

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
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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)

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(Arviat South)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, September 18, 2025

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaernerker, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Mr. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Arreak Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, 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): (no interpretation) (interpretation ends) Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 674 – 6(2): Territorial Maternal, Newborn, and Midwifery Services

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share several significant advancements in our efforts to rebuild and strengthen maternal, newborn, and midwifery services across Nunavut that are foundational to the health and well-being of our families and communities.

(interpretation ends) With much appreciation, I note the legislative progress on amending the *Midwifery Professions Act*. The pre-consultation plan was approved by cabinet this summer, and consultations began on August 28. This legislative work is a priority for the next government and it includes consideration of traditional Inuit midwifery and its place in policy and programming.

On the midwifery education pathway, Health has entered a contract with the Ongomiizwin Institute for Health and Healing at the University of Manitoba to develop a pathway for a Nunavut-based midwifery education program. The focus is on creating a community-informed, enabling environment for future midwifery students. Stakeholder consultations will be conducted both within and outside of communities.

Regarding recruitment and workforce development, the Territorial Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, CNMO, is leading a recruitment and retention strategy aligned with the Roadmap to Strengthen the Nunavut Nursing Workforce. This includes establishing a territorial midwifery working group led by the chief midwifery officer to support professional practice, orientation, recruitment, retention, policy development, and quality improvement.

Moreover, we anticipate that, through job-share arrangements, the equivalent of 1.5 full-time midwifery positions will be filled this fall. Health is also exploring pathways to enable student placement opportunities for out-of-territory students, particularly experienced midwives new to Canada who are completing bridging programs. These initiatives are still in development.

Mr. Speaker, in all these undertakings, Health is ensuring collaboration and cultural initiatives to rebuild a sustainable midwifery program, such as our continued participation in the Arviat Cultural Project, a three-year pilot funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. This initiative is gathering Inuit perspectives on maternal and child health care, creating opportunities for youth to explore midwifery as a career, and promoting policy shifts toward Inuit-led midwifery. Partners include Health, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Pauktuutit, the University of Calgary, and Aqqiumavvik Wellness Society.

Mr. Speaker, we are making meaningful progress amid the challenges. Currently, Iqaluit is the only location in Nunavut offering planned birthing services, serving the Qikiqtaaluk region. Birthing services in Rankin Inlet and the Kitikmeot region remain temporarily closed, due to staffing challenges. However, perinatal and reproductive health services continue to be available in all communities, delivered by nurses, nurse practitioners, registered midwives, and supported by physicians as needed.

Mr. Speaker, I assure you that we are not discouraged by the hurdles in building a maternal and newborn care system that is culturally grounded, community-based, and responsive to the needs of Nunavummiut. The challenges only strengthen our resolve. The Department of Health remains unwavering in its commitment to a future where midwifery services are accessible, community-led, and rooted in Inuit knowledge. We are moving forward with purpose, bringing care closer to home and empowering families across the territory.

Matna, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 675 – 6(2): Family Services Progress (Nakashuk)

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues, and everyone watching.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share important progress in the Department of Family Services' ongoing efforts to strengthen family wellness in Nunavut. The health and resilience of our families are the foundation of strong communities, and Family Services remains deeply committed to supporting Nunavummiut through culturally grounded, responsive, and effective services.

Enhanced community-based services: The department has expanded access to wellness programming in several communities, including increased support funding for youth transitional housing and family violence programs. These services are delivered in partnership with local organizations and elders, ensuring they reflect community priorities and cultural knowledge.

Strengthened frontline capacity: The department has invested in training and professional development for social workers, family resource workers, and wellness staff. This includes trauma-informed forensic interviewing, suicide prevention, and culturally safe practices, equipping our teams to better support families in crisis and promote long-term healing.

(interpretation ends) **Integrated service delivery:** Through stronger collaboration with the departments of Health, Education, Justice, and RCMP, the department is improving coordination and reducing barriers to child abuse responses. The Department of Family Services continues to lead the Child Abuse and Neglect Response Agreement Committee, ensuring a whole-of-government response to child protection and wellness concerns, and to develop shared training opportunities and a Child Abuse Joint Investigation Protocol that will improve responses.

Policy and legislative alignment: The department is actively reviewing policies and legislation to ensure they support effective service delivery and reflect the realities of Nunavut's communities.

Quality assurance and accountability: The department has strengthened its internal quality assurance processes to monitor service standards, identify gaps, and ensure consistent, high-quality care. This includes regular program evaluations, staff feedback mechanisms, and improved data collection to inform decision-making.

Client relations and service experience: A client relations team within the department will serve as a dedicated point of contact for individuals and families accessing our services.

Mr. Speaker, these improvements are part of our Ilagiitsiarniq Strategic Action Plan and implementation plan. This roadmap aligns our organizational structure, legislative responsibilities, and service delivery models with the realities and needs of Nunavummiut. It sets out how we will improve outcomes for children, youth, families, and communities through better coordination, clearer accountability, and stronger frontline support.

I want to thank the staff, the partners, and Nunavummiut, as well as this term of government, members of the Legislative Assembly, the cabinet, for their continued support. You guys have certainly helped us improve a lot of the things that we need to see in the future, so I acknowledge all of you, and I really am eager to see how this department will continue to grow stronger, healthier future for the people in Nunavut.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 676 – 6(2): Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on October 28, Nunavut will mark the second annual Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day. This day is about saying thank you and showing sincere appreciation to the people who welcome our youngest children each morning with patience, kindness, and care.

As a new mother, I see the difference these educators make. They create safe, happy places where children feel safe and where they belong, and where curiosity and learning take root. Their work also gives families the support they need to work, study, and contribute to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, this year, the Department of Education is sending appreciation packages to licensed child care centres across Nunavut, including thank-you cards, small gifts, posters, and service certificates, to recognize long-time educators. These gestures, along with our ongoing efforts to improve wages, reflect the value we place on this vital profession.

Mr. Speaker, early childhood educators deserve more than a single day of recognition. On October 28th and every day, let us thank them for the joy, stability, and hope they bring into the lives of children and families across Nunavut.

I invite all members of this House, who unanimously supported the *Early Learning and Child Care Act* this past June, and all Nunavummiut to join me in celebrating these educators and the difference they make.

Quana, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 677 – 6(2): B2Gold – Goose Mine Grande Opening Strengthens Nunavut's Economy

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an important achievement for the mining sector in our territory. On June 30, B2Gold completed its first gold pour at the Goose Mine in the Back River gold district of Nunavut. I had the privilege of attending the grand opening of B2Gold's Goose Mine on September 4, along with several of my cabinet colleagues, representatives from Kitikmeot Inuit Association, institutions of public governments, municipalities, hunters and trapper organizations, and industry.

Mining is the largest private sector industry in Nunavut, and it plays a critical role in creating jobs, training opportunities, and business and economic growth across our territory. Projects such as the Goose Mine provide direct benefits through employment opportunities for Nunavummiut and contracts for Inuit-owned businesses, while also contributing to our tax base and supporting investments in community services and infrastructure.

This development also builds on foundations of partnerships with Inuit organizations. The Kitikmeot Inuit Association has been a key partner throughout this project, ensuring that Inuit rights, knowledge, and priorities are respected.

I would like to highlight a contribution from B2 Gold of \$10 million to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, to build housing in the Kitikmeot region, including free shipping of materials.

Mr. Speaker, the Goose Mine is projected to produce up to 150,000 ounces of gold this year, and in the years ahead, output is expected to average around 300,000 ounces annually. These figures represent more than economic potential, they represent opportunities for employment, training, business development, and community investment that will economically strengthen Nunavut's prosperous future.

As we look ahead, this opening underscores the importance of responsible resource development. When done in partnership with Inuit, guided by sustainability, and focused on community benefit, mining can be a cornerstone of prosperity and resilience for Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 678 – 6(2): Acknowledging NTI's Support for Tuberculosis Elimination

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my last statement as minister for this government and I think it's appropriate that it's about saying thank you to our partners.

(interpretation) I rise today to express my sincere appreciation to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for their steadfast partnership and unwavering commitment to the elimination of tuberculosis in our territory.

Nunavut Tunngavik generously contributed of \$4 million, spanning the years 2024 to 2026. This has been instrumental in advancing our shared goal of eliminating TB in Nunavut by the year 2030. This funding has supported several critical initiatives, including the targeted TB screening efforts in Arviat. These efforts have enabled early identification and treatment of cases, reduced transmission of TB, and fostered stronger engagement within the community.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as we mark the midpoint toward our 2030 target, Nunavut Tunngavik's support could not be more timely. It reflects a deep and enduring commitment to Inuit health and well-being, and to collaborative, community-led approaches to public health.

I would also like to acknowledge Nunavut Tunngavik's additional contribution of \$200,000 toward the training of community health representatives in TB prevention and care. This investment is helping to build vital capacity at the community level, ensuring that community health representatives are equipped with the tools, knowledge, and support they need to lead TB awareness, screening, and follow-up efforts in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share some recent data that underscores the impact of this partnership. As of 2025, only eight out of 25 communities in Nunavut have reported at least one active TB case. This is a significant indicator of progress in reducing transmission across the territory. Furthermore, a total of 129 individuals are currently receiving treatment for latent TB infection, 105 newly identified, and 24 previously known cases. These individuals are now on treatment regardless of whether their diagnosis was recent or longstanding, reflecting our expanded reach and improved follow-up capacity.

While reporting delays may affect the precision of latent TB data, particularly due to the timing of outcome form submissions, the numbers for active TB treatment remain robust and reliable. These figures demonstrate that Nunavut Tunngavik's investment is yielding tangible results in both prevention and treatment, and is helping us move closer to our goal of a TB-free Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, through this partnership, we are making meaningful progress toward a future free of tuberculosis in Nunavut.

(interpretation) I thank NTI for their strong leadership, their generosity in finances, and their continued dedication to the health of Inuit and all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3, Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 928 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Amittuqmiut

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to the statements I made last week. I am grateful and regretful with respect to my constituents. I did say at the time that I will not run again for Amittuq and when I talked about serving your constituents and being able to be the voice, perhaps the next MLA will do that, and I will be able to support or not whoever may be elected.

With that, however, Mr. Speaker, when you are an MLA here, there are many barriers and obstacles, and we serve many individuals among our constituents. How much more can we provide information with regards to the GN and their budgets, and budget is always limited.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank everyone here, in particular Amittummiut constituents. I tried my best to inform them, and sometimes I would get really hot, I encourage if you think you can be a good MLA, go for the position. Experiencing four years may seem short, but I think people should know when you have a wife or husband and you leave your family, your children, sometimes that becomes an obstacle. And I faced that myself. You have to be committed both of you, as spouses, and be committed to be here, as four years may seem very long or short.

With that, I encourage Amittuq residents to run as MLA here in this House.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on the broader scale, on the broader scale, I have been trying to advocate for my constituents when it comes to closing the gap. Now, my reason in saying that, Mr. Speaker, I have a very interest in one particular subject when it comes to search and rescue. As we all know, Iqaluit had been designated as a military base, and I've been trying to advocate for my community Amittuq, Sanirajak now.

In saying that, Mr. Speaker, what really interests me now is that when it comes to these improvements for Arctic search and rescue, Mr. Speaker, and so when it comes to closing the gap, there's a significant improvement that I would like to see from the federal government that when it comes to closing the gap and there is no actual search and rescue association in Nunavut, I would like to have a say, and perhaps I would say a long distance request to our federal counterparts that I would like to see someone from federal government go to Sanirajak and see for yourself the vision that I've been trying to say. And when it comes to actually providing air transportation when it comes to emergency services.

Like I've been saying, Mr. Speaker, we live in a unique part of Canada, and there are challenges that we face each and every day, especially when it comes to saving a life. So therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make my statement when it comes to saving lives.

If we have a station up in Sanirajak, where it's centrally located to Kivalliq region, Kitikmeot region, high Arctic, Uqqummiut, South Baffin, it would definitely make sense, if this can actually be put into a plan. So therefore, when it comes to the emergency management, I've been now trying to speak with the premier. I've been trying to say to community services minister in terms of search and rescue.

Therefore, for my closing conclusion, I would like to ask someone federally: Visit Sanirajak. It used to be known as Hall Beach.

So thank you for listening, and it's been a hard, difficult eight years for myself, so I greatly thank you, and best of luck. (interpretation) *Qujannamiik*.

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 929 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Tununig

Ms. Nutarak: I have flashbacks from my first day of becoming MLA.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand before you today to thank my constituents of Tununig whom I have had the honour of representing over the past four years. Serving the people of Pond Inlet has been one of the greatest privileges of my life.

To my constituents, thank you for placing your trust in me. Your voices and concerns guided me every step of the way, and it has been my goal to serve with respect, dedication, and honesty.

I would also like to thank the ministers with whom I have had the privilege to work. Together we addressed concerns brought forward by our community and worked towards improvements that matter to the people.

