

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)

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Minister of Human Resources;
Minister responsible for Nunavut
Business Credit Corporation; Minister
responsible for Nunavut Development
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Trade; Minister responsible for Mines;
Minister responsible for the Workers'
Safety and Compensation Commission*

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of
Culture and Heritage; Minister of
Indigenous Affairs; Minister of
Languages; Minister responsible for
Immigration; Minister responsible for
the Utility Rates Review Council;
Minister responsible for Seniors*

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Hon. Pamela Gross
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(South Baffin)

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(Uqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)

*Minister of Finance; Minister
responsible for the Nunavut Housing
Corporation; Minister responsible for
the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis
Commission; Minister responsible for
the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis
Board*

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

*Minister of Health; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention;
Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

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(Aivilik)

*Deputy Chair, Committee
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(Pangnirtung)

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responsible for Nunavut Arctic
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Homelessness; Minister responsible for
Status of Women; Minister responsible
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, September 11, 2025

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, Mr. Joeline Kaernerker, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Mr. Adam Arreak Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Ms. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Joseph Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. Tony Akoak) (interpretation): (no interpretation)

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 642 – 6(2): Nunavut Parks and Special Places Learn to Program

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon, Nunavummiut, and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight information on the Learn-to Program delivered by Nunavut Parks and Special Places in 2025.

The Parks Learn-to events consist of free sessions where the public is invited to discover and learn about a variety of skills and knowledge relevant to Inuit traditions and use of resources provided by the land. These sessions are taught by local Inuit instructors and elders who enthusiastically share their knowledge with participants.

(interpretation ends) Learn-to programming has been delivered in communities such as Kugluktuk, Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, Baker Lake, Sanikiluaq and Pangnirtung, and most recently Cambridge Bay.

This year, approximately 30 public sessions were offered across the communities mentioned, with an estimated 200 participants. Each year, Learn-to schedules are changed to offer each community new and varied events.

School-specific sessions have also been included in the 2025 schedule to reach additional participants. Nine Learn-to sessions took place in Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay schools during the 2024-2025 scholastic year, reaching about 250 students.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, we have received tremendous amount of positive feedback from many participants and facilitators of the Learn-to-Program, and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all involved who make such opportunities engaging and educational, while preserving our cultural traditions and practices.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 643 - 6(2): Multilateral Memorandum of Agreement and the Government of Greenland

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that on July 31, 2025, in Nuuk, Greenland, the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Greenland. This agreement strengthens our international collaboration on fisheries and related issues, ensuring an approach that is beneficial and prioritizes Inuit interests.

This memorandum of understanding is a testament to the leadership of the Government of Nunavut in advancing sustainable inshore fisheries. Through this partnership, we are reinforcing Nunavut's role in shaping policies that support our fishers, protect marine environments, and ensuring Inuit knowledge is central to decision-making. Through collaborative partnerships like this, we strengthen fisheries management, expand research opportunities, and create new economic pathways for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, this agreement establishes the Greenland-Nunavut Fisheries Committee, which will serve as a vital forum for knowledge exchange and innovation. This brings together experts from both countries. This committee will foster collaboration, support Inuit-led research, and help ensure that fisheries remain a strong and sustainable pillar of our economy. The first Fisheries Committee Meeting took place on August 2, 2025 in Nuuk, Greenland, and their report from that meeting will outline priorities moving forward.

This is an important step forward for Nunavut. It reflects the commitment of this government to secure long-term opportunities for our communities, and ensures our

fisheries industry thrives, and deepening our international partnerships. I look forward to seeing the benefits of this work for Inuit and for the future of our fisheries sector.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 644 - 6(2): Continued Growth for the Nunavut Teacher Education Program

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, last month, Nunavut Arctic College welcomed colleagues from Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador to Iqaluit to reaffirm our partnership and to focus on a key program, the Nunavut Teacher Education Program. The face-to-face meeting was invaluable and allowed colleagues to reconnect, to strengthen working relationships, and to reaffirm our shared commitment to this important program and the students that we serve.

The partnership between the College and Memorial University is set to conclude in 2029. While the College continues to work with current and new students enrolled in the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, the College is also preparing for the future and exploring the development of a college-specific Bachelor of Education Program. This means that the College would assume full authority and accountability for the degree program, including curriculum design and delivery, to ensure that graduates are well prepared to work within the Nunavut school system. The College will look to its own experience and engage with stakeholders to ensure the program aligns with the needs and priorities of the territory.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Arctic College is very proud of its history of providing post-secondary education in the territory. As we continue to serve students today, we are also committed to building a future that supports students, families, and Nunavut communities in this work.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Main.

Minister's Statement 645 – 6(2): Infrastructure Development: Advancing Three New Power Plants

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

Mr. Speaker, as we now enter the final sitting of this Assembly, I rise to update members and Nunavummiut and my fellow ministers on Qulliq Energy Corporation's new power plants construction in three communities, in Cambridge Bay, Igloolik, and Gjoa Haven. These projects are structured for continuity, with clear milestones, transparent reporting concerning QEC, and a strong partnership with communities. These are guided by or through Piliriqatigiinniq, Aajiqatigiinniq, and Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq.

In Igloolik, this past month, work has just commenced at the end of August 2025. The contractor has opened the site, begun land development and foundation work, and has started pile drilling. Critical materials have arrived via sealift to Igloolik to support the 2025 construction season. Commissioning is planned for 2027, with final completion targeted by the end of 2028.

In Gjoa Haven, I want to thank the hamlet and acknowledge the value of working together to find solutions. As community concerns arose about zoning setbacks, QEC, the hamlet, and Pilitak Enterprises Limited collaborated to identify a path forward. With the development permit approved by the hamlet, construction began at the end of August 2025. Land development is now underway and the materials have arrived from this year's sealift. Commissioning is planned for 2026, with final completion by the end of 2027.

(interpretation ends) In Cambridge Bay, construction began in July 2025 and site development, including pile drilling, is underway. During initial groundwork, crews encountered old drums and impacted soil; an independent environmental consultant was engaged immediately. All impacted material was removed to an approved soil treatment facility and remediation at site has concluded, allowing construction to resume in late August 2025. With these issues addressed and materials arriving by sealift as planned, the project remains on track for final completion in March 2029.

Across all three communities, Qulliq Energy Corporation is sequencing work to the realities of northern construction and sealift logistics, maintaining rigorous safety standards, and keeping residents informed. These plants will replace aging facilities and provide reliable capacity for homes, essential services, and local businesses for decades to come.

These projects are designed with tomorrow in mind. Our new power plants will have the capacity to integrate future renewable energy in a way that maintains reliability and keeps costs fair. Modernizing our core infrastructure now creates the foundation for

cleaner energy over time, while ensuring that lights stay on and essential services remain stable in every season.

Mr. Speaker, as we move forward, the success of these projects depends on strong relationships between QEC and residents. As construction proceeds in Igloolik, Gjoa Haven and Cambridge Bay, QEC will continue to strengthen our partnerships with communities and ensure our facilities are ready to meet Nunavut's needs today and in the years to come.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Justice, Ms. Gross.

Minister's Statement 646 – 6(2): Minimum Wage Increase

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon, Nunavummiut and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update on the minimum wage in Nunavut.

Effective September 1, 2025, the minimum wage increased from \$19.00 to \$19.75 per hour. This change helps ensure fair pay for workers and recognizes the high cost of living in our territory. I also note that Nunavut continues to have the highest minimum wage in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this year's increase is also the first to be calculated using a new formula based on the Consumer Price Index and the average hourly rate. This formula will guide future changes in a way that is transparent and responsive to the economic realities faced by Nunavummiut.

Each year going forward, a new rate will take effect on September 1. Updated rates will be announced in July, allowing employers sufficient time to plan and ensure compliance.

It is important that the minimum wage reflects the realities of life in Nunavut, from the cost of necessities to the value of labour in our communities. This approach ensures that policies are fair, predictable, and grounded in the experience of our people.

For more information, employers and workers can contact the Nunavut Labour Standards Compliance Office at 1-877-806-8402, or by email at LabourServices@gov.nu.ca.

Quana, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Minister's Statement 647 – 6(2): Technical Professional Studies Scholarship Program

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to highlight a program my department offers to support building a skilled representative workforce in Nunavut, one that is rooted in Inuit societal values and responsive to the technical needs of our territory.

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut is proud to offer the Technical Professional Studies Program Scholarship, designed to reduce barriers for Nunavummiut pursuing post-secondary education in fields critical to our technical and professional lines of work.

This scholarship supports full-time students enrolled in programs of technical and professional domains including infrastructure, transportation, trades, petroleum, procurement, business planning and management. I want to highlight that this year and going forward we have made additional funding available for those studying in information management AND technology, including things like cyber security, networking, telecommunications, records management, and systems and database administration.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, my department issued the callout on September 1, so if you're a full-time student in an eligible program and intend to work in Nunavut, I urge you to apply before the September 30 deadline. A complete application includes an application form, confirmation of registration, and a short personal statement about how you intend to contribute to your community.

I encourage Nunavummiut to pursue studies and work to attain your goals. Learning, develop skills, get your degree, your trades ticket, your certificate, whatever the credential may be in your field and come and work with us. Nunavut needs you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Acting Minister of Finance, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 648 – 6(2): Call for Members to Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Board

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to remind Nunavummiut that applications are being accepted for new members to the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Board.

The Board is responsible for hearing and deciding on matters related to liquor and cannabis licensing in Nunavut, which includes reviewing licensing applications and hearing appeals, and providing direction on the responsible management of liquor and cannabis in our territory. It ensures that decisions are made in accordance with liquor and cannabis legislation and policies, and with the voices of Nunavummiut at the decision-making table.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all Nunavummiut interested in serving on the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Board to submit their application before September 15, pretty soon from now. Application forms are available on the Government of Nunavut's website, or by emailing nlcb@gov.nu.ca.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 3, Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 889 - 6(2): Space for Sports

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I rise today to draw attention to the need for more space for recreation and sports in our smaller communities. Mr. Speaker, at the end of our last sitting I tabled a list of motions by the hamlet council of Pond Inlet, one of which addressed the need for a larger gymnasium.

Mr. Speaker, the gymnasium at the Nasivvik High School doesn't even seem to be a standard size.

The gym is so small that it is not possible to hold any kind of sports tournament in there. If you are playing volleyball, you have to serve while touching the wall.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister of Education providing me with information stating that the Nasivvik School gymnasium is 396 square metres, which meets the departmental standard for a school with a capacity of 321 students.

