee, members were informed that the department was in discussions with the Department of Community and Government Services and was reviewing the possibility of adding alternative energy to the Ilavut Centre renovations. Members look forward to receiving updates on this important initiative.

In January 2023 a tender was issued for this project. Information published by the department indicates that only two bids were received, both of which significantly exceeded the project's approved budget. The Department of Justice and the Department of Community and Government Services plan to re-evaluate the scope of the renovation to fit the budget allowance and reissue a new tender at a later date.

Members note that the Department of Justice's five-year capital plan includes a new Courts and Corrections Information System. Information provided by the department to the standing committee indicates that the funding is expected to start in the 2025-26 fiscal year. Members note that this multi-year project is intended to modernize the processes and technology that support the

administration of the Courts and Corrections department. Members look forward to receiving ongoing updates on this important project, including the extent to which it will also enable the department and court system to enhance its management of the Family Support Orders program and other initiatives.

Members also note that the department's proposed 2024-25 capital estimates also include funding for a number of minor capital projects.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2024-25 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brewster. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak about the facility in Kugluktuk, as it provides assistance to local Inuit. (interpretation ends) I supported the renovations. It helps with the building, but it helps with the inmates that go there. They get to learn our culture there too because they not only stay in the facility; they go out on the land where we do our hunting and our style of hunting, so I'm for that and I support that. It helps all the people from Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the capital estimates, starting on page E-3. Justice. Directorate. Total Capital

Expenditures. \$1,100,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In a letter provided to the standing committee following the review of the department's '23-24 capital estimates, information was provided regarding the possibility of including solar panels as part of the Ilavut Centre renovation project. Your predecessor indicated that the Department of Community and Government Services is including the initiative in a feasibility study.

I do understand that that project falls under Corrections, but I am more interested in the solar component, not so much in that project, but we have been hearing a number of times where government ministers have committed to looking at solar and it keeps coming back that it's just not feasible from a cost standpoint. I have to challenge that to a certain point where at some point, the recognition of the greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon taxes and everything that we take into consideration, we have to do our part in providing more alternative energy solutions to our projects and I think Corrections is a good one to look at.

I just wanted to make a comment under the directorate side of things because I think it's an important thing for the department to look at. I am sure there will be questions specifically to the Ilavut renovation on whether that went forward or not. I will probably ask the question myself if my neighbour to my left doesn't. I just want to leave it as a comment that I really think the government overall, it is not just cost benefit when you're looking at putting alternative energy solutions within major

infrastructure projects across the territory. I think it's an important component as corporate citizens, as global citizens, and I think that cost can't be the only factor in limiting those opportunities. I will just leave that as a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I applaud the member for making those comments on something that is near and dear to me too and something that I have been trying to figure out ways. I just want to confirm for that particular project that when we did our feasibility study, it is now included as part of the new initiatives for the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next person on my list is Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question about something in Pond Inlet. (interpretation ends) In June 2023 the Legislative Assembly approved \$1 million in capital carryover funding to complete the Pond Inlet office renovation. As of today, what is the status of this project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are asking for \$100,000 to complete this project for Pond Inlet, as I stated in my opening comments for the four. I am pleased to announce that

the contractor has been secured to renovate the boardroom, so those four very important positions will have sufficient space up in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, ministers, and your staff. Good to see you both again. Since we're in capital, looking at the minister's opening comments, and looking at the substantiation sheet, I was actually hoping there would be something in there for Baker Lake.

At one time, it was on the radar for replacement of the detachment, and I'm wondering, is that on the radar, and where does Baker Lake sit on the replacement or expansion of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you for not using the acronyms. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) It's still on the list, and for any Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachments, we cover those through our operations and maintenance as we have contracts with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, when can we expect to see Baker Lake on the list for capital for

a new Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With RCMP capital planning, currently, we have two ahead of Baker Lake or any other community, so, once those are done, then we will announce the next projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I please get some sort of a timeline? I did ask when, in my last question. All the minister said is that there are two communities ahead of Baker Lake, and can he also respond as to which of those two communities in Nunavut are next in line for Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't prepared to respond on the RCMP capital side. What I will commit is to provide the committee with the list of what projects are. We go through our operations and maintenance budget as part for the RCMP detachments, so I will commit as to which those two communities are. Off the top of my head, Kinngait is the next one, and the other community escapes my memory. I do have that list in my office, and I'll gladly provide the list to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister for the response. Since it's only two communities, and you mentioned one of them already, and the other is in your office. While we're still in session, during the Committee of the Whole, I'm wondering if one of your staff members can bring the other name of the community while we're still deliberating justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you. With the wonders of technology, I asked my deputy minister to get the rest, and if I can get it today, while we are still sitting here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister and thank you to technology as well.

Can the department and the minister, can give to me, provide me a bit of commitment with regard to Baker Lake and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment replacement on this listing, and take a serious look at putting us back up higher on the list?

It's a growing community and there is a lot of disposable income. I'm sure the department knows very well the social and economic impacts of the money that's been flowing in. In having chats with the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment in Baker

Lake, they are very busy. At times they can't keep up, which is unfortunate for me to hear and say out loud. It is not a good thing when you hear Royal Canadian Mounted Police members being very busy and something needs to be done to alleviate some of the issues we're having.

So if the minister can commit to getting back to me as soon as possible as to where Baker Lake sits and ensure that they will take a good hard look at the priority for Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's kind of difficult for me to commit to the House on the priority ranking of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment replacements.

I work very closely with Royal Canadian Mounted Police in terms of their operations and also on their detachments, but it's a decision based on them making the decision as to which communities then become the priority.

As a minister, I don't have that luxury of determining which detachments. I definitely will continue with this in my ongoing discussions with our "V" Division and within the headquarters of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

I'll commit to ensuring that I'll continue to raise this, and also mention that the member has expressed needs within his community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister for the commitment to keep Baker Lake in the back of your head.

I have known over a number of years now, where some departments go based on prior years of numbers and data. At times, they don't see what's coming up in the next few years. They strictly rely on the past three to five years of data, and at times they fail to plan ahead. That's a quick statement on that part.

Moving on to my next question, Mr. Chairman, in the minister's opening comments, he mentions there's one truck and in brackets is \$85,000. That's a pretty expensive piece of equipment. It's a pick-up truck I believe. Can the minister explain this to me why one pick-up truck costs \$85,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Corrections Division, the trucks need to be equipped to transport our clients, and with that, we need different types of seating and different layouts within the truck. It almost needs an overhaul within the back seats. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for the explanation. If you can explain to me as to why the other vehicle is \$60,000? If that's just an office vehicle it's not going to be transporting clients, why does that other vehicle... I'm assuming it's a sport utility vehicle. It just says SUV.

We're not supposed to use acronyms, so for a utility vehicle, is \$60,000 for Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet. Can you please explain why those are \$60,000 each? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As technology is lightning speed at times, I just want to update the member on his first question regarding RCMP detachment replacement.

Thank you to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for providing this. As I mentioned, Kinngait is on the top of the list, followed by Rankin Inlet. Third would be Baker Lake and fourth would be Sanikiluaq. Those are the four in order right now as we speak, but those would be part of the planning that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have in terms of detachment replacement.

As for the \$60,000 sport utility vehicle, I do apologize to the interpreters, I was using the acronym; actual it's a sport utility vehicle. I thank the member for reminding me what that is. With the amounts that are listed in my opening comments, we get those from Community and Government Services as to what is available out in the market. We rely on that.

As I like to say, those are our estimates and that's something for purchase purposes, and for getting the budget. That's what we would be planning for if we get approval from this committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next person on my list is Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just want to go back to your opening comments.

On the third paragraph, "\$2.2 million is requested for the Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre renovations. The facility is experiencing infrastructure issues with respect to water, sewage, power, and insufficient office space." That building is almost like a trailer-style building. It has a long hallway. Will there be an addition onto the part for office space? If there is, how much of an addition is going to be added to it? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Anavilok, we are now on page E-3. Corrections is the next branch that we will be dealing with when we are done with Directorate. Do you have any more other questions for Directorate? Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will wait until we get to that section. *Quana*.

Chairman (interpretation): According to my list I have no further names. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We spoke earlier about the role that headquarters play in regard to servicing the needs of the individual RCMP detachments, and the member stated that they are able to work with the Royal Canadian Mountain Police at the detachment level.

It makes sense that the decisions made regarding the replacement of older vehicles with new ones should come from headquarters, but it is too often that the vehicles being replaced at the individual detachments end up sitting idly, not being used although they are still functional and driveable.

Why is it that these vehicles are allowed to sit and idle when new ones are purchased? For example, in Qikiqtarjuaq there are currently two functional vehicles that are just sitting idle although they are operable. It appears that when officials come into communities, they are allowed to use the normally idle vehicles. The reason that I am bringing up this issue is because the member earlier stated that he has a working relationship with the offices of the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you to the member for that question. In regard to this question on Royal Canadian Mounted Police vehicles, they make their own decisions in regard to vehicles. At times, they have to write-off vehicles, and when this is done, they will often retain the older vehicle in the event that it can become useful in another role.

They don't simply get rid of the old vehicle, preferring instead to hold onto it and get some more use out of it in another way. Although I could give you a few different answers now, I will instead relay your concerns to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police when I speak with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for committing to sharing my questions and concerns with them. They have two nice vehicles that are replaced with newer models on an as-needed basis, and I know that the older vehicles can definitely be used again.

One idea is that the older vehicles could be placed for tender, and I don't know why they haven't been already. People in the community are very interested in those vehicles, as they appear to still be very usable. In fact, the vehicles have been cleaned, their identification has been removed, and they have just been sitting idly year after year.

I was wondering if these vehicles could be put out to tender. Could you ask the RCMP about this? I would appreciate it. Thank you. I will leave it there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. If it's okay, Mr. Chairman, through you I'll have my Deputy Minister Stephen Mansell respond.

Chairman: Deputy Minister Mansell, please proceed.

Mr. Mansell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the member for the question. If members will recall, two years ago in Nova Scotia there was a very serious and tragic incident involving a man who shot a number of people. It was a significant mass

casualty incident. That man was driving a vehicle that he bought from an RCMP auction, and he dressed it up to look like a police vehicle. People weren't afraid of him because he was driving a police car.

Public Safety Canada has a put pause on allowing for the auction of their vehicles until they can make a policy to better deal with this. We have actually raised with them, the issue, and we don't have the ability to... . Once they are in a small community they are kind of stuck there. They are working on that policy, and we may be able to see those auctions again soon, but for now that pause continues because of that incident in Nova Scotia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names. (interpretation ends) Do members agree? Total Capital Expenditures. \$1.1 million.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay, go to page E-6. Branch. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditure is \$2,239,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll go back to your statement on the \$2.2 million request for Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre. On this, you stated that one part is the insufficient office space. Is there going to be an addition to that building? That building is like a trailer-style hall building with a long hallway. If there is going to be section added, on how much of it? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had an opportunity to tour that building too, and I agree with your assessment, my member colleague. For this, what we are requesting for and what we would like to do is to do it in two phases. For the second phase, what we would like to do is to construct an additional office space for the warden and the administrative staff. Also, to put additional office space to provide community correction staff with a safe working condition. Yes, those are in the plans to increase that space. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In June of 2023, the Legislative Assembly approved \$4,812,000 in capital carryover funding for Kugluktuk Ilavut Renovation Project. The capital carryover funding was, "Required to review the design team options available to complete the building addition and renovate plans within the approved budget amount." As of today, what is the status of this project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had to reevaluate and re-scope the project. So those carryovers and including this \$2.2 million that we are asking for your approval, combined. What we will do is do it in two phases, and the first phase will be design and will be complete by December 2023 and the construction tender issued by January 2024.

