

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. David Joanasié
(South Baffin)

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. David Akeegok
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College

Hannah Angootealuk
(Aivilik)

Edward Attagutaluk
(Aggu)

Hon. Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

Hon. George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Deputy Premier of Nunavut; Minister of Justice; Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut; Minister responsible for the Labour Standards Board; Minister responsible for the Human Rights Tribunal

Jamie Kablutsiak
(Arviat South)

Gordon Kautuk
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Brian Koonoo
(Tununiq)

Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister of Environment; Minister of Energy

Simon Kuliktana
(Kugluktuk)

Hon. Cecile Nelvana Lyall
(Netsilik)

Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Hon. John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of Finance; Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council; Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Board

Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)

Fred Pedersen
(Cambridge Bay)

David Porter
(Gjoa Haven)

Abraham Qammaniq
(Amittuq)

(Vacant)
(Hudson Bay)

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Hon. Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

Minister of Community Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation; Minister responsible for Mines; Minister responsible for Trade

Hon. Annie Tattuinee
(Rankin Inlet South)

Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

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(Quttiktuq)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Members Present:

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok, Ms. Hannah Angootealuk, Mr. Edward Attagutaluk, Hon. Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Jamie Kablutsiak, Mr. Gordon Kautuk, Hon. Brian Koonoo, Mr. Simon Kuliktana, Hon. Cecile Nelvana Lyall, Hon. John Main, Mr. Johnny Mike, Mr. Fred Pedersen, Mr. David Porter, Mr. Abraham Qammaniq, Hon. Craig Simailak, Mr. Steven Taqtu, Hon. Annie Tattuinee.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. David Joanasie) (interpretation): Before we commence, Mr. Simailak, lead us in prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Good afternoon MLAs and people of Nunavut. Today I hope we don't hear any more resignations from the MLAs. To the *Orders of the Day*, Item 2. The Premier of Nunavut, Premier Main.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 48 – 7(2): Devolution Update

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's great to see you in your Speaker uniform.

Mr. Speaker, Devolution of lands and natural resources from the Government of Canada to the Government of Nunavut is a significant achievement. It will create greater opportunities for Nunavummiut to participate in resource development decisions and policy development, ensuring that lands and resources are managed in ways that reflect Nunavut priorities and values. (interpretation ends) Work to prepare for the transfer of responsibilities on April 1, 2027 is well underway. The GN continues to make steady progress with partners at the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on all aspects of implementation.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) our government's Namminiqsurniq Scholarship Program, which provides ten scholarships to students pursuing studies related to Devolution, continues. The 2026 application period is now open and closes June 30, 2026. I encourage Nunavut students to apply.

Mr. Speaker, work has advanced on deciding the organizational structure that will support new devolved responsibilities. Our priorities are to ensure continuity of services, maintain public confidence, and support employees and communities throughout the transition. We also aim to support opportunities for Inuit employment, training, and career advancement.

To support these goals, the Government of Nunavut has determined that a new department will be established, creating a single point of access for land and resource development matters. Bringing these functions together will strengthen collaboration, improve decision making, and provide Nunavummiut and stakeholders with a clear and accessible point of contact. This model will preserve the expertise of the current federal team while integrating new functions into the Government of Nunavut. By aligning legislative authority within one department and under one minister, we will streamline decision making, reduce delays, and improve efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the new department will be called the Department of Mines, Natural Resources, and Land, or MNRL. Working with Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, we have also identified the Inuktitut name: (interpretation Department of Mines, Natural Resources, and Land. (interpretation ends) The new department's mandate includes the administration, regulation, and sustainable development of Nunavut's natural resources. This includes public lands and fresh-water management, oversight of mineral and oil and gas development, and promotion of geoscience and mineral exploration through a Nunavut Geological Survey.

The department will work closely with Inuit organizations, institutions of public government, and other stakeholders to ensure resource development and land management deliver long term benefits for Nunavummiut. Its work will be guided by Inuit *Qaujimagajatuqangit* and in particular, *Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq*.

Mr. Speaker, this decision marks an important step in preparing Nunavut for devolution. Much work remains ahead. Implementation will require careful planning, strong partnerships, and continued work with employees, Inuit organizations, industry, and communities. Our Government remains committed to ensuring we are ready to deliver when responsibilities are transferred.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Hickes.

Minister's Statement 49 – 7(2): Modernizing Fuel Delivery and Billing Technology

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Petroleum Products Division is currently modernizing its fuel delivery and billing systems through the rollout of a new enterprise system called Petroplus.

Mr. Speaker and Members, The division's current system was inherited from the Government of the Northwest Territories, and has been in operation for more than 25 years.

The new Petroplus system includes upgraded billing, inventory and operational management tools, and rugged mobile devices installed in fuel delivery trucks and dispensing locations to capture deliveries in real time.

Mr. Speaker, these improvements are expected to enhance inventory management, strengthen financial oversight, improve operational efficiency, and support better service delivery across Nunavut's fuel supply chain.

Mr. Speaker, implementation of the new Petroplus system is now complete across all Kivalliq communities, as well as in Kimmirut, Kinngait, and Sanikiluaq in the Qikiqtaaluk region. Rollout is underway in the Kitikmeot region, with the remaining Qikiqtaaluk communities expected to follow in July and August this year. The division expects the system to be fully implemented across all Nunavut communities by fall 2026.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister for Family Services, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Minister's Statement 50 – 7(2): Support for Out of Territory Placements

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the excellent work of our client liaison officers. When a child or young person must travel outside the territory for care or medical treatment, it is a difficult reality for families and for all Nunavummiut. Whether a parent has made the decision to place their child in care so they can access the complex and long-term medical treatments they need, or a child has been placed out of territory through child protection as a last resort, we recognize that these young people find themselves in unfamiliar environments, and far from culture and language.