While I recognize that many of our communities have small populations, that should not necessarily mean that the spaces to meet and play sports should also be small. Most

sports have standard sizes for courts, pitches, and playing areas. This should also be taken into consideration.

As you will be aware, Mr. Speaker, smaller communities also have athletes and sports teams that would very much like to compete against their peers in other communities across the territory, and even across the nation. The lack of adequate space to play and practice puts up yet another barrier for them to participate meaningfully.

Mr. Speaker, it should go without saying that sport and recreation can have enormously positive impacts on health, mental well being, and wellness.

I urge the government to take these factors into account when planning school projects and I hope that an expansion to Pond Inlet's school gymnasium will be considered in the next capital planning process.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member Statement. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Member's Statement 890 - 6(2): Struggles of Income Support Clients

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a concern that is becoming a huge problem for income support clients in the Kitikmeot region.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents have been telling me that there are no income support workers to assist them, and even when they contact the regional office by phone or e-mail, they are getting no response and, therefore, no support.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the regional office is short-staffed. However, it seems almost every client is referred to the Iqaluit office, and when they call the staff get upset with the clients and tell them that they should be contacting Cambridge Bay and they are not able to assist them.

Mr. Speaker, every resident deserves to receive the support to which they are entitled. There should be some staff available who can assess the eligibility of each individual and family that comes forward in their time of need.

Ever since the funding from the Inuit Child First Initiative dried up, my constituents struggle even more. There are always posts on Facebook from people asking for help.

Many do not know where to turn to when there is no income support worker. Mr. Speaker, it is even more disturbing when one considers the children of parents who cannot access income support to help pay for their children's food and other needs.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage the Department of Family Services to address this issue as soon as possible. Families are going hungry. Children are going hungry.

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

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Member's Statement 891 - 6(2): Levi Katokra Music Festival in Naujaat (Malliki)

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my constituents in Naujaat and Salliq.

Mr. Speaker, in the coming week in Naujaat there will be some activities happening. There's a music festival called Levi Katokra Memorial Festival. There will be artists coming from out of town. They have invited people from all over, but they are having financial difficulties, so just a few performers may arrive.

There's a lot of interest from artists to go there, and I would like to welcome all the listeners, if they want to go to Naujaat for the festivities, it's happening September 19 to 22. We will have a music festival and healing sessions and feasts, a lot of feasts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Member's Statement 892 – 6(2): Rising Cost Constructions

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Over my eight years in this legislature, I've seen the Government of Nunavut's cost of construction rise at an alarming rate. I've seen tenders being cancelled due to high bids. I've seen projects reduce scope in order to match the budget, and I've seen the government come forward with supplementary budget requests to increase the budgets for capital projects.

I've seen the cost of schools increase from 30 million to in excess of 80 million, and I've seen the average cost of public housing increase from 400,000 to bids of approximately \$1 million an apartment. I'm glad that Nunavut Housing Incorporation has utilized the

Nunavut 3000 project to take a strategic approach to reduce the rising cost of public housing construction; however, I have yet to see the Government of Nunavut take a similar approach to addressing our rising cost of capital construction.

I would like to hereby give notice to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure that later today I will be asking questions specifically on the rising cost of capital, and more importantly, the average cost of construction as well as any internal discussions aimed at developing strategies in an attempt to reduce the rising cost of capital, and ensure that our public funds are expensed in an efficient and responsible manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member Statement. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 893 - 6(2): Arctic Bay Baseball Field

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on August 13, 2013 the baseball field was opened and celebrated. The Blue Jays Foundation came to open the baseball field. It's very well used, and we celebrated the opening in Arctic Bay. There was a feast held that evening, and the game of baseball, very well attended by the people of Arctic Bay. I do apologize that I wasn't able to attend that event, because I was out travelling.

I would like to thank the Blue Jays Foundation. They have now attended even in the high Arctic area. At that time they were very well received, and make that request through the hamlet council, Tavis Levi (ph) and Roxanne Piutaq (ph), who had made that request, and the recreation coordinator, Lorna.

We were very proud that they were able to hold the celebratory event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

Member's Statement 894 – 6(2): Birthday Greeting to Daughter

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I rise today to share a special birthday greeting to my daughter, Kimnet Simone. Wishing you a very happy second birthday. I know it seems just yesterday you were born, as two years has flown by in a blink of an eye, but watching you grow has been such a beautiful part of life.

I thank all of you as colleagues for supporting me through her journey, too, as it's not an easy thing to raise a child in this position, but with everyone's support it has been truly wonderful to have her brought up in her way of life that she's living.

I thank all of her loved ones, all of her caregivers, everyone who has been there for her, medical professionals, people who have been there to help her. She's got a genetic condition, so she has to go to Ottawa quite frequently which is where she is right now with her dad.

I thank all of those people who help her heal and become strong. I really look forward to your life and where you're going to go, and the same with all of our other youth out there. Our children are precious, and I'm just so blessed to have her in our lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Arviat North, Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Member's Statement 895 – 6(2): New Airport Terminal in Whale Cove and King Charles III Award

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my regards to the people of Qikiqtarjuaq.

In June the new airport terminal building was opened and it was a celebratory event. Mr. Joanasie, Mr. Akeegok, thank you very much for coming to Whale Cove. You were very well received by the community.

The airport air terminal was something that we had been expecting, because we started setting aside funds before the COVID days. It is now operating and functional, and it's more relaxing to wait for your aircraft. It makes things a lot better for the staff at the airport terminal and for the passengers. Thank you very much.

At the time in June there were three individuals who were recognized with the King Charles III Coronation Award. It didn't come from me. The King Charles Coronation wasn't given out by me. Lewis Voisey, the late Percy Kabloona, and Stanley Adjuk, these three individuals have helped our community a lot in regards to fisheries and they have worked very hard in the construction part of the community. And also Stanley, who has worked in a variety, made huge contributions.

We celebrate these three who were recognized and also I'm very proud that we now have a new air terminal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statement. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Item 4: Returns to Oral h
Questions

Return to Oral Question 1334 - 6(2): Water Infrastructure

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to follow up on a commitment I made to MLA Killiktee on September 8, 2025, regarding an update to Clyde River water treatment plant, oral question 1334 - 6(2).

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to advise the member that this summer my department completed onsite assessments including archaeological, geotechnical, hydrological and topographic surveys. These surveys and assessments will result in a report that will inform next steps in planning the replacement for water infrastructure in Clyde River. This report is expected to be completed in early 2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Susan Savikataaq and her sister Serena Siksik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) I would like to welcome everybody here to the House. Item 6, Oral Questions. Before we start do I need to say anything at all?

>>*Laughter*

Speaker: Thank you. Members, be aware of our interpreter translators. They are so professional, yet, I'm so proud of them but yesterday they had to do a little bit of a supersonic speed translation, so thank you very much to our interpreters.

>>*Applause*

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 1377 – 6(2): Municipal Infrastructure

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues. My questions today are for the Minister of Community Services, next door.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, the minister will recall Sanikiluaq's community hall and arena were located in the same facility. This key piece of municipal infrastructure was the central gathering place for residents, and played a vital role in the life of the community. Mr. Speaker, the minister will be aware the facility was severely damaged by fire and is now unusable.

The Minister of Community Services is also responsible for the office of the fire marshal. Can the minister indicate when the fire marshal's final report on its investigation into the cause of the fire will be shared with the municipal council and the community's member of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community Services Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the fire marshal is a semi-autonomous body, and when they do our investigations and once they are complete, they do provide us a copy. To date I don't have a copy of it and I don't know the exact time frame, but once it does happen I will be sure to make sure that the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq gets a copy immediately, along with our member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the report.

Mr. Speaker, the debris from the fire is still at the site and needs to be cleaned up. Can the minister describe how his department can assist the municipality in cleaning up the site. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I understand correctly, that was a municipal infrastructure and it will be for them to clean that area up. But I will commit my staff to make sure that we will find ways of helping Sanikiluaq to take this tragic loss of building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during last fall's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, members approved capital funding for the budget of the former Department of Community and Government Services' budget for local government

planning and design initiatives. It is my understanding that this program has been transferred to the new Department of Community Services.

Can the minister indicate what actions his department is taking to ensure that a new community hall and arena for Sanikiluaq is added to the government's five-year capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a very oversubscribed program, as there is a lot of need at the municipal level. Having you raise this awareness in this House helps, in terms of to try and advance the project, and so I'll continue very closely with all the municipalities in terms of trying to ensure that they have adequate buildings, and this is one that will definitely have in our foresights. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1378 – 6(2): Nunavut Association of Municipalities

Ms. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community Services.

As the minister will recall, his department issued an announcement on Monday of this week concerning the government's plan to spend \$18.7 million from the federal Canada Community Building Fund. The announcement indicated that:

“Projects supported by the Canada Community Building Fund include the metal shredder project in Rankin Inlet. The Government of Nunavut continues to prioritize collaboration with local municipalities and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to ensure the fair and transparent distribution of CCBF, Canada Community Building Fund funds.”

Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to the important work of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. Can the minister confirm what other projects are being supported under this program, and can he clarify how the Nunavut Association of Municipalities is involved in project selection. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work very closely with Nunavut Association of Municipalities. We do have committees in place to ensure programs like these are reviewed together and jointly to try and get those projects in.

For the five-year forecast that I have on my list, it lists all the communities, and I don't want to get into trouble with Mr. Speaker by having a long response, so if it's all right with the member, I'll be happy to provide that list directly to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response and I would like to see that, which community and what is planned for each community. Mr. Speaker, many of the members of the House today are former majors, deputy majors, and municipal councillors.

One of the items passed by the Nunavut Association of Municipalities at its most recent annual general meeting called on the Government of Nunavut to provide timely responses to resolutions adopted by the association. Over the past few days, a number of my colleagues have tabled resolutions concerning a variety of subjects, including search and rescue and weather observer services at Nunavut airports.

Will the minister commit to tabling copies of the government's formal responses to these and other resolutions passed at the association's most recent annual general meeting. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, some of those motions require quite a lengthy time to do a proper response. From my briefings that I got, not all of them have been responded yet, so I won't be able to table those within this time frame, but if there are anything that are direct link for that have been responded I'll definitely take that into consideration that my member colleague has asked for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In August of this year the minister's department issued a request for proposals for an actuarial and compliance review of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities' insurance exchange. Mayors and municipal councillors commonly referred to it as NAMEX.

