



**Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**

**Speaker**

**Hon. Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)

**Hon. David Akeeagok**  
(Quttiktuq)

*Minister of Community Services;  
Minister of Human Resources;  
Minister responsible for Nunavut  
Business Credit Corporation; Minister  
responsible for Nunavut Development  
Corporation; Minister responsible for  
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*

**Bobby Anavilok**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Janet Brewster**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

**Hon. Pamela Gross**  
(Cambridge Bay)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of  
Education; Minister of Justice;  
Minister responsible for Labour;  
Minister responsible for Human Rights  
Tribunal*

**George Hickey**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

*Deputy Speaker; Chair of the  
Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. David Joanasie**  
(South Baffin)

*Government House Leader; Minister  
of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Nunavut; Minister of Environment;  
Minister responsible for Energy*

**Joelie Kaernerik**  
(Amittuq)

**Mary Killiktee**  
(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*

**Solomon Malliki**  
(Aivilik)

*Deputy Chair, Committee  
of the Whole*

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

*Minister of Family Services; Minister  
responsible for Nunavut Arctic  
College; Minister responsible for  
Homelessness; Minister responsible for  
Status of Women; Minister responsible  
for Poverty Reduction*

**Karen Nutarak**  
(Tununiq)

**Daniel Qavvik**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Joanna Quassa**  
(Aggu)

**Inagayuk Quqqiaq**  
(Netsilik)

**Alexander Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet North-  
Chesterfield Inlet)

**Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)

*Deputy Chair, Committee  
of the Whole*

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(Baker Lake)

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**Uqausirmit Uqausirmut Inc.**

*926 Sivumugiaq Street,  
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 3H0*

*Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266*

*Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Wednesday, September 17, 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 Kaernerck, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Mr. Lorne Kusugak, 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** (interpretation): Good afternoon, colleagues. Our second last day. (interpretation ends) I'm a little on the low side today. I hope you guys can cheer me up this afternoon. Thank you. Item 2, Members' Statements, or Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 668 – 6(2): The Final Mandate Report**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues and Nunavummiut, and those listening in.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, when this Assembly first gathered in Iqaluktuutiaq, we carried a note of inspiration on our wall, and it had mentioned "Manifesting the courageous dream." That dream became Katujjiluta mandate, working together, and it guided our work over the past four years.

Through hardship and through hope, we stood side by side with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the regional Inuit associations, our colleagues in this House, and communities across our territory. Together, we confronted the greatest challenges of our time: housing, elder care, health and healing, education, and the economy.

Mr. Speaker, the report I table today, the Final Mandate Report of the Sixth Assembly, provides Nunavummiut with a transparent record of the progress we made.

We achieved historic milestones. On January 18, 2024, the signing of the Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement. For the first time, Nunavummiut secured a direct voice in deciding how our lands, waters, and resources will be managed. This was more than a transfer of power; it affirmed that sovereignty begins right here at home, Mr. Speaker, in our families, our communities, and in our right to make decisions for ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, We also co-hosted the 2025 Arctic Sovereignty and Security Summit with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and laid the groundwork for the forthcoming Nunavut Arctic Sovereignty and Security Strategy; a made-in-Nunavut framework to guide Canada's place in the North, rooted in Inuit leadership.

Closer to home, we delivered Nunavut's first territory-wide Elder and Senior Care Plan, opened the \$194-million Kivalliq Long-Term Care, and expanded home care and supported housing. We advanced Igluliuqatigiingniq Nunavut 3000, building over 1,000 new homes with 2,000 more underway through our landmark partnership with NCC, the single largest housing expansion in Nunavut's history.

We invested in health and healing: expanding mental health supports, opening new wellness programs in 19 communities, and preparing for the opening of the \$83.7-million recovery centre in Iqaluit. We reached \$10-a-day childcare three years ahead of schedule, expanded full-day kindergarten, and strengthened Inuktitut resources across our schools. We also completed Nunavut's first Arts and Cultural Industries Strategy, signed our first Inuit-led renewable energy agreement, and opened new airport infrastructure that connects our communities to opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, none of this work was done by government alone. These successes belong to Nunavummiut, to elders who shared their wisdom, to youth stepping into leadership, to families who held fast to language and culture while embracing change. Their resilience is the foundation of every step forward.

The Katujjiluta mandate was a courageous dream. While no government ever completes the work, together we showed what is possible when we act in unity, grounded in our values and committed to our people.

Mr. Speaker, It has been an honour to serve Nunavummiut through this Assembly. To our partners, to our communities, to our families I say: *Qujannamiik*. The foundation we have built is strong, and the path ahead is clear: one rooted in Inuit values, and one that we will continue to walk together, side by side, for Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*



**Speaker:** Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Minister's Statement 669 – 6(2): Interoperable Electronic Health Records Program**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update on the implementation of Nunavut's Interoperable Electronic Health Record, known as iEHR, and to reaffirm our commitment to advancing digital health care across Nunavut.

The Department of Health continues to make significant strides in implementing and enhancing the iEHR system, known as Meditech. This system is now operational in all 25 Nunavut communities and at two southern referral centres, the Ottawa Health Services Network Inc., and Kivalliq Inuit Services in Winnipeg. Meditech serves as a central platform for Nunavut's health services, streamlining clinical workflows, strengthening patient safety, and ensuring integrated care delivery.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to ensuring that Meditech evolves to meet the needs of our health care providers and patients. In fiscal year 2025-2026 we will be upgrading the emergency department and inpatient care modules at Qikiqtani General Hospital to a modern web-based platform. This step will bring Meditech up to its most current version, ensuring that our hospital is using the latest technology available.

In the Kivalliq region, the Dynacare Lab interface went live on June 23, 2025. This integration allows test results from specimens sent out of territory to flow directly into Meditech, giving clinicians faster access to information and improving patient care.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to expand digital care pathways. The eConsult triage workflow project is still in development. Once complete, it will allow specialists in Ottawa to review and triage referral requests from Nunavut, improving access to timely specialist care. Clinicians at the new long-term care in Rankin Inlet are now using Meditech, ensuring residents benefit from the same electronic health record system used across Nunavut. The Colorectal Cancer Screening Program has begun using Meditech as its information system in Rankin Inlet, Kimmirut, and Clyde River.

In June, we launched the electronic notification, or "message and task" functionality, for locum physicians. This now alerts them when lab, imaging, and report results are completed in Meditech, a functionality previously limited to full-time physicians.

Looking ahead, Nunavut is proud to be one of ten jurisdictions participating in Canada Health Infoway's national Artificial Intelligence Scribe initiative. This project will support clinical documentation using ambient voice technology, reducing administrative

burden and improving accuracy. Vendor selection will prioritize compatibility with Meditech and compliance with privacy standards.

Mr. Speaker, we are also continuing the phased rollout of the Meditech Materials Management Module, which replaces paper ordering with electronic ordering capabilities of medical supplies. The Kitikmeot region is now complete, and the Kivalliq region is scheduled for implementation in 2025–2026.

Meditech is more than a record-keeping system. It is a comprehensive platform that supports clinical charting, admissions, medical travel, and health information management. It enables clinicians to access patient records remotely, ensuring continuity of care across jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health remains steadfast in its commitment to modernizing health care delivery through digital innovation. The iEHR is reshaping the future of health care in Nunavut. This transformation is not just about technology, but it's building a system that is smarter, safer, and more connected to the needs of our communities. This ensures that every interaction is informed, secure, and responsive to the health journey of every Nunavummiut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 670 – 6(2): 2025 Sport and Recreation Award Recipients**

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I start, I want to apologize to all those names that I will be butchering again. I really do apologize. I have a difficult time saying their names properly.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the incredible achievement of Nunavummiut athletes in our great territory. On October 4th, the Recreation Parks Association, Nunavut Sport Federation, and Community Services' Sport and Recreation Division will co-host and celebrate the recipients of the 2025 Sport and Recreation Awards.

The Sport and Recreation Division awards are distinguished amongst five categories and the recipients of each category this year are:

Male Athlete of the Year, Miles Brewster from Iqaluit.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Female Athlete of the Year, Ivalu Leishman Brocklebank, Chesterfield Inlet.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Coach of the Year, Martine Dupont, Iqaluit.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Administrator of the Year, Charles Lagacé, Iqaluit.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Team of the Year, Under 18 Kivalliq Canucks, Arviat.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Special Recognition Award for outstanding contributions to sport Abbas Parks, Pond Inlet.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Gleason Uppahuak, Arviat.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Sherri Young (Iqaluit).

>> *Applause*

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): And a posthumous recognition for the late Jon Tassugat, from Pangnirtung, which his parents will be present to accept the award.

(interpretation ends) In addition, the Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut also presented two awards recognizing outstanding accomplishments and contributions to community recreation. The successful recipients of these awards are being presented to Calm Air Youth Leader Award of Excellence, Naja Pearce of Iqaluit.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Recreation Leader of the Year, Jolene Kigusiutnar, Arviat.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** In addition, NU Sport Federation recognizes a Kivalliq community within the territory for their promotion and enhancement of sport programming in their community. This year's community recipient is presented to, Calm Air Community Sport Award, Arviat.

>> *Applause*

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** On behalf of my colleagues, I wish to acknowledge the accomplishments and congratulate all the recipients of the 2025 Sport and Recreation Awards.

Finally, I would also like to also thank the Recreation Parks Association of Nunavut for hosting the event in conjunction with their annual Recreation Leadership Conference and Nunavut Sport Coaching Symposium.

It will be a wonderful weekend celebrating sport and recreation leaders across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Nakashuk.

### **Minister's Statement 671 – 6(2): Reflect the Light**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (indiscernible) I hate to speak after that, because I can't beat what he just said.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update on the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council's work around gender-based violence in Nunavut, funded by the Government of Canada's Department of Women and Gender Equality.

Everyone deserves a healthy relationship, but not everyone is in one. More than half of Inuit women experience violence as adults, and Inuit women are 13 times more likely to experience violence than other women in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, no one should experience violence in their relationship, but many women and girls do. Knowing how to talk about abuse can help stop it. That's why Qullit is launching a new campaign on violence in relationships. Qullit's Reflect the Light project

aims to share resources on relationship violence and abuse, educate, and encourage people to talk to their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, building on conversations and consultations with people across Nunavut over the last 18 months, including elders, youth, social workers, service providers, and many more, Reflect the Light encourages Nunavummiut to be open, support one another, and create change.

With the launch of our website, we're asking Nunavummiut to let the light in and start important, open conversations about healthy relationships. At [www.reflectthelight.ca](http://www.reflectthelight.ca), you can find information about gender-based violence in Nunavut, where to get help, explore the myths and facts that shape the conversation about relationships and safety, and download community resources to educate about healthy relationships.

Mr. Speaker, together, we can light the way to a future without violence.

It's time to start conversations with our family and community for the generations of today and tomorrow. Please visit the site and help us spread the word.

*Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

### **Minister's Statement 672 – 6(2): Realignment of Official Languages Branch**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce some important changes within the Department of Culture and Heritage's organizational structure that will strengthen our government's ability to meet its language obligations, but also support the growth of Inuktitut.

Our government has a duty under the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* to ensure Nunavummiut could work and receive services in any official language. Over the past years, Mr. Speaker, reviews and committee reports have highlighted capacity challenges within our language programs, resulting in the need to realign how we organize and work on language files.

Mr. Speaker, to address this, the Department of Culture and Heritage is restructuring its Official Languages Branch. This includes the creation of a new Assistant Deputy

Minister of Official Languages, a new Director of Language Acts Implementation, and the re-profile of a Director of Language Programs.

This realignment will create a clear separation between program delivery and legislation implementation, ensuring both areas receive the dedicated attention they require. This change aligns with recommendations from the Standing Committee on Legislation and the Office of the Languages Commissioner, which called for stronger leadership and direction in language implementation.

Mr. Speaker, these changes will ensure we have the structure and leadership necessary to protect, promote, and advance Inuktut. I am confident this re-alignment will allow us to better serve Nunavummiut, fulfill our commitments under the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and *Official Languages Act*, and strengthen our language.

*Qujannamiik.*

>> *Applause*

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

#### **Minister's Statement 673 – 6(2): FANS Holiday Travel**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, to all of our colleagues and everyone that is here in the House with us today and across our beautiful territory. I know there are some eager students that have been watching over the past little while, and we've had some wonderful news come out about the financial assistance for Nunavut students and I want to share some special news as well so students are aware.

Mr. Speaker, improving the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program has been one of my top priorities as Minister of Education. The changes I announced last week will help many students and encourage more Nunavummiut to apply for post-secondary studies.

One important change I want to highlight today is the new travel allowance for Inuit students with families. Under the old program, only single students were provided travel home at Christmas. Now, all full-time Inuit students, including those with families, will be supported to travel home –

>> *Applause*

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** – with their eligible children and dependents at Christmas, and to return to school afterwards.

Students can book this holiday travel at any time by contacting the FANS office at [fanstravel@gov.nu.ca](mailto:fanstravel@gov.nu.ca) or by calling 1-877-860-0680.

Mr. Speaker, this change will make a real difference for students with children and will help reduce barriers for Inuit to pursue post-secondary education.

*Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 3, Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

**Member's Statement 917 – 6 (2): Birthday Greeting to Daughter**

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and to the people of Hudson Bay. Mr. Speaker I rise today to share a special greetings to one of my children. My panik Kitty Inuktuluk (ph) turned big 17 today, so happy birthday, Kitty. She's actually here with me in Iqaluit, and every day I tell her, do you want to be on TV? And she always nods and says no, I'm camera shy. So I found a way. She's very hard to get a picture of her, and I found a way to have a nice photo with her. It's only by having a twofie. Happy birthday, Kitty. (interpretation) Have a very good birthday day and I love you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Member's Statement. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Member's Statement 918 – 6(2): Gratitude to Wife and Staff**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to all Nunavummiut and Chesterfield Inlet people, and in Rankin Inlet, and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, four years have come and gone, and this is our last sitting before the fall election.