Phase 1 deals with the installation of the emergency backup generator, the mechanical upgrade of water/sewer tanks, and electrical upgrades for the proposed renovation, and then phase 2 will be to further renovate what I mentioned earlier on his first question and others. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In a letter provided to the Standing Committee following the review of the department's 2023-24 capital estimates, information was provided regarding the possibility of including solar panels as part of the Ilavut centre renovation project. Your predecessor indicated that the department of Community and Government Services is including the initiative in the feasibility study. Can you clarify the status of this feasibility study and if the solar panels are approved by the department? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation ends): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are in the feasibility stage right now, so we haven't determined this, but we have agreed to do a feasibility study, and that study is being done right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This is

my last for now. I'm just going to make a comment. I support this and the space and all that. It also helps other individuals from all over Nunavut who go there to better their lives in some way. I support it that way.

I know it is helping them because I have seen it myself, first hand. When they go out and when I am out on land, I see them once in while out there. They have a good time. I support it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Akeeagok, you want to comment? Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and for those comments from the member. Yes, it is. For Kugluktuk, the clients that are there are the ones in the open area, and they are able to integrate with the community. I really appreciate Kugluktuk for being open to that, and really appreciate it. I even have a constituent that stayed there and hasn't reoffended. I'm proud of what the Department of Justice has gone through to rehabilitate some of our clients through the Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names. Any more questions? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will go back to my earlier question that was under directorate, but I would like to get the specific response for the solar project as part of the Ilavut Centre renovations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, I'll have my deputy minister, Mr. Mansell respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mansell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So a little bit on what we did at Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility that the minister mentioned. We have solar panels at Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility that we are now using to help the boilers with the water heating. It's been a great initiative there in that facility.

With respect to Kugluktuk, it is something that we want to do, and we are working with CGS on the feasibility study, but I can't tell you right now that we're doing it. We are incorporating it into our design and we're working with the experts on solar panels to determine where they would be in the facility, and if they would be of assistance such as the ones we have at Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate that response. I know this question often gets asked in the Assembly here on a number of different infrastructure projects. It just seems that oftentimes we get a response like 'yeah, we're going to consider that into the scope of the infrastructure project,' and it almost seems like it's said just to

placate us. It doesn't seem there is any real effort put into introducing alternative energy solutions into some of these major construction projects.

I do applaud the Department of Justice for including that into the healing facility here in Iqaluit. Again, when we talk about some of this corrections infrastructure, to me, it is low-hanging fruit for projects such as this, where you have a steady power to draw demand. It doesn't change too, too much, where you can implement certain components of that infrastructure in with alternative energy solutions.

I am going to leave that as a comment, but I do hope that all the ministers are paying attention to this. Often times we hear good things, 'oh, we're going to do this, we're going to do that,' but then it doesn't happen. Then we're asking about it again next year, and then we're asking about it the year after. I would like to see some real results in some of these projects, not just in the Department of Justice, but across the government overall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for the wonderful comments that my colleague just stated. I think Aaqqigiarvik healing centre was a good start and something that is very good, and we're going to continue to build on that.

I am pretty confident that we are going to do that in Kugluktuk, but it requires a feasibility study on it. I will definitely relay your concerns with my cabinet

colleagues that are around the House.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names. Any more questions? E-6. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2,239,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay. Go to page 2. Justice. Capital Expenditure. \$3,339,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed?

Chairman: Do members agree we have concluded the Department of Justice?

Some Members: Agreed?

Chairman: Minister, brief closing comments please. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Fellow members, thank you for approving our budgets and we will proceed to carry out the work required, and we will give the funds once approved. Also, I would like to thank my employees also the ones that are not here that planned this whole process.

Thank you, all of you as well, for the approval of the budget. The notes that you have made, we will take to heart, and we will try to proceed forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials. We are going to take a very brief break, two minutes, just for the minister to get ready on the witness stand.

>>Committee recessed at 17:16 and resumed at 17:17

Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025 – Environment – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would like to call this committee meeting back to order. We are going to deal with the Department of Environment. I would like to ask Minister Qavvik: would you like to have your officials appear before this committee? Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them in.

For the record, Minister Qavvik, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left, to your immediate right, is Director of Corporate Services, Nikki Nweze and to my right, to your left is Deputy Minister of Environment, Yvonne Niego. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Qavvik, please proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening members and colleagues.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the Department of Environment's capital estimates for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

For this fiscal year, the Department of Environment proposes a capital budget of \$2.5 million. This expenditure will permit the department to concentrate on two program areas, wildlife management, and parks and special places.

The Wildlife Operations and Wildlife Research Division has an annual capital allotment of \$750,000 for wildlife office renovations and our officials work closely with the project management team at Community and Government Services to prioritize these funds for our most pressing capital needs. The department also plans to spend \$200,000 to design a new wildlife office in Arctic Bay. Our Wildlife Operations and Research Division will also spend \$370,000 to replace old mobile and lab equipment.

A major project identified for parks in the 2024-25 fiscal year is the infrastructure development for the new Agguttinni Territorial Park north of Clyde River. As noted previously, there was a significant increase in the cost of construction materials which delayed building the required infrastructure.

Since early 2023, the department has been negotiating with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association towards a draft memorandum of understanding for a potential partnership to build a new facility supporting parks and community needs within Clyde River.

We will continue monitoring and maintaining infrastructure in all of our

Nunavut territorial parks and camp grounds while ensuring that all work in our territorial parks is done following the umbrella Inuit impact and benefit agreements.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's capital plan remains modest and focused on areas that enable our department to serve the needs and prioritizations of Nunavummiut better.

Mr. Speaker, before I close my opening statements, I do have another witness in the visitors' gallery, Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment, Naomie Pudluk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman for opening comments.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Does the Chairman of Standing Committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased, to provide opening comments, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development, on its review of the proposed 2024-25 capital estimates of the Department of Environment.

The department's proposed capital budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year is \$2.45 million.

The department's proposed 2024-25 capital estimates provide funding for wildlife office replacements, facility renovations, and small capital projects including the acquisition of mobile equipment and the development of infrastructure in territorial parks.

Members encourage the minister to publicly clarify the department's current schedule of wildlife office replacements.

On September 10, 2019, the federal and territorial governments announced \$4.7 million in federal funding under the Canada Nature Funds to support the establishment of a new territorial park near the community of Clyde River.

On February 16, 2022, the department issued a request for tender for the construction the new Agguttinni Territorial Park office and visitors' centre. The tender was cancelled on May 20, 2022.

During the Legislative Assembly fall 2022 sitting, the House was informed that the department was working with Qikiqtani Inuit Association to finalize the memorandum of understanding concerning the construction of a shared facility in the park. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this project and encourage the minister to table a copy of the final memorandum of understanding at the earliest opportunity.

Members continue to encourage the minister to begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly, which details the department's activities, expenditures, and initiatives in relation to Nunavut's territorial parks system, in addition to containing information concerning such measures as the annual number of visitors to our parks.

This work would benefit from cooperation with the Tourism and Cultural Industries Division of the Department of Economic Development

and Transportation. This type of reporting would be of benefit to all members in evaluating the impact of the parks program. Members also continue to recommend that the department's annual reporting provide detailed information concerning its usage of terrestrial and marine mobile equipment and other capital assets.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2024-2025 capital estimates of the Department of Environment. Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? If not, Environment Program Management. Total Capital Expenditure. \$2.45 million. Questions? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions are in relation to Sylvia Grinnell Park. It is referenced in this substantiation sheet that it is heavily used. In 2021, Nunavut Parks and Special Places as well the Iqaluit Community Joint Planning and Management Committee approved a draft master plan related to park development.

It seems like every year there are more tents, and the Sylvia Grinnell Park gets more crowded. I would like to ask: what are the plans for the expansion of additional campgrounds for the territorial park? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will defer that question to the deputy minister, through you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. This current year, some of the park infrastructure was upgraded. There is a garage in the main building that was fixed, and once that project is complete, we will then take note of your question in the campground section. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Continuing on the same line of questioning, the master plan will be implemented in phases over a 20-year time frame, including nearly \$2 million over the lifetime? Would the minister be able to elaborate further about the master plan? How many more campgrounds are being considered or planned including and any other details that can be provided? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently our territorial parks consist of campgrounds within the communities of Kinngait, Kugluktuk, Clyde River, Baker Lake, Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung, and Kimmirut. Also, territorial parks campgrounds are in the development stages for the

communities of Sanikiluaq and Grise Fiord. Those are the areas where we have campgrounds in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I corresponded with the previous Minister of Environment over the summer months. The campgrounds at the Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park was plagued by steady vandalism, and very significant vandalism including a tent being burned and some other very absurd acts occurring in people's tents.

In relation to capital, or even O&M if the minister wishes to respond on that, what is the Department of Environment considering to address that safety matter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the summer months at Sylvia Grinnell Park, we do have two employees that do patrols within the park. They inspect and manage Sylvia Grinnell Park. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do recognize that the Department of Environment had employees running patrols during the day and into the evening on occasions. I don't know the exact schedule. I would like to point out that I'm pretty sure all of the vandalism occurred well into the

evenings and late into the night. Those patrols didn't necessarily assist in addressing that matter.

Recognizing that that is O&M, it's just a comment. I really hope that the department will find a way to enhance security in the park prior to next year's camping season. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for bringing that issue to our department. Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, those kinds of incidents are dealt with by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police when incidents do happen within territorial parks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Adam, do you have more questions? Before we go on to the next person, I am going to use my discretion to have a 20-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 17:33 and resumed at 17:56

Chairman: I would like to call this committee back to order. The next person on my list is Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just have one question. On October 18, 2022, the listing of planning studies to be undertaken by the Department of Community and Government Services, on behalf of various departments during the 2023-24 fiscal year, was provided to the members of the Legislative Assembly. One of the planning studies

concerns a new wildlife office in Rankin Inlet. As of today, what is the status of this planning study? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I get to the member, I would like clarification of Mr. Lightstone's question, in regard to the territorial camp ground areas.

I stated a number of communities. There are actually five territorial parks that are classified as campgrounds, and they are: Inuujaarvik in Baker Lake; Tupirvik in Resolute Bay; Tamaarvik in Pond Inlet; Pisuktinu Tunngavik in Pangnirtung; and Taqaiqsirvik in Kimmirut.