Can the minister indicate if any specific concerns have been identified with the current program, and can he describe how the Nunavut Association of Municipalities will be involved in the review process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a number of concerns have been raised to me on this program and working with Nunavut Association of Municipalities, we are directly involved in trying to rectify some of the programs. One of the major problems is that the cost of replacement has gone skyrocketed to the value of the insured buildings. There's a huge difference and a huge gap that is causing that, and some of the communities have not necessarily kept up to speed, in terms of their insurance. That's another factor.

So there are numerous multi-factors. We are working very closely, and I really appreciate them that they are willing to work very closely with us to try and help, because it applies to all communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1379 – 6(2): Teachers Needed in Naujaat and Coral Harbour (Malliki)

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. During my questioning during our session, during her response I had additional questions in regards to the teachers in the communities in my constituency. Less than half of the teachers in Naujaat, the teachers in Coral Harbour and Naujaat and elementary school teachers, when will we be getting full complement of teachers in that community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. I know that the department is currently still working on recruiting, as it's an ongoing thing for our department as we just started the school year across the territory, with vacancies that are out there.

The department still is working towards recruiting educators that are recognized with Bachelor of Education degree. Educators from outside Nunavut must provide evidence that their formal teaching education was recognized in the jurisdiction in which they have earned it. And in terms of the particulars around Naujaat, I'll have to get back to the member on that question with the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our students need to attend school. And when they don't have a teacher, won't they be falling behind in their education? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. We are working to support our schools, and if there is perhaps a vacancy that there are other alternatives for the students, either a letter of authority or a substitute teacher until those vacancies are filled. We're working towards really pushing those, and encourage all Nunavummiut to apply to the Arctic College and become a teacher. There are so many wonderful careers out there and we need Nunavummiut to become teachers, to become qualified professionals in all different fields. I really urge students in grade 12 and going forward, if you want to go back to school, to look into it and apply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I did not get a response, so I'll re-ask my question. Our students have to attend school every day during school days. These positions, when these positions are vacant, will the students' education be left behind or be further behind than the rest? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. So if positions are filled by substitutes or letters of authority, they do have to go through work plans and those are done in support of those in charge of the schools, the principal, vice principal, to make sure that their curriculum is being looked after and that they are teaching the right material. They do work closely with those people in those positions, to ensure that there's no disruption to the education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1380 – 6(2) Nunavut Land Use Plan (Savikataaq)

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon to Arviammiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Environment, as the minister of Environment is the lead for the draft Land Use Plan examination. The Nunavut Land Use Plan has been within the government's hand for at least two years now, and to date when members ask questions, we have not been able to receive a reply.

My first question is to the minister will the Land Use Plan be rejected or signed off before the end of this Assembly? I'm not asking if they're signing it, or are they going to

pass it on to the next one? Is it being signed or not signed within the next two weeks?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question.

Mr. Speaker, any party can reject the plan, whether it's the Government of Nunavut, Government of Canada, or Nunavut Tunngavik, but must provide written reasons to the Nunavut Planning Commission to consider. The reasons can be made public by the Nunavut Planning Commission, if that's the case, and under that circumstance through legislation the Nunavut Planning Commission has one opportunity to submit a revised plan for a decision.

But to date, the Nunavut government as well as Government of Canada, Crown consultations with Inuit as well as affected Indigenous groups, governments, and organizations. It is still ongoing, and is limited and will be limited by the upcoming election.

With that, the Government of Nunavut is taking the necessary time to ensure the decision is made considering our responsibilities, as well as the interests of Nunavummiut as a whole. For that reason the Government of Nunavut's decision on the plan is deferred to the next Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister for telling the House and Nunavummiut that the decision to support or not support the Draft Land Use Plan is deferred to the next government.

I have my questions. This plan was born from consultation with Nunavummiut, by the Nunavut Planning Commission, and now the minister stated that they are doing consultations with stakeholders and Inuit organizations. I'm curious as to why they are doing more consultation on the plan which evolved from all the consultation that was already done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut's review has focused and continues to ensure that it balances many interests and factors, as required by the Nunavut agreement. We're looking at conservation and responsible resource development, transportation and energy needs and more.

But the consultation is not just with Nunavut Inuit; there's other Indigenous groups outside of Nunavut that through the section 35 Constitution, the federal government are going through with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the Nunavut Planning Commission was doing the consultation, they did consultations in northern Manitoba. They did consultations in Northwest Territories, and those are outside Indigenous organizations. So it seems what was done to come up with the plan is being replicated to defer a decision on whether to accept or reject the Nunavut Draft Land Use Plan.

For my last question, Mr. Speaker, I'll ask the minister what is the main, number one sticking point for the government not signing off on the Land Use Plan? Because obviously there are sticking points, because in two years it has not been signed off. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can't talk on behalf of Nunavut Planning Commission and their processes. We do respect the institutions of public government on what they do in terms of consulting with different groups.

On the government side, territorially, federally, we also have our own processes and reviews internally, and this work is still ongoing. That's where the work still must be completed.

In terms of what the number one sticking point is, I'm not at liberty to say, because this will be decided upon for the next government. I don't want to preclude any decisions that will be made at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1381 – 6(2): Nation Building Projects

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Amittummiut, and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask questions on the nation building, when it comes to closing the gap. As I was watching the important announcement from the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Carney when it comes to nation building, and I was watching, Mr. Carney made these major five big projects, two from British Columbia,

one from Ontario, one from Quebec, one from Saskatchewan, when it comes to nation building.

I would like to ask the premier when it comes to advocating for northernists. I guess my first question would be, when it comes to news that there will be a project coming up north this time around, but hopefully in the next round.

So I would like to ask the premier what involvement or what kind of collaboration was put in place when it comes to this Arctic corridor and security and sovereignty. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my colleague for continually advocating for infrastructure in the north. Mr. Speaker, I was very optimistic to see the prime minister announce the nation building projects. Of that I was very pleased to see Arctic Security Corridor, specifically the Grays Bay reference.

>> *Applause*

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: That's a big milestone, and has been in the vision of the wishes of the Inuit of Nunavut, to see what we could do to open up incredible critical mineral or resources potential that we have. Mr. Speaker, that was one of the four nation-building projects that we here have been very open and transparent in terms of bringing forward.

From today's announcement I do feel optimistic and I will continue to push for the three other projects that are on that list that are being lead by Inuit for Inuit, that really have a benefit to the whole country. But today it was a great day for us to see that one project advance, and I very much support continually advocating for the next three as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's a significant milestone when it comes to ports, ports, ports. But my vision is when it comes to the emergency management, the search and rescue is located in southern Canada, and I've been trying to be very vocal Mr. Speaker, when it comes to benefitting Inuit and when it comes to emergency management because size matters when there's a search and rescue.

Now, as the premier has stated when it comes to Arctic Economic and Security Corridor, Mr. Speaker, let me make a quote: "An all-whether, dual-use, land", and ports and ports and ports. That's a whole lot of ports.

“...and infrastructure projects that will contribute to Canada’s defence and northern development.”

Northern development.

“The project will support northern critical minerals”, as the premier has stated, “create new opportunities for sustainable development, and communities to the rest of Canada, while increasing... the Canadian Armed Forces in the north.”

As the premier will recall, as of last year I was vocal when it comes to military personnel being located in more northern communities, such as Sanirajak.

But now Mr. Speaker, here’s my question. Can I get an answer from the premier that what I have been saying, the vision of what I see when it comes to federal, provincial, territorial meeting partners, can I get an assurance from the premier that what I have been saying in this House when it comes to closing the gap and when it comes to emergency management, I would like to get an assurance that the premier will be advocating on behalf of Amittummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I want to thank my colleague for his question and his continued advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, I have said in this House numerous times that the voice and the vision that my colleague here has brought forward to me is something that I have always brought forward to any of my engagements, in particular to the Minister of Defence in the federal government. It is something that I think we all share, that we want to see infrastructure.

Today’s announcement was very promising in the sense where we did hear the Prime Minister talk about dual-use infrastructure, that will also serve whether it’s the needs of the Canadian Coast Guard or Department of National Defence, or that of our communities and those are what we continue to push for, and today is just the beginning where we did hear the prime minister talk about one project but there’s much more that we have to continue to push for as we know the infrastructure gap between the north and south is large.

For that I will continue to advocate and push for all infrastructure to the north, in particular for these nation buildings that we’ve identified jointly for our partners at Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaernerker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, on my first question I was supposed to when it comes to these nation buildings, let's say is there someone from Nunavut when it comes to an Indigenous advisory council? Is there someone sitting in from Nunavut on that council? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I want to thank my colleague for his question. Yes, the prime minister did announce that there's a new advisory of Indigenous leaders from across this country that he appointed to advisory. I know when Bill C-5 was first brought out, we were very excited, really, for it to bring streamline and attention to the nation-building projects. The prime minister did acknowledge that Christy Sinclair was appointee, that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated perhaps suggested.

We have not been involved in recommending or suggesting any names. We've left that with the rights holders and Indigenous organizations.

I congratulate all the Indigenous leaders that were appointed, who will play a role, and I very much look forward to working with them as we advance all the four projects we've identified that are being lead for Inuit by Inuit that have a lens of that national interest. So congratulations to all of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1382 – 6(2) Financial Action Plan for Nunavut Arctic College

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue along my line of questioning from yesterday from the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, when I was looking over the minister's statement that was made, one of the changes to the Financial Assistance For Nunavut Students was more flexible enrolment timelines. Whether I look at the policy, the third paragraph in the policy that was just loaded on the website a couple days ago, it states "to apply to FANS as soon as you can. Application deadlines are March 1, July 15 and November 15 of every year."

Yet when I go to the bottom of that policy and the cancelled program components, it says one of the cancelled program components is the deadlines of July 15, November 15 and March 1 application deadlines.

I would like to get some clarification on what enrolment deadlines are going to be in place, how this flexible enrolment timelines will impact students making sure they get their applications in time to receive funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. That announcement and having more flexible enrolment timelines is one that we really look forward to, as we know that programs might be offered at various times throughout the year and this gives more opportunity for students to apply to go to school.

Yes, I'm sorry about that note that you shared. Deadlines to apply for financial assistance for Nunavut students is eight weeks before their program starts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister for that clear response.