(interpretation) I want to express my gratitude to my wife, my children, because they always supported me, and I would like to thank my other supporters, Toomy Sammurtok (ph) in Rankin Inlet. We're always able to work well together.

(interpretation ends) I also would like to say a big thank you to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet for the trust they have given me for representing them in the last four years.

Last but not least researchers, Ms. Sibon (ph) and Mr. Baldwin, and all the staff and interpreters. Thank you, all.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Member's Statement. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

**Member's Statement 919 – 6(2): Thank Everyone in the Last Four Years**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, all, people of Baker Lake.

This has been a very fast four-year term we've gone through right now, or just completing. I would like to say a big thank you to some people as well.

My first constituency assistant, Gabriel. Thank you very much for stepping in for a few months at the start of this term. Daisy Katalook, Evana Paniak (ph), she has been my assistant for the last three-and-a-half years. She held down my office in Baker Lake whenever I was here in Iqaluit, or away on medical, or away for other meetings. She passed on valuable information and concerns from my constituents, questions or concerns that have been passed on. I would like to thank my parents, my other half, Marilyn, our kids, and of course God. All these people and God have kept me very grounded and kept my head on straight.

It's been an honour serving my constituency. There have been many days and nights of reading, taking part in meetings. It is sometimes quite stressful as we all know in this House, but it has been a privilege advocating for my community.

I want to thank my colleagues and the ministers for all the work we've done the last four years during this term. I'm proud of all the work that has been done and is still being done as we speak.

Mr. Speaker, some of the work that has been done in Baker Lake this term, pre-planning new health centre. We went through capital budget. Baker Lake hamlet now has a brand new gravel crusher paid 100 per cent by the Government of Nunavut, from Community and Government Services of the day which is now Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut.

The old yellow hospice health centre was demolished. Again, thank you to Community and Government Services. There's a new wellness hub that is coming to Baker Lake, thank you to Family Services and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.



Mr. Speaker, I'm almost done my member statement. I'm seeking unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you colleagues. That wellness hub will come a long way to my community. There will be rooms to do cultural programming. There will be rooms for counselling, one-on-one counselling with elders. It's going to come a long way to my community.

Baker Lake is now on schedule, actually ahead of schedule to receive our new Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment. Thank you to the Department of Justice and all the staff over there, end of this year. Should be on schedule. Thirty brand new housing units. Thank you to Mr. Kusugak and Nunavut Housing Corp.

*>>Applause*

And there are a few new positions in Baker Lake. Three new positions at Qulliq Energy Corporation, thank you to the minister and to the board of Qulliq Energy Corporation.

And again to the Justice department for one brand-new position, a victims care coordinator into the department. That's going to go a long way as well to help victims go through counselling and whatnot.

And Family Services there are three new positions being worked on right now as community social service workers. Baker Lake being the fourth largest community, it has been needing quite a bit of attention for years now and I'm glad we could only do this work the last four years to get this going. Thank you all very much, and there's still more work to do, which is why my name will be on the ballot in the next general election next month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker:** Member's Statement. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

### **Member's Statement 920 – 6(2): Sports in Nunavut - Canada Soccer**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we saw earlier with a very energetic minister's statement that was brought forward earlier today, sports in Nunavut provides so many positive opportunities for Nunavummiut of all ages, from young children wanting to follow their older relatives' and neighbours' footsteps, to the parents, grandparents, and other family members cheering on our athletes.

To the athletes themselves, we get exposed to incredible opportunities to travel and compete at community, territorial, national, and international levels.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important visit of Canada Soccer to Nunavut as part of their national listening tour. Through this initiative Canada Soccer is meeting with provincial and territorial soccer associations across the country to strengthen trust, build alignment, and ensure every region has a voice and shape in the future of our sport.

Mr. Speaker and members, we are honoured to have with us in the gallery today Mr. Peter Augruso, president of Canada Soccer from Thunder Bay, Ontario, and his colleague, Mr. Matt Young from Vancouver, British Columbia, who is supporting this initiative. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this House, I extend a warm welcome to them both.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the Nunavut Soccer Association for ensuring that the unique experience of our players, coaches, and communities are recognized at this national level. The board is reported by Colby O'Donnell (ph) from here in Iqaluit; Candice Graham of Rankin Inlet, as vice president; Scott McDonald from here in Iqaluit, director for Qikiqtaaluk; Emma Keegan from Kugaaruk, director for Kitikmeot; Sheila Nattar from Coral Harbour, director for Kivalliq; Joey Rose from here in Iqaluit, director of finance; and Todd James from here in Iqaluit, as executive director.

Mr. Speaker and members, I would like to note as well that Canada, alongside Mexico and the United States will co-host the FIFA World Cup in 2026. This global event highlights why engaging communities across the country, including here in Nunavut, is so important.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the incredible volunteers across Nunavut, from coaches and referees and parents and organizers. Your dedication allows hundreds of young people in our territory to play soccer and futsal. You are the foundation of the game and inspiration behind its growth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Member's Statement. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 921 – 6(2): Thank Everyone During the Term as Premier**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to welcome visitors in the gallery.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, prior to our sitting concludes in the next few days and before I close this chapter as premier, I want to take a moment and to really speak from my heart and to thank the people who have been my foundation, my strength, and my greatest source of pride.

(interpretation) First of all my mother up in Grise Fiord, and my brother and younger brother who have supported me through my whole term, even though we've had hardships and challenges along the way, and my in-law and one of my very best friends. She was the first one that I approached whenever I needed help or support and also to give me advice. She's no longer here on this earth, but I visit her every day. She still helps me keep on my feet. I would like to thank her.

I was going to make a happy speech, but I'm a little touched.

And my wife, Parniga, who is here in the gallery. (interpretation ends) My wife, who is my best friend, my partner in every sense of the word. You have carried so much behind the scenes, the late night, the missed dinners I wasn't around, for the moments I couldn't be there. You held our family together with grace and unwavering love and support.

You've truly been the quiet force behind every decision, every milestone, and every moment I stood in front of a podium, or when I was halfway or at the end of this country, pushing and advocating for Nunavut. Your sacrifices made my service possible and your belief in me gave me the courage to be able to lead. I owe so much of this journey to you.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker:** Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues.

And to my children, Jasmine, Jacob, and Ryan, who's here with us today, you've grown up with Ataata who often was away, who missed many basketball games, many hockey games, I've missed many hunting trips on a calm cool day down the bay with you and the quiet evenings at home, and yet all three of you never complained. You understood the weight of this very important role, and stood by me with maturity beyond your years. You've watched me carry the responsibility of the leadership, and in your own way, you have carried that too. I want you to know that everything we've accomplished you truly have been a part of. Your support made it real, each of you, and your patience, your love, and your quiet strength gave me the clarity that I needed when we went through some very difficult moments as well.

This journey was never mine alone. It was all ours. Every step I took, I took with you by my side. You've given me the gift of purpose and the strength to be able to carry it. And now, as I step away from this role, I do so with much, much deep gratitude, not just for the opportunity to serve, but for the family that made it possible.

Mr. Speaker, the most important title I will ever hold isn't being premier, it's being a husband, and Ataata to my kids, and I'm proud to return to that role with my whole heart. With that, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank them and say I love you. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Member's Statement. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 922 – 6(20: Recognize Sports in Nunavut and Birthday Greetings to Grandson**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** You have to put me up after that?

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to also recognize how important sports is in our society, in our country. I was at a conference once when they said that every dollar we spend on sports saves \$14 in the Department of Health. That's an incredible difference and impact that every dollar we spend on sports does. I encourage future governments to spend even more money on that instead of spending it on health in the long term.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the volunteers out there. I appreciate my colleague for mentioning Candice Grant, my daughter, who spends countless hours volunteering in soccer and baseball and hockey, and any other thing that happens in our community.

Mr. Speaker, one of my other daughters one time said that she wanted to play soccer and there was to no soccer for little children that are in kindergarten, so my wife volunteered and booked the time for the gym on a Saturday, so that group could play soccer. Off they went to play soccer. She was all excited. The next weekend it was time to go play soccer again, and so we said okay time to go play soccer. I don't want to play soccer any more. Why not? All they do is run and kick the ball.

>> *Laughter*

Pretty much sums soccer up, but it's a great sport, nonetheless.

Mr. Speaker, what I actually stood up here to say today is 16 years ago when I was in this House, actually, I gained a grandson. And over those years I don't think I made any of his birthdays, because I've been sitting around this room for a while. I would just like to wish him a happy 16th birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 923 – 6(2): Thank Everyone During the Last Four Years**

**Hon. John Main:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned yesterday, just as we end this government, I feel a lot of gratitude and I feel so thankful to so many people. But today, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to just take my two minutes and 12 seconds to thank every one of my colleagues here in the House, including yourself, Mr. Speaker, first of all. Thank you for your leadership here in the House. I think you've done an excellent job of –

>> *Applause*

– making sure that we conduct our business in an orderly manner. And I want to thank every one of my colleagues, cabinet, regular members, we're all members. I've learned things from every one of you, and I had the privilege to visit many of your constituencies. Sorry I didn't make it to all of the constituencies.

Even though we haven't always agreed on things, we have disagreed, and maybe we'll disagree again in a few minutes, but at the end of the day, I think the system that we have here, the consensus model is really special. It's really special and unique, and I just feel so privileged to have worked alongside of you for years. I've almost exactly spent the exact amount of time on each side of the House.

We have been through so much together. We've had babies born. We have had loved ones pass away. We've had personal difficulties in our families. At the end of the day, once this government is dissolved and the next one comes in, we will always have a certain special kind of bond between members, the 6th Assembly. And we are in kind of a messed up kind of way, or messy way, we are kind of family.

So (interpretation) Thank you very much, my colleagues. You have been excellent representatives and you have educated me, which has come a long way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Member's Statement. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 924 – 6(2): Thank Everyone During the Last Four Years**

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I represent three communities in the high Arctic, and I am very privileged to have represented those three communities. I will try and name everybody that I would like to show gratitude to. The elders who were my foundation when I visited any one of those three communities, I have something to eat with the elders. They have given me advice and we have had dialogue in all of those three communities.

And the elders are and I do apologize right away, as I might have might have forgotten somebody. But my in-law, Leah Kalluk, who has urged me and supported me and gave me advice on some of the things that she would like to see in Nunavut.

In Grise Fiord, my older brother Jaypeetee Akeeagok, who gave me advice on being a politician, and also my uncle Imooshie Nutarajuk, Lizu Ninguk, Larry and Annie Audlaluk, and Mr. Kuvavow Kigutak.

My in-law, again, Mary Kalluk, who supported me during my campaign and this one that I look on as a mother. Simon Idlout, Katasie Idlout, Aleshak Kheraj, Susan Saloviniq, Ally Saloviniq, Tagaaq Manik and Tony Manuk.

I would like to expend my gratitude to those individuals I named. And again in Arctic Bay, Mosesie Oyukuluk, Zipporah Oyukuluk.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker:** Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you my colleagues and thank you for letting me complete my statement. Mosesie Oyukuluk, Zipporah Oyukuluk Qaunanaq, Martha Qaunanaq, Tootalik Eejaniaq, Paul Eejaniaq, my in-law, Tommy Tatetoapik, my in-law, Isaac Shooyook, Qaumayuk Oyukluk, Emma Oyukluk, and as well an individual who passed away, Kate Qappik Attgutsiak, whom we always remember as well.

Olayuk Naqitarvik, Shappu Kigvtikarjuk, Aloo Akikuluk, Bill Hughes, Tabisha Hughes as well.

There are many more individuals I would like to appreciate, but I did not mention them. I would like to thank them for always being receptive and also being my foundation. Thank you, elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 925 – 6(2): Remembering Jack Kappuna**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Quana, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to everyone listening, particularly those in Cambridge Bay. I have a statement that I would like to share, and I'm thinking of all of my family, my loved ones as I share this little message about my uncle Jack Kappuna, Senior, who was a very instrumental man for Nunavut.

He is survived by my aunt Rosy, his children Pam and her spouse Wayne, Kirby, Amanda and her other half Ian, Karen and her other half, Peter, as well as my cousin, Jack Junior and his partner, Domika and Keenan, as well as their many grandchildren and great grandchildren in Iqaluktuuttiaq and Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Kupeuna was a key negotiator of the Nunavut Agreement, and one of the signatories of the Nunavut Agreement. He was a tireless man at his work. For many years, I believe over 30 years he worked to negotiate the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, travelling all across Canada, and was away for a lot of the time throughout his lifetime, dedicating his life to being an advocate for Inuit, for Nunavut, and he played a very significant part of ensuring that Inuit rights were brought to the forefront of the agreement.

He had an emphasis on learning from other Indigenous groups and incorporating that into responsible management and resource management, and contributions from our elders, and he wanted to ensure that women's rights were also included in the agreement.

I know he did a lot of work and sacrifices on behalf of our people, and I just want to say a special thank you to him. He was a very witty man, Mr. Speaker, so for those who knew him knew he carried a sense of humour, and he didn't go without a punch. Every time you saw him he had something funny to share or say to you, or just joke around, and that's how I think we remember him.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his work and my thoughts are with the family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Member's Statement. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 926 – 6(2): Thank Everyone**

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to send my appreciation to the Pangnirtung residents for electing me and my constituencies.