When staff and families determine that this path is necessary for a child's care or safety, they commit to a plan that maintains cultural connection and works toward reunifying families as quickly as possible.

Every child or youth placed out of territory is supported by a courtesy worker from the local jurisdiction, and one of our own client liaison officers, who provide well-being and cultural support in the placement community.

Mr. Speaker, I recently spent an afternoon in Ottawa with four of the client liaison officers working for the Department of Family Services, and I can assure you, this team is deeply committed to the Inuit in their care. Barbara Sevigny, Ooleepeeka Shoo, Carmen Kootoo, and Justin Rheame offered thoughtful analysis of their work, strong advocacy for their clients, and practical ideas for how we can do things better. They are also helping our department improve cultural training, so that foster homes and care facilities better understand Inuit knowledge and the way of life in our communities.

We have made many other improvements through the *Ilagiitsiarniq* Strategic Plan: requiring more family visits with children, strengthening communication between parents and foster parents, and providing better supports for family reunification. Our department has completed reviews of every placement facility in partner jurisdictions to ensure they meet our standards of care, and our quality assurance staff continue to review files for required status updates.

Mr. Speaker, this work will continue. We will keep strengthening the supports available to children, youth, and their families, and I will keep this House updated as that progress unfolds. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Tattuinee.

Minister's Statement 51 – 7(2): Progress on Workplace Injury Prevention

Hon. Annie Tattuinee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak today about workplace safety in Nunavut and highlight the progress being made to strengthen prevention efforts and reduce injuries.

We continue to see a decrease in the number of time loss injuries among Nunavut workers. In 2019, the WSCC recorded 2.39 time loss injuries per 100 workers in Nunavut. By 2025, that number has decreased to 1.45. This key national indicator

measures the number of workers who experienced an injury or illness serious enough to cause them to miss time from work.

Mr. Speaker, while these figures show important progress, they also remind us that there is still more work to do. Every workplace injury affects workers, families, and communities. Even one serious injury or loss of life is one too many.

In 2025, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission strengthened its prevention efforts through several new workplace safety initiatives. This includes direct targeted support and tailored guidance for employers with higher-than-average injury rates.

The Worker's Safety and Compensation Commission also launched a new public campaign to increase awareness of workers' rights and developed a Workplace Safety Planning Guide to help employers better understand their legal responsibilities and build stronger safety programs. Funding for training and education initiatives was expanded through the Occupational Health and Safety Funding Program, including support for first aid training in the Kivalliq region.

These actions are part of the Worker's Safety and Compensation Commission's 2023–2027 Strategic Plan, Paths Towards Safety, and reflect a continued commitment to working with workers, employers and safety partners to reduce workplace injuries across Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Community Services, Mr. Simailak.

Minister's Statement 52 – 7(2): Celebrating Inuit Storytelling Through Film and Television

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the continued growth and success of Nunavut's film and television industry, and to honour the Inuit storytellers, filmmakers, broadcasters, artists, and cultural leaders who continue to share our stories with audiences across Canada and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, 2025 marks an important milestone for Inuktut broadcasting, with the first anniversary of Uvagut TV as a national Inuit language channel.

Since receiving mandatory carriage status from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, Uvagut TV has become an important platform for

Inuit voices, stories, and perspectives from across Inuit Nunangat. In just one year, the channel has provided daily Inuktitut programming for children, families, and communities, while creating meaningful opportunities for Inuit in broadcasting and media production.

Mr. Speaker, this achievement reflects the importance of strengthening and promoting Inuktitut, supporting Inuit culture, and ensuring Inuit stories are told by Inuit, in our own voices and on our own terms.

I would also like to recognize the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, or IBC, for its decades of leadership in Inuit broadcasting and cultural preservation. IBC continues to play a foundational role in developing Inuit talent and supporting Inuktitut programming, journalism, filmmaking, and media production across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to highlight the Aulajut Nunavut Film Festival, held from April 9 to 12, which once again provided an important platform for Inuit filmmakers to showcase their work, connect with audiences, and strengthen Nunavut's growing film community. Festivals such as Aulajut help support emerging talent, encourage collaboration, and celebrate Inuit language, creativity, and culture.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's film and television industry is also creating meaningful economic benefits for our communities. Productions support local businesses, create employment opportunities, build skills, and invest directly in Nunavut communities.

The continued growth of this sector demonstrates what is possible when Inuit language, culture, and creativity are placed at the centre.

I commend all the filmmakers, broadcasters, artists, and organizations who continue to strengthen Nunavut's vibrant screen industry, and I look forward to its continued success.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister of Education, Mr. Main.

Minister's Statement 53 – 7(2): Educational Staff Training on Inuktitut and English Literacy

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to talk about the fact that all our workers need to have continuous training and education. It really helps on how they teach leadership and try to standardize the work that they do in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) So far this school year, we have prepared and delivered eight conferences and training events. Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to announce that in April, we hosted two additional training events, covering both Inuktitut and English literacy.

This was an important step toward strengthening literacy outcomes, with a focus on evidence-based literacy instruction and assessment in both languages. These events brought together dedicated educators from across the territory, united by a shared goal: improving literacy instruction so every student develops the speaking, listening, reading and writing skills needed to succeed.