Mr. Speaker, I just have to take a moment to acknowledge. I did speak to the minister about this yesterday off camera. From recent memory, I think this is the first year in recent memory that I've not gotten a formal concern or a complaint from a student applying for financial assistance.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Hickes: I would like to think I played a small part in that, in continuing this dialogue over the last few years. But I want to acknowledge the staff at the FANS offices on how much they have improved their responsiveness to students. I can't thank them enough. So thank you, through you, Minister Gross.

My next question Mr. Speaker, is when I look at the recommendations, there was a recommendation number 5 was to deal with the FANS office and regional Inuit organizations. In one of the media coverage from last fall it stated a quote from the minister of a dedicated project team made up of government officials and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated representatives that work collaboratively on this education funding review.

Mr. Speaker, the specific recommendation that I want to look at, like I mentioned, is recommendation number 5 where it speaks to Department of Education seeking a partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the regional Inuit associations to explore the possibility of developing a single application model for post-secondary students to distribute benefits.

It clearly states that it's not looking at combining these two organizations, and it did state that to start with there would have to be an MOU of understanding.

When I look at the funding group that was put together last fall and the office of NTI and the regional Inuit organizations, is there currently an MOU established? And if so, how often does that committee meet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. Yes, one of the major recommendations is to work together with Financial Assistance For Nunavut Students office alongside the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and our regional Inuit associations. And with that, Mr. Speaker, we do plan to work closely with our regional Inuit associations and eventually try to develop a one-window process for students applying for funding.

We haven't established one yet, but we will form, under the act, the new *Post-Secondary Student Support Act*, we'll work on this. This work is ongoing and we look forward to streamlining the process for students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the next recommendations I would like to touch on are recommendations number 6 and 7 on page 8 of the FANS Comprehensive Review, working together with the FANS office and Government of Nunavut Human Resources department. It's something that I know that the Government of Nunavut has made some improvements on. It's nice to see it put in writing here.

I am going to read it from recommendation number 7, because I think it's worth noting specifically.

"With input and support from Advanced Education Division it is recommended that the Department of Human Resources actively match students with summer employment opportunities during the students' study period and full-time employment opportunities on graduation within the Government of Nunavut that align with their area of study."

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a very, very important initiative to continue to follow through with and to bring more attention to. Too often we've seen students not working in their field of study and they don't get exposed to different things, where I know of students that actively pursue different categories of profession that the Government of Nunavut operates under.

I would just like to get an update on what type of communication and progress is being made with the Department of Human Resources on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for raising that wonderful point. We do really want to have enhanced employment opportunities for students, and create that space within the government to have wonderful and meaningful work for students to avail of.

Mr. Speaker, we had conversations with the Department of Human Resources on this topic, and we have to follow through with that conversation, in terms of it's not yet in place but we really do look forward to it coming into force and having students utilize that opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1383 – 6(2): Activities of the Qulliq Energy Corporation (Sammurtok)

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Good afternoon people in Chesterfield Inlet and in Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, in August of this year, the Qulliq Energy Corporation issued a request for proposals to conduct assessments of power plants in a number of the Nunavut communities, including Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Whale Cove, Coral Harbour, Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet, Sanirajak, and Kimmirut.

Information published by the Qulliq Energy Corporation indicates that:

“With four facilities now over 50 years old and four others nearing the end of their 40-year design life, an urgent and thorough assessment is required to evaluate their operational integrity, safety, and prioritize future investment decisions.”

Can the minister confirm what criteria will be used to determine whether or not to replace Rankin Inlet's existing power plant with a new facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague for asking the question. Our infrastructure, our power generators, there are too many of them that are too old now and we are aware of that and this has caused problems to our workers and to Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in terms of the decisions around the Rankin Inlet power plant specifically, the options that would be considered, looking at previous major project permit application processes, that options that would be considered would be to either construct a new power plant on a new site or to look at a rehabilitation of the existing power plant on the existing site. So looking at, I'll use Kugluktuk for an example, those were the options that we brought forward to Utility Rates Review Council.

I don't have the exact criteria in front of me, but there will be a multifaceted, a bunch of different criteria which would be brought into consideration around the future of Rankin Inlet's power plant. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, Chesterfield Inlet's power plant was constructed in the year of 1975, and turns 50 this year. During the recent spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the minister indicated that "process continues on generator set replacements in 11 communities", including Chesterfield Inlet.

Can the minister indicate today the timeline for replacing Chesterfield Inlet's existing power plant with a new facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. With regards to a new power plant in Chesterfield Inlet, that all depends on the availability of funding to support that project in the future.

The Arctic Energy Fund is allowing us to replace the power plants in communities that I mentioned earlier today in my minister's statement. However, we need more federal funding. We need more federal dollars put into our power infrastructure. That's where it hasn't just been the Qulliq Energy Corporation advocating for supports. I thank our premier for also advocating for the important, or of dual-purpose infrastructure. And from Qulliq Energy Corporation's perspective, we believe power plants are not just dual-purpose they are multi-purpose. They enable everything in our communities, from transportation to health care to education to security.

So the Arctic Energy Fund, as we have it, is very close to being fully allocated, so we need more federal funding to move forward on new power plants in communities like Chesterfield Inlet. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the Qulliq Energy Corporation submitted its general rate applications in December of last year, it announced that rate increases are necessary to address the corporation's rising costs and aging infrastructure.

During this year's winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the minister made a statement in which he informed the House that he has requested that the federal government "take over Qulliq Energy Corporation's historical debt" in order to "alleviate financial strain." Can the minister update the House today on the status of these discussions with the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the discussions with the federal government, they are ongoing. Our president Ernest Douglas has been doing a great job of advocating and educating our federal partners in Ottawa around our needs. We have a few, I'll call them a few leads on potential funds for Qulliq Energy Corporation, however no definitive agreements yet. Like I believe a lot of my colleagues here in the House or a lot of departments, I should say, within the Government of Nunavut we will be watching the federal budget very closely next month, and hopefully there will be some consideration given to the important critical nature of power generation in Nunavut.

As the member knows, we have huge needs in Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, many other communities in Nunavut, and we need federal supports to support power generation in our communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1384 – 6(2): Activities of the Office of the Fire Marshal

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just since the premier mentioned it, I would like to join him in congratulating my sister, Nipasha Christy Sinclair on her appointment to the Indigenous Advisory Council, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you she's no shrinking violet, and I wish to be as smart and as successful as her some day as my older sister. Congratulations, Christy.

>> *Applause*

Ms. Brewster: Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of the new Department of Community Services, which has assumed responsibility for Nunavut emergency management and the Office of the Fire Marshal. Mr. Speaker, as you likely know, there was yet another fire in Iqaluit late last month that severely damaged a number of residential apartment units, and I'm grateful to the first responders who contained the fire

and I'm thankful that there was no loss of human life. Sorry about the little kitties that they lost, the kittens.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity this summer to catch up on a number of the annual reports and other documents that a number of ministers tabled during the spring sitting of the House, and I want to focus on the most recent report of the Office of the Fire Marshal.

And I will again pay tribute to the first responders and volunteers in Iqaluit who did so much for the community in January of this year when Noble House was destroyed by fire and dozens of families were suddenly displaced in what were very traumatic circumstances. Thank you for that.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the fire marshal's investigation into the cause of the Noble House fire, and will he commit to ensuring that the final report on the incident will be provided to all Iqaluit MLAs and members of the city council at the earliest opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of unfortunate fires that are going through the territory, and for this particular one the investigation is ongoing. Once it's complete and the report is done, I will make that available to my colleagues that are here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to receiving that report, even if it comes late in the fall.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues from Igloolik and Sanikiluaq have also been asking questions recently about the status of fire marshal investigations into fires in their communities, so I do urge the minister to ensure that these types of reports are released in a timely manner after they have been finalized.

Mr. Speaker, I was troubled to read in the most recent annual report of the Office of the Fire Marshal that there were a total of 60 reported fires in Iqaluit during the years 2023 and 2024. I'll just slow down a little bit. Sorry about that. That's an average of two-and-a-half fires a month.

Mr. Speaker, the report also indicated that there were a grand total of 267 fires across Nunavut's 25 communities during the same time period. That means that almost a quarter of all fires occurred here in the capital city.

Can the minister describe what new fire prevention initiatives his fire department is working on with the city of Iqaluit's fire department and emergency services team. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that information right in front of me, but I do know that there are a number of preventative initiatives that our fire marshal's office has been doing, and I hope that that continues, because the list is a bit long for the size of Nunavut, to have so many fires that take place in our communities and in the city, too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really do hope that the minister is spending a lot of time being briefed by the fire marshal and that office so that we can be more aware.

Mr. Speaker, we know that arson is a real problem, and we know that the root causes which lead youth or other individuals to commit these acts can be complex and challenging to address. That being said, I was surprised to note in the minister's most recent annual report that there were no prosecutions under the fire prevention act over the past two years.

Mr. Speaker, I was also surprised to read that the number of fire code inspections dropped dramatically, from 632 during the 2023 year to only 68 during the year 2024. That's a decrease of almost 90 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, it's said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Can the minister clearly explain the reasons for this decrease and can he assure me that the number of inspections will go up over the coming year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the big component is staff turnover. Finding a fire marshal or assistant fire marshal continues to be a problem in terms of a very professional trade that's there. And so that's our want. If we increase our capacity then definitely more visits on the fire codes would be delivered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1385 – 6(2): Kivallik Hydro-Fibre Link

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, good afternoon, all. You caught me by surprise there.

My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I want to continue my line of questioning from the spring sitting and dig even deeper into the details of the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link megaproject and related matters. In August of this year Nunavut Tunngavik identified the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link as one of four “projects of national interest” that the organization has indicated that it wishes to “co-develop” with the territorial and federal governments.

Can the minister describe how the Qulliq Energy Corporation is currently working with Nunavut Tunngavik and the Kivalliq Inuit Association to advance the project, and can the minister confirm if either or both of the organizations are contributing funding towards the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank you for that question. With the Nukkek Corporation it is supported by the Qulliq Energy Corporation and also the Inuit organizations that are supporting this program.

(interpretation ends) In terms of the question, QEC is committed to working with the Government of Canada, the Government of Nunavut, and the Inuit organizations as well as Nunavut communities to enhance energy security, affordability and efficiency. We’ve continued our work with Nukkek Corporation, and in April 2025 Qulliq Energy Corporation and the governments of Nunavut and Manitoba announced their commitment to delivering clean energy and expanding communication infrastructure in the Kivalliq region, in collaboration with Nukkek.