There are many people who have given me advice, especially the elders. Thank you and my family and also my children, whom I've always left behind. I know that they are very capable. And as well my colleagues. For the first time I was elected and for the second time since I was elected, I thank the members who have been long time members here, who have been giving me support and also my colleagues at the minister's cabinet, that they provide support to me. I thank each and every one of you.

And also the staff at the Legislative Assembly, interpreters.

But I do want to especially talk about the reason why I rose today, since there is an election next month. I urge all the women out there to run as a candidate. We would like to see more women at the House here. They have a very strong voice, even at home and although they are homemakers as well and they work hard in the home, they are very smart and intelligent, so I'm urging Inuit women, even though you may young, I know you are very intelligent and capable of working, so I'm urging you to run as a candidate for the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Member's Statement. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

#### **Member's Statement 927 – 6(2): Thank Everyone**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Nunavut and also my constituency of Uqqummiut riding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank you, Mr. Speaker. You have helped me and given advice to me during the House since I was elected. This is the very first time I actually watched the clock, and I now have been timing myself, and who has been speaking the shortest time and the longest time. I don't want to just give in, although I had almost given up only once, Mr. Speaker. And once after I spoke I grabbed my papers and walked out, and I cried a bit more in my room, and then I came back as well to move on, because moving on is very important, especially when you have the will to learn and will to uplift. And when we have aims and objectives, Mr. Speaker. This has been very good to me.

At first, in the beginning, especially in the two years that I would get hurt. But now we're able to move on. I know that I have been a leader in the community, so I learn and I also understand further the work. Thank you, each and every one of you.

And to the people who are listening to the proceedings, you have given me more power and to learn to listen, and that's what I have learned more. And I thank each and every one of you equally. That's why I had stood up.



September 10, Joe, the one beside me when I timed him I found that 7.87 minutes, that's how long took him 7:28 seconds and yesterday during the question period, Adam, ever since I started writing time 3.34 minutes. Thank you to everyone. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of TIN, Hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to Oral Question 1408 – 6(2): Marine Infrastructure**

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to follow up on a commitment I made to MLA Qavvik on September 15, 2025, regarding an update on the Department of Transport's federal funding announcement.

Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that Sanikiluaq is included in the scope of this work. Projects underway in the community include the installation of 70-ton mooring bollards, the relocation of the shore fuel manifold to reduce environmental risk, and the addition of safety lighting at the manifold.

Mr. Speaker, these projects are advancing through Indigenous consultation this fall, with tendering and contract award planned in early 2026 and construction targeted to begin in the summer of 2026.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Oral Question 1353 – 6(2), asked by the Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet on September 9, 2025 regarding a full-time social worker for Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, this return is quite detailed, and I have filed it with the clerk for transcribing into Hansard for the public record and for distribution into the record. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister is seeking consent to put the statement into Hansard as read. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Return to Oral Question. Question 1418 – 6(2). Date: September 15. Asked by Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer to the question asked by the MLA for Arviat South, Joe Savikataaq, on September 15 regarding direct appointments and vacancy rates.

Mr. Speaker, On September 30, 2021, the vacancy rate was 32 per cent, with 3,643 of 5,353 positions filled.

As of March 31, 2025, the vacancy rate was 36 per cent, with 3,651 of 5,675 positions filled. The GN reached a high of 41 per cent vacancy on March 31, 2023 post-COVID.

On September 30, 2021 the Inuit Employment rate was 50 per cent, with 1,817 Inuit in term/indeterminate positions.

On March 31, 2025, the Inuit Employment rate was 52 per cent, with 1,913 Inuit in term/indeterminate positions).

(interpretation) thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like I mentioned in my member statement earlier, we have some distinguished guests with us, but I would like to start with president of Nunavut's soccer association, Colby O'Donnell, whose tireless work with his own board of directors and volunteers, like I mentioned, across the territory, is really helping to grow the game of soccer in the territory as well as futsal.

But Mr. Speaker, we have a distinguished guest Mr. Peter Augruso, the president of Canada Soccer. I commend the mandate you have given yourself, to improve the experience for athletes and supporters and organizers and officials within the game of soccer. It's very commendable. I know you're only a little over a year into your role, but doing this, travelling to locations like here and across the country to hear people at the front lines is what's going to grow the sport of soccer in Canada, so I thank you very much for your work.

And Matt Young I don't know exactly what your role in all of this, but I am assuming you are here to help support, and I again thank you for all your hard work. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Mr. Speaker, he's walking out of the room at the moment, but I would like to acknowledge Mr. Colby O'Donnell, who I will tell you, he is really dedicated to soccer and futsal. However, I have had more than one occasion to play Inuit games with him, and I can tell you that I beat him at umingmak and leg lift as well. Welcome to your House, Mr. O'Donnell.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Great. Here is the baby I mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In April I had a new grandchild. The mother, I would like to recognize her Ann Sanguna (ph), and my grandchild here, Aktakali Killiktee (ph). Aktakali is because when I got elected, I would visit the elder's centre, and she had passed away, so I named her Aktakali as the lady told me, "Don't give up. Continue to be consistent in providing care for elders." I'm holding onto her from Clyde River.

And my community member, my future in-law, my brothers-in-law and Ms. Mike, I would like to welcome you. And I'm very proud to be again a grandmother. As I get older, this tradition is also a tradition I want to continue to follow. Welcome, and thank you so much for coming here. Let us show our appreciation.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my new grandchild last month have many elders names, and one of them is Itukoo (ph) and she cries because I put pronounce the names of my grandchild so many times Rusamosie (ph), George, Chislet Akeeagok (ph), and behind me, the father Marcus, and my daughter, Christine Akeeagok. Let us welcome them. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to your House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It's also nice when we have family come to the House, as we don't always see them here. But I also want to recognize my handsome nephew, Marcus Chislet (ph) and Christine, our new member. The child has my father's name.

(interpretation) As some of you know, my dad died in the last, over a year ago, very unexpectedly. So it is a pleasure and honour to have a baby named after my beautiful Ataata who is in the House here today. *Qujannamiik*.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to your House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6, Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Oral Question 1435 – 6(2): Intersex and Assigning Gender**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health, and they pertain to gender assignment of intersex infants born in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, intersex is an umbrella term used to describe an array of variation to physical sex that may not be typically male or female. Those who are intersex have a difference to or a mixture of sex characteristics, such as sex chromosomes, reproductive organs, external and internal genitalia and/or hormones. Intersex traits can be apparent at birth or may not become evident until puberty or later.

Mr. Speaker, being intersex is not a choice. Intersex variations are differences that occur during development in womb, and it is estimated that 1.7 per cent of Canada's population

is born intersex. People have no control over how their bodies develop. They cannot choose how they are formed.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us who decides what gender is assigned to an intersex child at birth and how is that decision made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleague for the question.

(interpretation ends) The Department of Health is fully committed to supporting all Nunavummiut with regards to their health needs, and that includes everyone. There's nobody who's excluded from our mandate as a department, and I thank the member for raising this.

My understanding of this matter, in terms of assigning gender at birth, it's usually a decision made by a clinician, and it's done in line with the anatomical appearance of the child. That's my understanding. There is I believe also, as in many medically related areas, there is a role for the family in terms of the physician or the clinician liaising with the family very closely around this matter. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's also important to acknowledge that some intersex individuals may identify as transgender and/or non-binary. As I noted earlier, intersex traits can become apparent at puberty or later in life, and those individuals impacted may seek medical advice.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister advise us of what specific training that Nunavut's medical professionals receive on intersex and gender-diverse care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) and thank the member for the question. In terms of the training that's provided to our staff on that specific matter, I can say that in November 2021 Health did run a comprehensive training course at the Qikiqtani General Hospital, to train our nurse practitioners and physicians in providing gender care. I can also speak to the fact that we do have transition-related health services guidelines that were finalized around the same time period, back in 2021. The purpose of those guidelines is to provide a clear path to access medically necessary health care, including transition-related surgeries for Nunavummiut and Nunavut practitioners.

The Department of Health is committed to providing medically necessary health care to all Nunavummiut, which includes transition-related health services for transgender and non-binary Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, this is a commitment that we embrace wholeheartedly, in line with the *Human Rights Act*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very happy to hear that. All humans deserve rights to be healthy and happy, and to receive medical care.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us what options are currently available to individuals to correct their birth records registration if it becomes apparent that the choice made by medical professionals at their birth in infancy is incorrect, whether they identify as female, transgender, non-binary or male. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) in terms of the member's question, and if I'm understanding it correctly, currently in Nunavut we're limited by the vital statistics legislation in terms of the options and choices available to Nunavummiut. To my knowledge we are the last jurisdiction in Canada where there's only two choices that can be made, male or female. Every other jurisdiction in Canada there's also the ability to reflect non-binary as a choice. We are aware that this is a shortcoming and we do have a desire to rectify this shortcoming so that our vital statistics legislation would be in line with the *Human Rights Act*.

I appreciate the questions from the member. The *Human Rights Act* is one that applies to every single government department, including Department of Health. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 1436 – 6(2): Update on New Program Software – Oracle Fusion Cloud**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions today to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, I was a recent RFP which closed less than a month ago on the GN Department of Finance, a detailed review of the GN ERP system implementation.

Mr. Speaker, ion that RFP on the second page, in the background it states:

“The Government of Nunavut recently implemented Oracle Fusion Cloud (ERP) to modernize its financial, procurement, and human capital functions. The project went live with release one, scope to implement recruiting, learning management, ERP, financial, and procurement, and is now in a steady state of operations mode.”

Mr. Speaker, my first question would be, I would like to get an update from the minister on his level of satisfaction with how the rollout has taken place and what its current status is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that question. What I understand from our department at the senior level, is like anything else that just starts up there has been some hiccups, mainly due to trying to understand the new software and how and where to do your inputs and where to look for things, I guess navigating your way through the new system. But as they get used to the new system, I have heard a lot of positives coming out of the new system and I anticipate that over the next few months, as they start to get into the payroll and benefit section, we'll see more positive impact of this new program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think one of the important components of implementing a new software across an institution as large as the Government of Nunavut is, the training component for staff and to make sure, as the minister just stated, the information that's in the system is only as good as the information that gets entered into the system.

I would like to get an update on the training and progress across the territory across the different departments to make sure that this coordinated integration of the new system goes as seamless as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the questions and the comment, and I couldn't agree more. I think going into this new system, as the training programs or training of departments and people who are involved in the project, as they were training they start finding out the better outcomes and ways to handle training and orientation around the program. They constantly continue to try to make improvements where they can so that proper data and proper information is being fed in properly, and also it's just as important how to retrieve that program.

Mr. Speaker, the understanding I have from the department is going forward they are seeking better ways to go through their training program and taking the positives forward so that it can be as seamless as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response from the minister.

Mr. Speaker, this House recently approved to provide funding of \$5 million to work towards improving the digital of the ERP project. Mr. Speaker, with the RFP that just closed recently on the implementation review and assessment, I'm going to try and sneak two questions in here. It's up to the minister how he deals with it. What is the progress level on the phase 2, and will this implementation review and assessment include phase 2 as well as phase 1? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the implementation is going forward as planned. They are going over the outcomes of the request that was just put out recently, and I anticipate that the review will continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Oral Question 1437 – 6(2): Nunavut 3000**

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. As the minister will recall, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced in January 2024 that 12 new units would begin construction in Kugluktuk. Information published in July of this year by the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that construction materials arrived in the community in the fall of 2024; however, it also indicates that:

“Framing is to commence in the fall of 2025, subject to availability to temporary accommodation currently at risk.”

This is very concerning. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. The work in the Kugluktuk community on the housing projects did come, like some other projects there were some hiccups in the community, in terms of different availabilities. In this one was availability of accommodations. I believe that the contractor and the corporation are working to alleviate that issue, and are looking at beginning the construction on schedule this fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to first off thank the minister for the Nunavut 3000 Strategy. It's going to help a lot.

As the minister is aware, when the Nunavut 3000 Strategy was first published, he indicated that a total of 75 new housing units were planned for Kugluktuk. These include 40 public housing units, 30 affordable housing units, and five market housing units. Can the minister confirm if this is still the target? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is still the target. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) It is important that Nunavut 3000 project provide employment, training, and apprenticeship opportunities for our residents. Can the minister confirm what the required Inuit labour content is for the project that is getting underway. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the goal always is to get as close to 100 per cent Inuit hire as we can in any projects that we do. But the reality, Mr. Speaker, is in order to get there, it includes a lot, and I say a lot of training to prepare Inuit to be able to run these projects on their own. The goal is to get as many of them as possible, and I understand that that goal is being challenged every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 1438 – 6(2): Local Transportation for Medical Clients**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask questions about local transportation for medical clients, and I direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, the government has recognized that many of our elders, especially the feeble ones, have been asking for safe and reliable transportation at the local level, and many elders have voiced this concern, but it is also very sad that the elder van initiative, although they arrived, it has not worked out, as the premier indicated. The elders in the five communities selected must be disappointed.

Mr. Speaker, elders and medical clients in other communities are also in need of transportation, most often from home to the health centre or to the airport and then back to their home again when their medical appointment is finished.

Can the minister provide an update on any options that have been considered by his departmental officials to arrange for the called-for local transportation for medical clients, and especially elders and people with handicaps. I would like to get an update on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Health Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague. Whenever it's an emergency and they need transportation, that is part of the service that we provide. (interpretation ends) Emergency ground transportation from home to health centres and from health centres to a medevac plane and to admitting hospitals is covered. That's a covered service through third-party insurers, such as non-insured health benefits or employer insurance plans.