Through this training, participants explored practical strategies to support reading and writing development, the role of oral language and vocabulary, and the importance of syllabic and sound correspondences in language acquisition. Educators deepened their knowledge and use of assessment tools, and built a shared understanding of the high-quality literacy instruction needed in Nunavut classrooms.

Through these conferences and training events, the department continues to demonstrate its commitment to high-quality education, professional growth, and student success. We are proud to support our educators and look forward to the positive impact these initiatives will have in classrooms across Nunavut. We value reflection, collaboration, and a continued focus on building capacity and shared leadership. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Justice, Mr. Hickes.

Minister's Statement 54 – 7(2): Corrections Body Scanner Technology

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to inform members of an important tool now available for Nunavut Corrections to use to enhance the safety and security of clients, staff and volunteers at our territorial correctional facilities.

Mr. Speaker, back in the fall 2021, the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility installed and started operating a body scanner to enhance security for correctional clients. The scanner is also used by the youth facility and the Nunavut Women's Correctional Centre.

Since its implementation, the body scanner has resulted in fewer strip searches, and a significant reduction in illicit contraband entering Iqaluit's correctional facilities. At Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility, the scanner is used up to 30 times per day on average. Staff at that facility are compiling data from these searches to help develop a

comprehensive contraband control strategy and action plan to further strengthen institutional safety.

Mr. Speaker and Members, I am also pleased to report that on March 16, 2026, a new scanner was installed and became fully operational at the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility. Eight staff members have already been trained in its use. As with the Iqaluit facilities, the scanner will reduce the need for intrusive client strip searches and will help ensure a safer environment for staff, clients and programming volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, the use of this technology underscores the significant safety, security, and human rights benefits of modernizing our correctional practices. Body scanners represent an important step forward in our ongoing efforts to keep Nunavut's correctional facilities safe, respectful, and aligned with best practices across Canada.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Healey Akearok

Minister's Statement 55 – 7(2): Fostering a Respectful Workplace

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of *Inuuqatigiitiarniq* and *Tunnganarniq* in the workplace, the principles of respect and of being welcoming and inclusive, and the ongoing efforts at Qulliq Energy Corporation to ensure that every employee feels safe, respected, and valued.

Qulliq Energy Corporation has a number of policies in place to ensure a safe and welcoming work environment for the men, women, and gender-diverse people who work hard for us every day. Central to these policies –

Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to complete my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statements. Are there any nays? I don't hear any. Ms. Healey Akearok, please proceed.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Central to these policies is a clear and unwavering message: There is zero tolerance for harassment of any kind at Qulliq Energy Corporation. Every employee has the right to come to work without fear of harassment, discrimination, or disrespect, and the corporation is firmly committed to upholding that right.

To support this commitment, Qulliq Energy Corporation developed and implemented mandatory Respectful Workplace training in 2022, delivered virtually across the organization. This training is required for all new staff and remains accessible to ensure consistent onboarding and awareness. In addition, Qulliq Energy Corporation provides annual in-person refresher training, so that the principles of respect, inclusion, and zero tolerance for harassment are reinforced year after year.

This commitment is further strengthened through the Health, Safety, and Environment team, where every mandatory safety meeting begins with a discussion on maintaining a respectful and harassment-free workplace. This practice reinforces that a truly safe workplace includes both physical safety and psychological safety, and that *Tunnganarniq*, the spirit of welcoming one another, is foundational to both.

At Qulliq Energy Corporation, inclusion is not simply a policy, it is a daily practice. The corporation is committed to building an environment where every employee, regardless of gender, background, or identity, feels welcomed, supported, and empowered to bring their full selves to work. Harassment in any form has no place in this environment, and leadership at every level is accountable for ensuring it is identified, addressed, and prevented.

Creating a welcoming workplace requires continuous effort. It is strengthened when employees feel confident to speak up, when colleagues stand together in support of one another, and when leaders respond promptly and respectfully to concerns. This shared responsibility, grounded in the values of *Tunnganarniq* and *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq*, helps reinforce a workplace culture where dignity, inclusion, and professionalism are consistently upheld. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Going to the *Orders of the Day*, Item 3, Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Kautuk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 57 – 7(2): Qikiqtarjuaq Graduates

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the people of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River. In 2025-2026 we have graduates, and I would also like to congratulate them. And their names: Alookie Kokseak, Ben Kooneeliusie, Robbie Kullualik, Jr., Noah Nauyavik, Elisapee Nuqingaq.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We congratulate them all. Item 3, Members' Statements. Member for Uqsuqtuuq, Mr. Porter.

Member's Statement 58 – 7(2): Boil Water Advisory

Mr. Porter (interpretation): Thank you, and good morning to the people from Uqsuqtuuq. I stand today

(interpretation ends) I rise today to bring up our boil water advisory since mid January, 2026. People boiling water as per boiling advisory from the health department, some residents are seeing it worse after boiling water. Turns out murky, not clean anymore, even white, yellowish colour this past week. Not everyone has transportation to pick up ice to get good, clean water ice.

At the appropriate time I'll ask the minister in regards to this. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): And thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Ms. Angootealuk.

Member's Statement 59 – 7(2): Recognizing Sarah Leonardis

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My regards and my thoughts are with the people in my community.

I would like to recognize an individual who will be retiring. She worked for 25 years with CBC Radio, and well-known through all of Nunavut. This individual has been hosting the Igalaq show. She has been an interpreter-translator with the Government of the Northwest Territories, and she's originally from Coral Harbour.