There’s more I can say, but I’ll keep it short. I hope the member has additional questions on this. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister for the response, and perhaps later on if you need to, you can tell me in person if the organizations are contributing funding towards the project. I know you can’t say that publicly right here at the moment.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, the recent announcement concerning the Nunavut-Manitoba joint declaration indicated that the province’s utility, Manitoba Hydro,

would “commit 50 megawatts of reserve load capacity to support development of the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link.”

When I raised this issue during our recent spring sitting, the minister indicated that work was ongoing towards the power purchase agreement. He also stated that if the Qulliq Energy Corporation is “able to deliver cheaper power rate power in any given community or region, those savings would be shared right across Nunavut.”

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the power purchase agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question.

(interpretation ends) I am happy that the member mentioned in his preamble the support from Manitoba Hydro. I would like to give full credit to our premier as well as my colleague in Manitoba, Minister Sala, as well as Premier Kinew, who was part of that announcement.

In terms of the talks with Nukkik Corporation, we are in very frequent communication with them. In August just last month, we issued a letter of intent to Nukkik Corporation for the off-take commitment of wholesale power provision from the Kivalliq hydro-fibre line. And as I understand it, that means that we are signalling our intent to be the wholesale agent of the power from the project, should it be built. So that has been a step forward.

We continue to work closely with Nukkik around the other details that need to be decided on. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a fundamental reason for pursuing such projects as the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link is to reduce our dependence on diesel and lessen our greenhouse gas emissions. Earlier this year the Legislative Assembly approved \$500,000 in funding for the Department of Environment to provide the Qulliq Energy Corporation under the Independent Power Producer subsidy program. The stated purpose of this program is to “support the purchase of electricity from independent power producers at a higher rate, ensuring that financial viability of renewable energy projects.”

Can the minister confirm how much has been spent under this program by the Qulliq Energy Corporation during the current 2025-2026 fiscal year, and can he indicate which entities have received funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that question. (interpretation ends) Qulliq Energy Corporation continues to work with the Climate Change Secretariat in terms of that support program to ensure that we can properly coordinate or synchronize our efforts through, to make sure that funding is effective and goes out the door. Currently we have not yet disbursed any funds through that initiative, but we do appreciate the Department of Environment taking the lead on this and we are working closely with them.

On our end we're working to develop a contribution policy which will govern how and where the funds flow, but there's an important coordination aspect with the Climate Change Secretariat that we're also figuring out and working through some wrinkles. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1386 – 6(2): Rising Cost of Construction

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I alluded to in my member's statement, my questions today are for the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. They are concerning the Government of Nunavut's rising cost of construction.

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, formally known as Community and Government Services, plays an integral role in the design, tenders, and project management of Government of Nunavut construction. I would like to know how closely the minister has been monitoring the situation with regards to the rising cost of construction, and ask what is the average cost of construction and how does that compare to recent projects that have been completed in recent years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I appreciated the heads up my colleague provided on this topic.

Mr. Speaker, and my colleague noted it, too, that over the years, and probably around since 2020 we have seen capital projects in Nunavut have significantly escalated in price. And with that, we're finding that construction tenders are consistently exceeding the initial projects that they are budgeted for.

It is kind of quite challenging to compare the difference types of asset classes that were planned for and proceeding with, and I can't say like a definitive number by how much things have escalated by, but for example, the Sakku school in Coral Harbour, that was practically double in budget. Those are just some of the things that we've had to deal with, and as a result we did proceed with the market assessment of construction, talking with vendors and people that bid on these major projects, try to understand the market environment and what factors lead to these inflationary prices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I understand the minister's response and where he's coming from about the different asset classes. It's quite difficult to compare the cost of a health centre with that of a school, given the different scopes and code requirements.

However, I think a significant majority of capital projects such as schools and air terminal buildings are quite generic, and have less stringent code requirements.

As I mentioned during my member's statement, I'm glad to see Nunavut Housing Corporation halt and reverse the rising cost per construction of public housing, and I had mentioned, I told the minister I would be asking what discussions the department has been having to formulate a strategy similar to NHC's Nunavut 3000, to reduce the rising cost of construction. So that is going to be my next question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the housing corporation and the partnership that they have with NCC Development, it is something that the corporation went ahead with. We do want to see as a government as a whole to see how we can try to deescalate our capital projects. Myself, I mean, my department being in charge of procurement for the government as a whole, we do have a public process of being fair, open and transparent around that process. And we are not going through that if it's a partnership like a negotiated contract that was done through housing corp, then those are options that we do have at our hands, but for the public procurement process.

I do want to also state that with our designs of cost estimations that we have around our capital, the building standards are also evolving as well. We've seen it through with the long-term care facilities, for example, that there's more stringent requirements to build, as opposed to before COVID, for example. So those things we have to factor in as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for the record, I do not necessarily support negotiated contracts; I do understand that they can be utilized correctly in extenuating circumstances. However, one of the strong aspects of Nunavut 3,000 is the commitment to utilize alternative construction methods, to expedite the building construction and reduce the cost.

The public sector has been using alternative construction methods to build modular homes and pre-fabricated hotels, and the federal government has even used alternative construction methods to build the new RCMP detachment in Pang.

In 2019 I asked the minister's predecessor whether or not the government would use alternative construction methods as an endeavour to reduce rising cost of construction, and I did point out that the ministers have fiduciary responsibility to ensure that Nunavut's public funds are spent in an efficient manner.

I would like to ask the same question that I asked of the previous minister: Has the Government of Nunavut begun exploring options of utilizing alternative construction methods to reduce the cost of construction of capital projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: I believe your microphone was muted on that, but Mr. Speaker, to the question, Mr. Speaker, our department is looking at utilizing modular builds for things like water treatment plants and things of that nature to manage costs, and we do see that they could play a role in places where cost savings are in favour. For the design phase of any project that's something we consider and we will continue to look at that going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1387 – 6(2): Concerns with Sailijaarvik Boarding Home

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, over the past few years I have raised concerns brought to me by my constituents respecting the Sailijaarvik Boarding Home here in Iqaluit. A number of my colleagues have also raised concerns. It is my understanding that a number of formal complaints about Sailijaarvik have been submitted to the Office of Patient Relations but the situation is ongoing.

I recognize that the boarding home is not operated by the Department of Health, and that funding for the services comes through the federal Non-Insured Health Benefits program,

however it is important that there be clear accountabilities for how those services are being provided by the operators of the boarding home to Inuit medical clients.

Can the minister clearly describe how his department works with the boarding home contractor to ensure that it is a safe and comfortable environment for Inuit who have to travel from their community to access medical services in Iqaluit, and what can be done if the environment is found to be not safe or comfortable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the boarding home contracts contain clauses that create obligations on the contractor. In the case of Iqaluit's boarding home, it's Nova Group; in the case of our other boarding homes, it's other contracted parties.

The clauses say that the contractor must maintain a safe and hygienic environment; must provide services and supports, as detailed in the contract; maintain a schedule of operations and preventative maintenance activities; and also meet health and safety standards of the jurisdiction where the boarding home is located. So it's continual.

Signing a contract with a boarding home operator just is the beginning of a process of working together very closely with that contractor and troubleshooting and suggesting from the Department of Health's perspective, suggesting solutions that are identified. The Office of Patient Relations display an important role in flagging issues that come up.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Minister.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have also been informed that there is a significant amount of public drunkenness in the area around the Sailijaarvik. Sadly, it seems that it is not just local troublemakers, but some medical travel clients do not act responsibly or with any consideration for their fellow Inuit who are also staying there. Medical clients are not able to call the RCMP, and many are frustrated about what to do when the issue comes up.

Can the minister describe when specific initiatives are currently underway to address the abuse of alcohol in and around the Sailijaarvik facility and if there are none, will he work

with the operator of the facility to implement some kind of program to raise awareness and tackle this growing problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for highlighting this. It is a big concern for us. It does lead to alcohol use, does lead to all kinds of unfortunate situations, not always involving only medical travellers or their escorts; sometimes there are members of the general community that are involved. And so in terms of Sailijaarvik we have been working with them to refine the approach to alcohol in and around the facility. There were numerous complaints coming in around disturbances to residents, safety concerns, and so we've worked with the contractor to help them to implement a zero tolerance approach around the alcohol issue.

That's going to be an ongoing process of educating. We don't want to be punitive. We don't want to punish people unnecessarily, or restrict their comfort and we want them to have comfortable living or temporary accommodations when they are away from home.

Trying find the right ground with the contractor in terms of being protective of the space, but also considerate of people's needs and things like addictions and mental health, which are very real for many of our residents. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Minister (interpretation ends) Addiction is an illness that we have to understand as well.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that the Sailijaarvik boarding home has become a hangout for some of the local homeless population. I've been even told once snacks are put out, they are all being eaten by the homeless individuals who hang around the facility, and there are no snacks left for the medical travel clients who are actually staying there.

Can the minister confirm whether he is aware of this situation, and if not, will he commit to working with the operators of the facility to ensure that the residents of the facility are the priority when it comes to receiving snacks and food while they are staying there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree I commit that we will work with operators. I agree, and I commit that. I thank the member for talking about this.

We would like to have a safe environment for the boarding home patients that come to Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members be aware time allotted for question period is now over. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to rule 35(7) I seek unanimous consent to extend question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Extend question period? Member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There are none. Question period is extended for another 30 minutes.

Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

Oral Question 1388 – 6(2): Kugluktuk Power Plan

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of the Kugluktuk power plant. As the minister will recall, the Qulliq Energy Corporation issued a new request for proposals for the design and construction of Kugluktuk's new power plant earlier this year. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the procurement process for Kugluktuk's new power plant. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Kugluktukmuit MLA.

(interpretation ends) In terms of the procurement process for Kugluktuk power plant, it is ongoing. We are hopeful that this iteration of the procurement process will be successful. We are encouraged by the success we've had with Cambridge Bay, Igloolik, and Gjoa Haven.

As the member knows it's a very old power plant; it's over 50 years old, and we really want to get on the straight, the quickest possible path to seeing that power plant replaced for the betterment of Kugluktuk residents, as well as our hard-working staff in the community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation request for proposals for the design and construction of Kugluktuk's new power plant indicates that their project is funded in part by the Government of Canada. When I raised this issue during the Legislative Assembly spring sitting, the minister indicated that there were a number of concerns, including the potential impact of tariffs on the cost of the project and lack of clarity surrounding the availability of federal funding. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of these issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the impacts of tariffs, we do have a better handle on what we're looking at. In a general sense the impact of the tariffs, we don't anticipate them having a major impact but that's still yet to be seen. There can be unforeseen, or sometimes it seems in the world of tariffs and international relations things change on daily basis, maybe on the whims of somebody's personality. But we are keeping a close eye on it.