Mr. Chairman, currently the Department of Environment is undertaking a renovation office at the community of Kimmirut. I'd like to get the deputy minister to further elaborate whether she can answer to the member's question in relation to the member asking that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Niego, please proceed.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) After the Kimmirut renovations then we have the Arctic Bay one, and we have the Rankin Inlet one. The Rankin Inlet building condition does not meet the department requirements. There is no garage, no secure storage, and no place to deal with biological sampling, so it is one of the priority communities.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So what's the next step? Are they going to be building a new wildlife office for Rankin Inlet and when? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the replacement list in priority, in order for the coming fiscal year, we are asking \$200,000 that will go toward the design stage for Arctic Bay. For Rankin Inlet, we are forecasting a new replacement within 2026-2027. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The next person on my list is Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll start off with the \$750,000 for renovations in last year's budget. In 2022-23, was the whole \$750,000 expended? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I would like the Director of Corporate Services to further elaborate. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Nweze, please proceed.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$750,000 for wildlife office renovation for the current year 2023-24 was added to Kimmirut's wildlife office renovation. The project has started, and we are expecting a delay due to lack of accommodation in Kimmirut for the contractors that are doing the work. So there will be a delay, but we have already started spending the fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity, the \$750,000 was carried over and now with this year \$750,000, \$1.5 million will be spent on the Kimmirut wildlife office? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Through you, Mr. Chairman, I would like Ms. Nweze to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Nweze, please proceed.

Ms. Nweze: Yes, \$750,000 was added to the Kimmirut wildlife office renovation, plus we carried over to the current year. The whole amount will be spent on the Kimmirut wildlife office renovation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just curious how it was deemed that Kimmirut would get the

whole \$1.5 million because in the letter from the predecessor on October 24, 2022, the condition rating for Kimmirut was “condition of the whole office is fair but needs new flooring and roof. These renovations are on schedule for 2023-24.” Then you go to Kugluktuk, “Fair conditions will require either renovations or replacements.” How was it deemed which office was more in need of renovations? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I would like the Director of Corporate Services to elaborate further on that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Nweze, please proceed.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We usually determine which wildlife office to renovate working with CGS. They do the review and determine which office that we will renovate. We also have renovations scheduled for all wildlife offices in Nunavut, though we are not following the schedules because we don't have enough funds to do the work.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is the letter from October 2022 of the current replacement and renovations schedule: Is that still current, or should we be asking for an update? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, through you I'd like Ms. Nweze to elaborate on that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Nweze, please proceed.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We provide the updated schedule. The current one we have because we are so late that we need to update this schedule to fit where we are at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When can we expect the new updated replacement and renovation list with dates, the schedule for wildlife offices? Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will provide it as soon as possible. As soon as we get back to the office, we will get it back to you guys. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do we have a replacement list yet for mobile equipment? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The mobile equipment is very useful to our conservation officers. At this time, there is no definitive list as to which communities will be getting new mobile equipment. It depends on the conditions of the mobile equipment that is required. For example, when mobile equipment breaks down, the budget for the current year is allocated to replace that mobile equipment using those funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know they are very important; otherwise they wouldn't be in the budget.

Mr. Chairman, when can we get a list of what is going where? I know that if our equipment breaks before they're purchased then that's where the equipment would go for replacement. I don't suspect all equipment will break, so when can we expect a list of the mobile equipment to where they will be stationed at, I guess? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Qavvik. Minister Qavvik, sorry.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For wildlife operations we will have more detailed information after the winter season, and for the parks, we have a list of mobile equipment that is... . My apologies. The next on the list for parks mobile equipment purchases are Cambridge Bay for a truck, Kimmirut, a truck, Kinngait, a boat, outboard, and trailer, Kinngait, an all-terrain vehicle and snowmobile, and for Iqaluit, an

inflatable boat and a jet outboard plus trailer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. I'm glad the minister came up with a list. That must have been hidden under the papers. I'll move on.

On September 10, 2019, the federal and territorial government announced that they had a \$4.7 million funding under the Canada Nature Fund to support the establishment of Agguttinni Territorial Park near Clyde River. We have also been informed that the Department of Environment and Qikiqtani Inuit Association are negotiating an MOU. Can the minister give us an update on that MOU, whether they are leasing the building, going to pay part of building? Just an update. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment is still under negotiation for the memorandum of understanding with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association to explore partnership for construction and use of a new building facility in Clyde River. At this time, there are no details to share. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) According to the capital carryover substantiation sheet, the latest one, it was

under the understanding that it was going to be taken to cabinet for approval in the fall of 2023. That's now. What has happened? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Environment and Climate Change Canada have extended the agreement, and the request is ongoing to get another extension to March 2025 to fit with the schedule of the draft memorandum of understanding.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was not my question. My question was, it was supposed to be taken to cabinet in the fall of 2023, and it has obviously not been done. So what is the issue? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The memorandum of understanding negotiation will be before the discussion with my colleague members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated it will be with his partners there. Is the memorandum of understanding complete and ready to be submitted to cabinet for approval then? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member indicated that we would need to by the fall of 2023, and it's very close. I can't say whether it will proceed, but it's in the stages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fall officially starts on September 21, today is November 2. If we can get more of a hint, he said it's almost finalized. When is the MOU going to be presented to Cabinet for approval? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. It will be at the next available meeting with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity then, the MOU is done and it's just sitting to get a cabinet approval at the next cabinet meeting? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are still under negotiations so once that negotiation is considered, we will bring that

information for the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister just, like three minutes ago, said the document is ready for the next cabinet meeting. Now, the minister has stated that they are still negotiating. Can we get a clear answer whether the memorandum of understanding is ready to be presented to cabinet or are they are still negotiating the memorandum of understanding? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the memorandum of understanding is still under negotiation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. When does the minister anticipate that the negotiations will be completed as this memorandum of understanding was supposed to be submitted to cabinet by the fall of 2023 according to their carryover substantiation sheets? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) minister, please clarify your answers. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the Deputy Minister of Environment to further elaborate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Niego. (interpretation ends) Please proceed.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The slight delay was due, I believe, summer leave and a change of staff within Community and Government Services, along with holidays, as well as dealing with an outside party the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. It's a slight delay; however, it will be before cabinet very soon. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. I am sure the committee members will be interested in getting a copy of the MOU once it has been approved by cabinet, as public funds are being used for this memorandum of understanding.

Staying on the same subject, but not on the memorandum of understanding, can the minister please explain how the capital funds will be used towards this project of building an office and a visitor's centre? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When those two points were identified, \$4.7 million for each fund, if we cut that in half, the Government of Nunavut has transported emergency shelters to 10 locations. The other half has been identified to go towards a visitor centre for the parks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is if it were a simple capital project, it would be simple then; the money is approved and you build the structure, like an office or a visitors' centre. With this one, they're having negotiations; we are not sure what the deal is going to be.

Are any of these funds going to be used towards the building of the new office and visitors' centres that the Department of Environment may own part of it, or just a straight lease? Can we get a better explanation of how the partnerships are going to work? I'm aware they can't discuss what's in the memorandum of understanding yet, but the department must envision how this is going to work. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member for finding a tunnel about how this memorandum of understanding will take place. At this time, the memorandum of understanding will only tell us, if that proceeds, how it will operate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe this is the simplest way to ask then: Will any of these capital funds be put towards the building of the new office / visitor's centre? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister please specify because I asked will any of these funds be put towards the building of the visitor's centre, office. The minister replied that is correct. Can the minister state whether funds will be used towards building this structure, or not? The capital funds that our Government of Nunavut funds. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to defer that question to my deputy minister of environment, through you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Niego, please proceed.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, the full intention of the \$4.7 million was for the build of a visitors centre with office space. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if this full fund was slotted for there, I seem to be nitpicking, but are

these funds going to be use towards a building that the government may own part of, or just lease? If we can get a better explanation. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The memorandum of understanding has still not been signed and we have no further details as to how that signing will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our job here as committee members is to scrutinize and most of the time approve funds that go towards a project, but we need to know the details of how this money's going to be spent. This is money that's going to be spent to construct a building, and Environment will put some money in, so they will own part of that structure, or is it just going to be money put into this structure and given to an outside entity and then the Department of Environment will just lease?

Can we get a better understanding of how this money is going to be spent? The department must envision how this money is going to be spent. Are we going to own? They are going to build an X number size building and since we put money in, are we going to own a portion of it where we are going to occupy it or do we put the money in and then leasing from them? Can we get a better explanation of how these public funds are going to be used? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Niego, please proceed.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The \$4.7 million is done in collaboration with the Government of Canada, Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the Department of Environment, and the Department of Community and Government Services.

The department has put forward or will be putting forward a plan for that money through this memorandum of understanding negotiations and until cabinet approves, there is not much further detail. We trust cabinet will make the proper decision when it is put to them. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's too bad we couldn't be informed how this money is going to be spent because it does make a difference how this money would be spent.

I guess we will just have to wait until we get a copy of the memorandum of understanding because it is public funds, and it has to be spent wisely, not just given to an outside entity so they can build a structure and then lease it back without any consideration of the money that was put in.

It is just a comment. The committee is looking forward to getting a copy of the memorandum of understanding once it's been approved, and we will go from there. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister, do you have comments? (interpretation) I don't have any more names. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am actually more confused about this project that Mr. Savikataaq was bringing out than I thought I was coming into this room.

I thought it was fairly straightforward, but like Mr. Savikataaq, the way the memorandum of understanding is going to be agreed to, the \$4.7 million that we're putting in as a government, as an Assembly, it seems there is a real lack of clarity on ownership, on operations and maintenance responsibilities, and I know all that stuff would be covered in the memorandum of understanding.

I, too, find it very challenging to approve funds when we don't know exactly how it is going to be used, but I guess we know roughly how it's going to be used. It is going to be used to build a piece of infrastructure, but we don't know the operation or the ownership structure. I find it very confusing.

I guess my question; I'll get to it first. I was listening to most of back and forth on it from, Mr. Savikataaq, but is there a clear date, or a clear timeline of when this memorandum of understanding is going to be agreed to with Qikiqtani Inuit Association and a date of which cabinet meeting that this will be on the agenda for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to defer that

question to the Deputy Minister of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Niego, please proceed.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) First, if I explain a little bit about how the project was initiated.

When the initial project was estimated, it came in well over the means of the budget, and at the same time, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association had their visitors centre in their plan as well. There was a joint decision to look toward this negotiation of a memorandum of understanding as to how we could build a conjoined facility.

Due to those reasons I stated earlier, we could not get this decision before cabinet until a little bit too late. It will be discussed soon and hopefully we can come up with the best option for the government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize there are federal funds involved here that they have agreed to carryover past the 2023 timeline that was outlined in the original agreement. I still find it difficult, and I don't want to jeopardize any type of federal funding partnerships and partnerships with the Inuit organizations to bring much-needed infrastructure in.

I do remember the root of how this came to be. I have to, again, and I hate using the word "assume" in this room, but I

have to assume that the date that was outlined so that we would know by late summer or fall of this year on the memorandum of understanding. I do appreciate that there are some delays that haven't been controllable, but I have a very strong reservation on how to approve money when we don't know the outcome.

It's not like we're building, like the example used, an office building, we know we own it, done deal, but when we're putting money in jointly with another entity where the ownership is not clear, the responsibility for operating and maintaining that facility is not clear, I have reservations. I know the deputy minister said that cabinet will hopefully make the right decision, but we don't sit at the cabinet table, so we don't know what options are going to be available.

We won't know until after the agreement is signed on whether it's a good use of the public dollars that we're here to approve. I'm not insinuating that we should remove this from the budget, but I have to go on record that I have some very serious reservations on how we're approving monies that were not given clear direction on how it's going to proceed.