Right now, routine transportation at the community level, non-emergency medical ground transportation, it is not something that is covered under the services that we provide, and so if we want to go in that direction and start providing that as a service, we would need to secure the financial resources to cover that service, and that would be through the budgetary process of the Legislative Assembly or from another funding source such as the federal government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the minister answered part of the question, and I will proceed to my next question.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) when I raised this issue in May, the minister indicated that there might be a bit of an opportunity under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program to provide for transportation from the airport for all medical travellers. Can the minister provide an update on whether there is any new agreement to provide ground transportation and stretcher services for medical travellers in Nunavut's smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you to the member for the question. So effective June 1, 2023 the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program began coverage for ground transportation while on approved medical travel, so non-insured health benefits will reimburse taxi fares from the client's home to the airport and return, at the established local rate within the community.

Mr. Speaker, right now Department of Health is still working through how this benefit can be operationalized, whether it would involve taxi companies, billing non-insured health benefits, or whether the Department of Health could work as a go-between in terms of purchasing taxi slips, for example, and then billing back to non-insured health benefits. We still are working through these details.

This is an important new benefit for medical travellers, and it's also a business opportunity at the community level in terms of taxi operators, so we see it as a win-win. But we're still in the process of trying to figure out how to operationalize that, exactly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What the minister said is mostly for the larger communities. I'm concerned about the smaller communities, and I know it's an issue in the larger communities, too, if they don't have any taxis.

In our communities it's completely impossible. We have to rely on family and community members to get transportation when you don't have your own. So it has become really worrisome. It would be good if the communities could be provided with vehicles that could hold up to six people, all the communities. It would look real good if that could be available for people having to go to the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I recognize that the department itself does not run a transportation service. The minister has indicated it would be beneficial if private entities could step in to fulfil the gap.

As I have noted, the Government of Nunavut provided \$1 million to a private entity to purchase the five elder vans. Can the minister tell us whether any consideration has been

given to providing small private entities in Nunavut's smallest communities, including Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River, so that they too can purchase a vehicle and use it to provide local ground transportation to elders and medical clients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I can confirm that the Department of Health has given consideration to the issue around ground transportation. The specific question around whether we have looked at that specific option at the community level for ground transportation, that hasn't been considered in recent years, to my knowledge. Like I stated earlier, before we took that step towards a contractor or a company or an entity to provide the service, the first thing we need to do is secure the budget.

We have put forward to non-insured health benefits in the past that we want to offer ground transportation. We were denied when we put that forward and we looked for money.

When it comes to non-insured health benefits, right now we are challenged just trying to maintain the status quo. We're faced with a federal government that is short-changing us in a huge way on non-insured health benefits, when it comes to medical travel, when it comes to boarding home. We're trying to protect the services we have available today, because it feels like our federal partners at Indigenous Services Canada are trying to download the costs onto us, and that is just wrong, because that's their program.

I apologize if I'm going off topic but it is related to the ground transportation issue.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Oral Question 1439 – 6(2): Final Mandate Report**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, and my regards to the people of Arviat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to question the premier on the minister's statement, the final mandate. Mr. Speaker, on the second page about halfway down in the minister's statement, it states:

"We advanced Igluliuqatigiingniq Nunavut 3000, building over 1,000 new homes with 2,000 more underway."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to question the premier on the statement about building 1,000 new homes. Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago we had advised hearings with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and in the hearings, the president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation admitted that only 18 public housing units have been completed since the agreement with NCC Development Corporation.

There is quite a discrepancy between 18 units and 1,000 units. So if I can get is explanation from the premier of how 1,000 buildings are done when 18 units have been completed. 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 his question. As noted many times, the reference to 1,000 was a target, and in the statement it implies there are up to that amount that are different levels of stages, as we heard many times from colleagues on the other side, that there are buildings being built in every community in different stages. That's the reference being made here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe our interpretation is different, because building 1,000 units, in my opinion they are built. The ones that are being built is on the next line, building 1,000 new homes with 2,000 more underway. The 2,000, according to that, are underway. They are being built. But that's how I read this. I read it different than the premier.

Thank you, Minister, but I interpret it differently. These 2,000 more units underway, are these 2,000 units to be constructed right now, or are they just building permits? Because my constituents and Nunavummiut cannot live and move into a building permit. They live and move into a completed house. So can I get an explanation from the premier in his minister's statement, the homes, the "2,000 more underway." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my colleague for his question. Yes, our definitions are different. We are building, and that implies all the work that is forthcoming. Some are in different stages, as we have heard at the hearings here, where there are marshalling of material being sent to the community that are in progress, and that implies the amount that we are doing.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut 3000 was a very bold and transformative plan that we brought forward here. We have seen the fruits of it.

Mr. Speaker, just a few days ago we heard the prime minister single out Nunavut in a big housing announcement, with over 700 new units that are forthcoming. Mr. Speaker, I believe this is a single largest investment into housing into our territory. So with that we are very hopeful in terms of the goal of Nunavut 3000, and the importance around the reference to 2,000 was that ambitious goal, and it is through that advocacy that we've secured these historic investments. The details are yet to be determined as we move forward, as noted by my colleague here, but implied is that we are moving and advancing and making those investments as we move forward with the target of getting to 3,000, and much more after that as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Staying on the mandate, I'll talk about elders. Mr. Speaker, I won't talk about the elder vans. Many members have brought them up, how these elder vans were quickly purchased and a year later are still sitting, not servicing the elders that they were meant to.

On the mandate it was aging with dignity, and one of the strategic outcomes said fewer Inuit elders relocating from their home communities.

Mr. Speaker, we have long term care in Rankin now, and I fully support that. Elders get to be closer to home. But other than the ones who live in Rankin Inlet, they still have to move, and now we're in the planning stage of one for Cambridge Bay, and it's the same, I'm thankful for that, and it will be very good but it will be mostly Cambridge Bay residents that don't have to move away.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very thankful that the previous governments in the past had the foresight to put an elders facility in Arviat, and the elders of Arviat, if they so choose to or need to, they can move into the elder care facility in Arviat and stay at home.

With aging with dignity, I would like to ask the premier. What has the government done to help elders not relocate, as it was one of their strategic outcomes? What is being done to keep elders at home, in their home community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too am very thankful and I had the opportunity and the privilege to be able to visit the facility in Arviat with the member, who welcomed me into Arviat a few years ago.

Mr. Speaker, we've done some incredible work around what more we could do, not only to build the facilities, in Rankin, Iqaluktuuttiaq or Iqaluit. We've brought partners to actually tackle this important issue. It's a shared priority with us all.

Mr. Speaker, I was very happy to see the partnership we were able to secure with Nunavut Tunngavik specifically. For the first time in our history as a territory, we have partnered with them, to the best of my memory, where they have invested capital so that we could expand the facilities that we have, including the one in Gjoa Haven, including the ones in other communities as well, such as Igloolik. So it is through those partnerships that we have advanced more in terms of what we're able to do.

Mr. Speaker, further to that, we are looking at ways where we could expand housing continuum so that elders could stay at home, in a home that is more adequate and appropriate for the living conditions of them.

We have and continue to invest in what more we could, but it is through these types of partnerships that we have been able to advance.

Again, they are in different stages, and I very much look forward to seeing the completion of those, so that elders can age in dignity in their home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second – my apologies.

>> *Laughter*

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

#### **Oral Question 1440 – 6(2): Departmental Positions**

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on an issue that I have raised on several occasions over the past year. As the minister is aware, the government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that the Department of Environment has a total of 14 positions located in my community of Igloolik. Only four of the positions are filled and 10 are vacant. This is a vacancy rate of over 70 per cent. This is unchanged since the last time that I raised this issue.

When I last raised this issue during the spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the minister indicated that his department "has been working with the federal government some of the wildlife research section from Igloolik to Cambridge Bay." Can the minister provide an update on the status of this work, and will he commit to providing my office with a copy of the memorandum of understanding that has been signed with the federal government.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Mr. Speaker, my department has been working with the federal government in moving the wildlife research section from Igloolik to the Canadian high Arctic research station in Cambridge Bay, and the memorandum of understanding was signed back in March 2025. We continue to work with Transportation and Infrastructure on a lease agreement to finalize moving positions.

Regarding sharing the memorandum of understanding, I'll consider that with my officials, and provided that there's no issue, I would be willing to share that with my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to see a copy of that agreement. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the government's practice has been that when it moves decentralized positions out of a community, new positions are moved in or are created to make up for the loss. Can the minister confirm what positions will be moving to Igloolik to balance the positions that are being transferred to Cambridge Bay. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is I would say more of a whole-of-government approach around when there are positions being moved around between communities. We do try to encompass what other types of positions might better be suited, or relocating positions. At this time I can't say which positions are to be moved to Igloolik. We are continuing to make efforts to fill vacant positions, as my colleague pointed out, also including utilizing remote hiring opportunities for anyone that might fit that category. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Employment opportunities very rarely come to the smaller communities, and if we're going to be losing those positions it's going to be a loss for my community.

(interpretation ends) I have previously suggested that the Inuit language authority positions could be a natural fit for the community. When I raised this issue last year, the minister's predecessor indicated that he was willing to discuss this idea with the Minister of Culture and Heritage. Can the minister update me today on the results of these discussions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasié.



**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for suggesting these recommendations to our government to consider. Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, there have been ministerial discussions around what we can do in this area, and we'll continue to have those important conversations. Mr. Speaker, my colleague mentioned about positions that don't fall within my department, so I do have to consult with my colleagues that do hold those positions that the member mentioned about language-specific positions so we will continue to have that conversation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 1441 – 6(2): Jessie Oonark Centre Renovations**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation regarding the Jessie Oonark in Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, there are many opportunities and ideas that could be borne out of that Jessie Oonark Centre, for arts and crafts. It has been a godsend for my community, with the artwork that comes out of Baker Lake. It's quite old. It's from before Nunavut was born, the building.

I did have the opportunity to give a tour to the minister of the building, and I pointed out some of the cracks in the walls, a bucket hanging near the ceiling, trying to catch glycol leaks, and I had asked the minister to look into renovating the Jessie Oonark Centre.

My first question, Mr. Speaker, what is the status of the work to renovate the Jessie Oonark Centre in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That building is very critical for our territory, and very beautiful art is made there. I give thanks to my colleague for providing the tour and getting to see the aging infrastructure. That's something that we highlighted and one that we have asked the manager for the Jessie Oonark building to put a business case in, to get the renovations done.

There is a process within the Nunavut Development Corporation to get the buildings, to have it renovated so we've asked the manager to get that in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for that. I'm glad that work is underway now to put together a business case on the idea of renovating the Jessie Oonark Centre.

To keep it Baker Lake-centred, centre of Nunavut, I'm wondering if some of my constituents will be taking part in some of the ideas in how to renovate the building, make it fit Baker Lake for today's days and times so we can create more economic development coming out of that centre, and perhaps some more positions from arts can be born and work out of that centre.

I'm wondering will the residents take part or have an opportunity into what type of renovations should be done to the Jessie Oonark Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, renovations, typically doesn't get a whole lot of community input, but it's one that, as the member stated, it is an aging building and clearly needs some functional work that would help with the artisans. I would encourage those that utilize the building and those fine folks from Baker Lake to contact the general manager and have discussions about the building, too. Through those ideas is where we could get the if there was renovations to be had, maybe get the building to be more efficient would be a great suggestion coming from my colleagues. I give thanks to that, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response.

Lastly regarding the Jessie Oonark Centre, I was online googling Jessie Oonark Centre to see what comes up about it online, to see if there's the possibility for people to order some of the artwork online, and that did not come up. There's an option to perhaps purchase artwork online, which is the new things nowadays.

I'm hoping the minister will look into the capability or the possibility of creating an online format so that people across the country or even outside of Canada can order some of the artwork out of Baker Lake. Will the minister look into creating a functioning website for people to order artwork from the Jessie Oonark Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is a great suggestion and something that I will task the staff to look into. There is a shop, nu.ca, that is a partnership formed between the three regional chambers of commerce, and something that I've asked Nunavut Development Corporation to see if they can partner with them and look at ways of expanding their sales through the World Wide Web. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 1442 – 6(2): Students Supported by FANS**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Education and regarding the utilization of FANS. I would like to keep my first question very simple. Can the minister provide us an update on the current number of students being supported by FANS in the current academic year. 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. This academic 2025-2026 year we have 506 approved FANS students and at the moment there are 410 enrolled, so 96, we are still waiting for their enrolment information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question I would like to ask, how many students are currently supported by FANS and are studying out of territory? 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 out-of-territory students that are approved for FANS are 320, and at the moment we have 263 enrolled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now I would like to ask about in the previous academic year how many students supported by FANS completed their program, and how does that compare to recent years. 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. We don't have that data, Mr. Speaker, but we are aiming to work to collect that data and have that data available with the new financial assistance for Nunavut students program and the new database that we're able to be utilizing with Oracle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 1443 – 6(2): Patients Sent for Medical Travel**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health in regards to the patients that have to go out of the territory for treatment. My first question: The patients that leave to go out of the territory to Winnipeg, especially my constituents, how many individuals are being sent down to Winnipeg for medical purposes, and some of the patients don't have an appointment. When they go see the doctor and they don't have an appointment, I was wondering if this issue has been rectified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his question. Patients being sent without appointment, I don't know the number of individuals, but I believe there's not too many people. But we need to have good communication between Health and nurses and also in Winnipeg health professionals.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, one of the key initiatives we are working on to minimize unnecessary travel is to strengthen the health record linkages between Nunavut and other jurisdictions like Manitoba. We don't want to be using fax machines. We want our patients' information to flow smoothly between Nunavut and Manitoba, or wherever they are having their appointments, and that includes things around referrals.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. The reason why I've been asking this question is because some staff have to apply for sick leave when they have to go attend medical attention and this has created problems. That's why I alluded to that. But I do want to ask another question.