In terms of the federal funding component, the biggest challenge that we've had is that the amounts allocated under the Arctic Energy Fund were based on what are now outdated cost estimates, and so the federal government or the federal contribution through the Arctic Energy Fund will be smaller than what we would like for the Kugluktuk plant, because as time has passed, the cost of a new power plant has gone up so drastically. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The minister recently informed the House that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is in the process of installing emergency generator units in a number of communities, including Kugluktuk. Can the minister clarify the timetable budget for this project. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I know I have the information here somewhere, but I may need a magnifying glass to read it.

Mr. Speaker, the emergency unit modular installation in Kugluktuk, although I don't have the detailed budget for it, I can confirm that the modular unit has been purchased and we do have a contract with Toromont, who's going ship the unit to Kugluktuk for installation. That's the latest information that I have.

I believe the unit is scheduled to be sent to Kugluktuk next year on the first sealift.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1389 – 6(2): Struggles of Income Support Clients

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Family Services. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my member's statement, many of my constituents are having great difficulties in getting help from income support; workers either at home, from the regional centre, or from the Iqaluit headquarters office.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm that she's aware of this situation, and can she provide an update on what her department is doing to address it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you for your question. We know this is a concern, and the staff at this time is dealing with the matter. And when support is provided, they are provided from Cambridge Bay office, and on occasion from Iqaluit headquarters, especially those who need the support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, ever since the funding from the Inuit Child First Initiative program dried up, many families are struggling more than ever to feed their children.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate whether any consideration has been given to providing additional funding, or even increasing the amount of income support benefits provided to eligible families to fill the gap that has been left by the loss of the Inuit Child First Initiative funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your question. We realize the support from the federal government has had a negative impact now on the North, and in particular Indigenous people. There was an increase of 30 per cent, I believe that's two years ago, with income assistance benefits.

At this time and for a while now the increase was not there, although some increases have taken place, but I realize also it does not keep up with cost of inflation. We also provide other means of support, with food, for example, making food available at the schools, and for those who do not earn income, providing country food in the community. We provide support where we can provide that support.

The federal program that was there has had a lot of impact, and it provided a lot of support for children, especially to solve the problem of hunger. We keep seeking ways to support from the federal government. We haven't been given the response back yet, unfortunately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I perceive that the Department of Family Services is doing what it can to fill vacant income support worker positions. I now will take this opportunity to encourage my fellow Nunavummiut who are looking for meaningful work to consider a plan to fill these critical positions.

However, Mr. Speaker, if there's no one in the income support worker position at the local or regional level, then someone at headquarters should be made available. It is not acceptable that staff in Iqaluit refuse to assist Kitikmeot residents.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to directing her officials to ensure that Kitikmeot residents who are seeking assistance with income support will receive the services to which they are entitled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your question. The income assistance support workers do a lot of work and some are tired out and some also have to deal with difficult situations at work. Irrespective, this won't stop. The commitment to support will always be there, and the support assistance workers will be there.

There are indeterminant positions that will be filled in Taloyoak. That has been a problem in the community. However, we are still seeking people to apply, and training will have to be provided for that position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1390 – 6(2): Contaminated Sites (Killiktee)

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for extending the question period, and I thank the cabinet for going along.

My question today will be for the Minister of Environment concerning my desire to revisit the issue of contaminated sites, abandoned in my constituency of Clyde River. The minister may recall that I raised this issue in the spring sitting.

As the minister is aware, the old town site near Patricia Bay in the vicinity of Clyde River or across Clyde River, work did start for remediation and has been in need of remediation, however and cleanup for decades, however.

Minister, with respect to this issue, (interpretation ends) in the year 2003, the government issued a request for proposal for site assessment. In the year 2012 the government submitted a detailed remediation plan to the Nunavut Impact Review Board, but it is unclear if that plan was ever implemented.

Mr. Speaker, during our recent spring knitting –

>>*Laughter*

Knitting. Sitting. I've been sitting for too long. Spring sitting, Mr. Speaker, the minister stated:

“...for that particular site, results from the field work that had been conducted by Environment in the summer of 2024 recommends remedial action.”

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate what action his department will be undertaking to perform this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the old town site in Clyde River the contamination, it is listed as a Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut responsibility. From what I gather from my briefing notes, the Department of Environment has been supporting towards having this site have the remedial work commence. However, right now, and just to backtrack a bit it has been a number of years that this has been ongoing. As far back as 2016 there was a funding shortfall to complete the remediation. However, we did do some new assessments as early as summer 2024.

We're still continuing to support Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut to carry out the management strategy of this site and will continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response, and also as mentioned that it's still an ongoing process. So by saying that, when I raised this issue during the recent spring sitting, the minister also stated that:

"Environment is responsible to assess the liability and risks of all Government of Nunavut lands and assets."

Can the minister confirm who is responsible for the cleanup of the old Clyde River town site, and can he indicate the approximate cost of the work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have cost estimation for the cleanup work, but again, Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut is the department responsible for managing old town Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) We are concerned about it, and that's why I rise about it. And because of that, Mr. Speaker, this past spring, during the sitting, I stated to the environment minister that I would like him to come to Clyde River with me, and if we can, to Qikiqtarjuaq. I expect and hope that my request be approved by our Government of Nunavut to visit the community of Clyde River, to see for himself something that the community has been trying to get done for many years.

Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of contaminated sites in my constituency that I have seen on the map that needs to be remediated, including near my constituency, Cape Christian.

Will the minister commit to having the government's Contaminated Sites Liability Working Group provide an up-to-date status report on all contaminated sites located within Uqqummiut to the municipal councils of both Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Contaminated Sites and Liabilities Working Group is updating its procedures to align with the contaminated sites policies and working with other departments to ensure a path forward on next steps action items, and also for future reference, the contaminated sites across the territory will

be significant to clean up, and we'll continue to work with our local partners as well to keep them informed on where things stand.

I can have my department work with the municipalities in Qikiqtarjuaq and Qilupiapik on what my colleague is addressing here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1391 – 6(2): Public Housing for Sanikiluaq

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for recognizing me for the second time this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the acting Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I want to applaud the 6th Legislative Assembly's approach when it comes to housing, because, Mr. Speaker, every 25 community in Nunavut will get housing in all forms through the Nunavut 3000 initiative, through Igluliuqatigiingniq.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, when we first began in 2021, Sanikiluaq was at the bottom of the list of getting housings in Nunavut. I'm really proud of the 6th Legislative Assembly for building housing in all of our Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, my first question to the acting minister is: How many public housings will be constructed in the community of Sanikiluaq through the Nunavut 3000 initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the Igluliuqatigiingniq, there are a number of construction, different stages of construction. I'll state for the current housing projects in Sanikiluaq specifically, right now there are eight units under construction, six public housing units and two staff housing units. And framing is to begin this fall, 2025, according to the notes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. I have no more names. Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Return to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 438 – 6(2): 2022-2023 Community Transportation Initiatives Program

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the 2022-2023 Community Transportation Initiatives Program Report to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Ms. Gross.

Tabled Document 439 – 6(2): 2024 Minimum Wage Rate Annual Report

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you. I have, sorry, a document to be tabled, I'm pleased to table the 2024 Minimum Wage Rate Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Tabled Document 440 – 6(2): Letter from Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure in Response to Oral Question 1249 – 6(2)

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table a copy of correspondence I recently received from the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure in response to questions that I asked during our recent spring sitting concerning the Pond Inlet airport.

I encourage all members to review the document with care, and I will have some follow-up questions for the minister during our pre-dissolution sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Member from Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Hickes.

Tabled Document 441 – 6(2): Correspondence to the Auditor General of Canada re 2025 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut: Public Housing in Nunavut

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one document to table today in my capacity as chair of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, which is a copy of correspondence that I sent earlier today to the Auditor General of Canada concerning our standing committee's recent televised hearing on her office's report to the Legislative Assembly on public housing for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 14, Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motion 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 81, 82, 83, and 85 with Mr. Hickes in the chair. Before we proceed to Committee of the Whole, we'll take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:57 p.m. and Committee at 16:19

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

Chairman (Mr. George Hickes): Thank you, everybody. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following matters to deal with: Bills 81, 28, 83 and 85. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to first deal with Bill 81, and if time permits, Bill 82. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree we first begin with Bill 81?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok, do you have any officials you would like to have appear before the committee with you?

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

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to allow the minister's witnesses to appear with him?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Bill 81 – Interim Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2026-2027 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: We're on Bill 81, *Interim Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2026-2027* clause 3, item 2, Department of Health. \$11,244,000. I will ask the minister to introduce his officials. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right Dan Young, Deputy Minister of Finance, and on my left, Megan Hunt, Deputy Minister of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Next name I have on my list, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, folks. Thank you again to the staff for coming in and helping us all out.

Regarding the long-term care facility for Cambridge Bay, I've got a few follow-up questions. If this is approved through this interim capital ask when would the request for proposal actually be put out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if approved, we will put it out for November 2025. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Minister. Is there any reasons why this cannot be put off until the February-March full capital ask from the next government, from the 7th Assembly? It's still the same fiscal year. Why is this being put through now? Why not wait until the 7th Assembly for a full capital budget ask? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: As this is one of our main Katujjiluta mandate. We see the urgency in this. If we don't approve it today and put it on the full capital, we are looking at delaying it by August 2026. The RFP wouldn't get out by then. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if this is dealt with today and approved today, the request for proposal will go out in November of this year; but if it is delayed, deferred to the next government, the request for proposal will be delayed months further? Why the difference? It's still the same request for proposal, still the same project. But then all of a sudden it's delayed even further. What's the reasoning behind that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as election years happen our capital is delayed to February or March it will be approved in March and after that is the only time the department will be able to start working on the request for

proposals, and that's where you see the two differences is if we approve it now we can have that worked on with the approvals to have that request for proposals to come out in November of this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, I'm still not understanding why there would be a delay by multiple months if this is dealt with in February or March, as opposed to now. Today is September 11. If approved this sitting, the request for proposal will go out in November, a little over a month from now. But if it's dealt with in February or March it's even further. So why the delay if it's dealt with in February? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, it is using past practice that we have with the full capital plans, we're going with a lot of different projects, and this is where you could see the potential delay. If we put it to if we delay to the March one, you pretty much will miss a year because of the sealift, which is why this is we're putting the request in to ensure that this work proceeds as soon as possible, as our mandate is to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if this is dealt with today and approved during this sitting, there would be materials brought up on the 2026 sealift; is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As long as the tender is approved and it is granted to a construction company in time, yes, we foresee it coming on the 2026 sealift materials. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Chairman. And what if the big prices come in a lot higher than was budgeted? We heard the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut answer some questions earlier today where there's been a trend of much higher bid prices coming in, causing delays. We're going based on the fact that the assumption is the proponents would submit a bid within the budget.