I'll just leave that as a comment, unless the minister wants to help give me some type of further assurance that the deputy minister laid it out fairly clearly that we're subject to waiting for cabinet to decide on how this is going to proceed. The only recourse we'll have is to be critical after the fact, and then that's not the intent of us approving appropriations in this House.

We have to have support of the project as it's going forward and know the expected outcomes of it. We don't know the expected outcomes of this project are. I have to go on record that I have reservations about this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Comments noted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The responses I am hearing led to another question, albeit it was asked earlier about what the status is today, however, I got kind of confused. I really heard your statement that you were unable to proceed due to the reasoning, so I wonder... my mind is bouncing off the walls, and I wanted to ask if this project will be approved, due to the reason of my deep disconcertment with this.

In terms of the executive level and the fact you stated that you need to wait for this, yet it does not state how the regions will be expend these funds allocated, without any funding found towards it. I wonder if this will even receive approval from my colleagues.

I meant Agguttinni Park, which is the proposed territorial park for Clyde River as my reasoning for that...it has to be dealt with on an urgent basis or even as an emergency project. It is eagerly anticipated by the community, so yes,

there are barriers and other bodies, such as the (interpretation ends) Qikiqtani Inuit Association (interpretation) and the fact you are awaiting the agreement signage before this proposed facility can be built.

What is the barrier? Does the department need to borrow construction funds or what is the required support for operational needs? Many details are attached to that. Due to these issues, I'm concerned, as it is, from what we're hearing, what are we expecting from what we're hearing, what we're saying? What expectation? Will there be a delay, why are we speaking ahead of this? That's just my comment, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government of Nunavut has started taking shelter materials to the locations within the park, and I continue to stress that the memorandum of understanding is still under negotiation to explore our partnership with, and construction with Qikiqtani Inuit Association. I would like to get further elaboration from the Deputy Minister of Environment through you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Niego, please proceed.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I hope this will help. The GN portion of the agreement with the federal government has been used for those emergency shelters, those outbuildings. We have done our part. The remaining

\$4.7 million is part of the federal government's share of this agreement.

With that money, we are working with our partners. I believe this is the last extension we have to use this federal government money. For reasons a little bit out of our control, there was the delay with the MOU, however, I do worry that we may lose the \$4.7 million if we don't move this forward through this route. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hear your response. My question regarding the memorandum of understanding is: If you cannot come to an agreement in the House, what would be an option if this does not work out and coming up with no memorandum of understanding? How would that be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would have to go back to the federal government for these funds. If they were to go back, it is \$4.7 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be very worrisome if what we are going to be creating, to start infrastructure for the park, if it were not to happen. That's

what I'm talking about here. Now, something can strengthen it. Have you ever asked the Hamlet of Clyde River for their help, or come to an agreement with them? Have you had a discussion with them to see if they can help, along with QIA? I just wanted to ask if any of you have asked the Hamlet of Clyde River for help. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I'd like the Deputy Minister of Environment to elaborate on that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Niego, please proceed.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am also new to this department, but from what I understand, our collaboration with the hamlet has been more on the use of land in the community. I believe this was one of our few, if not, only options. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This issue again...my throat is parched.

There are disturbing issues causing much consternation from the responses I heard, although there were excellent questions on the report or information provided to us, and I would encourage more urgency placed on the matter, and to remind the officials responsible to complete this creation, and many people

who tried to establish this park with some individuals really committing themselves to this.

There was a team that flew up to Clyde River recently as the local Inuit expect or anticipate the creation of the park to combat joblessness, and they keep hearing the potential benefits or promises. Due to that reason, to ensure this will remain in the top tier, I am making this a generalized comment. I will end at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The next name on my list is Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I found a way that I can get some assurance on here, and I hope I can anyway. When I look at the substantiation sheet on this project, it speaks to, it's a class "D" estimate, I believe it is. What assurances can we have? We've seen too often projects come forward with class "D" estimates, and they run over budget.

Are there conditions within the memorandum of understanding that would keep the budget parameters the same, where an availability of the scope of work could change, or what type of anticipated agreement would be if there are overages? Who would be responsible for those overages? Maybe that can help appease me a little bit. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to defer that question to the Director of Corporate

Services, Ms. Nweze. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nweze, please proceed.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will take this question as overall. If the project goes over it will also be discussed in the memorandum of understanding. That's my function, and all the financial aspects of it. Everything, I believe, is that they will lay it out in the agreement before it will be signed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How do I put this? I understand and I probably as much as most understand when we do arrange partnerships with the federal government to build a infrastructure on cost shared basis, I've always been in the opinion that we should never send a nickel back, not the band, a nickel back to the federal government.

>> *Laughter*

I think its... . Anytime we come to an agreement and get support to provide further infrastructure in the territory we need to made sure we maximize it every... . They don't make pennies anymore so I keep using nickels.

I'm not against this project in any capacity whatsoever. There are questions and I think the sooner the minister can answer those questions once a memorandum of understanding is approved by cabinet, I think it will give us a little bit more security in the

decision that we are going to be making here today to approve these dollars.

I will just leave it as that. Again, I will have reservations, but I don't want to jeopardize this federal funding, so thank you.

Chairman: Next name on my list is, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): I have lost my train of thought, I'll go on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize that the amount of funding requested was going to be too exorbitant for a single group to request following the report, which is unfortunate and although it is not ideal, have you ever considered making a request to the House for additional funding from the Nunavut government and then preparing a new proposal?

Regrettably, it appears to me that your department did not fully explore all available options, or that it failed to consider certain factors. Perhaps some more thought should have gone into how it would all work? I will end with that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking that question. Mr. Chairman, when we set out the Sixth Legislative Assembly mandate, we all.... Everyone remembers that we went to Cambridge Bay for a retreat and invited the designated Inuit organizations that the name *Katujjiluta* became a name where we can work in partnerships with our designated Inuit organization counterparts so that we can achieve our

goals and long term, moving forward objectives within our current mandate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): That's enough for now.

Chairman: I have no names on my list. (interpretation ends) We will go to page I-3. Environment. Program Management. Total Capital Expenditure. \$2,450,000. Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree we have concluded the Department of Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Minister Qavvik, please have a brief closing remarks.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, colleagues, Members of the Legislative Assembly. To proceed this budget forward, I look forward to using these very good funds to good use, getting all equipment for our departmental offices and that we extend the lifecycle for the buildings that our department uses. I look forward to achieving this budget in good use. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

I would like to ask the members to stay in their seats and we will just take a very

brief moment until the Family Services gets ready.

>> *Committee recessed and resumed at 18:51*

Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025 – Family Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would like to call this committee to order. We're going to be dealing with Family Services. I would like to ask Minister Nakashuk: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Yes.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials in.

For the record, Minister Nakashuk, please introduce your officials and then proceed to your opening comments.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. Can you hear me? Is it okay now?

To my left is Jonathan Ellsworth, my Deputy Minister, and to my right is Dwayton Tonge, Director of Corporate Services.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to present to the Committee of the Whole the proposed

2024-25 Capital Estimates for the Department of Family Services.

The Department of Family Services is requesting a total of \$1.9 million in capital funding for 2024-25. Small capital funding of \$900,000 will be used to address office space improvements and replacement of old vehicles, furniture, and equipment across the territory.

The remaining \$1 million will be used to boost capital projects initiated by local social wellness focused non-profit organizations working to address core operation gaps. Non-profit organizations have expressed challenges in finding office and programming space as well as the need for staff housing for recruitment and retention. Funding agreements would complement efforts to address these challenges with contributions to help with building purchases, improvements, and other capital needs. Non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for the funds if its work aligns with the Department of Family Services' mandate and contributes to the outcomes of the Makimaniq Plan, such as food security, life skills, training, healing and well-being, family safety, and homelessness. Eligible maximum funding thresholds will be established for start-up, growing and established not-for-profits.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services is committed to strengthening the delivery of quality services to Nunavummiut. This capital request is critical in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of program service delivery in communities across Nunavut. It aligns with our priorities to strengthen family wellness and

community capacity. I look forward to your ongoing support as we work to better serve communities across the territory.

I welcome any questions or comments that committee members may have as we proceed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Nakashuk and your officials. Congratulations on your appointment, Mr. Ellsworth.

I am happy to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2024-25 Capital Estimates of the Department of Family Services.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Family Services' proposed capital estimates for 2024-25 includes a small capital budget of \$900,000 for projects, including repairs, renovations, and replacement of equipment as well as a \$1 million budget for its Not-For-Profit Capital Fund.

The committee appreciated the department providing comprehensive detail on its proposed small capital expenditures for the upcoming 2024-25 fiscal year and the five-year period of the capital plan. Members have ongoing concerns regarding the lack of dedicated office space for community social

workers in several communities where staff continue to work out of health centres, often in very challenging conditions.

This is the second fiscal year for the department's request of \$1 million for a Not-For-Profit Capital Fund to be disbursed to not-for-profit organizations. Members anticipate that information will be made available with respect to how many applications were submitted, which entities received funding from this budget in 2023-24, and details on what capital projects were undertaken with the funding provided. While members support the department's commitment to work with non-profit entities and community-based organizations to undertake such capital projects as building purchases and improvements to deliver services, it is important that specific metrics be established to evaluate the merits of this program.

The standing committee notes that the department also makes funding available through its operations and maintenance budget to support such infrastructure-based programs as domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, transitional housing, and wellness hubs. Members look forward to further information on initiatives in this area.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2024-25 Capital Estimates of the Department of Family Services. Individual members may have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we

proceed to detailed questions? Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to go right directly to the \$1 million Not-For-Profit Capital Fund. In the substantiation sheets, it state that the capital fund would be administered through a call for proposals with funding and eligibility criteria established through a new schedule in the department's Grants and Contributions Policy.

I'm just wondering if we can get an update from the minister on this because in the opening statements, she stated eligible maximum funding threshold will be established for start-up, growing, and established not-for-profit. I'm just a little bit concerned that we're in the second year of this fund, and we're still growing the policies around it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. We have opened the application; my deputy will be able to elaborate further. This is the very first time that we tried this out, to provide funding for non-profit organizations, who have been asking for finances, and also to get support. This is the first time that we established this, and in October, last month, they closed the request.

If through you, Mr. Chairman, I'll have my deputy minister elaborate further on the details of how it is set up. Through you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Ellsworth, please proceed.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the fall, they revived grants and contribution policy was adopted, so within the framework of that policy, there were amendments to the controls with regard to contributions of this nature, particularly relevant to the not-for-profit capital fund.

To answer the member's question, which I believe was around control, so depending on the nature of the request, and for the benefit of these proceedings, I will say that we did have 15 applications from various entities in Nunavut. The summation of their ask was approximately \$5.5 million.

However, given that we're asking for approval for \$1 million, going back to the fact that we updated our grants and contribution policy, so recipients of a contribution as between \$100,000 and \$300,000 are required to submit unaudited revenue and expense statements, contract agreements, receipts and progress reports semi-annually, and within 90 days of the end of the project for the Government of Nunavut's fiscal year.

In addition, anything greater than that would require audited financial statements together with the other materials that I just mentioned, and for smaller contribution, we require them to submit mid-year reports, and a year in unaudited schedule revenue and expenses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. Mr. Ellsworth, just for clarity, I'm hearing there are three different pockets of funding levels that not-for-profits can apply for, so, just correct me if I'm wrong, \$0 to \$100,000, \$100,000 to \$30,000, and then \$300,000 and above.