To my colleagues, thank you for helping me in my job. Your support, advice, and cooperation made a real difference, and I'm grateful to have worked alongside each one of you.

I also thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your kindness and for never changing in the way that you carry out your duties, with fairness and respect.

>>Applause

Ms. Nutarak: Your steady leadership has been appreciated.

To our mayor, thank you. We worked well together to represent our community, and I'm grateful for your leadership and partnership.

To my constituency assistant, Molly, thank you. We made it through four years together through easy times and hard times. Your support and dedication were invaluable, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Mr. Speaker, I give the most gratitude to my family. My husband, Harvey, my children, Soola, Crystal, Catharine and Allan, and my grandchildren. Thank you for all your patience, encouragement and support. My children are so brave, and I love them with all my heart. I thank Soola so much. It has been much easier having a child in Iqaluit, having family here, and she has been my support the last four years. Thank you, Soola.

I would like to thank my mother-in-law, Joanna, and Titas for the advice and guidance they gave me; my mother, for giving me advice and always praying for me. Your love and support have meant the world to me.

My dad – not John Quirke – John Quartz, who always believed I can do anything and be anything, even at this age. He thinks I can be a prime minister. Dad, thank you for all your support and encouragement, advice and always being there for me. I really appreciate it.

My brother, Caine, thank you for your support throughout, especially at the beginning when I was struggling and thought I was alone in this world. And thank you to Joyce Iqaqrailu for your wise words. They guided and encouraged me when I needed it most.

I would also like to give my gratitude to Jeeta (ph), for the unexpected phone calls to remind me I'm not alone, for always praying for me. You always seem to know exactly when I needed them.

I also would like to thank Lena Ellsworth (ph) and Haley Gross (ph), who I got to work with for a short time, but worked hard and supported me in my ministerial position. I really appreciate both of you.

Finally, I want to thank my best friend, Sheena, for never changing and always being there for me. Your support and friendship means so much to me.

As I reflect on the last four years, I know this journey has never been about one person alone. It has been all of us working together for the well-being of our people, for the future of our children, and for the strength of our community. From my heart I thank you all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 930 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Netsilik

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on this last day of our sitting in this Legislative Assembly, and Mr. Speaker, I have very many people to thank.

First of all I wanted to thank both of my CAs who have been my CAs up to today. For Taloyoak, (indiscernible) Lyle, and for Kugaaruk, Marilyn Quqaq (ph). I thank you both greatly. It was an honour to serve with you in the 6th Legislative Assembly, and you are still my CAs today. Today is your last day, tomorrow for your information.

I wanted to thank both of my constituent communities of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk. I have a lot of people to thank, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, I would like to thank all the hamlet of Taloyoak, the councillors, the mayors and the district education authority, housing board of directors, and I wanted to also thank Kitikmeot Inuit Association, the staff and the board of directors, and for their draft resolutions which I've been documenting every year, Mr. Speaker.

Also I want to thank all the elders in the communities of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk. And one that struck me most, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation) And we will be grateful if you speak in Inuktitut in the House, our representatives. I'm very grateful to the elders of both of those communities, and I send my regards to the elders who are watching us in both of the communities.

And I thank Mary Iqttunga (ph) Mr. Speaker, when I was growing up, he was my advisor, my guidance, and I have forgotten nothing and followed your advice and your wisdom. They have been my guidance counsellors and here I am, speaking Inuktitut. And I thank you immensely.

And the people of Kugaaruk, where I visited the elders. They are the first ones I see, and they are very grateful when they are visited by their representative MLA. Thank you for giving me your advice. Gratitude in both communities.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I wanted to thank Ann Crawford and Manitok Thompson. I thank you both greatly. When I needed help, both of you were always there, and it was great to serve with both of you on Inuit Broadcasting Corporation when I was on the board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, and also I wanted to thank my parents, my mom, my dad, my only brother and my only sister, and I thank my dad for always telling me to watch what I say in this House, Mr. Speaker, and also for telling me to be careful. And also to my momma bear for keeping me in line, my mom, Martha Quqqiaq, to assure that I make it to end of my term. Thank you, mom, thank you dad, and also my extended family in Kugaaruk, I thank you for the open doors; not just my extended family. I want to thank the beautiful family of Kugaaruk for your open doors every time I visited. There was always food to eat, there was tea, there was coffee, there was juice, there was water.

And the thing about Kugaaruk, Mr. Speaker, it's a beautiful community. All the hunters help each other and it's great to see. I'll never, ever stop going to Kugaaruk, even though MLA or not, because I love the beauty of the narwal hunting. It's the best time of the year, and it's coming to a close, unfortunately. We should have longer summers, Mr. Speaker.

And last but not least, I thank my wife, my children, my son. I can't wait to hear you play guitar, my son. I can't wait to hear music. It's always like music every day, Mr. Speaker. I thank my daddy's girl, my youngest one, and also my stepdaughter. She's the oldest in

the family, and she's like a family manager, Mr. Speaker. I thank my son-in-law for always being there to help my family while I'm out of the community.

The last I'm going to talk about, Mr. Speaker, is my four year old, my tiguaq. He has so many rules for me, Mr. Speaker, which is don't get mad, don't get sad, don't cry, be happy, and there is another one: No more airplane rides because he misses me.

I thank all my colleagues. I learned a great deal for Mr. Hickes, Mr. Savikataaq, Lorne, the veteran MLAs Mr. Kaerner. I learned from each and every one of you. It's a learning process, Mr. Speaker.

Pretty soon it's the general election. I call upon the young people to declare your candidacy, Mr. Speaker. Last time when we pass by Yellowknife and I spoke with the commissioner, he had a great point.

Mr. Speaker, all of you young people, you guys, you can do it. Please declare your candidacy. That's all for now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 931 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Rankin Inlet-North Chesterfield

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank the people who said a prayer for us. The Oojook (ph) family, and I think of you. You are in my thoughts.

I would like to thank once again my constituents of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet. I would like to thank my wife and my children, who have unwaveringly supported me. To my constituents, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 932 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Aivilik

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people I represent and to the people of Nunavut and also Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, this is our last session today, I would like to extend my appreciation to my wife, who has always been in support of me, and always wishing me and urging me, as

well as my children, especially my daughter who even when she moved to Winnipeg, she always urges me and supports, as she's the oldest. And my son, who's here, has been very supportive to me and helpful to my wife as well in everything that we do by the work that we do. And he always gives us advice.

As well my CAs in Repulse Bay and Naujaat, I thank them, although one of them is no longer there, but they were there to give me support. They always would provide suggestions as to what to make a statement on.

Steve Mapsilak, who was supportive of me and always would provide advice to me. He worked with me very closely at the time, until he passed away. His knowledge and the words that he stated have become real. But I know that his comments and his advice will never be forgotten.

And as well my new CA, Dina Mudlik (ph). Thank you for working hard and operating my office, and as well Jordan Imiktaut, in Coral Harbour. Thank you very much for always providing information to me and forwarding me and updating me in regards to Salliq, as well as my parents. They provide advice to me. I know that especially we have to deal with hard issues, when we don't know what to say, and they seem to know, even though they are not here. They seem to know what to say, as elders are very wise. And it's evident. I thank them very much.

And my cousin as well as Louise and my grandfather has been teaching me about life. He's the oldest one in Naujaat, in Repulse Bay. I don't know what else to say, but I thank him. I thank my grandfather for teaching me social issues and heavy issues, and also light issues, and life issues. He was urging us even though he no longer can work and capable, but he always provides support. Thank you, my constituents of Salliq and Naujaat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 933 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Iqaluit Manirajak

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, we finally made it to the last day of the 6th Assembly, and I can once again say how surprised I am how quickly time flies. But what a roller coaster the last four years have been. The role of an MLA has to be one of the most fascinating jobs in the territory, but as I'm sure we can all attest in this room, that also has to be one of most challenging.

It has been a tremendous privilege and a pleasure to represent the constituents of Iqaluit-Manirajak over the last eight years. I have hardly announced my intentions on social media, but Mr. Speaker, it's not official until it's in Hansard.

I'm proud to announce that I will once again be seeking Iqalummiut's assistance in the upcoming election, so I would like to continue to make a contribution to our beautiful territory.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very eager to continue our very important work, and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to present my platform to my constituents. I know over the next five weeks how important it will be to listen to their priorities as well.

In closing, to those of us that are seeking re-election, I wish you good luck; to those who have decided to move on, your service has been appreciated. To all the candidates across Nunavut that are planning and will be putting your name forward, I thank you as well for your bravery.

And in closing, I would also like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for one last time. And I wish that you enjoy your time going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 934 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon my colleagues and also to the people of Qamani'tuaq and have a good day. During your search and rescue and also I think of the people who are the families.

I will make my statement.

(interpretation ends) Once again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of my colleagues for the last four years, five years for some of us. I got in the by-election in the 5th Assembly, and those that were here already thank you for welcoming me and helping me learn some of the ropes.

And to this Assembly, thank you again. To Mr. Speaker, you've always been welcoming to me. Thank you very much.

To the staff down here and upstairs on the third floor that has helped us with some work behind the scenes, work when we're not on TV, thank you all to the staff. And for those that get us here and back home as well, the staff members that work on all of that.

To those of you that have chosen to step away and chose not to seek re-election, best of luck in your next chapter of your lives. Thank you for your contributions in the time

you've spent in office. And those of you that are running again, best of luck as well. Good luck. It's going to be an interesting campaign right across the territory again.

Once again I would like to thank my family, my parents, David and Jean Simailak; my other half, Marilyn, thank you. It's been interesting five years for me, but you have all kept me grounded. Thank you.

And the people of Baker Lake, thank you for trusting me to be your voice over the last five years. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Member's Statement 935 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Aggu

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to extend my appreciation, for there are many people that I would appreciate. First of all the people of Igloolik, my constituents, thank you very much and also Igloolik hamlet council, thank you as well, for providing information and what they would like to see. And also my colleagues, each and every one of you, thank you as well. I have learned a lot from you. I'm sure I learn from each and every one of you. And my CA, Moses (indiscernible) from Igloolik, I thank him very much for providing information and keeping me up to date all the time.

As well my family, my children, David Ennu (ph). They are very patient even though I'm away all the time, for long periods of time. My children, even though sometimes when they go through hardship in life, they provide support to me, especially my partner, Simon. I thank him for always providing support, especially when I go through hardship and when I'm down he brings me up.

Mr. Speaker, the last four years seems like just one year to me. The job and some of the issues that I raised with the government, some of the issues I raised were listened by the government by getting more units, and getting more houses in our community in regards to having power and also accessibility for disabled people at the terminal.

There are many issues, many programs that we would like to see in Igloolik. We still need to see a larger air terminal building, a newer school and a shelter, and also we need to get a doctor, okay John, Mr. Main? There are many more issues as well.

Those are the issues I just mentioned. Even though with that, Mr. Speaker, the issues that I want to work on and there are many more issues that I need to provide service and I

don't think I'm complete or finished my work, so therefore I'm going to run again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Member's Statement 936 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Arviat South

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Arviat.

And there it is; this is the end of our session. I would like to extend my appreciation to all the people of Arviat. Thank you. I've been here for six years, 12 years, I'm sorry, and I would like to thank my constituents, all the people of Arviat and as well my family, my wife, Susan Savikataaq, thank you. And my son, Joe junior, thank you. And Jamie Savikataaq, and my daughter as well, Wendy Savikataaq. All of them have been providing support to me and they are my foundation.

As well my CA in Arviat, Nick Arnngarluguak. He has been working in my CA office for 12 years. Thank you for your good hard work. Thank you. Since I've been elected, I've had one CA since then. Thank you.

(interpretation ends) We are a bilingual territory, so I will switch to the other language now so everyone can understand.

The first time I got elected, on the 4th Assembly it I was MLA and went to cabinet. I would like to thank Ron for helping me out in cabinet and MLAs. Had to learn the ropes and how things work. Made some mistakes but we learn from our mistakes and we go on.

On the 5th Assembly I was lucky enough to be in cabinet and then premier. I would like to thank my staff who was there, Dorcas. Dorcas's job was to make sure stuff was done in a timely manner, but the biggest job was make sure my tie was colour coded with the shirt. She did that.

And Kate, Kate always made me look good, sound good, but she never mastered me to read in French, even small sentences. Thanks, Kate. Virginia, her job was to have the fire truck and shut out fires before they started. And sometimes she had to have a big fire truck, but she kept everything in line. Thank you, Virginia.

And Ron, Ron worked hard so that I would not have to work as hard. So thanks, Ron. And also in the third term I came back as a regular MLA. I would like to thank all the

MLAs and cabinet ministers for working with me and understanding sometimes I could be – what’s the word – a little persuasive.

I would like to thank the clerk’s office for giving us advice and giving us direction, and all the research staff. You go to the research staff and you give them one word, and they come back with eight pages for possible questions. They are very, very good.