My next question is: Is there a funding formula in place with the federal government where if the bid is coming in the federal government would put forward more funds to help offset the cost of inflation, cost of bid prices coming in much higher than what's budgeted? Is there an agreement with the federal government about that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, for this particular project, I would think they wouldn't see an increase. This had to go through a special Treasury Board in order for us to receive this amount that was over the particular parameters of the program, which we were very thankful for.

This is very similar where Canada has often on the capital projects such as like the National Trades Corridor Fund, we know it was supposed to be 75-25, and it ended up with some projects getting closer to being half. That is one of the risks that we are aware of, and something that we hope that this doesn't happen to this project. But that risk is very real and we all know that, and we just want to make sure that this goes through so we can build earlier, because the longer we wait the higher it gets, as our minister mentioned on other projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm assuming for clarity and clarification, I'm assuming that the department has done some cost analysis to see what the projection could possibly be if it goes much higher, going based on the trends the last couple of years or so of how much major projects are coming in at. Has there been a cost analysis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as part of our budgeting process, a major process like this we would have a contingency in place, and that would help some of those risk factors that you identified. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: If the minister doesn't mind maybe he could give an example of what the contingency is. In the past the government has typically used 10 per cent contingency, but most recently that number seems to have jumped up to 15 per cent and I think in a couple of instances, even more. Can the minister be specific on what the contingency is anticipated on this project? Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: The contingency is on class C right now and we don't have that exact percentage. I think I do. It is higher than 10 per cent. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Sorry, Minister, is there some reason why you're not comfortable saying the specific number on the contingency? I'm not asking for an amount, I'm asking for a percentage. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What we do know is that it's more than 10 per cent, but I can ask my finance deputy if he can do math, quiz the math as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Young.

Mr. Young: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We were provided the estimates that the Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut department worked on with the Department of Health. We can see that there's contingency built in. It is indicated there is one, but we don't have the percentage with us today. We can commit to getting back to the member with that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to put this out there, what of this project is not a priority in the next Assembly? We've heard many times now through the life of this term the premier saying we do not want to commit the next Assembly, the next government to other projects. And what if this project is not a priority for the next Assembly? Will we be committing the next Assembly to a megaproject of this? Just to put it out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In the last Assembly this was a priority, and in this government it remains a priority. I would be very surprised if this was not one of the priorities for the next government, because we have seen elders leave our territory and it's not acceptable. It is one that we need our elders to be back home, and this will help expedite getting our elders home. That's what I can say right now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Before I go back to Mr. Simailak, Minister, I recognize and agree that this project has been the priority of the last government as well as this one, but as the minister well knows, in the last government the regular members defeated the planning dollars for the project, so there's no guarantee that the next Assembly will consider this as a priority project. I think just to recognize that in the past it wasn't supported by this Assembly. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister for the responses. Yeah, that's just it. We don't know if it's going to be a priority. We're going based that we hope

it's going to be a priority, but we'll be done here a week from today, this term. So I'll put that out there.

For my last question, Mr. Chairman, if this is approved, you mentioned it would catch the sealift for 2026. What other work would be done at the earliest? Would there be land development done in the spring of 2026 or what other work will be done besides office paperwork? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What and when? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you. Through you could I does Deputy Hunt to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead, Ms. Hunt, please.

Ms. Hunt (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and thank you to the member for the question, this very important topic of our elders. There are areas that would be within Health's domain and then in partnership areas that will be in the domain with Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut. Getting the work to have the tender out, having the process of review, it's important that the land acquisition and leasing be completed, preparation for that space. The lessons learned around the design of that building from the work that's already happened here in Nunavut so that we're ensuring that we're learning from each, like we learned from the continuing care centres, now with Rankin so that the quality of those buildings, the comfortability of those buildings and the standard of care in those buildings are really meeting the elder's needs, and the life span of those buildings, including things like advancing standards.

There may be areas in legislation that also need to be considered to support this ongoing work and advancement that Nunavut is now doing in support of our elders. *Qujannamiik*.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, I won't be asking about the long term care, so rest assured, relax. On the page 33 of the briefing binder there are lots of projects there, and one caught my eye, a project in Arviat. It's near the bottom there, the Ulimaut Carver Studio building, 595D, retrofit for the new mental health and addiction program space.

Mr. Chairman, I was in grade 4 when there was a school in this very same building. I'm surprised at the amount that is being spent to retrofit it. The amount, if you calculate the square footage of that building – and this is a retrofit, not a new one – is roughly about \$2,000 a square foot. I'm curious why building a new building was not entertained if it wasn't. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This project is ongoing. It shows in this one, but it is not part of this request because there is no money allocated for 2026-2027, for the reason that renovations and that – if Deputy Hunt can reply through you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead, please, Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and thank you to the member for the question. I'm waiting for an additional piece of information but I do believe that this is in relation to the expected timeline of March 2026 for this specific project. Thank you. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chair, I'm aware if I read it, it's supposed to be completed March 2026. I figure if they put it on paper it's fair game to ask about it, so that's why I ask. Was an option of replacement not considered? I don't know if the deputy minister can answer that because it seems like it is grossly overpriced for a renovation for a building of the size that it is. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. As it's directly related I'll go back to Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and thank you to the member for the question. We definitely are finding in the analysis for renovating and upgrading spaces that the cost are expensive and continue to increase. These are the costs that were identified in order to do the upgrades and prepare the building to deliver important mental health and addiction programming in this space.

We don't have capital dollars for acquiring or building a new space, so we're maximizing on the opportunity of existing space within the community. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and the next line, Arviat health centre repairs. I've had a few exchanges with the health minister on the illegal grade of the ramp going into the health centre. It's beyond the 5 per cent grade that is required for wheelchairs, the ramp. I don't see it is in there as far as the renovations, and it was supposed to have been done. As of when I came here a week ago, it was still nothing had been done.

Can I get an update if and when something will be done to make it safe and easier for people with handicaps or mobile issues to go to the health centre when they need the health services? We don't want them to get hurt on their way to getting help. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. Through you could I ask Megan Hunt, deputy minister, to respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Please proceed, Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and thank you to the member for the question. I've also been to the health centre and seen firsthand what you are speaking of.

Work was done originally with the contractor to address issues for access for those with disabilities coming into the centre. Unfortunately, the work that's been done is not adequate enough.

We are working with Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut and with the contractor to ensure that there's further assessment so that we can plan the work to address those issues and ensure safe access to the health centre for all. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the work that was done was to put more gravel on it. That's the work that was done, put gravel on a steep slope to make the steep slope more gravel.

Can I get a timeline of when this work will actually be done? Because it's not written here as part of the work that's supposed to be done. Thank you.

Chairman: That's directly related to the next question I'll go to Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and thank you to the member for the question. That is part of the assessment. I will look to our officials to provide a more concrete timeline and make sure that that update is provided back to the group.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm kind of bouncing around here as thoughts go in my mind.

Going back to the shop, in prior years, about \$800,000 was spent there, and I don't recall seeing a bunch of activity going on in that building. Can I get an update on what was done for \$800,000, and what will be done for the remainder of the money there for this fiscal year ending March 31, 2026. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. As a follow-up to an earlier question that Ms. Hunt was directly responding to, if the minister doesn't mind, I'll go directly to Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and thank you to the member for the question. I don't have the full details of the previous work prior to the work that is being done now. We can get more details if that will suffice through the Chair. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Apparently that is sufficient. Mr. Savikataaq doesn't have any more questions. Just to remind members we are on clause 3, Department of Health, \$11,244,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to item 3, Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, \$7 million. Any questions? Actually, while people are going through their books, while people are looking that up, I just have a quick question on the – actually, I'm not prepared. Is there somebody who's ready for a question?

>>*Laughter*

Chairman: Minister, do you have a comment to make? Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, while the members are looking through it, could I ask to switch witnesses. Megan, our Deputy Minister for Health, her part is done, and thank you to her. I would like a representative for Transportation Infrastructure Nunavut to be my witness. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. I did find my question. Do members agree to allow to switch witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead. Sergeant-at-Arms.

Thank you. Just introduce your new official for the record, Minister.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my left the new witness is Carl Pheasant. He is the Director for Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Just while my colleagues are looking through their materials, I do have a question on the Tenant Improvement Fund. On page 10, the second item there is a project named 'Client New Construction, Department's Petroleum Products Division Justice Community Services in Rankin Inlet', with an approximate \$400,000 cost. The design completion was done in 2024. The contract was awarded in 2024, but now the construction forecast is 2026. So I would like to get a little bit more information because obviously one of the things that we're doing here is not intended for new projects. Minister.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, through you, could I ask Mr. Pheasant to respond to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Pheasant: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the member for the question. Regarding the Rankin Inlet Tenant Improvement Project here, this would actually be a new build. Real Property had approached a potential landlord who will build a new building for three separate departments that would house PPD, Justice, and Community Services. So they are actually still negotiating with Real Property, so it's not gotten to the property of beginning any sort of construction.

One thing to note is when the building is built, the landlord will continue to own the building. The GN will not own this building. Thank you for the question.

Chairman: Thank you. As I mentioned, we're on item 3. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That answer just kind of, they are building a whole new building for \$400,000 and it must be fairly large building at 8,000 square feet, I believe. And the building I was asking was about less than 1,000 square feet, and it was \$2 million. Can I get an explanation on how they are building an 8,000-square-foot building for 400,000. Thank you.