I'm assuming that, I'm using the word that Mr. Hickes doesn't like, but I'm assuming that because it seems like those are the thresholds that were just flushed out. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): If it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I'll ask my deputy to respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. I wouldn't describe it as three different pockets.

I think with the greater contribution comes a greater level of accountability that we're expecting through this funding, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we are hearing is while that... . There were 15 applications in total of \$5.5 million and I'm really curious about what the served median application for funding is and for what sort of capital are not-for-profits applying for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The applicants had requested a (interpretation ends) feasibility study (interpretation) to undertake more plans for these non-profit organizations.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not really clear about what these feasibility studies might be if it's going to be on capital funding project. If I could get a little bit more information on that, I'd appreciate it. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister on my left can reply to you with more information, or details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Deputy Minister Ellsworth, please proceed.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In addition to the hon. minister's submission to you, with respect to feasibility studies the funding is also designed to assist with capital projects.

Feasibility study is one part of those processes, but in addition to feasibility studies we also see... . Some of this funding application is for actual work, renovations, small capital. It's really a varying degree of different needs that are

being presented through this process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier it was noted that there were 15 applications to the funding so far and I may have missed how many actually got funded and how much was expanded on those projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I had stated earlier the application deadline was October so we are at the stage trying to review those applications so no one has been selected yet. We still have to think that we are only budgeting for \$1 million this year. If approved then it's a three-year plan to have it up to \$3 million max. It's great to see the number of applications come through, but unfortunately, if we're going to think about how many are applying, the need is there. We see that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Are there any more general comments from the members? If not, go to page D-3. Family Services. Corporate Management. Total capital expenditure, \$1,900,000. Questions? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm a little confused again. The minister just stated that the deadline was October and I'm looking at the public service announcement right now and call for

proposal that was started in August 29 and the end date is September 24.

I have a two-part question here. Again, I hate using that word “assume” and I’m using it way too often today. With the work that was done to modify the grants and contribution policy, did that play a role into the start of this program not being available until the end of August, and can the minister clarify the closing date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, I misunderstood you. The closing date was August, but the review is not completed yet. For your next question, if it’s okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to have clarification on that question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes, if you can repeat your question. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you. The point I’m getting at of having a start day of August 29, with an end date of September 24 is that half the year is gone already, so one of the issues that I outlined to the Minister of Finance, and again to another minister earlier today, the Minister of Culture and Heritage, is the timeliness of being able to receive proposals and get money out the door, especially with capital.

Are there conditions on following a fiscal year end for expending these dollars, because as the minister just stated, even if the deadline is October, if they get the money in December, they

have three months to spend it. If there are sealift things, materials that need to be ordered, it just tells me that there are some real challenges in rolling out these funds. I would just like to get the minister’s answer on that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The request that we have in front of you were 2024-25. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that. We approved money last year, and I found the dates very interesting on this. Let me ask it this way; so, for the 2024-25 fiscal year, when is the call for proposals planned to be put out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is for the beginning of the year, and up to spring. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I hope it goes out very early in the fiscal year so all not-for-profit operations can apply for these funds. There’s a great lack, especially in capital, which is the reason in behind having this fund created, so I totally agree with it.

Did the department have any issues with the late call for proposals in the last fiscal year to make sure all monies were expended from the last year's budget on this fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the first time we're using this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate that. My question is: were the funds fully expended, and did the late submission or the late call for proposals have an impact on last year's or the current year's budget being fully expended? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you, I would like to refer it to Mr. Tonge. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tonge: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. This would be the first time that we were approved for the \$1 million in funding, and we're working through getting the applications approved right now. We do have applications exceeding the \$1 million, and we do anticipate to be spending the \$4 million by the end of the fiscal. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next part of the question, and I touched upon it a little bit earlier. What type of conditions are put with an accepted proposal and a funded proposal on timelines to expend the dollars? Do they have to expend it within this fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you, (interpretation ends) I'll allow Mr. Tonge to respond to this. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tonge, please proceed.

Mr. Tonge: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did anticipate because it's a capital project that sometimes might be spent over multi-years, so we have taken that into consideration when putting together the contribution agreement, and also the policies. They do have provisions to spend multiple years with the project. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll leave that alone. I'm sure some of my colleagues have more detailed questions on this topic. One of the other issues that I wanted to bring up, and it's not directly in the budget, but it's a piece of capital infrastructure.

Does the Department of Family Services still maintain authority over what was formerly the girls' group home here in Happy Valley? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the question, (interpretation ends) yes, we do. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the contract for operating that facility was cancelled in February earlier this year, about nine months ago or so. What are the plans? We've recently gone through a televised hearing talking about children in care that we've continued to have to send outside the territory. We have a piece of infrastructure that's sitting right here in the city that could be utilized to either repatriate or provide further services to children and youth right here in the territory. What is the anticipated plan for that infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you for the question. We have thought about this facility, but we're looking at it for next year. We don't want that facility to be empty, but we do have an operations and maintenance budget so that we can utilize it for youth.

(interpretation ends) Community programs for youth are what we're planning at this time until we are able to request for capital for next fiscal year. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you. So there are some anticipated renovations that are going to be needed, and if I recall correctly, I actually took a tour of that facility when it was first opened, or reopened as a girls' facility versus when it was just children generally. Quite a bit of money was expended at that time on renovations to meet the needs of the intended use as a girls' group home. If the minister is saying now that they're looking at providing some type of programming out of that facility, is it going to continue to be a residential facility or just day programming? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. We've visited the facility as well. More recently, my DM also visited the building.

We've found some issues that were a problem during the time it was utilized for youth, just how the entrances are to the occupants' private rooms. As well, the cooking area in the kitchen or more of the program area on the side, the way the building is done, it's not safe. To say the least, if we're going to [house] people we have to make into a structure where staff are able to see more

frequently. So that is why we didn't want it closed.

We're trying to find ways to see what we can do with what we have right now, to make it used for the city and the youth. I can't speak for the last budget request or spending on the building that was presented to my time. We are planning to bring forth a capital request for it to be built more efficiently. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it anticipated that there will be a supplemental appropriation upcoming in the near future? Or is this going to be part of the capital planning process for the 2025-26 budget cycle? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be requested for capital appropriations for fiscal year 2025-26. To supplement my other comments, we haven't exactly decided how we are going to use that facility.

(interpretation ends) I spoke too soon in terms of how we are going to utilize this during this time, because we are also facing some issues with lack of shelter for the homeless, especially throughout the winter time. We are trying to decide how we can better utilize this until we bring forward a capital request. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm happy to hear that it's not going to be sitting there empty for the next two years, or it will be two years plus from when the contract was pulled. I do, however, have concerns that we need infrastructure in the territory to provide care for our youth at risk. I think it's a shame that we have a facility that we are not utilizing right now.

I am satisfied, as long as the minister can find use for that space, until a plan is put in place to make it either back into a group home or whatever is needed. Hopefully that will be the case because the need is obviously identified. I do encourage the minister to work on that sooner rather than later.

If a plan does come forward, I'm sure the committee would at least be open to a supplemental appropriation mid-year. When a plan is in place, I don't anticipate it would need a dramatic budget for renovations, so I think the sooner you can get a facility or a piece of infrastructure like that back into play on a full scope of service, the sooner the better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. We are also of the same thought, in terms of other activities allowed in the facility, especially to our Department of Family Services as we were inundated with multiple requests, but we haven't forgotten this fact.

Additionally, we are not trying to place it on the backburner, however, we want to see it renovated so it can provide more usage, so that is part of our plan to do that before it gets too cold. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Following the names on my list, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask this question first and I'll have a follow-up question after it. How many safe shelters are currently operating across Nunavut's communities, and are there any plans to open any new facilities in 2024-25? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One moment, please.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For Qikiqtaaluk, there are three, two in the Kivalliq, and four in the Kitikmeot. In total there are nine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you indicated, there are four for Kitikmeot. Is the safe shelter the other one in Kugaaruk, and where are the other three located? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): The other one is the Cambridge Bay women's shelter. In Gjoa Haven, there is the family shelter, and in Kugluktuk, there's a crisis intervention centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There used to be a safe shelter in Taloyoak, but it closed down many years ago. I am just wondering if the department can visit my community, and maybe try and get that safe shelter up and running again. Hopefully, your department can consult with the Hamlet of Taloyoak. I think they have a women's committee too. It would be great to see that safe shelter being up and running again. Can the department visit my community of Taloyoak? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. I am happy for communities that are requesting facilities. We have funds available to support the operations, but I have no problem with staff visiting Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have a follow-up question after my question here. In addition to homeless shelters, the need for

transitional housing has been identified across Nunavut's communities.

How is the department working with Community and Government Services, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and municipalities to address this need, and are any specific communities currently being considered for transitional housing projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for the question. During this session, I spoke to this issue and recognized the YWCA that has been working in the area of transitional housing. They have been active and have worked hard on this issue.

Furthermore, if we have these facilities in the communities, then it would involve the hamlets if they expressed a wish to undertake or have a local non-profit organization partnership to run them. They can provide plans to this effect, and this service is usually requested, particularly if there are a lot of homeless residents or they require a shelter.

These facilities, when established, means that we work in tandem with the hamlet, or if they have partnered with a non-profit body, in order to ensure we provide this service or the facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had made a member's

statement a while ago and I asked during oral questions. I had asked the department to use the Hamlet of Kugaaruk as an example. They did make a shelter for individual that was homeless and what they did is they made this shelter out of a sea can shipping container.

Can the department check in to see with all the municipalities and work with the government services to make this an option for all communities in Nunavut? It would greatly benefit the homeless people all over Nunavut and I'm sure there are many other communities that there are homeless people living in tents and it's not nice to live in a tent, especially during wintertime. It's going to hit and it's very cold out.

Can the Department of Community and Government Services and the municipalities use Kugaaruk as an example to make shelters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. We can explore this idea, but I cannot promise currently. We can meet in terms of seeking options. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a comment and I'm inviting the minister to come to Taloyoak or maybe go to Kugaaruk first and meet with the hamlet and see how they make this shelter available and use

it as an example, then maybe go to Taloyoak so the department can see how many homeless people are there and to see where they are located. There are more than three to my knowledge that are living outside of the community. There's also an individual that's living in the community and they all need shelters. Maybe if the department can see, maybe they can use Kugaaruk as an example to build these shelters. It's an invitation for the minister to come to my constituency communities. Comment, it's my last one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Thank you. We will try to retain that idea, and with respect to the issues, we are aware that the numbers continue to rise in some communities, and based on the last (interpretation ends) Stats Canada (interpretation) survey, there were over 400 Inuit who were homeless. At this time, we know the numbers have risen obviously, as we get more news about homeless clients, so definitely this matter requires more exploration on our part. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next name on my list is, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just want to go to the wellness hubs. In November 2022 the minister indicated that plans to establish wellness hubs in four communities, Arctic Bay, Kugluktuk, Baker Lake and Kinngait were approved, and the communities would be surveyed about potential

facilities. What is the current status of establishing these wellness hubs and what kinds of services will be delivered out of these facilities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's my final.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The communities that are identified, currently, we are planning with Community and Government Services to look at possible facilities and to review in the communities, whether there might be buildings that could be renovated or would they have to start a new project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just wanted to make one comment. Since my time as an MLA, I have noticed that some kids have a hard time being at home, when the parents are drinking or they just have no place to go. Sometimes I wonder if this suggestion would be for that place was where kids could, just like a women's shelter and a men's shelter, but for kids, I wonder if they will keep that in mind for that too for a later suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question.