In closing, it has been a good run. It has been a long 12 years. Twelve years is long, but it seems short at the same time, too. Lots of elders in Arviat have gone and have passed on since I first got elected. A lot of new babies have been born that I don’t even know who they are, but there’s lots of them.

In closing, thank you, Arviarmiut. In the upcoming election I will not be seeking re-election. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member’s Statement. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Member’s Statement 937 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Uqqummiut

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say thank you to everyone, because I got a lot of help while I was here, and you are now my friends. And thank you for keeping me straight in the House here.

We did all sorts of things, and some of them were hard to do and some of them we were happy to do, and things kept coming up from the cabinet. And whenever they brought something, they had some real good things to come out, like finances and stuff, and sometimes they would give me information that I have to bring to the community.

Thank you very much to my constituents. I always tried to do it properly for you in the past four years.

I’m really proud to have raised issues on behalf of the residents of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River. It became confusing and hard to represent a community I’ve never lived at and didn’t know very many of the people in Clyde River, but they gave me a lot of welcome. I would go on the community radio and communicate with them, and I would visit them. Thank you, Clyde River, people of Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, we make major decisions on behalf of all Nunavummiut in this House when we pass laws and approve budgets and try to understand them all. And because of that, to be a part of the Legislative Assembly for my first term, for four years, I’m really happy that I was able to help those that I can help, and as I first started rising here, there were

many things, small things like IDs and food baskets, they were able to be provided. We started with the small things and were able to provide them. And now there are less issues.

I would like to thank the municipal councils of both Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq. We were able to work together as friends and we have real good discussions and open dialogue. I got a lot of support from the community that I was not born in. And Joy (ph) was one of my constituency assistants. She is a professional and she even went on the radio on my behalf when I was in my community. We worked real hard. It was hard at first, and sometimes we lost connection, but everything kept going, and I was real happy about that.

Also infrastructure that needs to be brought into the communities, like funding for new health centres were able to proceed, along with some other major infrastructure projects. So I'm really glad to have been a part of that.

I want to make sure that I do the work that are believed by my constituency, and I'm real glad that I've been a part of the process to open things.

Because of that I hope some of the things that we initiated and talked about, major infrastructure that needs to be built, can be built in my constituency. I'm very grateful to be a part of the Assembly at the end.

I thank my staff because we proceeded together. I say good-bye to the MLAs that are not running again. But Joe Savikataaq has taught me a lot. And he will not hesitate to tell me anything. He didn't treat me lightly, and I thought he was a little hard before I learned, but I am honoured now. And George also would correct me while we were sitting in the House. I thank you. I learned from you.

If I am believed, I will post my name again to run again when it opens on Monday. I'm already planning to give my name, because my work is not done yet, but it's going to be up to the electors. So I thank everyone and say good-bye.

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

Member's Statement 938 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Kugluktuk

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): (no interpretation)

(interpretation ends) That's where I've been helping good. I thank them very much. I'm going to try and run for MLA again.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to thank everyone here, all the MLAs. The ministers and your staff helped me out to help Kugluktuk. I want to thank my kids and my supporters and although there's lots of hard times, there's a lot more to be done I feel in Kugluktuk, so I'll be running again for MLA.

I want to thank you, Speaker, for being my support too, and the staff here, the clerk and the staff. You're doing a good job. I want to thank upstairs too. They have been giving a lot of help. So it has been tough, but I'm glad, you know, I want to help my community and Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 939 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Iqaluit-Tasiluk

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not really sure what to say but to echo a lot of the comments from my colleagues here.

Mr. Speaker, when we look around the room there's a lot of diversity in how we've been raised, the ideas and the lived experience that we bring to this chamber. Everyone, no matter what your background is, what your skill sets are, has something to contribute in this room and for this territory, and I appreciate each and every one of you. I know that it has been kind of a volatile term, but I think at the of the day, we can look at every one of us with respect in our eyes because we understand how hard a job it is, on not just us but our families as well.

Mr. Speaker, I know you and I have had discussions recently on how proud I am of your role and how you've undertaken this term. I'm very proud of you, Mr. Speaker. As a younger person I maybe have to be careful how I say it, I am proud of you.

Mr. Speaker, we couldn't do this without our families behind us. My wife has been behind me since 2013. There's only a few of us in this room that have lasted three terms, and I'm not going to go into my whole story, because I don't think my story's done yet. So I will be putting my name forward.

I have to thank my wife specifically, Signi. Since 2013 she has been an incredible girls support when our girls were younger. I've got two girls living down south, and two here. The two here are down south going to school right now, so again, dealing with this empty nest thing and how that's playing out in my life.

I think it's very important to acknowledge the work that we're doing. I've been a member of cabinet for approximately half my political life, and as a regular member of the other half. I think the experience that I've brought to the table, and I know a couple of people have specifically mentioned me for helping them. I would like I think that I've been open to every one of you in whatever capacity, sometimes whether you like it or not, Mr.

Speaker.

I do appreciate the time that we have here, and I very, very much look forward to continuing to represent my constituents in the best way that I can. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Member's Statement 940 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Iqaluit-Sinaa

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to begin for thanking you as well for your guidance and the care with which you have taken on the job that we entrusted to you. So thank you for that, Mr. Speaker.

I can also attest to how important our relationships with each other as regular members and members of cabinet have been, and those really difficult days and conversations and decisions that we've made that have appeared to be very contentious – I can't say it, but I know that I lived it.

I will say that just yesterday, after we wrapped up our day, one of my member colleagues sprayed Febreze in his office one last time, because we voted in different directions and he just wanted to get that one little squeeze in there.

That has been really important to me, is that we can disagree and yet, stand up for our own beliefs and still be very good friends. I thank you all for that, my fellow members, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours, whether they be in retirement from politics or in putting your name forward again.

I'm incredibly proud and grateful for the tremendous support that I received from my constituents in Iqaluit-Sinaa it's been one of the greatest honours of my life to serve my community in this capacity, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the trust that you've shown in me.

I believe I've lived up to my commitments to serve with integrity and focussing on good governance, as well as always being committed to be here and ready to work whether that is in front of the cameras or behind the scenes, and I have done so.

Like everyone else here, I can attest to the importance of having the support of your family while working for the people of Nunavut.

>> *Applause*

Ms. Brewster: Mr. Speaker, John Quirke has just entered the building. Thank you. I was like, wow!

>> *Laughter*

There's still time. So just for everybody's information, our esteemed former clerk, Mr. John Quirke walked into chambers. I can tell you all with great pride that Mr. John Quirke has been given the honour of becoming a life long member of the Clerks At the Table association in Victoria this summer.

>> *Applause*

Ms. Brewster: He is having lots of fun right now. Welcome to your House, Mr. Quirke. It's nice to see you.

As I was saying, having the support of family is so important. And my mother, Betty Brewster, Betty Boo-Boo-Boo Brewster, was the key to my decision to run, and she actually, I was kind of wavering, and what she did was she said, come and meet me. We're going out to see John Amagoalik. It was John and my mom that told me that I would run, and I am grateful for that, and for that trust, as well as for all of the photos of her hugging the TV while I was speaking. Thank you, mom, for your support. And my dad, David Brewster, who is always watching, like my mom, I appreciate your support as well. And Sabrina Ashavak Jayco, Miles, and my girl, Danielle, and my cousin, Brenda, who sends a live commentary every time I'm here. So I appreciate that support that you've given me. I love you all with all of my heart and my liver and my kidneys, too.

Mr. Speaker, it does take a community to raise a child. And Miles, my son Miles had just begun high school when we were all elected, and I'm so grateful to the teachers, guidance counsellors, student support workers, and all the team at Inukshuk high school, as well as our speed skating family, from our friends, board, and other parents, coaches, in particular Kyle St. Laurent, for their care and guidance of my son Miles. Thank you.

Of course I mentioned Mr. Quirke is in the building. I was lucky enough to sit next to Mr. Quirke, and now I get to sit next to my friend Wendy. Mr. Quirke provided excellent guidance and very thoughtful advice to me in his time here, as now it is Stephen Innuksuk our new clerk.

>> *Applause*

Ms. Brewster: Kooyoo, and I'm so proud of Wendy. She's here with us. Thank you. Our research team, Siobhan, who I don't think is in here. She's getting ready to retire. She has been an incredible support to all of us and to many regular members for many, many years.

Alex and Nathalia, you are all so amazing. Thank you for making us, and me in particular, sound really smart with your well crafted questions.

I would like to say to public servants over the years, I've been uplifted by the many public servants that have offered their encouragement and feedback during and after sessions. I know from experience that listening to proceedings, public servants can see themselves and their work reflected in the deliberations that take place, and it's exciting when you see your good hard work being celebrated; and on the other hand it can feel discouraging when your work is being criticized.

I encourage all to remember that criticism fosters innovation. It drives progress and evolution, and can help guide the important work that you do for all Nunavummiut, and I encourage you to focus on solving problems and hearing from the people that you serve. I want to thank you for your service.

Mr. Speaker, I do a bid a fond farewell to those members who have announced that they will not be seeking re-election, and again thank you for your service. To those who are running again, I wish you all good luck, and I hope to see you back here after the election, as I too will be running again in Iqaluit-Sinaa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Member's Statement 941 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing South Baffin

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon Kimmirummiut, and Kinngaimmiut. Today, Mr. Speaker, reflecting back the last 12 years being here in the House elected, Mr. Speaker, I have counted the numbers and am reflecting back on the issues we've discussed to date. And members' comments, ministers' comments that we stated here in the House, counting them quite a number. We have dealt with many issues to date.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I counted over the past 12 years maybe the good researchers can verify this, I've spent over 420 sitting days in this House over the 12 years. That's over 180 members' statements, over 180 ministers' statements. There have been at least eight leadership forums that I've counted. I mean, Mr. Speaker, one of the

things that we battled is a global pandemic. It seems like a lifetime ago we were here with Dr. Patterson remotely, talking to Nunavummiut about what to do, what next to do as education minister. These things can pop into mind every now and then.

But, Mr. Speaker, I, like my colleagues here, recall the countless late nights of hours considering budgets and bills and Committee of the Whole. We've welcomed new members of families. I was just thinking about I have two daughters that I have had in my life as a member for South Baffin, but also recognizing some of the losses that we've had, not just in our families, but in our constituencies. And even like our own Nupsala (no interpret) and also our late friend and colleague from Tununiq, Mr. Eenuk (indiscernible) we pay homage to his family as well.

(interpretation) And our former MLA for Baker Lake, Mikkungwak, who would smile occasionally and wanted to put his trust in, and recognizing that he was a very good friend.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank all my colleagues here today for the work that we've shared over the years and also I want to thank my family in Kinngait, especially my mother, Wendy, and my brothers and sisters who supported me from day one. And also I want to thank all my constituents who put their trust in me for over the three terms now.

I want to thank all the officials, both elected or not, that I have been had the privilege of working with over the 12 years.

And (interpretation) those who are running again, hopefully you will have a safe path during the election. And those not running, I would like to thank them also for their commitment to Nunavummiut and for their service.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will mention that I will run again for South Baffin on October 27, election day. Hopefully you all do due diligence in your vote.

I would like to thank the Assembly staff Lucy Digiby (ph) in Kimmirut and Lucy Ragee in Kinngait, in our constituency with their work they have done for me and the community of Kimmirut and Kinngait.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, just to conclude my statement, despite all of these statistics and milestones and experiences that I've gone through the 12 years, I do want to express my greatest appreciation and recognize the one person that has stuck by my side unconditionally, and it was my wife, Emily Fox Qutuq Joanasie (ph). (interpretation) Sixteen years married together. Just like four terms. (interpretation ends) Sixteen years. That is like four terms.

(interpretation) But I like to thank you personally. (interpretation ends) Thank you for being my number one cheerleader my greatest source of strength and understanding and for being my friend all throughout. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 942 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Rankin Inlet South

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when my colleague Ms. Brewster was speaking. I went to stand up and give her a standing ovation, and Mr. Quirke walks in. Anyway, that's my story and I'm going to stick with it. Welcome, Mr. Quirke.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I did not plan to make a statement. Since this is our last session, I will make a statement.

I was able to sit here, my sincere gratitude to my wife, my three daughters. I began to work with government way back in our community of Rankin Inlet. Keith Sharp being the mayor at that time in our community, a very good mayor, but I was a mayor three times in Rankin Inlet and member here in the House three terms. My children were raised by my wife. I tried to be involved, but they grow up. Kandace, Nuatii, and baby Terri, thank you very much for your exceptional abilities. Howard, one of my grandchildren, who was born when I just got elected. Some people call him Power. Also Bibbi Naisg, I love you, I love you. Named after Kusugak and Qarataq. Both of them I love.

Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't be standing here if I didn't have parents. I had parents who were very able. I was very young when I lost my mother. How did our father grow us when he was all alone? I think I was the most disciplined boy in our family. My brothers, my sisters who always support me, I thank them and love them dearly, and my nieces, my nephews are many. I love them all and I'm grateful to them while I'm here and they have always been supportive.

The residents of Rankin Inlet, I sincerely thank you for electing me. I was not the only one running, because there are many people in Rankin. Thank you so much that you are able to keep me here in the House. And I always work hard to ensure the community is a good community, and everyone is very hospitable in the community. And also Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove. I like to thank the people of Whale Cove, Tikirarjuaq. It was great to serve you in your community. And my colleague knows, Mr. Main, that Whale Cove is one of the great places to represent.

Mr. Speaker, there are many people I should thank, and first of all the residents of Iqaluit. Iqalummiut are very hospitable for those who have to be here, for those who have to

come for meetings, and when we are here we see nothing but hospitality. Thank you, Iqalummiut.

I start to know elders and you miss them as well. I thank the elders of Iqaluit. Anywhere you go they are friendly. And we always hear that Iqaluit is not a good place to live. Don't listen to that. The residents of Iqaluit are very hospitable.

Mr. Speaker, I am also grateful to the residents of Nunavut. As I visit communities people have always been friendly.

(interpretation ends) It was with great pleasure that I served in whatever capacity that was given to me to serve our territory. Mr. Speaker, on a short story, I was landing into Sanikiluaq on a trip with Community and Government Services, and I told my deputy of the day that when I get home I'm the new Minister of Health, and that was when the pandemic was on. My premier Mr. Savikataaq told me I'm taking on Health. Five minutes before we land in Sanikiluaq I tell my deputy that, and he shows me the note and says, look at this. It said COVID has hit Nunavut. It's in Sanikiluaq. Don't get off the plane when you get there, or you won't get back. Yeah, right. I tell you and two minutes later you send me this fake e-mail. But it was real.

Shortly after that I got e-mail from the premier's office saying the same thing. I get off the plane and Sanikiluaq council and mayor are coming to me. We are on a little charter. They start coming. I say no, no, no, you can't come. You have COVID. He was saying (no interpretation). No, no, no. Anyway, it all worked out. We got back on the plane and came home.

I was talking to one of my brothers and he said, man, you're a terrible Minister of Health. This is five minutes into being a mayor, and COVID hits Nunavut. Challenging times but fun nonetheless.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of people to thank. I have had the privilege of serving three terms in this Assembly, and the privilege of serving all three terms on this side of the House in cabinet, which means I know every shade of blue on those pictures. I know how many squares there are on that picture. And how many tiles there are on the ceiling. Nonetheless it was always fun, always challenging, and as many times as we've disagreed, it was always with mutual respect from everybody in this room. I appreciate your friendship and your camaraderie.

I want to thank Phil Bordou (ph) and Rorenda (ph) and Mike Courtney and Justin Merritt for helping me a lot over the years on the second floor. The Government of Nunavut staff, across the board. I've had the privilege of serving as minister in so many departments multiple times, and I've had nothing but the best senior staff in every department and from the top down to everybody in every department, I have nothing but good feelings. I hope in some way I was able to contribute to your department.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a long time, and I think it's time for me to step aside from politics for a while, and had it not been for this guy named Justin Merritt (ph), I would probably not be standing here, because one day he came into my office and he said we need a new mayor in Rankin, and I said yes, let's go, let's find somebody. He said, no, you. I said, no I'm not going to find someone by myself.

Anyway, long story short, he said no, you run for mayor and now I'm here as MLA. I miss my friend and I thank him for helping me along.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I hope everybody nothing but the best in this election. It has been a privilege. The privilege has been mine, the privilege is working with Mr. Clerk, amongst others.

Mr. Speaker, I just want my friends to know and those people in the corner know I'm not running again this term.

(interpretation) I won't run again and like those who have supported me, those who are running, I encourage you and not to fight amongst each other. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 943 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Pangnirtung

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Good afternoon. You have said all the things that I wanted to say.

(interpretation ends) I remember the first time I got elected I went into Iqaluit. I came in on the plane and there's Mr. Quirke at the airport welcoming me, and from then on I just had total respect, and this place would not have a good foundation if it wasn't for you. And I have the utmost respect for you.

I was telling someone the other day I really miss John Quirke in the office. And I bump into him at the store, I see him walking the hallway. I'm like, Hi, John. I was so happy. He says hi, and that was it.

>> *Laughter*

He was probably rushing or something and I was like, I thought I missed him. But it has been a privilege to be here standing on both sides in the last two terms. Especially I have to thank my community of Pangnirtung and the people of Pangnirtung who have advised me and supported me. It has been a pleasure serving them all.

The first term ran very quickly, and this term has been a bit longer, and it has been harder, I find. But this term I've been very fortunate to lead a number of departments and I couldn't have done it without the team sitting around the table here. If I haven't led well, I do hope that the next one will be even better. There's a lot of work to be done, and I've been very fortunate to be able to stand as the minister on this side for a number of departments, but especially I think with the OAG report I will always go back to that with Family Services.

I have been most fortunate to be able to be the minister for that department. The DM, the staff, we hit it hard but I also feel we ran like chickens with no heads on our shoulders. We've done a lot of work and we've done a lot. And I couldn't have done it without the team there, so I really do appreciate all the teams that I've worked with in all the departments.

This government, the 6th one is ending and the next one will be the 7th, and there are other jurisdictions that have many years of running as a government, but our territory is still very young.

I wish all the very best to those that will continue to run, and the new ones that will come in will be coming in.

I also need to thank so many people, especially my family. This month my husband and I will have our 25th year anniversary, so September is quite.

>> *Applause*

He's seen the worst of me and I really do appreciate all the support I've had. The girls, Emily, Annie, Kelly, my paniq, all the girls, Illikooloo, they have been amazing. They have been my circle of friends. The strongest girls I know. My in-laws (interpretation) My gratitude to my in-laws who have supported me on an ongoing basis, who is more able than I am.

My gratitude. And Owen and Greg and my grandchild, my grandchild whom I love dearly. And my friend who I love very much and my new grandchild.

There are a lot of people that I would like to thank. I won't be standing here if I didn't get the advice from everyone. I thank you all. Noah and his partner, Qavavvau and the children, Char Kullu, Mislou, and the children. I thank them all. Hugh John, Lilly.

When I started Semaila (ph) is no longer with us, and my late father who was very proud. My father was very proud of me when I became a minister. You're going to become tired when you become a minister. But we have lost and gained family members, as that is life.

It's not a joke when you are appointed to a ministerial position, but I gave it my utmost, my commitment, and I do thank them all.

When I go to the communities I am welcomed by the people of Nunavut. Thank you, each and every one of you, and for giving me advice for welcoming me to the community.

For the upcoming election I have already talked to my constituents, but I would like to advise in the House that I will not be running for re-election. I thank you all for the support by the staff, by my colleagues, who have supported me. Thank you all. You're like family members, and I have been supported by you. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 944 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Quttiktuq

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud of you. You're a very good speaker, and properly representing your community and for reprimanding us when it is required. And also your jokes.

I thank all your staff, Mr. Clerk, the two clerks. I thank you both and all the table officers and the staff.

I came here and my wife and I agreed, we arrived at an agreement when I told her that I wanted to be here in the House. My gratitude to my dear wife who's always beside me and the big parka that I wear what's wearing exactly the same design and the bias tape and she made me one exactly like it. My mother and my father and my in-laws, my late in-laws. I thank them all. And my family members. And those who are with me today who urge me and give me support. For their ongoing support I thank my family.

And it's only with commitment. It's hard and at times not so, but we as colleagues have to work together and support each other, because there's a lot of things that needs to be done in Nunavut. There are a lot of concerns and a lot of things that we don't have up here in Nunavut, because we're new territory. We're only 25 years old.

But there has been a great improvement by our past members of the Legislative Assembly. I was fully supported by my parents and by the communities I represent the elders and the families who brought me up as a community of the whole.

My in-laws moved up to Grise Fiord and I met my wife there in Grise Fiord, and then after that we moved to Yellowknife and I worked quite a long time for the government. In

1997 I entered the political arena. From 1999 the leaders and the cabinet who I've always supported and different positions, deputy minister and so on, and when I entered the political field, Paul Quassa appointed the cabinet and gave me a portfolio, assigned me a portfolio, and Mr. Savikataaq who will become premier and I became deputy premier at that time, he has taught me a lot and what I should and should not do. And our current premier, P.J., I used to baby-sit him. Now he's my boss.

He was very committed and even when he was a child right up to growing up, he had made huge contributions to the community.

We have enjoyed during our responsibilities though heavy. And also, for example, we have had work together with Nunavut Tunngavik, the regional Inuit associations and I do thank them, all the mayors and councillors in all of Nunavut. We all are working for Nunavut as one.

And our elders, take proper care of our elders. I'm very proud of our elders and I thank them all. I thank them all for providing support to me and I also would like to say thank you to the people of high Arctic. I will no longer be representing the high Arctic constituency, but I have seen the people from Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay, people who come from these communities and they work all over the place. Even this individual who is the deputy clerk, her mother came from Arctic Bay, and also her older sister who has been deputy minister, she was my DM. I thank you very much.

And also our commissioner, Karliin Aariak. Thank you for coming here. There are many people who have come from high Arctic who live here in Iqaluit. Many high Arctic residents, they hold different positions and the Iqaluit residents have always been receptive to us and we've been living here for 26 years and they are very receptive. I thank them very much and I appreciate the people of Iqaluit.

As I have stated before I will be running as a candidate for Niaqunngu. I have an agreement with my family so that I could run again. My wife and my children, thank you for being able to come here, and also each and every one of you that I know. We have a special bond when we leave each other, but I hope many of us come back but it's up to the voters out there to put us in here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 945 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Cambridge Bay

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon, Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, it has been an honour to serve in the 6th Assembly. To you Mr. Speaker, to our premier, to our fellow ministers, our colleagues all around this chamber, to the staff who

are here to work and support, including our interpreters, I owe my gratitude to you for being my ears and my voice, as well as to my constituents who are working here as interpreters, James Paniyok and Eva Omilgoitok. And to all those across the Government of Nunavut and some special staff who have supported the second floor, Rhoda Audla, our legislative coordinator, and our cabinet interpreter, Ooleepika Ikkidliuak, are key partners as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would not stand here without the love and support of my family. To my partner, Devon, and my daughter, Kimnik (ph), you are my joy. Riley thank you for calling me your other mom. Sorry, Mr. Speaker. To my parents, Tom and Eileen, my mom, Suzy, step-dad Rodney. To my brother, Amos, my sister, Shaelin, my niece, Summer and our matriarch, Oovilook (ph), and to my Nevilok family, my many aunts, Naituq, Annie, Rosy, Mary, Margot, Qattaq, Ida, Martha, Mona, Gloria, and Arngnauq, and to our late Uncle Bob as well as my cousins, many, many cousins. I think I have 83 cousins, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

I would like to acknowledge one of them who's the head of our family in terms of our younger generation. Tash, thank you for your love and your guidance as well as all of my other cousins out there, Mr. Speaker. To my nieces and nephews as well, a big thank you, and all love to all of you. To Devon's family in Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk and to you and your family, Mr. Speaker, in Gjoa Haven, Clarence and Brenda as well as Avery and Arial, his siblings and grandparents John and Rosy, and to the extended family, thank you all for your love.

To my campaign team, friends and extended family, Jenna, Lena, Brenda, Sarah, Brenda and the Jenkie family, as well as my own family, my aunty, Eva, Genevieve, Jacqueline, my cousin Jane, and Michelle. *Quana* for standing by me here in Iqaluit.

To all of the beautiful people of Cambridge Bay, our elders, mayor and council and community members, thank you for trusting me as your MLA. Your voice always guides my work.

Mr. Speaker, I'm grateful for the chance to serve as deputy premier, Minister of Education, and Minister of Justice. In my previous hats as Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College, Minister of Human Resources and WSCC, I was also fortunate to work with dedicated teams. Each of these portfolios had small but mighty groups who accomplished so much.

In education I thank my small but mighty deputy minister Rebecca Hainu for her incredible team, Martin St. Louis, Bill Cooper, and Arial Stockdale, and the Policy Shop who always go above and beyond, and Lynn Mount and the whole ELCC division. And to our FANS team in Arviat. And all of our divisions and staff, each of you and your

teams hold a special place in my heart. You are making a real difference in the lives of our students. *Quana*.

In Justice, I thank Deputy Minister Christine Ellsworth and her staff. I value the strong relationship we have with the RCMP and I'm grateful that the chief commanding officer for 'V' Division Andrew Blackadar joined us recently as our ADM of public safety.