Sarah Leonardis is going to be retiring from CBC Igalaq. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): And thank you for people who work the Igalaq show. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Pedersen.

Member's Statement 60 – 7(2): Public Safety

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to you all, and to those watching in Cambridge Bay. The news that we all heard yesterday that one of our fellow MLAs was resigning effective immediately was a shock for us all.

Daniel, I wish you well, and I'm sad that you're leaving us, but at the same time I respect your decision. Your contributions will be missed in the House here.

Mr. Speaker, during question period this afternoon, I'll be revisiting the matter of public safety in our communities with the Minister of Justice. I'll be looking for updates on airport screening for passengers arriving into Nunavut from Yellowknife, what the status is of ongoing drug-related investigations in Cambridge Bay, and what role his department takes in matters of youth-related crime.

Our residents want to feel safe in their homes and within their communities, and because of events that are happening, this is not always the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Going back to the *Orders of the Day*, Item 4, Return to Oral Questions. Member responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 61 – 7(2): Nunavut Teacher Education Program

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer to the question asked by the MLA for Hudson Bay regarding the delivery of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program in their community.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Arctic College is currently working to secure a space to host the delivery of this program. The college is moving through the necessary administrative processes to make sure that a dedicated classroom space is in place. The college is hopeful that the space will be secured in the coming weeks. Considering this, the college is also planning its recruitment efforts for this potential cohort.

A key requirement for launching the program is the availability of Inuktitut-speaking instructors to ensure students can meet the language requirements for the diploma.

We strongly encourage Nunavummiut who can teach Inuktitut, particularly those in Sanikiluaq, to contact the program. Their involvement is essential to offering a culturally responsive and community-based program.

Regarding the member's request that the college submit a capital appropriation request for a new college facility for the community, this recommendation that been noted. The college recognizes that the Community Learning Centre in Sanikiluaq is one of the college's oldest facilities still being used. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Returns to Oral Questions, Mr. Koonoo.

Return to Oral Question 28 – 7(2): Inuinnaqtun Language

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have Return to Oral Questions asked by the Member from Kugluktuk on May 25 concerning Inuinnaqtun language revitalization.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Do members agree that the response be put into the Hansard? Agreed. Thank you. Return to Oral Questions. Minister of Family Services Healey Akearok.

Return to Oral Question 51 – 7(2): Expanding Services at the Umingmak Centre

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer about non-profit organizations in Cambridge Bay currently being funded through the Department of Family Services for fiscal year 2026-2027.

In the fiscal year 2025-2026, Family Services funded eight projects in Cambridge Bay. So far in fiscal 2026-2027 Family Services is funding one project in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, the department is continuing planning for the 2026-2027 cycle, and will be issuing additional calls for proposals for our grants and contributions funding programs. We encourage all eligible organizations in Cambridge Bay to apply so we can continue supporting a broad range of community-based services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat and Tikirarjuaq, Mr. Main.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize for decentralization.

(interpretation ends) I would like to recognize some folks who are doing important work on devolution, Mr. Speaker. It's a big initiative, and through shared efforts for staff and students.

So we have four participants in the Namminiqsurniq Professional Project Administrators Certificate Program here today.

And please rise when I say your name. Trevor Nobel of Iqaluit. We have Alex Kilabuk of Pangnirtung, Mike Akumalik of Arctic Bay, and Rachel Marin of Rankin Inlet.

And from the staff side, we have a few folks who are no stranger to the House: Mr. Stephen Mansell, who is our chief negotiator for Devolution Secretariat; Spencer Dewar, Regional Director General for Nunavut Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. We have Melissa Bascuman, who is program coordinator; as well as Martine Dupont, who is Program Manager for Devolution Training at the Government of Nunavut.

I would like to thank the students and the staff for their strong efforts. And we have six other students who wanted to be here but who are following online, so I would like to recognize them as well for their efforts. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Uqsuqtuuq, Mr. Porter.

Mr. Porter (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my wife, Rhoda Porter. We have been married for many years. We have numerous kids, and I don't remember how many grandchildren we have anymore; I've lost count. But I think we have three great-grandchildren, and I would tell you our oldest grandchild is now 19, and our youngest grandchild is two months old. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Porter, welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although our premier, Mr. Main, had recognized this individual, but I would like to recognize Mike Akumalik. Congratulations for taking on this training course. I wish you well and success, and we're very proud of you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although this individual was recognized, Alex Kilabuk from my community, please welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome, each and everyone of you. Item 6, Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Kautuk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 70 – 7(2): Marine Infrastructure

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

As the minister is aware, the people of Qikiqtarjuaq are looking forward to the development of the community's new sea port. This important project will support the development of the fisheries sector and the Blue Economy.

As the Minister will recall, the government announced last year that responsibility for this project would be transferred to the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation. Information published by the minister's department indicates that it has been working to "facilitate a novation agreement between Transport Canada and the Qikiqtaaluk Arctic Economic Development Corporation to advance the project."

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the transfer process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for raising this question again.

Mr. Speaker, as I had spoken to previously and as the member outlined, this project no longer falls under the Government of Nunavut Capital Planning, although previously there had been some capital dollars expended that were received from the federal government.

The latest information we've gotten from Transport Canada is that the original amount of funding that was going to be provided to the Government of Nunavut has now been allocated to this joint venture led by Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, as the member mentioned.