The community wellness hub will be based on what priorities communities have, whether there'll be elders available, there'll be food making and there'll be cooking courses, could be an option, it will depend on the community as to what they wish to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Anavilok, are you done? (interpretation ends) Okay, next name on my list is Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad that the minister expanded on her response to Mr. Anavilok. I'm just wondering if I can get a reminder of which four communities were chosen for the wellness hubs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those four communities are Arctic Bay, Kugluktuk, Kinngait and Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you for that. I am really happy to hear that the communities will be setting these priorities for the wellness hubs. I would like to hear more about what resources will go into those wellness hubs, and whether or not those wellness hubs will require capital expenditures to get them up to the community standards for turning into hub. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it will be clearer. We might have to ask for more capital funds because we have to work with the Community and Government Services on this matter, and we're also planning to request money from the federal government for the planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just out of curiosity, is there any potential for the wellness hubs to also provide emergency shelter when they're not running? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I had stated earlier, it really depends on what the community needs are. There are some things that I did mention. They could either use it for daycare or toddlers play area, resources for technology space, tool room for small hand craft tools, or sewing workshop. It would really depend on what the community wants, how they want to utilize it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to follow up on the questions that Mr. Quqqiaq asked because I only heard partial answers. Mr. Quqqiaq asked how many safe shelters there are, and there is a total of nine. The second part of his question was: are there any plans to open any new facilities in 2024-25? I'm sorry; I didn't hear a response to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. We have worked with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for those four communities that I mentioned. They are going to help too, and we will work with them. The shelter in Pond Inlet is almost finished, and they're planning two more communities. I will tell you which communities they are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, Mr. Quqqiaq asked about transitional housing needs, and the minister did partially answer that by saying that the Family Services has been working with the YWCA, specifically in Iqaluit, I believe, on transitional housing.

The second part of Mr. Quqqiaq's questions was whether or not there are any specific communities currently being considered for transitional housing projects. I did hear about some non-profits that can work towards that. However, I didn't hear whether or not

there is serious consideration being put into more transitional housing projects in communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking those questions. We call them community liaison officers. They help people who have no place to stay or people who get evicted. They help people find another space, and it's not the first time I'm mentioning them, but we rely on them to tell us what the community is going through. That's how it is set up right now.

The wellness hubs that we have been planning for will become more understandable, and once we hear what requests the other communities have, we don't have full information on that yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm hearing that there aren't any specific plans right now and it's very concerning to me. I think as many people know in Iqaluit that a lot of homeless people, who do not have access or ability to move into the transitional housing units available here, often come to Iqaluit-Sinaa and we know of people who are living in shacks. One right now is living in a fishing tent.

I have been doing my best to help people. However, you can only do so much if they don't want to go into a shelter. If one is precluded because they

have a pet that they don't want to give up, it is very difficult for them to access the transitional housing here.

One of the things I am glad about, minister, is that you mentioned your resource workers and I just jotted the name down, community liaison officers. I know we are talking about capital budgets.

I think it is really important that the Department of Family Services give that... I understand there's a toll-free number that homeless can call in order to access support. We need a little bit more information out there for the public so that they know who the resources are in their community, or in the regions that they can contact.

Minister, could you just give us some reassurance that you're able to put that information out there in the public a little bit more often? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies. (interpretation ends) The title I should have said was the homeless outreach workers. The community liaison officers are the other ones under children in care. I apologize I got the two positions switched.

The homeless outreach workers are based in four communities, but they work even outside of their communities. Whenever they get contacted, people do get support, but we will certainly put that out more for people to be more aware of

contact information. (interpretation)
Thank you.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that you that you corrected yourself because in my notes it does say homeless outreach worker in four communities, and it really confused me. I appreciate that and I think it is really important to help spread the word about who people can reach to for help.

Having said that, I just want to know how the department ensures that there is the adequate number of shelter beds available in Iqaluit for those who are homeless, especially during the cold winter months. Knowing that there are those barriers that I had just mentioned, I just need a little bit more information about how I can help the homeless people in my community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking that question. I may not have understood your question correctly. It is not just the Young Women's Christian Association that we work with. We work the Uquutaq Society as well. The ones in Iqaluit, there is a plan to accommodate the growth of the population so that they can have more room available, but as to how many, I think the question is how many that are available for everyone. In Iqaluit, there is a total of (interpretation ends) 59 if I'm correct. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Is there a possibility for any of the not-for-profit societies who might want to help somebody who is living in a shack or in an inadequate space? I mentioned a person who is living in a fishing tent right now that has no floor. It's right on the ground and has a tarp over it because it's got a hole in it. Is there any possibility for a not-for-profit society to submit an application for funding to, and as I mentioned, this person is choosing to live in a tent right now because of the inability to get housing through Iqaluit Housing Authority or emergency housing at this stage. Because this person has a pet, they can't go into any of the shelters.

They're looking for a warmer tent, and I know it's not the most ideal situation. Are there any ways that any not-for-profits could apply for small capital funding to at least buy a better tent for that person, just to bridge the gap while they wait for Iqaluit housing or another emergency housing unit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The non-profits can ask for capital funds. There is nothing stopping the non-profit organizations. (interpretation ends) They are open to applying for funding however they see fit under capital. The one that we have recently put out, we've seen a number of

applications through there. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Just to be clear, I know that we just talked about a call for applications that are closed now, so is there an emergency fund that has an open application? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you don't mind my deputy to respond to this, he might be able to explain a bit more. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Ellsworth, please proceed.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that can be accessed right through the homeless outreach workers. I don't imagine we'd turn away any funding proposal. I don't think it would be too difficult for us to fund that kind of thing. Certainly, I am aware that there have been times where we supported clients to relocate so that they could have housing with a family member, perhaps in another community. A request of that nature, I imagine would be funded through our outreach program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I really appreciate that information. The Department of Family Services continues to share space with the Department of Health in nine communities. How does that lack of adequate or suitable office space currently impact the delivery of services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Thank you for that question because it's a really good question. We're facing right now, to give an example; in some of the offices that we have, there are issues that our staff face, really with the lack of space, at times. In some buildings, we're having issues on how we can better provide more support, but with the lack of office space, that is also very difficult.

We have to utilize what we can within the office building. We do run into issues where there are privacy issues sometimes in some communities that we have. Like you mentioned, there are nine communities that are sharing, so it's challenging for our workers in both ends. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I would like to remind the members that we have sent our young page home for this evening. Please proceed, Janet.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Malliki. Minister, how does capital planning fit into your department's development of the strategic plan to address the Auditor General's report on the department? Is

there a chance, knowing that office space and workspace is such a huge barrier, to our being able to deliver services at the community level? Is there a chance that Family Services, as part of the strategic plan, will be coming back to us for capital appropriations and, if so, how much? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. (interpretation ends) It's pretty obvious, we have to work with CGS on this and we are working with CGS.

In one community, we are trying to get an old health centre to make it into a Department of Family Services for social worker staff. We're sharing spaces and we're trying to work towards having our own independent offices if we can. That's one way we are trying to see how we can improve our building spaces or office spaces.

We will continue to work with CGS. I have asked for buildings that are not utilized in the communities to see if we could take them. We always have that discussion. I've had updates every now and then on that. We are still trying to see what we can do to better improve our office spaces. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next name on my list is Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, minister and your staff.

I think I have only two or three questions. First off, I believe you mentioned there are 15 applicants that have been submitted for the non-profit funding. Do you have a breakdown as to which communities those applications came in from, and if you could please list them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are seven applicants from Iqaluit, one from Arctic Bay, one from Sanikiluaq, one from Rankin Inlet one from Arviat, and three from Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the minister commit to doing a bit more of a public campaign to reach out to the numerous other communities and advise them that there is funding available and there may be funding available if this passes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once the \$1 million is approved, this capital is for one year. We are going to try this out for three years. Looking at the many applicants, their requests reached up to \$5.5 million. I know that they are in need of that, so we will be able to look into further, but we

will be able to provide more funds if this occurs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for the response. Like everything, it's always a work in progress and we always look for improvements. I'm sure the department is going to continue with that line of work.

If I can move on, earlier there were some discussions about the wellness hubs that are being looked at to being built; Arctic Bay, Kugluktuk, Baker Lake, and Kinngait. I had the pleasure of taking part in the workshop one evening in Baker Lake at Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and facilitated with regard to this building. I'm wondering if I can get a quick update where the department is with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on getting this up and running or built in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): If it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I'll have my deputy minister respond in detail in regard to Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, sir, for your question. We are in partnership with Community and Government Services and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. We recently completed a standardized

functional program design for the spaces in all four communities. The next steps for us will be for Community and Government Services prepare the schematic floorplan to develop a class “D” estimate.

Of course, as the minister mentioned earlier, applications for federal funding and through the Government of Nunavut capital planning process will then have to be competed for each hub.

The timeline, sir, is we are going to put this through the process in regular course. I can’t give you a finite deadline, but I can say we are working diligently to make sure that we can get these projects off the ground. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. If they can’t give a finite timeline, are we looking at a year from now, three years from now, for this to start going through the process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. At this time, I cannot provide you with a timeline because we will have to work with other entities, not just our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the minister know when they’re going to start talking about this again and start planning for Community and Government Services to do the floorplan and the class “D” estimate? Are they aiming for next fiscal year or 2025-26? If I can get something there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It will probably be in the next fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Next person on my list is Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m desperately scrolling through my phone to find minister Nakashuk’s statements from the last week, and I’m recalling that there was a statement regarding the program to capture information about, maybe I’m miss-remembering something. I’ll go back to the substantiation sheet.

On page 7 of 7, there is a small capital project for IT in infrastructure for headquarters, and my question is related to the issue of tracking caseloads. We know that this is an ongoing issue for Family Services, so I’m surprised to see that there is, I think it’s only \$10,000 in the budget for 2024-25, and I would just like to give Minister Nakashuk the opportunity to speak to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. (interpretation ends) The request for that is separate from the Matrix program that you're talking about, or the Matrix system. The Matrix system is already... We spent the budget for that, and we're anticipating that program to start at the end of November.

For this one that we are requesting, that's the equipment that we might need outside of Iqaluit, or in Iqaluit. That budget is for equipment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you. Thank you, minister, for that response. I see also there is a budget at headquarters for \$30,000 for territory-wide contingency, it says. I just want to be assured that once the strategic plan is in place, that the Department of Family Services employees will have all of the tools that they need to implement that Matrix system, and I'd like some reassurance that the ask has already come to us, and if it hasn't when will it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for asking further on that. We've had some staff review and they have already gone to test out this program. After that, those five staff will then start training others on how to use it. We're at that stage where some people have

already gone to try out the Matrix program. We are in that stage where we're trying to get staff into training on how to use it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) We're on page D-3. Total Capital Expenditure. \$1.9 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we conclude with Department of Family Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Minister, do you have closing remarks? Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) First, I want to thank the staff that are here today as well as the staff that work behind the scenes.