In regards to patients that have to be sent out of the territory and some patients are given short notice, when they are just leaving on the same day. So this issue has been raised. Have you resolved this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. As we know, it's written in our policy that we need to amend the policies. We did a consultation from Nunavummiut, as they were told, we were given different suggestions and what the member had stated, it's part of that, that they should be given more time and be notified ahead of time, and that's what was complained about. We are looking at how we can amend the policies, like for example seven days ahead of time, before they leave they notify them. Although that's what we're working on. We will have to amend the policy and also the administration and the work that they do will also have to be improved. That's what we're looking at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issues that I have raised in the House, the program for health of those patients have to be improved. I know that there's some patients that don't want to leave because they are just given a one-hour notification before they have to leave for the plain, and sometimes they cannot make it down to the appointment due to bad weather. Sometimes they have to change their appointment and defer their appointment. Sometimes the patients have to wait a long time and when they are given one-hour notice, they have to wait a lot more time to see the doctor.

These issues have to be improved, and I thank you for hearing about them during the consultation. This is just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We thank Nunavummiut as well for consulting with us. I know we need to rectify, and we would like to thank the people and the member for suggesting. And also would like to thank the member representing his constituency. Whether it's summer time or whether it's Christmas time, we're always notified whether it's Nauyasat or Coral Harbour residents every time they require help he always informs me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Oral Question 1444 – 6(2): Activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation**

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today are for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As the minister will recall, the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued an announcement in April of this year concerning the acquisition of new modular housing units. The announcement indicated that 20 new housing units will be delivered to Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake. The announcement also indicated the Agnico Eagle will provide marine shipping for the units. I thank the company for its support.

Mr. Speaker, the sealift season is coming to an end. Can the minister confirm how many new modular housing units have been delivered to Rankin Inlet, and can he confirm when they will be ready for occupation by the residents of the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too want to thank Agnico Eagle to committing to delivering these units into the communities. These units have been delivered to both communities.

In terms of Rankin Inlet, I know the lots that they are going to be occupying are currently being completed, and they should be completed before the new year, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Nunavut Housing Corporation also acquired a number of new modular housing units for the community of Chesterfield Inlet. However, it is not clear if the final assembly of the units has been completed. Can the minister confirm how many new modular housing units have been delivered to Chesterfield Inlet, and can he confirm when they will be ready for occupancy by the residents of the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two new modular units that are in Chesterfield Inlet and they should be ready for occupancy this fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important that the residents of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet have the opportunity to gain apprenticeship and training experience as part of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's work to address housing shortage. Can the minister describe the extent to which these opportunities are being

provided for the modular housing unit projects as compared to the conventional stick build unit projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the proponents who are delivering the modular units in the community are working with, where they can, local people to help slap together or put together the units, and put in what is required to make them useable. I believe, more importantly, that through the Arctic College workshop in Rankin where people are training into different trades, people that apply to become tradesmen will have a greater opportunity to maintain the long term of residences that are being built, that people looking into trades should get into, say, getting into the plumbing, electrical and maintenance trades, because all these houses that are being built will need maintenance, and that's where the money will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Oral Question 1445 – 6(2): New Health Centre for Kugaaruk**

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, I see that the capital plan for the new health centre for the community of Qikiqtarjuaq is progressing, with the recent request for proposals for architectural and engineering services. I am very happy for my colleague for Uqqummiut from the constituency of Uqqummiut. She has been asking for this for some time.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update on which health centre projects are next in line in the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the important question on capital. We need to continue investing in health infrastructure across Nunavut so that we can be less reliant on medical travel. I answer a lot of questions here in the House around medical travel. I would love to answer more questions about care closer to home.

Kugaaruk is identified as a priority community for a health centre replacement. Our current listing, it would have the Qikiqtarjuaq health centre being constructed, followed by Baker Lake, then Kugluktuk, and Kugaaruk. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that meeting all the infrastructure needs across Nunavut is a complex issue. I know that many communities are in the same situation when it comes to needing new or improved health facilities.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister inform this House whether any recent assessments of space, condition or suitability have been conducted for the Kugaaruk community health centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Based on the information that I have, the most recent assessments that we conducted were in 2021. That being said, we are continually monitoring the condition of our facilities through our partners at Transportation and Infrastructure, so that if conditions change, if there's emergency type issues that are encountered, we can deal with them as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, we do hope that we will continue to see federal investments into health infrastructure in Nunavut. The recent funding that we've secured on the long-term care front has been very encouraging, and long overdue, and we hope to see that in the future this trend will continue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that building a new health centre is a significant investment for the government and requires a significant amount of pre-planning and then planning before it can become a capital project.

However, I am confident that the Department of Health has a good idea of which community health centres need more attention than others, which health centres need to be replaced, and in which order these needs will be met.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide a timeline for when Kugaaruk's community health centre may be replaced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The information I have indicates that the Kugaaruk health centre is expected to start planning by 2026-2027 fiscal year. However, the exact timeline for construction would be determined by future governments and dependent on resource availabilities.



From the Department of Health's perspective, we would like to see it built as soon as possible, and hopefully with assistance from our federal partners, because this health infrastructure would help us to save money in other areas, such as medical travel, and deliver care closer to home. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 1446 – 6(2): Update - QEC Infrastructure in Sanirajak**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation, when it comes to threatening infrastructures and for those aging infrastructures.

As the minister will recall Mr. Speaker, I asked this question during our spring sitting of what is aging infrastructures across Nunavut. But let me focus my questions on aging infrastructures in Sanirajak when it comes to power plants.

Mr. Speaker, what has been done from the spring sitting and as of now? What kind of assessment were identified or assessments has been done for this much needed infrastructure in Sanirajak, such as the power plant? 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 the member for the question.

(interpretation ends) We know that Sanirajak has been impacted with some issues around reliability, and Qulliq Energy Corporation takes those issues very seriously. We take the community's concerns seriously. We know that the community is in need of a new power plant. However, in the meantime, we need to ensure reliability for the upcoming winter, for example.

So with that in mind, we do have two ongoing capital projects. We have a feeder upgrade to feeders 1, 2 and 3 in Sanirajak, as well a substation upgrade, which will help us maintain reliability and address issues around transmission. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for clarifying that. I believe the building is older than both of us. You mentioned upgrades. We have

been having emergency situations, power outages and so forth. Rectifying this with the upcoming winter and high winds, with the upgrades with costing those of us who struggle with finances.

The minister mentioned this past spring concerning funding from the federal government for such upgrades. Will you continue to working on this, albeit our turn is coming up soon? How much planning has been taken with them in Nunavut, planning on capital, for example, the power plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): I thank the question. We work closely with the federal government, and when we do meet with, them our president, Mr. Douglas, is always participating. He just arrived from Ottawa, if he's not still there, looking at the different divisions within the federal government department. You have the support from the military and others. We meet with different branches, and we try and address them with the obstacles, and we have a very unique situation to deal with these. Sanirajak is one of those. When we have a blizzard, you too have a blizzard, because it's so flat, like Arviat.

A space available is needed to ensure Nunavummiut are not at risk. And with that we constantly collaborate with the federal government.

**Speaker:** Third and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A flat country is a flat country.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important area, looking at the residents of Sanirajak, you have one of the oldest infrastructure in the community, and we would like to see more investment from the government. It's not so much of a question, but as we end our Assembly, I constantly raise the issues that I receive.

Can the minister identify or decide to have his staff visit the community, and what more work is required in terms of upgrades? Can the minister commit to that before this Assembly dissolves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree. As we are getting into election time, I can check to see when my officials can go to Sanirajak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 1447 – 6(2): Parent Concerns about School Staff**

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) My question is for the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents is a concerned parent who has raised a concern about bullying and belittling by school staff towards students, and that some parents are refusing to send their children to school because of this behaviour.

Can the minister provide an overview of her department to ensure that all schools follow a code of ethics and a standard of behaviour so that all students feel safe and welcome in school. 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. In terms of bullying prevention in our schools, that is an area that we are really working to address, in terms of putting emphasis on addressing the root causes of bullying and bullying prevention. If there are ever any instances that bullying is happening, we ask that those be reported to the school principal so that they can work to address the bullying and work with the parents and the families.

And also Mr. Speaker, in terms of a code of ethics, that is something I can get back to the member on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there are different expectations of what is to be provided in a school environment and different understanding of appropriate behaviour when it comes to correction and discipline. There are also cultural differences and expression, even in humour, that can be misunderstood or misinterpreted. And important to address these situation is awareness.

Last spring the representative for children and youth indicated that her office was developing resources to teach children and youth about their rights. These kinds of resources help build awareness. Can the minister provide an update on whether the resources or course programs developed by the Representative for Children and Youth is currently included in the school curriculum? 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. I can quickly update the member on her previous question, that the Nunavut Teachers' Association does have a code of ethics and if they do violate any of those ethics

we can do investigations within the department. We're also working with them to see how they can be incorporated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is concerning when a Nunavut resident feels that school staff or a government employee or even elected representative are not following the accepted code of ethics.

Can the minister describe what steps a concerned parent should take when they feel that the principal or teachers or other school staff are not following the code of ethics when it comes to supporting children in our schools. 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. The first step would be to speak with the school principal, and if there's anything outside of that, we have our district education authorities as well as our regional school operations and our department, so there's lots of different channels where those instances if they are happening can come.

Also through our local MLAs, if there are any issues, we do get things brought forward to our attention and we work to resolve them at the school level. 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 39 (7) I seek unanimous consent to extend Oral Questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays?

**A Member:** Nay.

**Speaker:** There is a nay. 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 Committee on Bills and Other Matters.

I recognize the chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, Mr. Savikataaq.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that Bill 79, *An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill as amended and reprinted is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 68(6) and have Bill 79 immediately moved in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member has asked for unanimous consent to have Bill 79 immediately go into Committee of the Whole. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** It is agreed, and the bill has been moved to Committee of the Whole.

Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 460 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut Katujjiluta 6th Assembly Mandate Final Report 2021-2025**

**Tabled Document 461 – 6(2): 2024-2025 Nunavut Bureau of Statistics Annual Report**

**Tabled Document 462 – 6(2): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers – March 21, 2024**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table three reports:

The Government of Nunavut 6th Assembly mandate final report 2021 to 2025;

Second, the 2024-2025 Nunavut Bureau of Statistics Annual Report; and finally,

Third, Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers Under Ministerial Benefits Policy For Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2024. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

**Tabled Document 463 – 6(2): 2023-2024 Department of Education Annual Report**

**Tabled Document 464 – 6(2): 2024-2025 Progress Report on LOI Regulations and Curriculum**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to table two reports, the Department of Education 2023-2024 Annual Report, And the 2024-2025 Progress Report on Language of Instruction Regulations and Curriculum. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Development Corporation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Tabled Document 465 – 6(2): 2024-2025 Nunavut Development Corporation Annual Report**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2024-2025 Nunavut Development Corporation's Annual Report. Mr. Speaker, once the Inuktitut translations are completed, I will provide copies to the Clerk's office to be distributed to all members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Tabled Document 466 – 6(2): Family Wellness Ilagiitsiarniq Strategic Action Plan Progress Update Report**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the Family Wellness Ilagiitsiarniq Strategic Action Plan 2023-2028 progress update report.

Mr. Speaker, once translations are translated I will file with the clerk's office.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Tabled Document 467 – 6(2): Minister of Health's 2024-2025 Tobacco and Smoking Act Annual Report**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) table the Minister of Health 2024-2025 Tobacco and Smoking Act Annual Report. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Tabled Document 468 – 6(2): 2024-2025 Public Service Annual Report**

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to table the 2024-2025 Public Service Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Languages, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Tabled Document 469 – 6(2): 2025-2028 Inuktitut Language Training Strategic Plan**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the 2025-2028 Inuktitut Language Training Plan thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 470 – 6(2): Kivalliq Inter-Community Road Study – Summary Report**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Kivalliq Intercommunity Road Study Summary Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notice 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, Bill 76, 78, 79 and 84 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 15:58 and Committee commenced at 16:19*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. George Hickes): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items deal with: Bills 76, 78, 79, and 84. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki:** Mr. Chairman, we wish to commence a review of Bill 76, followed by Bill 78, and 84. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Are we in agreement we first deal with Bill 76?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 76 – An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Premier, do you have officials you would like to have appear before you?

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, yes.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Mr. Premier, if you could introduce your officials and proceed directly to your opening comments, please.

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to have our Deputy Minister of Culture and Heritage, Deputy Hughes with me, who is to my right, as well to my left is Director of Language Programs, Mr. Ducy.

Also in the House, Mr. Chair, joining us today are Jeannie Arreak Kullualik, who is Acting Deputy Minister, Official Languages, as well as Mr. Ahlfors, who's Director of Legislation.

Mr. Chair, thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee of the Whole for consideration of Bill 76, *An Act to Amend the Inuit Language Protection Act and the Official Languages Act*.

First, I would like to begin with thanking the members of this House for undertaking the statutory review of the official languages legislation and those that participated in the statutory review through written submissions and appearing in this House.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Standing Committee on Legislation for its report on the review of the official languages legislation and their thorough review of Bill 76.

Mr. Chair, as the Standing Committee on Legislation noted in their report, it was determined that both the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the *Official Languages Act* are strong and straightforward. Our government agrees with this conclusion.



Mr. Chair, the Standing Committee on Legislation made a number of recommendations, which our government has responded to by proposing amendments outlined in Bill 76.

In addition to the recommendations made by the standing committee, we are also proposing some additional amendments that were proposed by organizations as part of the statutory review of the languages acts.