>> *Applause*

I also thank his predecessor Jessica Young, who held that important role and did great work advancing many key initiatives in this critical area. I also give my appreciation to Ken Pike, acting commanding officer, for the support he and his team from the 'V' Division have provided. Their continued support despite difficult circumstances has made significant difference in Cambridge Bay and across Nunavut.

I want to recognize Thomas Ahlfors, Director of Legislation, and his team, who are crucial to much of the work that we do in this House.

I also want to share sincere appreciation to Steve Shaddock, director of policy, and his team who have been so quick to support my work and the requests in this House.

And of course we can't forget Adrian Silk, our director of legal and constitutional law, who has served for many years. And John MacLean, our most senior lawyer. Sometimes it's hard to show that appreciation, but I can attest that we deeply value all of your work.

To the staff of my other portfolios, Culture and Heritage, Arctic College, Workers' Safety and Compensation and Human Resources, thank you sincerely. I cannot name everyone, but please know how much I appreciate the dedication of each team member.

Mr. Speaker, serving in these roles has been a privilege. Every decision touched the lives of Nunavummiut and I ask myself: How will this help our people? It was not always easy, but together we face challenges and made progress. That progress belongs to Nunavut and our people.

As I reflect on these four years, I'm humbled by what I learned from our elders, youth, leaders, and community members. Those conversations shaped me and reminded me why I came here to serve.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to share that I'll be putting my name forward to continue earning the trust in the people of Cambridge Bay to work on their behalf and to be their voice in this Legislative Assembly. I look forward to being back home with my constituents in Iqaluktuuttiaq, and I hope to return here to help keep the work alongside so many of you

in this House. *Quana* to my colleagues, my family, friends and Iqaluktuuttiaqmiut for your trust. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 946 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Arviat North-Whale Cove

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be running again during the election. I just want everyone to be aware (interpretation ends) I thought I would put it at the front of the speech, instead of the last.

Now that that's out of the way, (interpretation) although this is our last session, I'm always very happy to debate.

(interpretation ends) Even though it's the last day, I would like to pick a bit of a fight with my colleagues and just state unequivocally that I represent the two best communities in Nunavut, Arviat and Whale Cove.

(interpretation) I thank each and every one of you, to Arviat residents, and also the community of Whale Cove. They have elected me for two terms to this seat. During the election this chair will no longer be my chair after the weekend.

To the people of Arviat and residents, that's the chair that they will serve on. It's totally up to the electors or the voters as to whom they will vote. And I accept that.

There are many challenges that we faced, different challenges within the four years that we served. The first one was COVID. And there are people who passed away who are loved ones. And there are many people who had an impact, and also health department and the workers and the hamlet workers, they worked very hard. You are very able, and I love you as well.

Later on, after the COVID, there were other, even during COVID there were other emergencies that arose, like losing family members, and fires occurring in Whale Cove, and the Co-Op store had burned down. These emergency cases, even with emergency cases my constituents are very kind and very able, who are my constituents. They may be hunters, seamstresses, who work at the government, teachers, nurses, mining, who work at the mining companies. My constituents are very able.

When my constituents face challenges, I really want to provide help and sometimes I feel that even though I really want to help, it doesn't occur, and there are barriers that we face.

And being a member of the Legislative Assembly, I know it's very difficult at times, and we face challenges, our constituents, especially when our constituents face challenges. We also face challenges. Now there are some light ones, too, as well, such as driver's licences, and help me apply for, fill out this application form. But some issues are very issues; when they come to me asking for help, sometimes I can't believe how much they face, and how they stand, even though they are facing challenges and losing family members.

And I know that my constituents are very able. That's why I thank them very much today.

The Department of Health team, they are the most able. They work tirelessly and they are full of compassion, and I thank them. And also QEC power corporation. Their staff is able because that's why we are here with electricity.

(interpretation ends) Just a funny story. The scariest experience we had during the last four years was not here in the Assembly; it was somewhere the mountains of Pangnirtung, and I was on a charter plane a Twin Otter with Mr. Paul Irngout trying to go to Pangnirtung for a community event on public health. And it was windy, it was snowy, and we got closer to Pangnirtung and the little plane started going up and down, and then we started coming off of our seats inside the plane. Paul was sitting at the front of the plane, and I was at the back. And Paul was the one who was going to tell the pilots to turn around, and I started shouting at Paul. Paul, Paul, taima.

>> *Laughter*

But I was, (interpretation) it was very scary. And the reporter behind me, when we were on our way back to Iqaluit without landing in Pang, and as we landed, he threw up.

(interpretation ends) I know I have a habit of talking too long, so I would like to apologize to all my colleagues for that. I'm so thankful to my constituents to my family, Amanda, and my kids and my family, my parents. So lucky I still have parents. My brother, my sisters, my brother-in-law and sister-in-law-to-be some day.

I think, and my biggest fan, Brian Hanson, who's in Calgary. Sorry, but he's up there now. He's probably still watching. He's probably still watching. He knew all of your names, by the way. Yeah, he was the number one fan from Calgary.

Mr. Speaker, my final comment is just I hope that we have a clean election here in Nunavut. We can't take democracy for granted. It's the best system of government that we have. We can't take it for granted. We live in a time when online hate and online lies drive fear into people.

I think it's on an incumbent on all of us to make sure that they have a fair and clean election and let's all embrace hope and optimism for Nunavummiut. And I hope that we can use that to carry forward. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 947 – 6(2): Reflections on Representing Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Good afternoon and thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to everyone here.

First of all, I would like to say thank you to you, because you have helped all of us a great deal and you always correct us, discipline us, and remind us when necessary. It really shows what a good person you are. I thank you a lot, Mr. Speaker, from my heart. You have to leave your family behind to be here, and I thank them a lot, because you have opened big doors for us on how to be a better person.

And everyone here. I would like to recognize Mr. Quirke, our clerk. It's good to see you come back home to your House.

(interpretation ends) It is such an honour to have you come here on our last day. It's always such a privilege to be able to represent you as an MLA for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, you and your beautiful wife, Annie. (interpretation) It's great to see you here.

As well now to see the first Inuk who sits as a clerk. (interpretation) It's great to see you here. (interpretation ends) It is one of my biggest highlights to have witnessed that and to see the whole team in this House being Inuit. It's major milestone that I feel still privileged to have watched.

>> *Applause*

With that, I have the privilege to thank my family, to thank some of my staff and now I would like to turn to my constituents today, and many of them are here and I'm so happy that they are here.

As my term as MLA for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu comes before a close, I stand before you with such deep gratitude and pride. It truly has been an honour of a life time to be able to serve the people of this beautiful riding, to be able to listen, to be able to advocate and to act in the interest of our riding in our community. From working on housing supports to the educational reform, whether it's mental health, infrastructure, or looking and seeing

the completion of the collective agreement, every decision that I was able to make was grounded in the needs and aspirations of our people.

Iqaluit-Niaqunngu is more than just a constituency. It truly is the heartbeat of Nunavut. And I've had the privilege to be able to carry that rhythm forward in my small part.

I want to extend especially a special thanks to my constituency assistant, Becky Mike, who is no stranger here many times throughout the four years. Becky, *Qujannamiik* (interpretation) Thank you, Becky, for all the hard work that you did and all the good work that did you. You never gave up for Nunavut, and especially Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, and we've listened up to now.

(interpretation ends) You have been a steady hand and a kind voice that so many relied on, and I'm deeply grateful that I got to work with you.

To the residents and the families of Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, thank you for the trust that you entrusted in me. Thank you for your courage and thank you for reminding me every single day why leadership must be rooted in service.

Though this chapter ends, my commitment will continue and I leave this role with a full heart and the hope for all that lies ahead. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Two hours and ten minutes of members' statements today. Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I'm going first today, thank you.

>> *Laughter*

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Speaker: I would like to recognize a special person, who while sitting up here as speaker taught me well, he guided me really well in what I had to say and what I had to do when sitting up here. He's a very good teacher. He had a kind heart and looked after everybody in the House. I know that. He can discipline you, and he will do it all for you.

He has also gone through some surgery, and he tells me he's really healthy again. Thank you to that. I would like to say thank you to the man who should be known as Mr. Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, Mr. John Quirke.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Recognition. Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) Even though the scariest time in the last four years, in maybe my entire life. I would like to recognize Mr. Paul Irngaut, vice president for Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. It has been my honour to work alongside him and his organization on issues of health importance to Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Let's welcome him to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for welcoming Mr. Quirke back into the Legislative Assembly. It's truly an honour to see him back here. I too share the same sentiment as our colleague from Pangnirtung about seeing him in the city. It's always "Hi, John, how are you?" We're always so happy to see you, John, whether it's in the Legislative Assembly or out in the city.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to pay special welcome to some of our colleagues here, our Deputy Minister of Justice, Christine Ellsworth; as well as our ADM of Public Safety, Andrew Blackadar, and our director of policy, Stephen Shaddock, as well as our former languages commissioner, Karliin Aariak. Nice to see you here, as well as our Deputy Minister of Family Services, Jonathan Ellsworth, and our Deputy Minister of Culture and Heritage, Teresa. *Qujannamiik* for all the work that you all do.

As well as our vice president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and all of the staff at NTI, Paul Irngaut, for all the work that they do. And just thank everybody here that's in the room, especially to our interpreter-translators and recognize them here in the House. I know they are behind there, Mr. Speaker, but we truly are grateful for all of them. The ones that are here behind there and the ones that have worked here in the past, you're not forgotten, and thank you for all the hard work that everyone's done to be our voice, and particularly mine, when you translate or interpret me into Inuktitut, and vice versa. I really appreciate everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me. As I stated earlier, there are many people here from Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu present right now, and

I want to recognize all of them. First of all someone who has helped a great deal in giving me ideas, Kathy Hanson. Welcome. Please feel very welcome. It's great to see you here.

And our past Commissioner of Languages, Karliin Ariak, and MLA Joanasie, John Quirke, Tara Carol Akeeagok Charley Akeeagok, Baby Hope, Paul Irngaut, Teresa Hughes, and Andrew Nakashuk. I'm sure the rest of here and I know they are from Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, so please feel welcome here. It's great to see all of you here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my member statement I know I said it already, but I would like to express my gratitude and say thank you and recognize Mrs. Emily Joanasie, my wife. She is always supporting me, ever since I got elected and even before that. But we have five children and I would like to recognize them, too, because I've had to leave them for times in the 12 years when I was an MLA. They are not all here. I would like to recognize my children, Sayri Kotierk, Cynthia Joanasie, Qulittalik Joanasie, Pittaaluk Joanasie, and Pattu Joanasie. And we have grandchildren now, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Isla Nikuttai. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did mention earlier my wife, who is here, Carol Akeeagok. She does a lot for me and our children. Our children, our grandchildren are not here, however, but Samson Akeeagok and Hope Akeeagok. And some who are here who were already recognized, Christine Ellsworth, who was my deputy minister and Steve Shaddock. You'll be missed. And the RCMP, Andrew Blackadar.

(interpretation ends) Just so you know, I wore the belt at full caucus this morning, so all of them got to see the beautiful belt that was gifted to me. Now all 21 of them want exactly the same.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Karliin Arreak, it's great that you're here. Kathy Hanson, who worked closely with my wife. They're always having meals together, and you take care of my wife very well at your workplace.

Initially when I came here, it was my staff when I became a minister, Teresa Hughes you are now deputy minister. I'm very proud of you for your diligent work you do, and it's long-felt.

And Jonathan Ellsworth.

(interpretation ends) The male athlete of the year, Miles Brewster. (interpretation)
Welcome to the Assembly.

Lastly, John Quirke. Big thank you for your work here. We know we discussed many issues here, and I worked with him even prior to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are lots of people here and I am going to stick to family.

I'll start with my cousin, Kathy Hanson. I'm really happy to see you here. I love your participation. It's fun hearing you.

I'm going to ask the next couple of people to stand, because I'm so proud of them, Mr. Speaker. This is the first time they have joined us in the House, because they are really not into this kind of stuff, but they are so important to me, and so wise. I'll start with my oldest unmarried son, Ashavak Montigau.

>> *Applause*

I love you so much. Ashavak, he is so wise, and takes such good care of my mom, who he lives with. Even though he has been offered housing with his work a number of times, he's unwilling to leave my mother. And I love him so much for that. Thank you.

And my youngest unmarried son, Miles Brewster.

>> *Applause*

Everybody has heard so much about Miles from me. Mr. Premier is reminding his name is Miles Tuktu Legs Brewster. I'm so proud he is male athlete of the year for this year. He was chosen because, though he is no longer speed skating to compete, he has gone back to volunteer as a coach and to volunteer for tournaments, which is a testament to the speed skating family, as well as to my beautiful son, who is committed to helping everybody around him.

And for some time he has been getting used to periods of times where he has to eat leftovers, and I thank him for that.

I welcome you all to your House. I'm so proud, especially of my sons, for who they are and am filled with gratitude for their support and wise guidance. Welcome to your House. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize also here, when you have family visiting here and I did mention earlier under member's comments my big support, my wife and I, Andrew Malliki.