We really do appreciate the support we've had from the members and cabinet, especially after the OAG report. We are really starting to focus more on things that we have needed to work on a lot more, but in terms of this capital we are expecting, we have no doubt this budget will be utilized quite well in the next fiscal year. Thank you, everyone, for asking the questions and supporting this. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials.

We're going to have a very brief break while the Department of Culture and Heritage gets ready to appear.

>>Committee recessed at 20:11 and resumed at 20:15

**Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2024-2025 – Culture and Heritage
– Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: I would like to call this committee back to order. We're going to deal with Culture and Heritage. I would like to ask Minister Kaerner: do you have officials that you would like to appear before this committee? Minister Kaerner.

Hon. Joelle Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials in.

For the record, Minister Kaerner, please introduce your officials and then proceed to your opening comments. Minister Kaerner.

Hon. Joelle Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Deputy Minister Teresa Hughes, and to my left is Director of Corporate Services Wendy Bens.

Thank you, committee members, and good evening. We have had a long day today.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the Department of Culture and Heritage's 2024-25 capital estimates.

The Department of Culture and Heritage works toward ensuring that the Government of Nunavut preserves, develops, and enhances Nunavut's culture, heritage, and languages of all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, the capital estimates of the Department of Culture and Heritage for the 2024-25 fiscal year is \$1,200,000.

Mr. Chairman, my department is requesting \$500,000 to support public libraries in communities across Nunavut. This will be distributed as a contribution through a schedule in our Grants and Contributions Policy for library infrastructure projects and the modernization of library facilities in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, my department is requesting \$700,000 for heritage facilities contribution, which is used to provide funding for heritage infrastructure in Nunavut. We provide this funding to non-profit community-based organizations and municipal corporations for the development and/or renovation of heritage facilities or relevant associated structures and objects.

Mr. Chairman, my department has two capital carryovers from 2022-23, which includes \$150,000 in small capital for an office carpet replacement project in our Kugluktuk office and a carpet replacement in the Igloodik office for \$300,000. It is essential that these

projects are completed for the health of the staff.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to respond to any questions that members of the committee may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Ms. Brewster.

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

I am happy to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness concerning its review of the 2024-25 Capital Estimates of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year is \$1.2 million for its ongoing heritage facilities funding and public libraries facilities funding. This represents a decrease of 17.2 percent from its 2023-24 capital budget. Members note that the department had allocated \$700,000 for the Heritage Facilities Grants and Contributions funding program.

The department's capital contribution program is allocated to non-profit community-based organizations and municipal corporations for the development or renovation of heritage facilities and relevant associated equipment. Information provided to the standing committee indicates that a total of 40 community entities have received

funding through these agreements since the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Members note that the department has allocated \$500,000 for a new Public Library Facilities Grants and Contributions funding program. This funding was first introduced in the 2023-24 fiscal year and is intended to assist in the modernization of existing public libraries.

Members continue to encourage the minister to begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly which details the department's activities, expenditures, and initiatives in relation to the Heritage Facilities and Public Libraries Facilities contribution programs. The reporting of specific work that has been done with these programs would be beneficial to all members in evaluating the impact of the programs.

Members note that in December 2022, the Inuit Heritage Trust published the *Nunavut Inuit Heritage Centre Feasibility Study*. The development of the Nunavut Heritage Centre is overseen by its steering committee members. The steering committee members included representatives from the Inuit Heritage Trust, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, and the Department of Culture and Heritage. Members look forward to receiving ongoing updates on the status of this important work.

Members note that the Nunavut Heritage Centre entered the planning phase in the 2022-23 fiscal year. Members note that the Government of Nunavut's Department of Community and Government Services has previously

indicated that the Nunavut Heritage Centre is one of a number of capital projects that has been included as part of the government's overall planning envelope. However, the extent to which the Department of Culture and Heritage will be responsible for all or part of the facility's planning, design and construction costs is unclear.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2024-25 Capital Estimates of the Department of Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? (interpretation) I don't believe there are any general comments. (interpretation ends) Go to Culture and Heritage page F-3. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1,200,000. Questions? I don't see anyone raising their hands. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please be welcome minister and your officials.

In December 2022 the Inuit Heritage Trust (interpretation ends) published the Nunavut Inuit Heritage Trust feasibility study. Your department's Director of Inuit Heritage Trust is a member of the steering committee that is overseeing the development of the Nunavut Heritage Centre. To date, what commitments have your department made regarding the development of the Nunavut Heritage Centre? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaerner.

Hon. Joelle Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this to my deputy, if you would allow her, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Hughes, please proceed.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the steering committee was developed, we wanted to be included because of course we need to be included. We also had the same objective in regard to the Nunavut Heritage Centre and the development. Caroline Whittle from our department is one of the members on the steering committee. She was involved in the spring committee meeting and also was involved in the fall meeting. At that time, we will find out what has been done to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Ms. Hughes. (interpretation ends) What is the current estimate to build the Nunavut Heritage Centre? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kaerner.

Hon. Joelle Kaerner (interpretation): I apologize. Thank you for that question. We cannot give you an estimate at this time, but we do have involvement from various organizations. If it is okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I will refer this to my deputy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Hughes, please proceed.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I am correct, it will cost approximately \$130 million today. At that time, I think it was a smaller amount, around \$110 million, but we are estimating it at \$130 million in today's prices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for your response. When we started talking about the Nunavut Heritage Centre, there were community consultations, including Pond Inlet, about what type of housing it would be and it would be bigger. I am not sure what it is going to be called; Ittarnisilirivik Inuit Heritage Centre. Did that correspondence come from your community? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerck.

Hon. Joelle Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we understand correctly, it is from our department. Did we understand your question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Nutarak, can you clarify your question, please?

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut Heritage Centre (interpretation) in Iqaluit made an announcement that certain displays would be established, and Pond Inlet was visited by officials. Were the people conducting the survey from your office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerck.

Hon. Joelle Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was not from our department. It was from the Inuit Heritage Trust. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) What is the current timeline for the completion of the Nunavut Heritage Centre? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerck.

Hon. Joelle Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, member, for the question. For the Department of Culture and Heritage, we have worked with the Inuit Heritage Trust on how we can move forward in making the facility a reality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. One year, two years; what is the timeline? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaernerck.

Hon. Joelle Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification. We don't know the

timeline for the project, although we are trying to proceed. It is not our capital project. It is dealt with through an agreement. I cannot give you the timeline. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, minister, and to your staff as well. Baker Lake did have a heritage centre in the old, old community hall. It was repurposed by the hamlet. Unfortunately, the condition of the building itself got to the point where it was no longer useable.

The hamlet has been talking about trying to renovate it and continue to use it as a heritage centre. It's got some nice historical stuff in there. Does the department have monies available for extensive renovations, and if so, how would the Hamlet of Baker Lake apply for these funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaerner.

Hon. Joelle Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. Yes, you are correct, as it was already closed, but through this supplementary appropriation request, we are seeking \$100,000, and the total amount is \$700,000. This is part of the Heritage support funding. This is where it stands right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. How would the hamlet apply for these funds? Would they get the full \$700,000, or is that split up on a first-come-first-serve basis in Nunavut for applications? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaerner.

Hon. Joelle Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The hamlet would be able to put in an application. I mentioned that \$700,000 is our budget in terms of the project and the division of the funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the department looked at how many heritage facilities there currently are in Nunavut, and to what extent they could use some assistance from the Culture and Heritage Department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaerner.

Hon. Joelle Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. We have eight facilities currently and with these eight facilities operated by the department, the funds will be available for proposals submitted to our Department of Culture and Heritage. The communities that get a high volume of tourist visits in Nunavut can submit their proposals. This is how it currently stands. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I don't have any more names. Any more questions? Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this budget, there seems to be some substantiation. It states here that communities in Nunavut will be provided funding for displays or other types of archeological displays. It speaks to the presentation of these displays for the tourists that arrive into the communities, future visits, perhaps, so it can provide more tangible benefits. With that being the case, is the Department of Culture and Heritage sending the information out to the communities, especially the funding and proposals they can submit? Are your officials being dedicated to sending out this information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaerner.

Hon. Joelle Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that question. Yes, these funds are available via proposal requests and funds are provided for these items via the Department of Culture and Heritage. We try to keep all communities informed about these programs, and just in this fall season, the report outlines the non-profit organizations and hamlets are the main beneficiaries of the funds, if they are dealing with archaeological displays. Our officials try to keep the communities informed about the funding, and we use the hamlets to pay for these items. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the

response. My question is on the same subject. From what I am reading, in the year of 2020-21 the Financial Management Board approved a one-time reallocation of \$501,000 from other expenses to contributions for community libraries to support internet and renovations. There is one-time contribution to the following eight communities, and I see that the community of Clyde River, Ilisagvik Society, (interpretation) received \$20,000.

Mr. Chairman, my question is: have you heard from these communities on whether they have seen any benefits from the funds that you set aside for the libraries? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaerner.

Hon. Joelle Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. There was a one-time agreement during COVID-19, but our Director of Finance Wendy Bens can better explain these funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ms. Bens, please proceed.

Ms. Bens: Thank you for the question. We did, during the COVID-19 pandemic, receive approval to give additional funding to libraries for renovations and for connectivity to provide increased funding for internet services at the library. That was in 2020-21.

At this time, I do not have in front of me the exact financial information of which

library fully expended their funding during that time. At a later date we can come back and provide you with an update of a list of the amount we gave to each library. Based on their financial reports, we can let you know how much was actually used for that funding during that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response and for the clarification regarding funds and the reporting funds. I am asking where some, the ones that have been assisted, I think there are seven or eight communities that have received assistance. I would like to hear whether this program or whether some organizations have stopped running. I mentioned this that there needs to be support and whether you have heard about this, it would be nice to hear about the... . Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaerner.

Hon. Joelle Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. It is based on proposals, and the funds are well used in the communities, and what you mentioned, there are seven communities, the funds have been used properly. When they do request additional funds, we consider that as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your proposal for your budget for the libraries, and today,

have there been any request to your department for public library facilities funding in the current 2023-24 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaerner.

Hon. Joelle Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this fiscal year, there have been three requests for library facilities funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm asking the question about our fiscal year that will end in 2024, and it's not that far away. Those three requests, if you understood me correctly. There have been three proposals or library facilities funding, and the year-end date is really close now. Were there only three funding requests that have been made and only three were approved? Were any proposals denied? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaerner.

Hon. Joelle Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking those questions. Yes, for the 2023-24 fiscal year, there have been three requests, and this is the first time we have this funding available from the Department of Culture and Heritage. There may be more requests in the future, but up to now, we have received only three applicants. This is the first time that this funding for library facilities has been introduced, so it's

available for grants and contributions.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. In the department that you run, have you notified all hamlets, organizations, or associations that there is funding available to be requested? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaerner.

Hon. Joelle Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My staff at Culture and Heritage have promoted these through the hamlets and through websites. We let people know that funding is available now and it will be available next year as well. Our department tries to keep everyone informed through paper notices and the hamlets, as well as online. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are the schools also kept fully informed and, in particular, have Inuktitut translators been made available to them as well? This is probably my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kaerner.