We are proposing to expand the informal resolution tools and clear processes for language commissioner investigations. We are proposing to add an obligation for the Minister of Languages to respond to recommendations by the languages commissioner in the Minister of Languages' annual reports. We are proposing to increasing the size of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit Board; and proposing to require Part 1 of the Nunavut Gazette to be published in Inuktitut.

Mr. Chair, as outlined to the standing committee through the legislative proposal and the legislative framework, we are also proposing to amend both acts to address duplicate processes related investigations and consultation registers that are outlined in both acts. We are proposing to have these processes outlined in one act but still apply to both acts.

Mr. Chair, as concluded by the standing committee, improving awareness of the language legislation will be a key factor in achieving the objectives of both acts. Our government recognizes that more work needs to be done in this area. We have nearly doubled the territorial contributions to the Inuit Language Implementation fund effective this year; tabled the first Inuktitut Language Training Strategy; secured federal funding agreement on languages until 2028; and started the evaluation process of Uqausivut 2.0.

To better support this work, we have restructured the Department of Culture and Heritage to create the Languages Branch, led by a dedicated Assistant Deputy Minister, Official Languages. As part of this restructuring, the department has also split the Official Languages Division into two divisions: Language Programs, and Language Acts Implementation. This will allow for more dedicated focus in these two critical areas.

Thank you again for the committee's review of Bill 76, and I welcome any questions or comments you may have. *Qujannamiik*.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments to provide? Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you. As co-chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 76, *An Act to Amend the Inuit Language Protection Act and the Official Languages Act*.

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

The Standing Committee on Legislation conducted a review of Nunavut's language legislation throughout 2022 and 2023. The committee's report on its review of the legislation, which was tabled in the winter 2024, included a number of recommendations with respect to potential amendments to the legislation. Many of the amendments being proposed in Bill 76 are in direct response to the committee's recommendations. On behalf of the committee, I extend our appreciation to the government for taking our work into consideration in the drafting of the bill.

I also wish to take this opportunity to again thank the key stakeholders who participated in the standing committee's review of Nunavut's language laws and contributed to the important process of improving our territorial language legislation. This concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Is there any other comments before we proceed clause by clause? Seeing none, government Bill 76, *An Act to Amend the Inuit Language Protection Act and the Official Languages Act*. Clause 1, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3? Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I wish to ask a question regarding clause 3 of the bill, which proposed to amend section 1 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* which provides for various definitions in the legislation.

My first question is, Mr. Chairman, why did the government choose not to update the definition of Inuit language under clause 3 of the bill when the opportunity was there to do so? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the member for the question. We are making that recommendation – we did hear the recommendation come from the Standing Committee in terms of the request that did come, so that's exactly that we're doing here in clause 3, respecting and recognizing that Inuktitut encompasses both

Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut. So we are taking the recommendations directly from the committee and incorporating that in here. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize that later in the bill, when we get to clause 45, Bill 76 proposes to replace all mentions of Inuit language in the legislation with the term “Inuktitut”. I do not disagree with that proposal. However, pursuant to section 1(2), the definition of “Inuktitut”, formerly “Inuit language”, will remain as:

(A) in or near Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Bathurst Inlet, and Umingmaktok, Inuinnaqtun;

(B) in or near other municipalities, Inuktitut.

As my colleagues will be aware from my advocacy in this House and during the standing committee hearings on Nunavut’s language legislation, I feel strongly that the Netsilik dialect needs recognition in policies in law.

Similar to the struggle’s faced by Inuinnaqtun speakers, Netsilingmiut are at risk of losing our language. Specifically including the Netsilik dialect within the definition of Inuktitut could go a long way to support efforts to promote and revitalize the language as it is spoken in the Netsilik region.

I’m going to provide an example, Mr. Chairman. I have been advocating for interpreters in the House. I have been advocating for the public service announcements to be interpreted in the Netsilik dialect.

And my second question, is, Mr. Chairman, would the government consider now or in the future specifically recognizing the Netsilik dialect within the definition of Inuktitut as provided for in Nunavut’s official language legislation. That’s my last question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister P.J. Akeegok.

**Hon. P.J. Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, I want to thank my colleague for his question, but also his continued advocacy about what more we can do to protect, and not just protect but enhance the many dialects that we do have.

Mr. Chair, this definition does capture all dialects, including the Netsilik dialect. As questioned many times in this House, we do have a lot of programs and services that Nunavummiut could access, in terms of what more we could do, but I feel that the

definition outlined here in this section as well as others does encompass the Netsilik dialect as well as other dialects that are across this territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 3, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 5, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6? Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon Minister, and to your officials.

Regarding membership the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit will consist of between five and nine members. Is there going to be a breakdown as to how many members will be from perhaps each region, like let's say two from North Baffin, two from South Baffin, two from Kivalliq, and two from Kitikmeot type of scenario? First question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank my colleague for his question. Yes, I understand that regional differences will be captured. We are very pleased to see the increase. We know the expertise and really the background that these members bring around the table, whether they are looking at the official words to be incorporated, among many of the major responsibilities that they hold, that regional expertise is very valuable. That's something that I understand will be factored in, in terms of the appointments that will be made. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Just to follow up, do you have that breakdown in front of you, Minister?

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, no, but I could commit to getting back to you, through chair, but we don't have it right in front of me right now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 6, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 8, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 9, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 10, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 11, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 12, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 13, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 14, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 15, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 16, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 17, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 18, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 19, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 20, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 21, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 22, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 23, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 24, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 25, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 26, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 27, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 28, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 29, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 30, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 31, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 32, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 33, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 34, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 35, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 36, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Agreed 37, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 38, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 39, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 40, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 41, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 43, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 43, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 44, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 45, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 46, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 47, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.



**Chairman:** Clause 48, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 49, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to Bill 76 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree Bill 76 is ready for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Do you have closing comments?

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I do. I would like to thank the members here for their contributions right at the standing committee. I believe we have incorporated just about all the recommendations. So the importance that you all have brought forward is something that we know will strengthen the important role that Bill 76 will bring forward, in terms of language protection and preservation, among other things.

I just want thank each and every one of you, as well as the many stakeholders that provided their comments to strengthen that.

And for our incredible public service, I specifically want to recognize Pierre, who has worked so hard, as well as our deputy he was here, and many others who aren't here, who have put so many efforts in terms of bringing forward changes and amendments that we just went through. Without their hard work and advocacy of what more we could do to strengthen, we wouldn't be here. Thank you, *Qujannamiik*, Quana, *mut'na* to everyone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you. Witnesses may be excused, please remain in your seats. We'll just take a 90-second break and get ready for the next bill, number 78.

>> *Committee recessed at 16:39 and resumed at 16:40*

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. Minister Main, do you have officials you would like to have appear before the committee with you?

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the committee agree to allow the minister and his officials to appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you. I'm wondering if when everyone gets settled, Minister, if you can introduce your officials and proceed into opening comments, please.

### **Bill 78 – An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and colleagues.  
(interpretation ends) Thank you for taking the time to consider Bill 78, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act*.

Mr. Chair, I would like to introduce the officials who are here with me today. From the Department of Health, to your left, my right, Megan Hunt, Deputy Minister of Health; and to my right, your left, we have Carlin Twomey, Acting Director of Policy and Planning. Also here in the Assembly we have, from the Department of Justice, Daniel Mount, Legislative Counsel for Bill 78.

When the territory was created in 1999, Nunavut inherited the *Vital Statistics Act* from the Northwest Territories. The act requires the collection of information pertaining to births, stillbirths, deaths, adoptions and marriages. Amendments made to these records by court-ordered documents, Coroner's findings, death registrations and statutory declarations are also recorded. The information collected is used to provide certificates for these events, through an application process, and is shared with Statistics Canada and the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics.

Minor amendments to the act occurred in 2011 and again in 2016.

The principal objective of this bill is to avoid contravention with other pieces of legislation. The current *Vital Statistics Act* is potentially at odds with Nunavut's *Human Rights Act* and does not properly reflect provisions of the federal legislation or other Nunavut laws.

The main amendments put forward by *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act* are:

Section 15 of the *Vital Statistics Act* provides for the issuance of a birth certificate for a child born in Nunavut and adopted pursuant to the laws of Nunavut or of another jurisdiction. Further, the section indicates that legal parents must be identified on the birth certificate, in accordance with section 37 of the *Adoption Act*. However, the legal parents of a child adopted under Indigenous custom are not determined in accordance with section 37 of the *Adoption Act*; rather, the Nunavut Court of Justice has decided that the rights of both natural and adoptive parents in a customary adoption are determined by the Inuit custom.

In cases of adoption under the *Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act*, the *Vital Statistics Act* will be amended to better reflect the nature of customary adoptions.

Section 18 of the *Vital Statistics Act* does not account for the recognition of foreign divorces under section 22 of Canada's *Divorce Act*. Health will amend section 18 to provide for the recognition of the dissolution, outside of Canada, of marriages that are registered in Nunavut.

Several other administration and operational amendments are proposed in Bill 78. They will streamline processes and functions of the Vital Statistics Office.

As part of this bill, and at the request of the Standing Committee on Legislation, Health amended unnecessarily gendered language across several Nunavut statutes.

I am happy to see this bill being considered today. We welcome any questions on it.

(interpretation) That concludes my opening statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments to provide? Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 78, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act*.

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

I note for the record that a number of clauses in the bill were deleted during the minister's recent appearance before the committee to undertake clause-by-clause consideration of the bill.

This concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Any committee members have any general comments to provide? Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Chair, for the opportunity to give some general comments to Bill 78. I would first like to thank the Minister of Health and the Department of Health staff for introducing this very significant piece of legislation. I wholeheartedly support the original principle of the bill. This was intended to widen Government of Nunavut practices with federal human rights and the Nunavut *Human Rights Act*.

As the chair had noted in his opening comments, the committee had deleted a number of clauses. Unfortunately, in the chair's opening comments he did not adequately describe the amendments made by the Standing Committee on Legislation as was provided in Bill 73.

The amendments that were made deleting a number of clauses had significantly reduced the scope of the bill by removing the clause for the definition of sex designation. The committee is thereby preventing the Government of Nunavut from recognizing non-binary individuals.

Mr. Chair, why does this matter? In 2017 the federal government amended the *Human Rights Act* to include gender identity and gender expression as a form of discrimination. Shortly after, the Northwest Territories became the first jurisdiction in Canada to make an amendment to their own legislation to allow the recognition of non-binary in order to conform with the federal legislation on human rights.

Mr. Chair, it's unfortunate, but today Nunavut is the only jurisdiction in Canada that only recognizes two genders, and is discriminatory towards non-binary. This practice is in direct violation of the *Human Rights Act*.

I strongly support equality. I believe that everyone should be treated fairly. I stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community, regardless of which acronym the individual chooses to associate with, or what their preferred pronoun is.

The 2021 Census showed that there are over 100,000 Canadians that identify as transgender or non-binary, including a number of Nunavummiut.

Enabling the Government of Nunavut to recognize non-binary gender is important to protect human rights and prevent discrimination. This recognition upholds principles of dignity, equality and freedom of discrimination allowing non-binary individuals to participate fully and safely in our society.

Chair, due to personal circumstances, I was not able to attend the standing committee meeting where these amendments were made, and therefore did not have an opportunity to debate them. It is for this reason that I disagree with the amendments, and will be introducing motions to refer revert back to the original bill's intent so all may participate in the debate on camera and in front of all Nunavummiut.

In closing, Chair, I will also be asking that these motions receive a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Any other comments to the opening comments? Seeing none, please go to Bill 78, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act*. Clause 1, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2? Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Agreed. Thank you, Chair. I do agree with clause 2 as presented. It is actually clause 3 in which I would like to introduce a motion. Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** My apologies. I have it different on my paper. Clause 2, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3? Mr. Lightstone.

### **Committee Motion 9 – 6(2): Bill 78 - Add to Clause 3**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Chair. I have produced the clerk's office with a number of motions, which I hope have been distributed. Thank you, Chair. I move that motion 1 as presented be adopted. Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The motion is in order. While a copy of the translated motion is being handed out, before we proceed with debate on the motion, I want to remind members of the procedures to deal with motions in Committee of the Whole.

Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first. Thank you.

I'm just waiting for copies of the motion to make sure everybody has a copy in front of them. Thank you. To the motion, Mr. Lightstone, as the mover, you have first opportunity to speak. Go ahead.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Chair. As I mentioned in my general comments, there's several reasons in which why it is that I am introducing these motions. I appreciate the minister's efforts in choosing the *Vital Statistics Act* last year, Bill 60. We've been debating this bill for some time, as well as when the bill was reintroduced.

The intent of the bill allowing for non-binary sex designation on birth registration as well as setting up regulations to describe the requirements for applications to change sex designation on a birth registration is very significant.

As I indicated, under the *Human Rights Act* in 2017 it was amended to include for gender identity and gender expression as freedoms of – sorry, excuse me, Chair.

I think it is very important to allow all Nunavummiut their freedom of expression, in all forms, including gender. As I previously indicated, there are several Nunavummiut that have self-identified through the Canadian Stats Canada Census. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support these individuals, and I stand in solidarity with them, and I think that it is important that Nunavummiut are allowed to identify as the sex in which they are closely aligned with, or which they identify with.

By deleting non-binary option at the birth of an individual, that removes their right. And it is for that reason why I'm reintroducing this clause which was deleted. Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. To the motion? Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I will be voting in line with the Nunavut *Human Rights Act*, and I'll be supporting this motion.

I strongly encourage my colleagues here in the House to support the member's motion, and I agree with the comments from the mover. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. To the motion? Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, as chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I feel like I have to say something. There were deletions, and that is a clause that was deleted, and I believe that the wish of the committee should be respected in spirit.