>> *Applause*

And under member's comment I forgot to mention we have a birthday boy, Lee John Malliki, 14 years old now. Happy birthday.

>> *Applause*

I would also like to recognize our biggest support in the House who corrects us, as you mentioned, Mr. Speaker, and you said it correctly, John Quirke. Thank you for teaching me so much.

>> *Applause*

And my colleagues recognized, my wife works with her and we are always appreciative when she came to our community of Naujaat. Kathy Hanson. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to welcome Mr. Quirke to the House, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Quirke is a lot better hockey fan than yourself and Mr. Main are, shooting for the Canadians.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize a long-time Rankin resident Mr. Gerald Anawak. Welcome to the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize in the visitors gallery Andrew Nakashuk, my husband; Annie Karpik, my sister; and Tanya Karpik. One of my nieces, Emily Karpik, has left. She graduated law school last year and now she's Madam Prosecutor, as she's called. And I'm proud of her work.

And Jonathan Ellsworth who's my deputy minister with family services. I'm very grateful for his hard, diligent work. And Teresa Hughes, with Culture. And John Quirke. Thank you very much for your very good and diligent work that you did.

Also I would like to include adult educator Jackie Pierce (ph), who always had a clear vision of what courses are needed and what changes are required in the school. I thank all the staff as well who work hard to ensure good education is maintained and others who work or served as deputy minister. I thank them all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Before we go to item 6, we'll take a 15-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:57 and resumed at 16:18

Speaker: Item 6, Oral Questions. Oral Question. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 1448 – 6(2): What Question Would He Ask if Given the Opportunity

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my last questions of the 6th Assembly, I would like to offer ministers some choices. My questions today can be answered or responded to by either the Minister of Finance or the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, question period is a fundamental aspect of democracy, and question period is also a vital aspect of the duties undertaken by individual members. And as every member is aware, the rules are very explicit on who can ask questions and how questions can be asked.

As the minister had clearly stated during his member statement, throughout his three-term tenure in Assembly, he has spent the entire time sitting on that side of the aisle, as a minister. And since that being so, the minister has never had an opportunity to ask a question in this House.

The question that I would like to ask the minister today is: Would you like to ask me a question, and if so, what would it be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to my non-minister colleague, if I had to ask a question, Mr. Speaker, is why are the Montreal Canadians so great. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter, Applause*

Speaker: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have such an honour of being the first recipient of a minister's question in the Assembly. Although I do not have a supplementary question, as I cannot respond to that in the form of a question, because I just simply do not know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: No questions. Just for members, we are running low on time, so I'm asking them to shorten their preamble to questions and answers today. Thank you.

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

Oral Question 1449 – 6(2): NIHB Registrations

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health on the topic of the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs Moving Towards Improving the Health of Indigenous Peoples in Canada: Accessibility and Administration of the NIHB Program report.

Mr. Speaker, recommendation number 4 describes one of the recommendations "to identify and eliminate barriers the NIHB office has created that impede Indigenous Canadians from accessing basic, standard care by providing training for NIHB employees."

Mr. Speaker, some recent media coverage has highlighted a concern I've raised for a number of years, including during a lunch I was invited to with the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs with the Minister of Health during the first year of our term, where it was acknowledged that the registration of mental health professionals with non-insured health benefits was much too cumbersome and unnecessarily complicated.

Mr. Speaker, my first question is: Who is currently responsible for registering mental health professionals under non-insured health benefits? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

(interpretation ends) In terms of Non-Insured Health Benefits, as the member knows, the program does belong to Indigenous Services Canada, so matters when it comes to the program's guidelines, the program's administration, those largely fall to Indigenous Services Canada.

There are some areas where we, as the member knows, we do have administrative responsibility; but for the purpose of the member's question, I do believe that the answer is Indigenous Services Canada. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue I've highlighted in recent media I alluded to earlier, concerning a long-time-resident mental-health professional facing barriers facing non-insured health benefit programs and limiting access to Nunavummiut seeking help when most vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, this may appear to be a one-off; however, it highlights systemic issue of barriers that don't provide a streamlined process that healthcare professionals and clients seeking care.

Mr. Speaker, what discussions have occurred? And is there a plan going forward to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We had discussions with officials from Non-Insured Health Benefits. It has been at the staff level. There has been back and forth on the particular issue that the member highlights.

Department of Health is clear that we want to remove barriers. We want to provide access. We want more programs and services, particularly around mental health.

Looking at the Healing By Talking program, right now we have hundreds of Nunavummiut who are receiving regular counselling sessions with therapists that they develop a relationship with, and although it's not in person, the Healing By Talking program has been very successful. And that's an example of the type of work that we can do if Indigenous Services Canada works with us. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the minister's final days as health minister, will the minister commit to instructing his department officials to work with mental health officials who reside in Nunavut to maximize the accessibility of in-person care here in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can I guess reiterate the instruction I've already given to my officials in terms of this particular matter.

Mr. Speaker, it's important to keep in mind the Department of Health also has certain responsibilities around providing oversight and being able to assure, in terms of quality assurance, ensure that the services that are being provided are of the proper quality and that patients are being provided the quality service that they do deserve. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1450 – 6(2): Status of Ikur'raq Cabin Program

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I forgot to acknowledge and thank the research staff on the third floor.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) on January 21, the Department of Family Services announced that \$1 million would be available so that grants up to 50,000 could be allocated to non-profit societies, HTOs and municipalities for building cabins that would provide people with respite from overcrowding and homelessness.

On March 5, the minister rose in this place and announced that the department had issued this open call for proposal. Early this summer a constituent in Pond Inlet inquired about the program, and could not get any information.

My office tried to get information on their behalf, and after a very long time we received a reply from the department that the application deadline had passed in March. Can the minister explain why there was such a short window to apply for this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that question regarding the monies that were being made available to build cabins. It opened I think two summers ago, and it is still open, but when we opened up these grants, the funds were depleted right away, and so we do have problems with the applications that are way too many, way over 50,000. Thank you.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

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

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) efforts to get more information about the program have received no reply. It is not clear whether the funding had all been used up, if no one is running the program, or if this initiative has been cancelled.

Can the minister provide an update on how many applications were received by her department, and how much of the \$1 million in funding was allocated to those applications, and how many cabins were built. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your questions. To date we have had 36 applications.

As I indicated earlier, the deadline is up to March, and currently we have nine. One of them decided not to go through with the application. To date, the monies have been depleted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your response.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) the issue of homelessness is a very real concern in almost every community of Nunavut. Can the minister clearly indicate what the next step will be with respect to the Ikur'raq Cabin Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that question. Through social services, we usually apply for funds from the federal government, and we are reviewing what is being made available to alleviate the homelessness situation. We will go through that route.

I can't indicate what next steps will be taken, but I do know that we will keep applying for funds to alleviate the problem of homelessness. I can't talk about the details or what's going to happen in the future, but we will keep working with social services. We work closely together with the societies, and we have increased the monies for this program. Some funds are used for transitional housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1451 – 6(2): Activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation

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

Mr. Speaker, as you know, we recently held a televised committee hearing in this chamber on the report of the Auditor General on public housing in Nunavut. One of the concerns in the Auditor General's report indicated that a major funding agreement with the federal government will end after the 2027-2028 fiscal year.

Given the number of public housing units that Nunavut Housing Corporation can construct is directly affected by the funding available, the corporation is at risk of not meeting its construction targets.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday of last week, Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial ministers responsible for housing issued an announcement concerning their meeting that was held in Vancouver, which indicated with the expiry of the bilateral agreements under the National Housing Strategy in 2028, ministers committed to renewing the federal, provincial, and territorial partnership to ensure ongoing support for affordable housing.

Mr. Speaker, that does sound like good news, and I want to be sure. Can the minister confirm when a renewed agreement will be signed, and can he confirm whether the funding provided to Nunavut will increase, decrease, or remain the same as in the present agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our work with the federal government and our federal counterpart continues. It was very exciting to hear the commitment from the federal government to build 700 houses in Nunavut, and that commitment is real, Mr. Speaker, but we are continuing to work with our federal counterparts to ensure that before the expiration of the current agreement that there will be a new one, the details of which we will continue to work on until there is one.

Mr. Speaker, the housing corporation is still in meetings and continuing to negotiate and talk with our federal counterparts to ensure that housing is still a priority to the federal government, and we will have a new one in place hopefully ready to go before the other one expires.

I think when the federal government made this exciting new announcement sends a clear signal that the federal government is committed to building more homes across this country, and most definitely a priority is Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to turn to some recently announced programs that are being offered by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The elders housing program provides Nunavut homeowners aged 60 and over with the ability to apply for an annual preventative maintenance grant worth up to \$5,000 for such health and safety-focused activities of servicing furnaces, servicing of heat recovery ventilation equipment, cleaning of water tanks, and electrical inspections.

Mr. Speaker, I do applaud the Nunavut Housing Corporation for offering this type of support to our elders and seniors, and I strongly encourage elders and seniors in Iqaluit and other communities to take a close look at the program to see if it fits for them.

Can the minister confirm how many residents of Iqaluit have successfully applied for support under this program during the current 2025-2026 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, different programs are broken down by how many applications they were. I don't have detail of exactly how many were applied from Iqaluit, but in the home ownership assistance program we've had four applicants, and four were approved.

The Nunavut down payment assistance program, so far of the 21 applications, 18 have been approved so far.

In the home renovation program, we have had 53 applicants, and 35 to date have been approved.

In the emergency repair program, Mr. Speaker, this is taking a lot of applications, which is good to see that people are taking advantage of this. Of that, 42 have been approved to date.

In the elder housing program, we've had 48 applications, and so far nine have been approved; not to say that there won't be more approved, but those are to date the number of applicants and how many have been approved so far.

The numbers will most likely change as they go through the processes on each of those different programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Before I sit down, I would be more than happy to provide you, hopefully before the day is over, the details if we can get them for you for Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, minister for that commitment. My interest was piqued on this because I did help some of my constituents to avail of that program.

As the minister will recall, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced in November 2024 that a new supported housing capital program would enable community organizations to access capital funding to help with the construction of transitional housing units, shelters, homes for elders, and other supportive housing units.

Information provided by the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that it has approved 4 million for the Uquutaq Society to undertake a variety of initiatives here in the city. In addition to funding for projects in Arviat and Cambridge Bay, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has also provided \$100,000 to the Francophone Association of Nunavut to undertake feasibility studies related to social housing and affordable housing.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide some additional details about these initiatives, and can he assure me that agreements for public funding respecting new social housing units and new affordable housing units will require private organizations to open their application processes to residents from all cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that. I don't have much to add onto the information that my colleague already has put out, but the Nunavut Housing Corporation is committed and working to ensure that all those programs that could be available are made available to all Nunavummiut. I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1452 – 6(2): Marine Infrastructure

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make sure that my constituents are well informed that this is our last session. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure concerning the issue of Qikiqtarjuaq's new sea port.

As the minister is aware, he sent a letter yesterday to me and other members of the Legislative Assembly concerning this important infrastructure project.

(interpretation ends) In his letter he indicated in part:

“On August 21, 2025 the Financial Management Board decided to cease work on this project upon completion of design this fall.”

Mr. Speaker, when I raised this subject of the deep sea port during our recent sitting of September 10, (interpretation) just recently (interpretation ends), the minister did not mention this decision.

Mr. Speaker, my first question for the minister is this: Why did he not clearly inform the House at the time about the decision that was made back in August? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question, asking the question again in regards to this issue.

Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, I'm sure, they did not, first heard about the Qikiqtarjuaq Deep Sea Port, and also we had stated that there was something said that it would be part of the Building Canada Program. The planning will continue. After the design has been put down, we will see how it's going to be.

And with the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, they have made some considerations on the same matter. We're still under discussions how this project can proceed in the future. Thank you.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response in the House. I know sometimes it's very disappointing, but especially when you've been advocating for it. Even though with that, although he mentioned the rest, I would like to ask additional questions in regards to this.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) the minister also sent a second letter yesterday that in which he wrote that:

"The decision to cease work on the project has been made giving consideration to demonstrated interests within the private sector to expedite construction of a port facility in Qikiqtarjuaq. The department is working with the Department of Justice to identify a mechanism to manage the disposal and the transfer of planning and design information completed on GN's Qikiqtarjuaq port project to the Inuit-led consortium interested in building a port in Qikiqtarjuaq."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify which organizations are participating in this Inuit-led.

(interpretation) thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) As I mentioned, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation is joining forces with the Arctic Economic Development Corporation. I believe that's the title of the consortium.

And Mr. Speaker, we are wanting to make sure that there's the best chance of success for this project. We are still in support of getting the design funds completed and to ensure that we go through the appropriate processes so that it can go forward and advance to the next stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Minister. And, yes, we do want to see this project go ahead if that's going to be the way set up with the consortium.