Hon. Joelle Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for asking those questions. We try to

keep all of them involved, every group that has a committee or a board; the hamlet, the schools, and local district education authorities. They must be informed that there is funding available now that they can request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question that is not on the paper that we have while the minister and his deputy are here. When you are talking about reporting on or doing your member's statement, ever since we started, there has been only one Inuktitut speaker. When the other ministers are presenting their comments, they are translated into Inuktitut, and it's under your department and I have realized that none of the ministers were really talking in Inuktitut. It's just a reminder, while you're all listening, that's all. It's not a question; it's just a reminder to speak Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Total Capital Expenditure. \$1.2 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree we have concluded the Department of Culture and Heritage?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Closing comments? Minister Kaerner.

Hon. Joelle Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and colleagues. It is quite late now. Thank you for being able to stay so late and thank you for all of the questions to the Department of Culture and Heritage. I would like to thank my staff, our staff here too, and all the ministers' statements that have been translated will be made available in Inuktitut as well. My comments as the minister will be translated, and I'll encourage others to do that too because it is very important to do that in Nunavut. Thank you for the opportunity to be in front of you, and thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out. (interpretation) Please wait.

Next, we have is the Office of the Legislative Assembly. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask the Speaker of the House, Mr. Akoak: do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee?

**Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2024-2025 – Legislative Assembly
– Consideration in Committee**

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the official in.

For the record, Speaker Akoak, please introduce your official and then proceed to your opening comments. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The person beside me is the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Quirke.

I am pleased to appear before you and members today to present the proposed 2024-25 Capital Estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

I am pleased to note that the proposed 2024-25 capital budget of \$250,000 has not increased since the 2021-22 fiscal year.

The proposed 2024-25 capital budget will be used for minor capital projects, including equipment upgrades for the Office of the Legislative Assembly and the offices of independent officers of the Legislative Assembly.

During the current Legislative Assembly, a number of improvements have been achieved at the Legislative Assembly Precinct, including the installation of a new Courtesy Flagpole, which has been used to commemorate such occasions as National Truth and Reconciliation Day.

I am also pleased to note that my office has been working on the design of a memorial to missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.

That concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? I have no

names. Please go to page A-3. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Operations. Total Capital Expenditures. \$250,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just have one question for the Speaker and it's on the possibility of establishing a mechanism for remote voting, which would allow members to participate or to vote on matters before the House even if they're not physically present in the House. I think the question is pretty simple. Moving in that direction, is it something that would involve capital investment up front or is it something that needs to be developed further on the operation side first before moving to capital consideration? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Speaker Akoak.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to leave it on the operation side first before we go to cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, Speaker and Clerk.

I think I only have a couple of questions. Every session we have pretty much here, a number of us hear complaints about our TV signal being cut off when the Northwest Territories Assembly is in session. Has there been any work or ideas on how we can solve the issue of our constituents being able to watch the entirety of our sessions when we're in

deliberations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Speaker Akoak.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. I have also heard of complaints in other communities that have the same problem, and that is the same with my community. We are sharing the satellite with another jurisdiction, which is the Northwest Territories, but I will ask Mr. Clerk to explain it a little bit more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): The only way we would get a dedicated channel would be to appear before the CRTC and ask for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. Would it be feasible to go that route or would that be a bit too expensive or impossible to do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Speaker Akoak.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. Clerk to answer that technical question. Thank you.

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

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be quite the process. It took us

two attempts to get to where we are right now, spread over nearly ten years. It's quite an undertaking to get it changed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on with regard to minor renovations, maybe, in our House here, in our meeting room, and for aesthetics, it's very nice, but coming from Baker Lake, all I see is sealskins, sealskin on the qamutik, on your chair, all the benches, they're all sealskins. Would the Speaker look into incorporating some caribou skins in here as well? I do know a number of hunters in Baker Lake that could provide beautiful caribou skins if the Speaker would go that route. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Speaker Akoak.

Speaker: Thank you. I was just given a note no, but I will give Mr. Clerk a reason for him to explain it. Thank you.

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

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, that was never considered. The priority right now is not sealskins or buffalo hide or caribou hide. The priority right now is to replace the chairs that you're sitting on right now. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Are there any more questions? (interpretation

ends) I don't see anything. Total Capital Expenditures. \$250,000. Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we concluded the Office of the Legislative Assembly?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Mr. Speaker, do you have closing remarks?

Speaker: Thank you very much, my colleagues. There are some notes taken and there were a few questions asked and thank you. This is your budget and notes are taken too. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out. This concludes our Bill 31.

Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025 – Consideration in Committee

Please go to the legislation binders. (interpretation) I think everyone is ready. (interpretation ends) Bill 31, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025*. Clause 1. Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Amount Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2025. Total Capital Appropriation. \$355,772,000. Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 31?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 31 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker: Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Malliki.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Malliki: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 31 and would like to report that Bill 31 is immediately ready for third reading, pursuant to Rule 73. 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. David Akeeagok. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025 – Third Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 31, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for November 3:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions

8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 23
 - Bill 26
 - Bill 27
 - Bill 28
 - Bill 29
 - Bill 30
 - Bill 32
 - Bill 33
 - Bill 34
 - Tabled Document 1 – 6(2)
 - Tabled Document 120 – 6(2)
 - Tabled Document 163 – 6(2)
 - Tabled Document 174 – 6(2)

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: In accordance to the authority provided to me by Motion 22 – 6(2), the House stands adjourned until Friday, November 3, at 10 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 21:10*

Appendix – November 2, 2023



Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts

***Report on the Review of the 2023 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut: COVID-19 Vaccines in Nunavut***

**2nd Session of the 6th Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Fall 2023 Sitting**

Chairperson

George Hickes

Co-Chairperson

Alexander Sammurtok

Members

Bobby Anavilok
Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster
Mary Killiktee
Adam Arreak Lightstone
Solomon Malliki
Karen Nutarak
Joanna Quassa
Joseph Quqqiaq
Joe Savikataaq
Craig Smailak

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Introduction

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing on this report on September 22, 2023.

The standing committee's hearing was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and was televised live across the territory. The hearing was open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery, and was livestreamed on the Legislative Assembly's website. The transcript from the standing committee's hearing is available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

Witnesses appearing before the standing committee included a number of senior officials from the Office of the Auditor General of Canada and the Government of Nunavut's departments of Health, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and Community and Government Services. The standing committee notes its appreciation to the witnesses.

Observations and Recommendations

Issue: Commitments to Provide Information

During the televised hearing, witnesses from the Department of Health made a number of commitments to provide additional information to the standing committee.

Standing Committee Recommendation #1:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include the information items that were committed to during the televised hearing of September 22, 2023.

Issue: Pandemic Preparedness and Emergency Planning

The *2023 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut: COVID-19 Vaccines in Nunavut* contained a total of four specific recommendations. The Department of Health formally agreed with all of the recommendations.

One of the Auditor General's recommendations was that the Department of Health "should update its health emergency and pandemic plan to take into account changes to the *Public Health Act* and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic."

In its responses to the Auditor General's report, the department indicated that it is "updating the department's pandemic plan" and that "work is currently underway and should be completed by the end of 2023."

The standing committee notes that subsection 43(a) of the *Public Health Act* provides that one of the Minister of Health's "powers and duties" is to:

"advise the government on matters relating to public health not dealt with specifically under another Act, including making recommendations on public health matters for inclusion in Nunavut's emergency plans or to the Minister responsible for the *Emergency Measures Act* during the management of a public health emergency."

Standing Committee Recommendation #2:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed update on the status of work to update the Department of Health's health emergency and pandemic plan, including the extent to which this work may require amendments to the *Public Health Act* and the *Emergency Measures Act*.

The standing committee further recommends that once the Department of Health's updated health emergency and pandemic plan has been finalized and approved, that it be made public through tabling in the Legislative Assembly and posting on the department's website.

Issue: Annual Reporting

The standing committee notes that section 43 of the *Public Health Act* provides, in part, that the Minister of Health:

- (b) shall prepare an annual report within six months of the end of each calendar year respecting the reportable events, outbreaks, public health emergencies and number of inspections under this Act during the year;
- (b.1) shall table the reports referred to in paragraph (b) and paragraph 44(6)(e) in the Legislative Assembly during the first sitting of the Assembly after each report is prepared.

Section 44 of the *Public Health Act* provides, in part, that the Chief Public Health Officer shall:

- (e) shall prepare and publish, every two years, a report to the Executive Council regarding the health of people in Nunavut;
- (j) may prepare a report on any matter of concern that, in the sole discretion of the Chief Public Health Officer, should be brought to the attention of the Legislative Assembly and provide it directly to the Speaker.

The Minister's 2020 annual report under subsection 43(b) was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 15, 2021. The 2021 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 4, 2022.

The Chief Public Health Officer of Nunavut's *2020-2021 Report on COVID-19* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 15, 2021.

No reports have been tabled to date under subsection 44(e).

Standing Committee Recommendation #3:

The standing committee recommends that the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer prepare a final report on the COVID-19 pandemic and state of public health emergency that was in effect between March 20, 2020 and April 11, 2022.

The standing committee further recommends that this report be tabled in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest practicable opportunity.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, the Department of Health's timeline for preparing and publishing the next annual report under subsection 44(e) of the *Public Health Act*.

Issue: Orientation, Training, Certification and Licensing of Health Care Staff

The *2023 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut: COVID-19 Vaccines in Nunavut* contained a total of four specific recommendations. The Department of Health formally agreed with all of the recommendations.

One of the Auditor General's recommendations was that the Department of Health "should put in place systems to track the completion of orientation and training programs for health care staff, monitor whether their licences and certifications are up to date, and provide regular reports of overdue training and expired licences or certifications."

In its responses to the Auditor General's report, the department indicated that it "will work with the other Government of Nunavut departments on the design of the human resource modules within the newly procured Enterprise Resource Planning system."

The standing committee notes that the Enterprise Resource Planning system project is being managed by the Department of Finance.

Standing Committee Recommendation #4:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on the status of this work.

Issue: Public Health Surveillance System

The *2023 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut: COVID-19 Vaccines in Nunavut* contained a total of four specific recommendations. The Department of Health formally agreed with all of the recommendations.

One of the Auditor General's recommendations was that the Department of Health "should implement a digital system enabling it to track and report on adverse events and disaggregated data in a complete, consistent, systematic, and timely manner."

In its responses to the Auditor General's report, the department indicated that it "commits to commence a planning project for Nunavut's Public Health Surveillance System in 2023-2024."

Standing Committee Recommendation #5:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on the status of this work, including a description of the extent to which it will enhance the department's capacity in respect to tracking and measuring determinants of health in the territory.

Issue: Inventory Management

The *2023 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut: COVID-19 Vaccines in Nunavut* contained a total of four specific recommendations. The Department of Health formally agreed with all of the recommendations.

One of the Auditor General's recommendations was that the Department of Health "should implement a digital inventory system capable of tracking medications, including vaccines and related medical supplies, from their entry into the territory to their administration or use."

In its responses to the Auditor General's report, the department indicated that commits to submitting a business case in summer 2023, requesting resources needed to advance a digital tracking system ... As an interim measure, the Department of Health will create a manual tracking system by September 2023."

Standing Committee Recommendation #6:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on the status of this work.