There's processes here, and this is one of them, how to change things that have been decided to make different decision. There was a vote on whether to delete this section or not to delete, and although it was not anonymous, the majority of the legislative committee members voted to --

**Chairman:** Sorry, Mr. Savikataaq, we have to speak directly to the motion. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sorry, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, for the spirit of the deletion, I cannot support this motion because of the decision that was made in standing committee for deletion. Thank you.

**Chairman:** To the motion? Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good governance allows us to revisit decisions and to oppose motions such as the one posed by Member Lightstone just now, and our rules allow for that.

I'm going to go back to the preamble to my questions to Minister Main earlier today, and that is related to children, infants born at birth who are intersex. Intersex is an umbrella term to describe an array of variation to physical sex that may not be typically male or female. Those who are intersex have a difference to or a mixture of sex characteristics such as sex chromosomes, reproductive organs, external and internal genitalia and/or hormones.

Intersex traits can be apparent at birth, or may not become evident until puberty or later. Being intersex is not a choice. Intersex variations are differences that occur during in development in womb, and it is estimated 1.7 per cent of Canada's population is born intersex. People have no control over how their bodies develop, and they cannot choose how they are born.

To me it's important to support this motion to add those clauses back in as a matter of human rights and dignity. It's also important to me because I know that there are so many Nunavummiut, of many whom I know personally, who are impacted, and who deserve a fair and good treatment.

And it's also important to acknowledge that some intersex individuals may identify as transgender and non-binary, and when it does come time to address decisions that are medically made about their gender at birth, at infancy when they have no voice of their own and they grow into adolescence and they grow into their bodies and to the knowledge of what their bodies are and what their bodies mean to them, they must have the opportunity and the dignity to make their own choice. And that choice will be, as we know from Minister Main's responses to my questions today, that that choice and decision will be made by a medical professional who is trained specifically on how to support gender-diverse people.

In the event that person is not yet of age of majority, if that person is a child or adolescent, their parent will be part of that decision and they deserve that right and that dignity.

It is my hope that in making these changes that we will ensure not only the physical health but the mental health of all Nunavummiut who are impacted by this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. To the motion? I have no more names on my list. Mr. Lightstone, you have last – sorry. My apologies, Mr. Simailak, go ahead.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The proposal to amend the legislation refers to sex designation on birth certificates. Sex is determined by biology. A number of basic rights, especially for women, have been established and protected based on biological sex. Major concern with changing our legislation to allow a person to select non-binary gender as their sex designation is that it will override the rights and protections that are currently based on biological sex.

An example of these protected rights is the right to a single sex washrooms as well as changing rooms, locker rooms, prisons, domestic violence shelters, and more.

All individuals should have the right to live and express their personal gender identity in comfort without loss of privacy and dignity and without fear.

The mental health of a transgender or non-binary person is indeed very important. However, we must also consider the mental health of women and men, boys and girls who feel that their rights to privacy, dignity, comfort, and possibly safety are not being respected or protected.

Amending the legislation as proposed could result in women and girls as well as boys and men losing their right to having single sex spaces, and thereby losing their rights to privacy dignity, comfort and safety.

Mr. Chair, there was also no community consultations. We do not know what the majority of Nunavummiut think about this. That's what bothers me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. To the motion. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the motion, the motion on the floor on Bill 78, I sat in the committee room when this was being worked on, and what I'm saying is based on partly it's hard to make a proper decision about this.



In regards to the motion, I would like to say something that has to do with it, in terms of the smaller communities. I'm just worried that this will cause confusion, and that's the reason why I'm speaking up and why I supported it when we voted on it. I was thinking that there will be another opportunity to revisit this in the future. Everything will come to an end at some point, and before anything is fixed, and there are always times to amend things.

In regards to Bill 78, this will not be the final time, no matter which side wins after the vote happens. And because I don't live in a city, the smaller communities, I'm just worried that they will become confused about the matter, because they have not been informed beforehand about this. That is what I base my decision on. And there are other reasons, as well. However, that is what I'm basing my decision on. That is what I based it on, and I will still base it on the same thing.

Ever since bills have been, bills that were not passed are always amended and brought up again, and I'm sure this will happen. If it's not passed today there will be another opportunity to revisit it.

And what we're being told, that we are behind. The smaller communities are even far behind other larger communities. I'm just trying to protect through my feelings, and trying to make a wise decision. The matter will not end here, no matter how the vote goes, and it will not be a law that will be in effect until like the rest of our lives. There will always be opportunity to amend bills that were passed by mistake or other means, and sometimes bills or acts are added onto through amendments, and that's why I'm saying these things, Mr. Chairman, in regards to the motion.

The day before yesterday we dealt with it, and my position will remain the same. There are too many communities, and I believe there are three or four largest communities out of 25 communities, and because the smaller communities are the majority, I will stay with the position that I am in, Mr. Chairman. I will not support the motion. I don't want it to be enacted yet, because there's just too many details to it.

I will stop here for now. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on the motion. I hope I'm understood. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. To the motion? Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with my colleague that just spoke. I will not support this, because the smaller communities were not even consulted about this bill on the intentions of the bill. When we were asking questions, the minister was asked, and the response was they did not visit the communities about this.

**Chairman:** Point of order called. Mr. Main, what is your point of order?

**Hon. John Main:** Thank you. The member made me aware that the Nunavut *Human Rights Act* came into force into 2004 and was subject to significant consultation at the time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The member may not have been aware of that. He is now, but there's no point of order in that. Please continue, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The smaller communities, there was not a consultation by visiting all the communities. The people were not consulted. They're going to apply this, and it really affects people's lives. We're talking about people's lives here. And that's why I cannot support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. To the motion? I have no more names. As mover of the motion, Mr. Lightstone has final word. Go ahead.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Chair. I would like to thank everyone that spoke to the motion. I think it's very important that we do have these debates on camera, and not in camera.

In closing, I just think that it is a bit embarrassing that the federal government had amended the *Human Rights Act* to incorporate gender identity and gender expression in 2017, eight years ago, and the most embarrassing fact is that Northwest Territories was the first jurisdiction to make amendments to follow that legislation.

The fact that it's been eight years for this bill to come forward, I don't see any rationale, solid rationale to allow further discrimination towards non-binary and transgender, regardless of size of community.

I think every Canadian deserves that right free from discrimination and harassment, and has the privilege, being Canadian, to live with equal opportunities, again, regardless of gender.

Mr. Chair, it's clear that there are more than two genders. Scientifically proven. It's unfortunate that there are only two check boxes on government documents, including birth registration and birth certificates that only identify the two genders.

And again, I appreciate everyone's comments in the debate on this matter. It's a very important matter, and I hope that members will vote accordingly. Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Debate is now closed and we will now vote in the matter. All those in favour, please stand. Remain standing until I call your name, please. Mr. Lightstone, Mr. Main. Ms. Nutarak. Mr. Qavvik. Mr. David Akeeagok. Mr. David

Joanasie. Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok. Ms. Gross. Ms. Nakashuk. Mr. Kusugak. Ms. Brewster. Mr. Anavilok.

All those opposed, please stand. Ms. Killiktee. Mr. Savikataaq. Ms. Quassa. Mr. Simailak. Mr. Malliki. Mr. Sammurtok. Mr. Quqqiaq, and Mr. Kaerner. And anyone abstaining, please stand up. Okay, thank you. Motion is carried. Clause 3, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4? Mr. Lightstone.

**Committee Motion 10 – 6(2): Bill 78 - Add Clause 4**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Chair. I move that motion number 2 as presented be adopted. Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Motion is in order, and it will be handed out, as was the last one. Just like the last one, before we proceed with the motion, I want to remind members on the procedures to deal with motions in Committee of the Whole. Every member has the right to speak for 20 minutes and the mover of the motion speaks first.

I'll just wait a couple minutes to let the motion be handed out. Does the mover of the motion have comments? Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Chair. As I mentioned in my opening comments as well as in speaking to motion number 1, I've already explained the rationale for this motion and why I support it. Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. To the motion? To the motion? I have no names on my list. Mr. Lightstone, do you have any final comments? Seeing none, debate is now closed.

Everyone in favour of the motion, please stand. My apologies. Mr. Lightstone, as there was not a specific reported vote requested on this, all those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Twelve. Those opposed? Eight. The motion is carried. Clause 4, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 5, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 8, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 9, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 10, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 11, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 12, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 13, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 14, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 15, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 16, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 17, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 18, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 19, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 20? Mr. Lightstone.

**Committee Motion 11 – 6(2): Bill 78 - add Clause 20**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Chair. I move that motion number 3 as presented be adopted. Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The motion is in order and is being handed out as we speak. We'll give a moment for that to be distributed, and the same procedures apply to this motion.

Mover of the motion can speak first. Mr. Lightstone, do you have any comments? Mr. Lightstone.

To the motion? Okay. Sorry, Mr. Lightstone do you have closing comments? Debate is now closed. We'll now vote on the motion. All those in favour, please raise your hand; 12. All those opposed; six. Motion is carried. Clause 20, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 21, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 22, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 23, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 24, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 25, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 26, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 27, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 28, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 29, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 30, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 31, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 32, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 33, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 34, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 35, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 36, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 37, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 38, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 39, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 40, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 41, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 42? Mr. Lightstone.

**Committee Motion 12 – 6(2): Bill 78 - Add Clause 40**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Chair. I move that motion number 4 as presented be adopted. Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The motion is in order. Same procedures apply to this motion. The mover of the motion will have an opportunity to speak first. I will give it a moment or two to allow the motion to be distributed to the committee. Thank you. I believe all committee members do now have a copy.

Mr. Lightstone, do you have opening comment? No. To the motion? The floor is open. Seeing none. Mr. Lightstone, closing? Thank you. Motion is in order.

We'll now go to a vote. All those in favour please raise your hand. Twelve. Opposed? Six. Motion is carried.

Clause 42, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 43, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 44? Mr. Lightstone.

**Committee Motion 13 – 6(2): Bill 78 - add subclause 44(1)**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Chair. I move that motion number 5 as presented be adopted. Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Motion is in order. Again, same procedure as reply to this motion. Mover of the motion will have an opportunity to speak first once it's distributed. We'll give it a moment.

Thank you. Looks to me like everyone has a copy. Mover of the motion has an opportunity to speak first. Mr. Lightstone. Anyone else to the motion? Mr. Lightstone, closing comments? No; thank you.

We'll vote on the motion. All those in favour, please raise your hand. Twelve. All those opposed, raise your hand. Seven. Motion is carried.

Motion 44, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 78 as amended?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** My apologies. Looks like I'm struggling with English today. I think I might have said motion 44, but it's clause 44. Agreed?



**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to Bill 78 as amended?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to put Bill 78 as amended into third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Closing comments. Minister.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the members. I would like to get a few things on the record if you allow, Mr. Chair.

Non-binary people exist, and always have existed, and this bill acknowledges their existence and their human right to gender identity.

I would like to be clear that the purpose of this bill is to allow non-binary people to update their birth certificates to allow with their identity. It is administrative. This bill is not about bathrooms.

The work we've done here is consistent with Tunngavik, which in this case would be towards the inclusion of all gender identities.

Mr. Chair, there have been safety concerns raised during debate. I would like to state on the record that the bathroom predator fear is a myth, not supported by crime data.

Research continues to demonstrate that sexualized violence occurs 80 or 90 per cent of the time in familiar or public surroundings, at home, or in streets or gatherings, for example, and are committed by people who are known to the survivor.

Trans and non-binary people do not pose a safety risk to our communities. The real safety risk of harassment and violence in bathrooms is towards trans and non-binary people themselves.

Finally, just on mental health links to this bill, exclusionary policies, including the restriction of non-binary designations on government issued identification significantly increases negative mental health outcomes of trans and non-binary people.

Studies from Canada and the United States consistently demonstrate the importance of gender-affirming identification and associated protective mental health and suicidal prevention factors.

If members are concerned about our children, please know there are real safety risks in our communities around bullying, around mental health, and around youth suicide. I would suggest we spend our time discussing how we can support our fellow Nunavummiut, as opposed to excluding them.

I understand that concerns were expressed on behalf of various communities, and I understand that change can be difficult to confront, but I would like to state that we have been receiving clear messages from our youth during suicide prevention workshops that we need to listen to what our youth are telling us as well.

I thank the committee for their work today and for allowing this bill to move forward. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister's witnesses can be excused. Please remain in your seats. We'll take a 90-second break to switch witnesses and get ready for Bill 84. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 17:32 and resumed at 17:33*

**Chairman:** Thank you. I call the Committee meeting back to order. We start with Bill 84, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2024-2025*. Minister Kusugak, do you have officials you would like to have appear before the committee with you? Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

#### **Bill 84 – Write-Off of Assets Act, 2024-2025 – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them in. Minister Kusugak, when they get settled and you're ready, you can proceed directly with introducing your officials and opening comments please.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, to my right is Daniel Young, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left, James Arreak, Vice President Corporate Services for Qulliq Energy Corporation. I do have other witnesses in the gallery, Mr. Chairman, so we might have to switch as we go down the list of write-offs.

Mr. Chairman, I am here to present Bill 84, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2024-2025*.

Bill 84 authorizes the write-off and write-down of certain government assets, as follows:

- \$519,892 for the write-off of 25 public housing units in Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Gjoa Haven that were destroyed by fire or damaged beyond economic repair; therefore, were demolished;
- \$616,184 for the write-down of 99 housing units in various communities that were damaged by mold or fire and will require extensive repairs;
- \$563,636 for the evaporation and shrinkage of petroleum products within the Petroleum Product Division of the Department of Community Government and Services;
- \$319,712 for the write-off of the Qulliq Energy Corporation buildings 670 and 672 in Iqaluit, which were damaged, not in use, and would be too costly to repair.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions from members. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments to provide? Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 84, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2024-2025*.