In going forward, Mr. Speaker, this project has been fully transferred over to that joint partnership and we no longer have any responsibility, other than to make sure that the community infrastructure is able to meet the needs of this significant project going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Mr. Kautuk.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister for the reply. As the minister is aware, the supplementary appropriation bill that was introduced last week in the Legislative Assembly includes \$5.5 million in capital carryover funding for the Qikiqtarjuaq Marine Infrastructure Project. Can the Minister provide an overview of how this funding may be spent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess to put it fairly simply, it's more of an accounting measure. As the responsibility has been transferred over to the joint venture led by Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, we just have to finalize closing the books on that project for the monies that we have received, and will be, again the responsibility of the full scope of that project has, other than the financial part that we're just finalizing now, Mr. Speaker, that project has been transferred over to the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation led by the private entity. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary question. Mr. Kautuk.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for the reply.

Mr. Speaker, . I recognize and understand that it will take time for the new port to be constructed. Hunters and boaters in the community will be using existing infrastructure for some time.

As the minister is aware, his department is responsible for the government's Community Transportation Initiatives program, which provides funding to municipalities for smaller scale marine infrastructure projects. Can the minister confirm that the municipality of Qikiqtarjuaq remains eligible to apply for support under this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for raising that. I think it's a very important initiative that many municipalities across the territory endeavour to take part of, and make sure that they're improving the infrastructure around their marine areas, whether it be staging areas for sealifts or whether it be through protected areas to help protect boats and other marine equipment.

Mr. Speaker, there would be nothing that would exclude Qikiqtarjuaq from applying to that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluktuuttiaq, Mr. Pedersen.

Oral Question 71 – 7(2): Public Safety

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As mentioned during my member's statement earlier, my questions are for the Minister of Justice and relate to public safety in our communities.

As he is aware, illegal drugs, alcohol, and guns are arriving into our communities via flights from Yellowknife. He is also aware there currently there is no legislation requiring security screening for any passengers that board these flights.

Can the minister provide an update to this House on the steps that are being taken to ensure security screening happens for passengers departing from Yellowknife for communities in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Justice, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the member for continuing to raise this very serious issue of public safety, not just in Cambridge Bay, but throughout the whole territory, as we all have recognized, Yellowknife being a vulnerable point of importing illicit materials.

Mr. Speaker, I know I've spoken to it in the past a little bit and I would like to elaborate again a little bit further on how serious Minister Anandasangaree is taking this concern that we've been continuing to raise as early as our Nunavut on the Hill exercise that all of my cabinet colleagues had opportunity to meet with our fellow counterparts.

Even at that point when it was raised, within weeks of that, Minister Anandasangaree and Chief Superintendent Mike Duheme from the RCMP and a number of other officials from Canada Border Services to Canadian security, CSIS -- I can't remember what the acronym stands for just off the top of my head, Mr. Speaker -- as well as airport security officials.

I can't emphasize enough how seriously Public Safety Canada is taking this, insofar as in the last two to three weeks there has been a working group that has been formed to discuss this very topic, Mr. Speaker.

So not only are national organizations recognizing Nunavut's vulnerability at that one point, and how serious that they're taking it, I think it just shows how hard we're looking at putting barriers to people that are trying to bring illicit materials into our communities. They are having such a dramatic negative effect on many of our families and communities, and I applaud the member for continuing to raise this. I know I continue to raise it at every opportunity that I get, and I'm starting to see some progress forward.

I am looking forward to making more announcements in the future on getting results from this working group that has been put together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the minister for his reply, and I will look forward to sometime finding out who is on the working group from Nunavut.

My next question deals with the investigations related to the illicit drug trade in Cambridge Bay. There are still new dealers arriving via flights, and some residents are still allowing those dealers to sell the illicit drugs out of their homes.

I'm hopeful that new information comes forward so that more of these dealers are caught and charged, as we need them out of our communities.

There was an event related to the drug trade that happened last year, where a couple of community members were beaten by the dealers with local assistance. There was also an incident where a handgun was fired within a residence. I recall from the beating occurrence that four people were arrested and charged with criminal offences. Of those, three were from out of the territory and one was a resident of Cambridge Bay.

My understanding is that as of today, one is still being held in remand here in Iqaluit, two have returned to British Columbia with court-imposed conditions to follow while awaiting further court appearances, and the local person is still in Cambridge Bay, also under court-imposed conditions.

I understand that he, the local resident, may have been charged with a new offence recently.

Can the minister inform us if in fact this is the case, and also what happens to persons that are charged with serious offences when they breach court-imposed conditions?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Justice, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was quite an astounding event. I know many of us when we saw it in the paper were kind of flabbergasted that that kind of occurrence was happening here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at individual cases I can't comment publicly on them, on specific charges related to those individuals, But what I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that

when there are breaches of conditions, it's looked at very carefully, depending upon the degree of breach.

We do look at potential restorative justice diversions, but where the breaches are serious, they can result in additional charges. So without going too much further into assumptions, Mr. Speaker, or hypotheticals, I'll leave it at that.

But I do want to encourage, as the member started in his preamble, on how important it is for members of the public to participate in getting rid of these occurrences in our communities.

If you are suspicious of a neighbour or a new drug dealer into town, they can be reported to the RCMP local detachment. Or if you want to maintain levels of confidentiality, there's Crime Stoppers as well, which is a very useful tool for people to be able to report known crimes or suspected crimes, an anonymous way of reporting, Mr. Speaker.