Chairman: Before I go back to the minister, I'll go back to Mr. Savikataaq. It's the tenant improvement part of the project, so did you still have a question on that, Mr. Savikataaq? Sorry, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, a little bit of clarification on this. This was gone through at the request for proposal and it is to release the new building that is going to be owned by the landlord, not but the government. And this is for the tenant improvement portion. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was my point, that renovation is for a tenant improvement. It's not a new building. I guess I should congratulate them on getting such a good deal for 400,000 for tenant improvements on a fairly large building. So I guess I got no more questions. I was just comparing the cost between the two. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The difference is the first one that you were asking about, that is a government-owned asset, and those are the renovations that are being done by the government. This one is a lease per year for the landlord that's going to house three separate departments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list under this item. Item number 3, Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, \$7 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to item 4, Community Services, \$7,340,000. Questions? I will give the members time to locate the page. Once again, item number 4, Community Services, \$7,340,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total internal appropriation, \$26,054,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to Bill 81 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are we agreed Bill 81 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you very much for this. And these are very important capital items that are required and only can be approved through you. We are grateful for that, and in particular on behalf of the departments. I thank our staff for preparing this, and also the contractors who will start the work. Thank you all. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. We're going to take a two-minute recess to switch witnesses and get our papers in order back here. I'll ask for the members to remain in their seats, but we will take a short break while we switch over to the next bill. Minister, your officials may be excused.

>>Committee recessed and resumed at 16:59

Bill 82 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2025-2026 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Bill 82, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2025-2026*. I would like for the minister to introduce his officials and proceed to your opening comments, please.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, to my left, Dan Young, deputy minister, Finance, and to my right, Christine Ellsworth, assistant deputy minister.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity here, Mr. Chairman, concerning Bill 82, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2025-2026*. Here we seek \$11.789 million in new supplementary capital funding. This will increase the approved 2025-2026 capital budget from \$635.159 million to \$646.948 million.

The supplementary funding affects five departments:

The Department of Justice will receive \$925,000 for additional funding required to complete the fuel tank storage at the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility. The total project cost is \$1.225 million, with \$300,000 reallocated from minor capital.

The Department of Health requires \$2.85 million for the Rankin Inlet long-term care facility to cover cost overruns, outstanding vendor accounts, and project deficiencies.

Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut is requesting \$4 million of new funding for the Rankin Inlet Air Terminal Building, addressing a contractor delay claim, change orders, and replenishing the contingency fund.

The Department of Community Services is seeking \$2.914 million in funding for the Arctic Bay Water Treatment Plant, reflecting a cash-flow adjustment with no change to the overall project budget of the project.

Mr. Chair, there is also a transfer of \$20.142 million from the Department of Community Services to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut to properly align projects to the departments responsible.

The Department of Family Services is seeking \$1.1 million for repairs to the Rankin Inlet Adult Group Home.

Mr. Chair, that concludes my opening remarks. I am available to answer questions regarding this supplementary appropriation or our capital process generally. However, I encourage members to direct project-specific questions to the responsible ministers.

Chairman: Thank you. Committee members, we're dealing with Bill 82, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2025-2026*, clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Please go to page 2. We'll first deal with item 5, Justice, \$925,000. Any questions?

Once again, on *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2025-2026*, item 5, Justice \$925,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to item 8. Department of Health, \$2,850,000.

Before I go to questions, I would like to get a clarification on a briefing note information that we have in front of us. When I look at the request, it shows the approved at the very top, approved capital appropriation of \$69.367 million, and then with this request it added to it, yet in the second bullet of the current status it says the total projected cost of the project is \$63.45 million. It's quite a significant difference. Can I get an explanation of that thank you, please. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. Just a moment while I get that information. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could I request a witness change again. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Do committee members agree to allow the member to change witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please proceed. Just for the record, Minister, introduce your official, and I'm assuming you'll want me to go directly to her.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my left is Megan Hunt, Deputy Minister for Health, and I do ask through you for her to respond to your question. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead, please, Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and thank you for the question. So the approved budget was 59.534, and with the outstanding vendors and overruns, the total is 63.449. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you for that. Just before I go to the first name on my list, I would like to get a clarification on the third bullet as well. The request of this appropriation is \$2.85 million to address outstanding vendors' accounts and remaining project deficiencies. The way I understand it, if a project goes over budget, it needs to get a supplemental appropriation to continue work to it, because there's no money assigned to it.

I am curious how there's outstanding invoices pertaining to this project, and not enough money in the budget that was appropriated.

That was directly related to the last question, so I'll go directly to Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chair, (interpretation ends) and thank you for the question. As we know, this project had a few bumps in the road and of course we're very glad to see that our elders are now there.

In terms of those expenses, there were a few areas that were uncontrollable and not anticipated that have resulted in this, one being the initial contractor change. So change in contractors, the fuel spill, and then post substantial deficiencies that delayed and also created those costs, along with some areas around ensuring the integrity and safety of the building through security. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you. I won't take any more time from my colleagues, but I do have concerns there is money being expended and committed with no budget associated with this. The first name I have on my list, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have some questions here. It says "initial contractor bankruptcy." Was there a bonding for this project? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There was a performance bond with respect to contractor who was applying on such mediations. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If there had been no performance bond and the contractor went bankrupt, would this project have cost the government more money? Was the bonding money used to fulfil the remainder money of the contract when there was a change of contractors? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I don't have that response. That appropriate response can come from our officials from Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, which we don't have here in the House with us. I could commit to providing that information, because that was one, that would have been one of the considerations. And definitely there will be documentation on this, but no documentation is before us right now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: If I may, this leads me to the next question. You're asking for \$2.85 million to complete this project and pay outstanding invoices. Was the bond amount sufficient to cover the remainder of the work? And is this in excess of the expected scope of work that that bond was obligated to provide to finish the project? Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, what you just outlined is correct. And it was that the GN could in seeking remedy by the bankruptcy administrators. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I understand how performance bonds work, but for the benefit of Nunavummiut listening who might not quite understand, correct me if I'm wrong. The performance bond would be a set amount; the contractor would have had a performance bond before the contract was issued; and if the contract didn't work out, that bond money, which could be quite high, would be used to fulfil the contract obligations. Is that correct? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that is the correct process that you just outlined. Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What was the amount of the bonds, then? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is not in front of us. I can commit to providing a letter to our chair on the set amount. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will just be a comment. I'm looking forward to finding out how much the bond was for, to see if it was sufficient and if the total amount of the bond was used before the supplementary appropriation bill was asked for here. Because the purpose of the bonds are to cover the cost associated with if a contract goes south or sour or non-performance. That is just a comment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment. Any other names on the list?

Again we are on item number 8, Department of Health, \$8.85 million.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to item 10 on page 2 Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, \$24,142,000. Questions?

Again, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 3, 2025-2026*, item 10, Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, \$24,142,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to item 11, which is a credit for Community Services in the amount of \$17,228,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to item 12, Family Services. Amount being requested \$1,100,000. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you. You're likely going to need replace your witnesses for Family Services questions.

As this is a supplementary appropriation request for the Rankin Inlet adult group home, I just have a couple of related questions with regards to adult group homes in the territory.

When I was reviewing the Department of Family Services annual report, there was mention about child group homes, but I didn't see any information about adult group homes in that annual report.

The reason I want to ask about adult group homes is repatriation of children that age out into southern group homes is of importance. Without having seen any figures, I think it's safe to assume that many of those children that become adults end up staying in the southern jurisdictions, as they require adult group homes.

My question is with regards to adult group homes. How many beds are there in territory? And is there a wait list to get into adult group homes in the territory? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. Through you, Mr. Chair could I ask again for change of witnesses, if our colleagues can approve of that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. It's a good thing we don't have a limit on these changes. Does the committee agree to have the minister change his.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please.

For the record, Minister, if you want to introduce your new official I'll once again assume you want me to go to him for a response. Minister.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you Mr. Chair. Yes, to my left is Jonathan Ellsworth, the Family Services deputy minister. And yes, please, that is beyond the scope of what we're asking for. If you could ask the deputy to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you Minister Akeeagok. And I realize this is outside, but as it's related to spaces available, that is why I allowed the question. So Mr. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, if I could ask for just a brief indulgence to refer to materials that I wasn't ready to refer to, I would greatly appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Chair. I appreciate your efforts to find that information.

So the reason why I had asked about the number of beds and the wait list, when it comes to capital planning, I've brought this issue up a number of times over the years. I was curious that the Department of Family Services has begun the capital planning process to construct or fund new adult group home spaces to aid and assist in repatriation of youth who would age out of care out of territory. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Mr. Chair, for the benefit of the committee, I do not have those details with me with respect to the current number of beds that are available within territory. However, I can commit to get that information pretty quickly to the chair, if you will allow, sir.

With respect to the second part of the question, I understand it is around whether or not we have taken steps to initiate the capital process for additional adult group homes. I would have to talk to our capital planner, as I would like to advise this committee that we finally do have an indeterminant capital planner at the Department of Family Services, their priorities being beginning the planning processes for not only adult group homes but for in-territory facilities as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ellsworth. I bet you that person knows how many beds are available in the territory.

>> *Laughter*

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and my question is within the scope of the bill.

Mr. Chairman, this is for a fuel tank replacement and generator valve that's stuck open. I'm always amazed at the price that is budgeted for. It's over \$1 million to change a fuel tank and you can buy a new valve or unstuck the valve if I can get an explanation why. It seems like grossly overpriced to replace a fuel tank and a day tank because the building is not a humongous building. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the amount came about with having two similar buildings that have recently had change of fuel tank replacements and so compared with two very similar buildings that our government had changed fuel tanks within the Kivalliq region, and so this number came about. And that includes contingencies, so contingencies are built on that. That's how the numbers came about. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. I currently have no more names on my list. Just to remind members, we're item 12 Family Services \$1.1 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total amount not appropriated \$11,789,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 82 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree Bill 82 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I encourage those that will be making those capital works to get them done. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. And as we have concluded our business of the day, I'll rise to report progress to the speaker. Minister and witnesses, you can be excused. Thank you.

>>Committee adjourned at 17:22 and House resumed at 17:23

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 81 and 82, and would like to report that Bills 81 and 82 are immediately ready for third reading.

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

Speaker: The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Ms. Killiktee.

Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Item 22 – Mr. David Akeeagok.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**Bill 81 – Interim Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2026-2027 – Third Reading**

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

Mr. Speaker, I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that Bill 81, *Interim Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2026-2027*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Motion is in order. To the motion? All agreed? All those in favour?

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: All those opposed? The motion is in order and Bill 81 has been read for the third time. Third Reading of Bills, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Bill 82 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 3, 2025-2026 – Third Reading

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been a long few days. *Qujannamiik*.

(interpretation) I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Baffin South, that Bill 82, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2025-2026* be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion? All those in favour? All those opposed? Bill 82 is read for the third time. Item 22, Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Clerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day* for Friday, September 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.:

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 the 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 Motion
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
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. *Orders of the Day.*

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Friday, September 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:28*