With that, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) he also wrote that:

“I anticipate this administrative work will continue throughout the fall during the writ period, with future discussion on capital investments related to marine infrastructure during being addressed through the 7th Assembly.”

Can the minister provide an update today on the estimated cost of this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can share what I have. According to my notes, we have the approved budget for this project, \$53.4 million, and this is comprised of 25 per cent Government of Nunavut funds and 75 per cent federal vote 04 funds.

Based on the design work completed to date, I believe the port could cost upwards of \$250 million to construct. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1453 – 6(2): Airport Infrastructure

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and in regards to the Rankin Inlet airport.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, the Legislative Assembly recently approved \$4 million in supplementary funding for a new Rankin Inlet airport terminal building project.

For the benefit of my constituents who are following our proceedings today, can the minister provide an update on how this funding will be spent, and can he confirm when the new Rankin Inlet airport terminal building is expected to begin operation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for that question. The department would like to thank the Assembly for the supplementary appropriation that was approved in the recent past.

Mr. Speaker, this fund is needed to provide the contractor's delay claims, as well as replenish the project's contingency budget. At this time we are still working with the contractors and determining the possible date for occupancy to complete the work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, I was very pleased to have strongly supported funding for the new airport terminal building in Chesterfield Inlet, and I was very pleased to have participated in the official opening of the building earlier this year.

Can the minister confirm what will happen with Rankin Inlet's old airport terminal building after the new one becomes operational. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Rankin Inlet airport terminal building project consists of two phases, and the first phase which we're currently working towards is the brand new terminal being completed.

Then the following phase would involve demolishing the old terminal building and building a new wing on that same location. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, many public buildings are named for distinguished Inuit and Nunavummiut. A good example of this is Peter Pitseolak High School, in Kinngait, Victor Sammurtok School in Chesterfield Inlet, and Maani Ulujuk High School in Rankin Inlet.

As the minister is aware, many airports in Canada are named for former prime ministers and other leaders. However, very few if any airports in Nunavut are named for distinguished individuals.

Will the minister commit to having his department undertake a public campaign to invite nominations from Nunavummiut to propose appropriate names for our territory's airport. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll take that under advisement and consider what we can do around this area.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any other airports in Nunavut that have been, or that commemorate distinguished members of the community, but I'll look at that. Perhaps Alex Sammurtok airport might be in order, or Lorne Kusugak airport might be a good option. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1454 – 6(2): Climate Change

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request the environment minister on climate change. I'll start off with an easy one first, as this is our last sitting day.

Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot about the carbon emissions in Nunavut, and we have to cut down our carbon emissions, because it's bad for the environment.

Just for the education of Nunavummiut and us members in the House, I would like to ask the minister how much does one gallon, if you burn one gallon of gasoline, how much carbon dioxide does that produce, so we have a good picture of it. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm told seven pounds. I stand to be corrected, but seven pounds is my response to this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a former environment minister, I can correct the current environment minister. One gallon of gasoline produces 20 pounds of carbon dioxide, but one pound of gasoline produces six pounds of CO₂.

Staying on the topic, Mr. Speaker, the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area was made by the federal government, and I know it's not under the responsibility of the Nunavut environment minister, but that marine protected area was made and I would like to ask the minister: Making it a marine protected area, how will that protect the ice, as it was called, "The Last Ice", how will that protect the ice from melting?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that particular area of concern I believe is the Inuit-led Department of Environment does have a stake in this. But it's Parks Canada that led that work with Inuit as partners. So perhaps they are better suited for that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my suggestion would be keep the research ships out of it. If the research ships don't break up the ice, it doesn't break up and melt. That would be my suggestion.

On a more serious one, still on climate change, I'll ask environment minister if he's had any talks with the infrastructure minister to get climate change funding from the federal government to repair or replace the terminal in Arviat, which is sagging and may come apart due to the permafrost melting. Can the minister tell me if there has been any discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker. I know that the infrastructure minister has been a huge topic around permafrost melt, and the environmental impacts and effects that they are felt across the territory, but also it's an area where we look at trying to prepare and plan our buildings to be more stable, more robust when we're planning and preparing to build them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1455 – 6(2): Arctic Ground Search and Rescue

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question is to the Minister of Community Services. Again, the focus on Arctic ground search and rescue.

I would like to ask the Minister of Community Services when it comes to emergency management, does that department have the numbers of how many searches happened during the fiscal year of 2024 and 2025 across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm trying my best to get that detail, but it is a significant number that our search and rescue helps throughout the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to improvement, how does the search and rescue happen in Nunavut? I believe that number is well over a hundred.

So when it comes to public safety committee's announcement of \$1.2 million that will be invested for the next three projects entitled "Closing the Gap", I would like to ask the minister: Will there be officials from the Department of Community Services on the division of emergency management? Will there be an official going down to a round table meeting when it comes to improving the Arctic search and rescue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is the plan, to include not just our divisions, but those that are involved in the search and rescue. It is essential. Their information is collected through roundtables. That is going to help have a significant impact in terms of how search and rescue is done in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad the minister mentioned that central part, as he knows that Sanirajak is pretty located in central location in Nunavut.

Now my final question would be: As I have been trying to advocate for Amittummiut to have a station, a hub up in Sanirajak, as there was a DEW Line, a hangar and our air strip is long enough for big plane.

I guess my question would be, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to closing the gap of how to improve search and rescue, will there be enough first responders included when it comes to a roundtable due to the fact that, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to saving lives, it's a matter of life and death?

It's one of the critical challenges that we face up in the north. I would like to ask the minister: Will there be someone from Igloolik and Sanirajak or across Nunavut that will be involved in the roundtable when it comes to improving search and rescue in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for continuing to raise awareness of search and rescue throughout the territory, and the need for it to be

located in Nunavut. That is something that, between the premier and myself, we've been advocating for with our federal counterparts who has the infrastructure and who has the planes and the helicopters to be able to do searches throughout Canada. That is something that we will continue to advocate.

In terms of which communities will be representative of in that roundtable, I think it's too preliminary but it's something that our Nunavut Emergency Management will coordinate, and if there are needs for community members, definitely I'll be in support of that and encourage the division of making sure that we have the right people in through those roundtables. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1456 – 6(2): Canadian Heritage Rivers

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased that my last set of questions for this Assembly are on the subject of the beautiful heritage rivers that are in the vicinity of beautiful Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I tabled a copy of our recent exchange of correspondence concerning the implementation of the [] Canadian Heritage Rivers Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement. For the benefit of Baker Lake residents who are following our proceedings today, I would first like to ask the minister to provide an update on the implementation of agreement in relation to the Kazan and Thelon rivers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his question. As required by the Canadian heritage river systems and the corresponding Inuit impact and benefit agreement for heritage rivers in Nunavut, there's a 20-year monitoring report for Kazan and Thelon, as well as the Soper heritage river, which happens to be in my riding. They have now been completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for the response. I'm glad that part has been completed.

Mr. Speaker, since today is our last sitting day, I will not ask the minister to table the report if it's not ready, but I will ask him to confirm that it has been provided to the

mayor and municipal council of Baker Lake, as well as the community's hunters and trappers organization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the department issues to all the stakeholders involved, so if my colleague is asking for that and if it hasn't been disseminated, and if the report hasn't been shared with interested parties, I'll work with my officials on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the minister will also recall, his recent reply to me indicated that his department has hired a coordinator of heritage rivers planning and management, and that this position is based in Baker Lake and staffed by an Inuk. That's good news, very good news. Thank you, Minister.

Can the minister describe how his department is working with the Kivalliq Inuit Association and federal government regarding future priorities for the Kazan and Thelon rivers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my department has and will continue to work with region Inuit associations as well as Nunavut Tunngavik, as well as our federal partners.

Back in November 2024 we agreed to share information and provide updates on this important heritage rivers impact and benefit agreement, and we'll continue to proceed accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1457 – 6(2): Driver's Licences

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Community Services concerning the driver's licence that I feel should be improved, because some of the communities do not readily have access to driver instructors and we also have a deadline for every driver's licence we get, any work towards that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are constantly trying to make changes and improvements. We know it affects people because of lack of staffing. Sometimes we have to hire someone outside of our staff to conduct these. And we have also at the hamlets, if they want to take on the responsibility, we won't hesitate to have them hire instructors, not having to wait for a long time until someone arrives. These are areas we work on, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the minister can agree with me that the driver's licence can be also applied or used elsewhere in Canada outside of Nunavut.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Also we have two licences, one for Nunavut only one and one inside anywhere in Canada, and also a driver's licence that is recognized internationally. It depends on what arrangements are made between individuals and motor vehicles.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the minister just already answered my next question, but for the benefit of my constituents, what schedule is there for instructors to arrive in my constituency of Coral Harbour and Nauyasat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. He wasn't satisfied with one of the questions, but we are constantly working in the areas. We want to provide the licences, two options, Nunavut-only driver's licence that is now possible; and also a Canada-wide licence, because there are also barriers for those who wish to have a driver's licence and some may not be able to drive outside of Canada.

When the instructors are to arrive in the communities, I don't have the information at this time, but before he leaves, I will make sure through my officials to give that response to my colleague. And I also like to thank him for raising many questions to myself previously, too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1458 – 6(2): Insurance for Municipal Infrastructure

Ms. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community Services. Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of insurance coverage for municipal infrastructure. A number of my colleagues have also been raising concerns about the number of buildings in Nunavut that have been destroyed by fire or other causes in recent years. As the minister is well aware, I have been focussing my recent questions on the status of replacement of the Igloolik arena.

Mr. Speaker, as I previously noted, the government issued a request for proposals in August of this year for an actuarial and compliance review of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities' insurance exchange, which is commonly referred to as NAMIX. Mr. Speaker, information published by the government indicates that the request for proposals closed without any bids being submitted.

Can the minister confirm when the request for proposals will be re-issued. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can do it as soon as possible. We do need to get that issue rectified in order for our municipalities to have a successful insurance program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister. I hope you continue work hard on this. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue last week, the minister stated that, "a number of concerns have been raised to me on this program, and working with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, we are directly involved in trying to rectify some of the programs. One of the major problems is the cost of replacement has skyrocketed, to the value of the insured buildings. There's a huge difference and a huge gap that is causing that, and some of the communities have not necessarily kept up to speed, in terms of their insurance."

Can the minister describe some of the factors that have been causing the increase in the gap. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the number of fires is one big gap. As there are more and more, that puts a lot of pressure on the insurance, and that's throughout the territory.

The other factor is, and we have felt it throughout and my minister colleague has alluded to a number of times in this House is the cost of building buildings. The prices escalations have jumped really high, not to mention the tariffs, the threat of tariffs that has been looming, which gives a lot of uncertainty to an industry very reliant on when you're building infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the minister. (interpretation ends) Can the minister describe some of the specific solutions to these issues that are currently being considered. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Infusion of dollars into the insurance program is one of the solutions. The other one is to give the communities the tools on the risk of fires and provide that education information which our fire marshals are tasked to do and will be doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1459 – 6(2): Solid Waste Management Facilities

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker; my friend. I can talk to you again. My questions today are for the Minister of Community Services, so here it goes.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, his department provided important resources and support this past summer to the municipality of Kugaaruk as it battled a major fire at the community solid waste management facility, which is commonly referred to as the landfill.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the residents who are following our proceedings today, can the minister provide a summary of what resources his department provided and what lessons were learned from the experience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I will try and respond accordingly. Mr. Speaker, a lot of the resources that were provided were in-house, and the Iqaluit fire department even sent some of their firefighters, which we're very thankful for.

I think the lessons learned on this is that we do lack our firefighters throughout the territory, but by working together and pulling resources is the way to go. I know on our southern borders there has been numerous wild fires that a lot of the resources have to be pulled together and that, and those lessons learned are being collected and will be very helpful for our territory in terms of being able to respond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister for your response. Being this last day I thought I would make it a little fun, with music.

So I'm going to continue. Over the past week a number of my colleagues have asked important questions about the status of investigations into recent fires that have destroyed homes, community halls, and arenas in Iqaluit, Igloolik, and Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, landfill fires are not uncommon, and we know that our constituents are concerned about the possible health risk what when potential hazardous materials are burned. Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe how his department is working with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to develop strategies and technologies to prevent landfill fires. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if there is a strategy on landfill fires, but a lot of work and efforts have gone on throughout the years to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and the hamlets, in terms of cleaning up the landfills and making sure that they are separated and segregated, so the batteries and old oil are in separate areas, so in order to prevent a lot of that. And that work is continuing.

I thank the municipalities for participating in doing a lot of these front-end work, too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Once again, thank you, Mr. Speaker, my friend. This is the last time I'll be talking to you again.