I think it can't be understated how important it is in our communities that we rally behind each other and take advantage of these opportunities to stop people from this type of behaviour and to stop people from entering our communities with these bad intentions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary, Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we all understand that when people commit crimes, that there are consequences for their actions. However, when minors commit crimes such as the nightly ones that are happening in Cambridge Bay by a group of youth, there doesn't appear to be any consequences. In my questions yesterday to the Minister of Family Services, I alluded to this.

My final question for the minister is: What role does the Department of Justice have through the RCMP in dealing with this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again I thank the member for raising this as an issue. I think it's an important one, not just in Cambridge Bay but across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I was working on something on my own, so I didn't listen to the whole dialogue that you had with my colleague, the Minister of Family Services, yesterday.

But I will say that we need to work with our communities, within our communities, to make sure, there's more and more occurrences where we're seeing younger children,

whether it be vandalism, there is even violence in some cases. Again I question how these kids are getting so far down the path where we need to have more programming, diversion type programming.

One of the things that we've done recently for youth that have been charged with a crime and looking at trying to reintegrate back into the community is just a couple of months ago we hired a community youth reintegration officer, whose role is to work with communities on helping youth that have been charged with a crime to reintegrate properly and safely back into their home community.

I know that doesn't address the concern that's raised by the member specifically on this, but you know, they often say it takes a community to raise a child, and I think that's a fair statement where we all have to take a part. And whether it be programming at the community level to give children a more positive avenue to utilize their energies, parental supervision, Mr. Speaker. Parents have a tremendous role in providing guidelines and parameters for their children's behaviour.

So I would encourage everyone to take a little inward look and to determine how we can be a part of the solution versus part of the problem.

And I think it's very important that we all recognize that as adults in the room, that we have a responsibility to be good role models to the children that are growing up around us, to make sure that they have positive viewpoints and positive influences.

So I'll get off my soapbox, Mr. Speaker, and I'll leave it at that, but, Mr. Speaker, I think it's very important that we work with our youth to divert them from misbehaving, and where they are to provide avenues and other recourses that we can provide them with a positive direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Gjoa Haven MLA, Mr. Porter.

Oral Question 72 – 7(2): Water Infrastructure

Mr. Porter (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As per my member's statement regarding water infrastructure, my questions today are for the Minister of Community Services.

I want to revisit the issue of Gjoa Haven's water infrastructure. As the minister is aware, Gjoa Haven has been under a boil water advisory since January of this year. It has been almost half a year since the advisory was issued, and my constituents remain very concerned about the quality of our community's drinking water.

As the minister will recall, the government issued a request for proposals in June 2025 to “develop a business case report that outlines a plan to address long-term capacity and treatment requirements to meet projected community domestic water supply needs through at least 2055.”

When I raised this issue last month in the House, the minister indicated that Gjoa Haven is on his department’s list for a new water treatment plant.

Can the minister provide an update today on his department’s timetable for adding this critical infrastructure to its five-year capital plan? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community Services, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his question. For the water treatment system for his community of Gjoa Haven, just bear with me for a second while I get the correct page. For the water treatment plant for Gjoa Haven, it is still in queue along with other communities, such as Arctic Bay, Griese Fiord, Pond Inlet.

Gjoa Haven is up there on the list for work towards continuing to replace their water treatment plant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary, Mr. Porter.

Mr. Porter (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, the Government of Nunavut Drinking Water Strategic Framework was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 29, 2023.

This document indicated that “many water treatment plants in Nunavut do not meet the federal guidelines for Canadian drinking water quality. Most water treatment plants will need to be upgraded or replaced under the newly contemplated regulations.”

Can the minister confirm whether or not Gjoa Haven’s current water treatment plan meets the new federal standards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community Services, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank the member for his question. Yes, the department is working on replacing a number of water treatment plants across the territory. It needs to be done to update all of our water treatment plans to meet the new water regulations that we must follow.

Thanks in part to the federal government such as the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund Agreements, we are about to begin some of these projects, and the new Gjoa Haven water treatment plant will be built to the new standards and to meet the future regulations so that we ensure Gjoa Havenmiut have good drinking water. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary, Mr. Porter.

Mr. Porter (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for the response.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate what federal funding is available to enable departments to meet the new drinking water standards and proceed with the procurement process for a new water treatment plant in Gjoa Haven? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community Services, Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for his question.

One of the ones that I mentioned earlier is the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund is what we have been utilizing, but I myself have been meeting with federal counterparts, along with a couple of my colleagues, Minister Brewster from Health and Mr. Hickes from Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut.

We've been voicing collectively the needs for our communities across the territory so that we can get some more assistance to upgrade all of water treatment plants or our waste treatment, to ensure we have healthy communities.

So we are looking at various avenues to ensure that we get our communities up to better conditions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. MLA for Aivilik, Ms. Angootealuk.

Oral Question 73 – 7(2): Traditional Place Names in Coral Harbour

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Culture and Heritage. They concern the Traditional Place Names in Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, the department's Heritage Division works closely with communities to "identify, document and give approval to local geographic names."

The department's place-naming program conducts research and consults with community members and elders to help decide on place names that accurately represent the history and traditional use of lands across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding the department has faced challenges filling the position responsible for place naming. Can the minister clarify if this position is currently vacant and, if so, what actions is the department undertaking to fill it? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and for the question.

(interpretation ends) Yes, the Department of Culture and Heritage works with the Inuit Heritage Trust communities, heritage centres and learning institutions and individuals to support the collection of traditional place names and make them official geographic place names of Canada.