The standing committee recognizes the overall purpose of the bill, which the minister describes in his opening comments. Individual members may raise questions and concerns regarding specific aspects of the bill during these proceedings.

The standing committee notes that a detailed discussion of the write-off process and relevant provisions of the *Financial Administration Act* took place during the September 2023 televised committee hearing on the 2021-2022 territorial public accounts. At that time, Government of Nunavut witnesses indicated that the Department of Finance would be considering amendments to the legislation in this area.

The standing committee continues to look forward to giving careful consideration to any such bill that is introduced in the House.

This concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Are there any general comments to the opening comments? Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments on bullet 4, he indicated that 319,712 were a write-off of the Qulliq Energy Corporation building 670 and 672 in Iqaluit, which were damaged not in use and would be too costly to repair.

In reading it, the opening comments on paper, it says 309,712. Which is it, Mr. Chairman? That's my question, 309,712?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister, do you want to clarify your openings comments? I thought I heard 319 as well, too, but I wasn't positive, so I didn't interject. Minister Kusugak, could you clarify the number.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, I believe I read, unless I misread it, it is 309,712, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Any general comments to the opening comments? Seeing none, I'll go to the bill.

Bill 84, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2024-2025*. Clause 1, please go to page 2.

Part 1: Qulliq Energy Corporation, building 670 and 672 in Iqaluit. Amount to be written off, \$309,712. Any questions?

Seeing none, part 1. Qulliq Energy Corporation, amount to be written off, \$309,712. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go back to clause 1. Clause 1, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 2, please go to page 2 part 2. Assets written off, Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut Petroleum Products Division, inventory lost due to fuel shrinkage, totalling \$563,636. Any questions? Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For Bill 84, I would like to ask for Clyde River, 37,547 why is it such a huge sum, and what is the reasoning. I just want to get clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is in regard to inventory on petroleum products. They had more fuel than expected, so they will do another investigation as to how much. This is going backwards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): I do want to ask another question in regards to the same issue. Is it in the community before the fuel delivery? What do they do monthly? Do they investigate how much fuel there is? I would like to ask if this will make the cost cheaper in the communities of the fuel. That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chair Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Petroleum Products Division visits all the communities, and more than once they investigate and inspect the fuel and look at how much fuel they will require, and they go to the communities to figure out how much fuel is left in the tank. So that's what they do when they go to the communities, and they look at how much fuel has been sold to date.

At the time, they figure out how much fuel they will require in Clyde River that will be enough to last them for a whole year. So that's what they do to look at how much fuel is left in the communities.

And when the petroleum products fuel ship go to the communities, they also inspect how much fuel is being dispensed. And also for the price of fuel, they set the fuel for all the communities.

Each community, if we're going to have a different pricing for each community differently, it's going to be too cumbersome. All the Nunavut territory residents know how much fuel will cost, and the price is dispensed and divided to the communities. They pay the same price for the fuel. If the price of fuel is going to go lower, all the communities' fuel will go down. If it's going to increase, all the communities will have price fuel increase.

And if we make the difference the other communities that use less fuel will have more expensive fuel. That's why we set it up that way on the pricing of petroleum products. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee:** One last question, still relating to that.

(interpretation) If the fuel left in the tanks is quite huge, the quality of fuel or the quality of petroleum product, I know that once everything is sitting for quite some time, it kind of deteriorates. When the fuel sits for a long time and you're going to put new fuel in the old fuel, is that going to change the quality of the fuel?

I know that we need to write off the assets of the government, so I believe it's the right time to ask: Does petroleum product decrease in quality when they have been sitting for quite some time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the fuel is huge, looking at what the member had stated that the fuel that is delivered to communities, they vary, the petroleum product quality varies. So we purchase the best quality fuel, and the fuel that's going to be at the community is not going to deteriorate the quality of the petroleum product already sitting in the tanks, because the communities get the best quality fuel. There is also antifreeze in the fuel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, for the benefit of the viewing audience and members here, I would just like an explanation on when we write off for shrinkage or inventory loss. Is there a cutoff where it is so much loss in a certain community that the contractor may have to pay for it, or do you just write off any amount that is between what is considered should be there?

For example, if you have, just for simplicity's sake, if you have 100 gallons and you lose 5 gallons, that seems reasonable. If you have 100 gallons and you lose 25 gallons, it seems to be excessive. So is there a formula there so that you can only write off so much of the inventory that is in stock in the community? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are. There are parameters and thresholds where there are acceptable shrinkage and losses in this area. In the third item, there is a 2 per cent shrinkage in P50 fuel, for example. Gasoline between 350,000 litres, it's a shrinkage factor of 7 per cent. Gasoline under or above 350,000 litres is 5 per cent and so on, Mr. Chairman. And if they exceed those parameters, then the contractor will have to be responsible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the minister for explaining how it works, because a lot of people don't know how it works.

In this year where it's being written off, are all the numbers within the parameters so that they are being written off and the contractor is not responsible for it? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The volumes and values proposed for write-off represent approximately 0.25 per cent of PPD's total sales volume and, 0.21 per cent of total sales value. So they are well within the acceptable parameters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I just want to ask one final question on this one. Last year, about a year and a half ago, the Assembly had to provide an appropriation to the Petroleum Products Division to bring it within its allowable limits. At that time one of the concerns was the financial data as well as the dips, the volume of the fuel. There was a number of inaccuracies at that time, mainly from capacity issues of the timing of the dips and stuff.

Have those issues been rectified, and what kind of faith can we put into the numbers that we have in front of us now? Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe they have, and there's more reliable data coming out of the dips. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Part 2: Assets written off, Transportation Infrastructure Nunavut, \$563,636. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Please go to page 1. Clause 2, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 3. Please go to page 2.

Part 3: Assets written off, Nunavut Housing Corporation: 25 tangible capital assets in the amount of \$519,892. Any questions?

Part 3: Assets written off, Nunavut Housing Corporation, 519,892. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go back to page 1. Clause 3, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 4, please go to page 3.

Part 4: Assets written down Nunavut Housing Corporation, 99 tangible capital assets in the amount of \$616,184.

Before I go to any questions, I just have a comment to make.

Background material under this part 4 was different from the information that we have in the bill itself. It wasn't a huge discrepancy, but there was I believe four or five houses different. The amount of money was the same. I just want to caution the minister and the staff to make sure that those numbers are aligned going forward. That's the information that we go on when we make these decisions in the House.

I acknowledge it might have been a typo or whatever, but just to acknowledge it's very important that the information cross-references to both.

Part 4: Assets written down, Nunavut Housing Corporation. Any questions? Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With these 99 tangible assets to be written down, how many of these written-downs are in Sanirajak and Igloodik from these 99, if there is any? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there are seven or eight of them in Sanirajak, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. How about for Igloodik? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak, do you have an exact number?



**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** If I can count, just bear with me, Mr. Chairman. We do have a list of all of them. I don't see Igloolik on any – one, Mr. Chairman, exactly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) When I came here the issue of mould was one of the big items I raised in view of our elders and those with respiratory problems.

The seven assets that will be written off, what will be the situation with the housing? What plans are in place for the two communities? We have seven in Hall Beach and one in Igloolik. Any plans, what future lays ahead with these, Mr. Chairman?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I found another figure. Sometimes there are differences in communities. I believe there are 10 or 11 in Hall Beach that have mould problems, and some will be to be rectified for mould removal.

Sometimes the units are occupied when mould removal is made, or they are placed elsewhere. We work with the communities and they're not worked on, when timing is right. They're not worked on all together.

Sometimes you have three units for temporary accommodation while their homes are being renovated or mould removal is being made. And that's the situation in the community he cited, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Minister. So seven in Sanirajak, and I believe you found other numbers that were to this. So does that mean still seven in Sanirajak and 11 in Igloolik? Can I get correct information, please. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Seven, 11. Mr. Chairman, I found a couple more. We are working off a half a dozen pages. Mr. Chairman, there are in fact 11 in Sanirajak in total, and two in Igloolik. Those are firm numbers now.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your understanding of trying to rapidly respond to questions and having to work with a dozen pages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So one considers 99 housing units, is that number still the same, according to those numbers that I was given? From 11 in Sanirajak, first it was seven, and now it's 11. So I believe, can I get an assurance that this 99 number is accurate? That will be my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Confirmed, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Just before I go to the next name on my list, just to recognize the clock, I know that we are not under extended hours motion, but I will exercise my authority under rule 6(2) we will work until – we're on the very last item of this bill, so we're going to stay here until it's done. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): I'll try and speed up my question on the mould issue with that now then.

First of all, may I apologize, in our office. I'm here. I don't have them all the time on the cost for write-offs by housing corporation because they are not always in front of me.

My question then is this is something you just surprised now. This is the largest number, or has it been decreasing, or has it remained relatively the same? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it's relatively the same number with the number of renovations required mould issues on annual basis that are looked at. And with the cost factor, we have mould remediation pretty much constant every year, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of the 99 tangible capital assets in Kugaaruk, I would like to know how many of them are moulded, and for my other constituent community Taloyoak, I would like to know the same too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there's eight in Kugaaruk, and in Taloyoak, bear with me for a second, Mr. Chairman. I don't see any for Taloyoak, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My other question is when was this assessment done on these 99 tangible assets? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, assessments are done yearly. And due to funding, some of them could be done sooner than later, but they are constantly throughout the year mould assessments are carefully watched by the local housing association maintenance crew, and a tally is kept where the mould remediation is needed.

Then once we get the funding for those, the department will often go and tackle a community-wide issue and do them in groups. But it is done throughout the life cycle of the houses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister indicated yearly, to the other ones that are not being assessed, will there be any assessment any time soon? That was brought to my attention from my constituents, just for clarification. To the listening public and my constituents when will the next assessments be done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're done if a tenant complains about mould in the residence, or maintenance crew is there to fix it or not and they notice mould in the facility, or if they're doing regular maintenance. So it's done all the time.

It's not like they say on September 23 we're going to assess these units. It's part of maintaining units and when our crews are going into units across Nunavut. So it's a combination of the maintenance crew will report. But if they see, for example, when there's water issues in the house, might notice mould or water on the floor that will be reported. If the tenant reports it, this will be reported. There isn't a start or stop time. It's continually done throughout the year.

In terms of why there's only one or two in your constituency, that doesn't mean that there's only one or two houses with mould. They might be aware there is more houses with mould in your community, but they're not being worked on or being written down at this time. They might have been done in previous years or in the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Part 4, assets written off. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister is aware, last winter the 9-plex or 10-plex, the roof blew off due to the gale storm that we had. Are they written down? What's the plans on them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, if that particular unit is not in this current write-off, it will be in the coming one, because that building will be torn down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Part 4, assets written down, Nunavut Housing Corporation, \$616,184. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go back to page 1. Clause 4, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does committee agree to Bill 84 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree Bill 84 is ready for third reading today?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Brief closing comments, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank my witnesses that are here with me today and all the hard work that was put into this document, and appreciate the line of questioning that we had. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Witnesses may be excused. I will now rise to report progress to the speaker. Thank you.

>> *Committee adjourned and House resumed at 18:06*

**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 76, 78, and 84 and would like to report that Bills 76 and 84 are immediately ready for third reading; also that Bill 78 is immediately ready for third reading as amended, and that five committee motions were adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Mr. Lightstone.

Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

### **Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 76 – An Act to Amend the Inuit Language Protection Act and the Official Languages Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay that Bill 76, *An Act to Amend the Inuit Language Protection Act and the Official Languages Act* be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried and Bill 76 has been read for the third time, and is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

#### **Bill 78 As Amended – An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 78 as amended, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act*, be ready for the third time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 78 has been read for the third time and is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Bill 84 – Write-Off of Assets Act, 2024-2025 – Third Reading**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 84, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2024-2025* be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried and Bill 84 has been read for the third time and is ready for assent.

Item 22, Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk:** Just a reminder there's a meeting of the full caucus 10:30 tomorrow morning.

(interpretation) Orders of the Day for Thursday, 18, 2025 at 1:30 p.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 Thursday, September 18 at 1:30 p.m.  
Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:11*

Appendix, September 17, 2025





**Question 2:** Would the minister agree with me that it is important for community residents to have in-person access to the service of community social service workers, and explain why this is currently not the case in Chesterfield Inlet?

**Response:**

Yes, I absolutely agree that in-person access to community social service workers is vital for effective and culturally responsive service delivery. The Department recognizes the importance of having staff embedded in the community to build trust and respond to needs in real time. Unfortunately, Chesterfield Inlet is currently facing challenges related to the availability of staff housing and office space, which are critical for recruiting and retaining personnel. We are actively working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Department of Community and Government Services to resolve these infrastructure barriers. In the interim, we continue to provide support through remote services and temporary duty travel, including a recent visit from a Community Social Services Worker from September 2–5, 2025.

**Question 3:** Today, will the minister commit to me that the community of Chesterfield Inlet will have a full-time community-based social worker in the community before the end of her term?

**Response:**

The Department is committed to ensuring that Chesterfield Inlet has consistent and reliable access to social services. While I cannot make a firm commitment without resolving the foundational issues of housing and office space, I can assure you that we are actively working with our partners to address these barriers. Our goal is to have a full-time, community-based social worker in Chesterfield Inlet as soon as the necessary infrastructure is in place. The Department remains dedicated to serving the residents of Chesterfield Inlet and will continue to prioritize this issue throughout the remainder of the term.