Mr. Speaker, I'm confident that the minister will agree with me when I say that all Nunavut municipalities should have modern solid waste management facilities and infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, the Legislative Assembly approved capital funding during last year's fall sitting for local government planning and design

initiatives. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that this line item has been transferred to the new Department of Community Services.

Mr. Speaker, this is my last question. Can the minister describe how his department is working with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to identify funding for solid waste management facility upgrades in both Kugaaruk and Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've been fortunate to have different varieties of funding that comes through our federal programs, and within our own budgets that are here whenever a capital budget is presented. My work, our work with Transportation and Infrastructure is hands-on on just about all the municipal asks, and we have our municipalities involved in this, too, whether it's in their integrated capital plans, and if they are, then that's where we start looking at the prioritization.

So it's work between the government and municipalities to make sure those projects do get funded, and that's something we'll continue to work even including the two communities that my colleague represents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1460 – 6(2): Medical Supports for Outpost Camps

Mr. Anavilok: One more question for this term. When I think about it, it could affect five of the ministers, so I am going to direct it to the premier. There's a couple that goes to Contwoyto Lake every so much of the year, every five, six months and that's right close to the border, too, the Nunavut and NWT boarder and that's where all the harvesting is happening, too. And that outpost camp could be possibly used for education.

There was an issue last year I think, I a health issue, and the couple, they got a hold of NWT because it was closer. I mean, the hospital is there in Yellowknife. They tried getting help and they were refused, and I thought that was kind of odd. I mean, there's safety issue, and they are 160 miles away from Kugluktuk. Anyway, they tried to get help but they were refused.

My one question is, can this concern be noted for the next government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if I could sing, otherwise I would probably be booted out of here, so I won't attempt to sing, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank my colleague for his question and that being the final question, as well. Yes, I mean look into that. I don't know the particulars around the specific incident, but I will check in with the different departments that would have played a role, Mr. Speaker, so that we could learn from it as well, and that we correct some of the barriers or challenges our constituents face.

So yes, I will look into this and get back directly to the member once I've had a chance to meet with a few of my colleagues here right before the writ drops. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. I have no more names.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: 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. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 471 – 6(2): 2024-2025 Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission Annual Report

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2024-2025 Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 472 – 6(2): List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. I have one document to table today, which is a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements that the clerk will show I was the last to table a document at the 6th Assembly.

>> *Applause*

Thank you.

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

Tabled Document 473 – 6(2): Letter from Constituency, Karla Evaloakjuk, Re Food Insecurity

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter from one of my constituents, Karla Evaloakjuk, the vice principal of Ulaajuk Elementary School in Pond Inlet. The letter addresses the concerns and challenges respecting food insecurity in our community and its impact on students. The issue of food insecurity is a critical one for Nunavummiut. I encourage all members to review this letter with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: My record no longer stands.

>>*Laughter*

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motions For First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters, Bill 79, with Mr. Hickes in the chair. Stay in your seats and we'll continue. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 17:30 and Committee commenced at 17:32*

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 to order. In the Committee of the Whole we have the following items, or item to deal with: Bill 79. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

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

(interpretation ends) I would like to review the final bill of the 6th Legislative Assembly, Bill 79. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Is the committee in agreement we deal with Bill 79?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 79 – An Act to Amend The Hospital Insurance And Health and Social Services Administration Act – Consideration in Committee

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

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

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them in. And I just while everyone gets settled, Mr. Main, you can introduce your officials and proceed directly to your opening comments, please.

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

(interpretation ends) Thank you for the opportunity to present Bill 79, *An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act*.

Mr. Chair, I would like to introduce the officials who are joining me today, to my right here, we have Deputy Minister Megan Hunt, Department of Health; to my left, your right, Victoria Madsen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Inuusivut, Mental Health and Addictions, also Department of Health; also here in the Assembly we have Carlin Twomey, Acting Director, Policy and Planning; and from the Department of Justice, Jenai Kleiman, Legislative Counsel for Bill 79.

Bill 79 proposes targeted amendments to the *Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act* to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework for recovery and healing facilities in Nunavut, notably Aqqusariaq, formerly known as the Nunavut Recovery Centre.

Aqqusariaq is a \$83.7 million trilateral initiative between the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Government of Canada. Construction commenced in August 2023 and is on schedule for substantial completion by March 2026. This facility will have 24 beds for in-patient care, as well as out-patient support. Programming has been designed to offer Inuit-led, trauma-informed care rooted in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and reflective of each of Nunavut's regions. The proposed amendments to the *Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act* will:

- Expand regulation-making authority to encompass client rights, safety, and culturally appropriate care;
- Establish qualifications for personnel and standards for facility operations;

- Permit the development of regulations respecting privacy, confidentiality, and access to information; and
- Increase maximum fines from \$500 to \$5,000 for individuals, and \$10,000 for corporate entities, aligning with the new Mental Health Act and comparable to legislated amounts in other jurisdictions.

These amendments are essential to ensure that facilities like Aqqusariaq operate safely and effectively under a not-for-profit governance model, with appropriate oversight and accountability mechanisms.

The development of Aqqusariaq has been guided by extensive consultations with Inuit across Nunavut, including targeted interviews in 2020 and 2024 with over 100 individuals who bring lived experience and subject-matter expertise.

In addition, the Cultural and Lived Experience Advisory Committee, comprised of eleven Inuit elders, has provided critical guidance in shaping the centre's programming and governance to ensure it reflects Inuit values and priorities.

It is imperative that this legislative framework be in place prior to Aqqusariaq's opening to facilitate the development of necessary regulations. Delays in enacting these amendments could impede the centre's ability to provide the intended services to Nunavummiut.

Thank you for your consideration of Bill 79. I welcome your questions and comments. (interpretation) This concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation 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 79, *An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration 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 one motion to amend the bill was adopted during the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee.

As a number of the amendments to the legislation relate to the investigation and reporting of critical incidents, this motion ensured that a definition of ‘critical incident’ was also provided for within the context of the legislation.

This concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. There are any other general comments to the opening comments? Seeing none, we have before us Bill 79, *An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act*. Clause 1, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5, Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Members agree to Bill 79 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 79 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I would like to thank my officials for appearing before the committee. I know that for many people Aqqusariaq has been expecting to open, and they worked very hard. Ms. Madsen and Ms. Hunt worked very hard and all of our officials and staff I thank, all of them. And as well NTI,

for providing support in regards to preparing the Aqqusariaq. I know that it will have a great benefit to Nunavummiut, which I know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Members may be excused. As the committee has completed our business of today, I will now rise and report progress to the speaker. Thank you.

>>*Committee adjourned at 17:41 and House resumed at 17:41*

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 its final bill, Bill 79, and that Bill 79 is immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you.

Speaker: The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Mr. Savikataaq. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Main.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 79 – An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act – Third Reading

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

(interpretation ends) I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 79, *An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act* be read for the third time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried and Bill 79 has been read for the third time and is ready for assent.

Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if the Commissioner is ready to assent to the bills in the chambers.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Aariak (interpretation): Please be seated. This is your final day.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following bills:

- Bill 57, *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act*;
- Bill 73, *Planning Act*;
- Bill 76, *An Act to Amend the Inuit Language Protection Act and the Official Languages Act*;
- Bill 78, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act*;
- Bill 79, *An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act*;
- Bill 81, *Interim Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2026-2027*;
- Bill 82, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2025-2026*;
- Bill 83, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2024-2025*;
- Bill 84, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2024-2025*; and
- Bill 85, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2025-2026*.

In July of this year I signed certain instruments under the federal *Nunavut Act* and the territorial *Nunavut Elections Act*, as you're all aware.

(interpretation ends) In July of this year I signed certain instruments under the federal *Nunavut Act* and the territorial *Nunavut Elections Act*.

The 6th Legislative Assembly is dissolved as of September 21, 2025. (interpretation) I know you will remember that date for a long time.

The 6th Assembly will be dissolved as of September 21, 2025, and the seventh territorial general election will be held on October 27, 2025.

I look forward to delivering the opening address later this year, at the first sitting of the 7th Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation ends) I look forward to delivering the opening address later this year at the first sitting of the 7th Legislative Assembly.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) For those of you who have announced that you will not be seeking re-election, I thank you for your service to the territory when you were elected. I speak from personal experience when I say that holding public electoral office is an honourable calling, as you're all aware.

(interpretation ends) I encourage Nunavummiut to exercise their democratic rights as Canadians during the upcoming election period. (interpretation) I encourage Nunavummiut to exercise their during the upcoming election period.

(interpretation ends) This is a time of transition, as we move forward from one Assembly to the next. Summer turns to fall.

(interpretation) This is a time of transition, as we move from one Assembly to the next. Summer turns to fall. I wish you safe travels and good health.

Thank you.

Speaker: Item 22, Orders of the Day. This being the final day of the 6th Assembly, there are no Orders of the Day to be read by our clerk.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker's Statement

Speaker: Before we conclude the final sitting of the 6th Legislative Assembly, I wish to say a few words.

It was almost a dozen years ago that I rose in this House for the first time to make a statement as the newly elected member of the 4th Legislative Assembly for the newly created constituency of Gjoa Haven. On that day, I listened to a number of statements made by newly elected members who were also beginning their first terms, including statements by Mr. Hickes, Mr. Joanase, and Mr. Savikataaq. As Mr. Sammurtok will recall, he made his first statement as a newly elected member shortly thereafter.

Although over a decade has passed since that time, it often feels just like yesterday. I want to thank all of my colleagues for their support to me as your speaker during the life of the 6th Legislative Assembly.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you very much. I also want to express my appreciation to the deputy speaker and deputy chairs of the Committee of the Whole for the hard work and long hours that they have put in over the past four years, keeping proceedings on track during our review of budgets and bills.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: I also want to thank Commissioner Aariak for her warmth and graciousness. Travelling with her to a number of our territory's beautiful communities in recent years as part of the Legislative Assembly's mace tour was a very memorable experience.

I can tell you all the students in every school, they were only interested in the mace, not the speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: I also want to thank Commissioner Aariak for joining me in paying tribute to the memory of recently passed former members who represented Nunavut constituencies before and after division.

Over the past four years we have lost a number of distinguished individuals, including Rebekah Uqi Williams, Tommy Enuaraq, Kane Tologanak, Steve Mapsalak, and Red Pedersen. We honour their memory today.

Every member of this House knows that public life is both rewarding and challenging. Working together to make our communities and territory a better place than it is today for our constituents is a tremendously satisfying experience. However, the periods of time spent away from family can be very painful as well. I want to thank my family for their incredible support, their endless patience over the past dozen years while I have served in this House.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: I want to especially thank my wife for keeping everything together at home while I was working here in Iqaluit. She's a very strong person and I would like to thank her very much. I could not have done it without her and the children that we have, as well as our grandchildren.

I would also like to publicly express my appreciation to all of the officers and employees of the Legislative Assembly for their dedication. I thank our Assembly.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: I thank our recently retired clerk, John Quirke and our Integrity Commissioner Katherine Peterson for their wise advice to all members.

I thank our incredible interpreters.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: For ensuring that the work words that we speak are understood by all who listen. And every time we have disagreements, they also feel it when they spoke. I want to thank also one of our Inuinnaqtun interpreters. She is retiring. Her name is Agnes Allen.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: I thank our pages, table officers, and all of the staff behind the scenes who are essential to our proceedings. I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge one of our employees who will be retiring shortly. Siobhan Moss has served in this office of the Legislative Assembly since the year 2000.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: During her quarter century of dedicated service, she has provided support to the speakers and members of all six of our legislatures. Thank you very much, Siobhan.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: It has been the honour of my life to serve as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Gjoa Haven. I'll take this opportunity today to formally and publicly announce and confirm that I will not be seeking another term of office, although I very much look forward to being active in the life of the community, it is time to move on.

Over the past dozen years the people and leaders of Gjoa Haven have worked hard to strengthen the community. I pay tribute to all who have served on the municipal council and other important bodies, including the district education authority, the local housing organization's board of directors, and hunters and trappers organizations.

Although we have many challenges to overcome, I am proud to have advocated for and supported actions to address our community's priorities, including the need for new housing and infrastructure. I also want to thank the many individuals who volunteered their time and energy to our community and its residents.

I want to share with you all today a recent dialogue that I had with Father Lukasz Zajac, who has been coordinating work to address food security in Gjoa Haven. I want to thank him for his efforts. He told me to always keep in mind that it takes strength to not give up in the face of adversity.

We know that many challenges lie ahead and the path is not always smooth. I want to encourage my successor, whoever he or she is, to never give up, and to always keep in mind the importance of living up to the trust and confidence placed in them by the people.

I will do my best to help and ensure a smooth transition in the weeks ahead, and I look forward to the good work that will be undertaken by the members at the next Legislative Assembly.

With that, I again thank you all. This House stands adjourned.

>> *Applause*

>> *House adjourned at 18:08*