My department does not initiate place name changes. Currently that position, there's an appointed person who has the role of Indigenous advisor to the GNGC, and was appointed in June 2025. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary question. Ms. Angootealuk.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) The department's approved 2025-2026 Business Plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2025 was to "continue to address the backlog of recommended place names." Can the minister provide substantive update today on the status of the important work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague for the question. It's true what the member said; from 1999 to 2021 they have collected a whole bunch of names, around 2,000 place names in Inuktitut, and they have set up 1,900 that will be requested for.

(interpretation ends) This fiscal year our focus remains on working with Inuit Heritage Trust to process updated submissions for traditional Inuit place names as they are provided, starting with areas surrounding Grise Fiord and Coral Harbour, while completing consultations on review of geographical place names policy, to streamline the place names' process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary question, Ms. Angootealuk.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Inuit Heritage Trust for the important work they do to preserve our important language and history.

In December 2025, the Inuit Heritage Trust visited Coral Harbour. The Inuit Heritage Trust provided the community with maps of Coral Harbour which indicate traditional place names that extend towards Naujaat, with travel routes between the communities.

Can the minister explain what specific actions the department is collaborating with the Inuit Heritage Trust need to be undertaken to officially rename the Coral Harbour map with traditional and culturally appropriate name places? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague for the question. They have a number of policies that they have to follow in order to convert the names in Inuktitut. (interpretation ends) These are some of the steps that need to take place. When there's a submission to Culture and Heritage for place names, a request for place names changes are submitted to the department. Culture and Heritage reviews all the submissions, reasons for request, exact location, extent of geographic feature, and more relevant information. And it goes to the community consultations, and the department consults with local communities and then the Inuit Heritage Trust. They must be consulted with the section 33.9.2 of Nunavut Agreement.

Then Culture and Heritage sends its recommendations to be reviewed by Nunavut Geographic Names Committee, which makes recommendations to the minister's office for approval. Then Culture and Heritage approves, and then the Minister of Culture and Heritage makes the decision regarding their approval and recommended place name. Then it goes to the federal database and becomes geographic national database. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. According to my list, the member for the High Arctic, Mr. Taqtu.

Oral Question 74 – 7(2): Seniors Strategy

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Seniors. As the minister will recall, I made a statement during yesterday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly concerning the importance of taking action against elder abuse.

As the minister will also recall, the government's most recent progress report on the implementation of its Elders and Seniors Strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 5, 2025.

Can the minister confirm when he will be tabling the next progress report on the implementation of its Elders and Seniors Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): (no interpretation). We have to voice out these concerns from the communities. It's really sad when the elders are abused.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in terms of the member's question and the update on the strategy, one of the biggest challenges we're having right now at Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is staffing up the Elders Secretariat. That secretariat, the intention was for that secretariat to be the coordinating shop. If you look at the seniors strategy, there are 89 actions and objectives laid out, and it wasn't all falling on one department; there were multiple departments and agencies that were involved; I'm looking at Health, looking at Justice, Family Services, Culture and Heritage.

So the intention, though, was for those actions to be reported into the secretariat, and right now the biggest challenge we're having is staffing. As a result, the timeline in terms of the next update or progress report is uncertain. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's Elders and Seniors Strategy contains a number of objectives concerning the issue of elder abuse. A number of different departments have different areas of responsibilities in achieving these objectives. Can the Minister responsible for Seniors describe how his department is coordinating this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In the essence, we are wanting to coordinate this work through the Elders Secretariat. We are having staffing difficulties, but that's something that is being worked on as we speak.

In terms of coordinating the work as a central agency, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs does have relationships with every department, and it's not just necessarily working within the Government of Nunavut; it's also working with partners like Inuit organizations. Through the Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol, we do have a number of working

groups with Nunavut Tunngavik. One is specific to elders, And so I don't want to give the impression that it's just the Government of Nunavut that needs to work on this.

In terms of elder abuse, the Department of Justice, also Family Services, are I believe tied into those objectives.

Mr. Speaker, one final thing. I think it's important to note that this is an issue not just in Nunavut, but nationally. In terms of recent federal-provincial-territorial meeting here in Iqaluit of ministers responsible for seniors, there was discussion. There was research that was presented to us around how to prevent financial mistreatment of older persons.

There has been some detailed research done, and that good news is that that research will be made public, and my hope is that it will help us to address financial mistreatment here in Nunavut of older persons. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary question, Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, his department's 2025-2026 main estimates included funding for the creation of a new Elders Secretariat. The division of the department has four positions.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of filling these positions? Can he highlight what new initiatives the secretariat is working on to address the issue of elder abuse? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I've touched on the staffing challenges, so those four positions that the member mentioned, currently they are all vacant.

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is committed to making the Elders Secretariat work, and so if we cannot successfully staff up these positions here in Iqaluit, we are committed to finding alternative approaches.

At the end of the day, the work needs to get done. There's a lot of great objectives and initiatives laid out in the elder strategy. I don't want to give the impression that nothing is happening because the Secretariat is unstaffed currently. There is a lot of good work happening within departments on services for elders, supports for elders.

For example, in the budget that we have in front of us in Committee of the Whole, we have monies that are being proposed towards elders' vans. And so accessible transportation is the technical term.

I mean, that's just a small example of ways in which we are looking to grow the services, strengthen supports for seniors. They are some of the most important people in our communities, in our lives, and it's incumbent upon all of us in cabinet and I think in the territory to do the best we can on their behalf.

So I thank the member for raising this important issue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Kuliktana.

Oral Question 75 – 7(2): Immunizations and Screenings

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Health and it concerns the issue of immunizations and screenings.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by clearly stating that I am a strong believer in the importance of immunizations, which prevent serious diseases like polio. As the minister will recall, the Chief Public Health Officer's most recent Health Status Biennial Report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 10, 2025. It indicated that:

“There are goals, recommended nationally, for immunization coverage. These targets vary by the type of immunization and the age group. For example, one national vaccine coverage goal for some specific immunizations for two-year-old infants is 95 per cent. The measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine are especially important. The Department of Health delivers vaccination programs, supports vaccination best practices, and monitors the level of immunization coverage in Nunavut. There are currently 15 publicly funded vaccines that are routinely administered in territory. These vaccines are offered throughout one's life; that is, infants, school-aged children, adults, seniors, and in special circumstances such as an outbreak.”

Can the minister provide an update today on the vaccine coverage rate in Kugluktuk?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for that really important question. The reality is that we don't have that data, because we don't have a registry. The department has put together work in order to design a registry, and we need federal support in order to develop that registry so that we can inform the public and, importantly, inform public health officials about the rates of immunization or population. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for your response. I look forward to the results of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The chief public health office report also indicated that “there is significant room for improvement in how Nunavut captures immunization data and reports on immunization coverage rates. There is work underway to improve this and have an effective immunization registry system. This registry will provide data for better access of Nunavut’s immunization coverage, further inform public health actions, and give Nunavummiut access for their records.”

Can the minister provide an update today on her department’s work in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a number of health staff, including epidemiologists, communicable disease specialists, public health officers and public health nurses who are involved in the development of the registry.

As I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, the project charter has been developed, and the hope is that we can bring this registry to fruition as quickly as possible in order to do exactly what the member stated related to informing our public health system about rates, as well as giving people the opportunity to actually have a record of their own immunizations so that they can either enroll in school, or travel, or do what they need with that record. So this work is very important. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary question, Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister, for your response.

Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of cancer screening, which is another important preventative health measure.

Information published by the minister’s department indicates that it plans to expand its screening programs for colorectal cancer, lung cancer and cervical cancer in the coming years to include a number of communities in Nunavut. Can the minister provide an overview of her department’s plans in this area for Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the question. I'm just looking to see if Kugluktuk is mentioned in the screening program plan, and I don't see Kugluktuk mentioned.

However, I will say that as we are rolling out the cancer screening program, we are ensuring that we are bringing it to as many communities as possible. And I would be happy to get back to the member about dates of when that will occur in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

Oral Question 76 – 7(2): Airport Relocation in Pangnirtung

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be quoting from the Blues from yesterday, and the comments I made to the minister in regards to the airports that I touched on yesterday. Reading the Blues, it seems like there needs further clarification on the relocation of the Pangnirtung airport.

We discussed development or economic development in Nunavut in a safe environment and reliability on the transportation of airports, and so on. And at that same meeting we talked about having safe placements of where the airport is located.

And with those, Mr. Speaker, I would like to use an example where in Pang they fill up with freight to full capacity, and should four planes come in, they would just go by the weight, which would be three planes coming in because of the load capacity.

And the reason why they would eliminate one is because of the length of the airstrip, and that's one of the reasons why the price of freight and food tend to expand. They can't go over their limit.

Can the minister indicate if the government is committed in principle (interpretation ends) committed in principle to the relocation of Pangnirtung airport. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again I recognize that the member is very passionate about this topic.

I think when we talk about airport safety, it's very important to note that it's always front of mind for any projects that we're doing, which is why at this point the project in our current capital plan is to resurface the runway in Pangnirtung to maintain that safety measure.

I do acknowledge the member's concerns on the length of the runway and the limitation it puts on the type of aircraft that are coming into the community. And again, I applaud the member's continued support of doing the airport relocation.

Mr. Speaker, at this point that is not in the capital plan. We do, like I mentioned yesterday and previously, we have to prioritize the projects that are achievable to be completed within the budgetary restraints that we have.

The relocating of an entire airport runway and terminal, as you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, is a very significant investment, as well as a significant cost that would be – how would I put it – I guess it would be so much money invested into one project, when we have to take a look at the overall conditions of all of our runways and airports across the territory and work within, the member had mentioned yesterday, the 20-year plan for airports and runways.

I think it's very important as we move forward with these significant projects, we have to identify partners beforehand. If that interest comes to us, I can assure the member that we will take an opportunity to move this project forward. But in the foreseeable future, Mr. Speaker, that's just not a commitment that I can make. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to thank the minister for your understanding. And the safety issue, because of course Pangnirtung has to be in a safe environment.

(interpretation ends) I have spoken on numerous occasions about the economic benefits that a new airport would bring to the community, and here's what we have in Pangnirtung.

(interpretation) Economic opportunities: there's tourism, fisheries, halibut fishing especially, and arts and crafts that are produced and very well-known all over the world. And the Auyuittuq National Park is a huge attraction which has visitors any time of the year, and all the territorial whaling station historical park.

So I'm just adding to find some of the major attractions in our community. Pangnirtung is contributing both to Nunavut and at a national level with their productions, with their halibut fishing. (interpretation ends) from inshore, and there is offshore. Pangnirtung is involved in there. And in their offshore, turbot fishery and shrimp fishery, the total harvesting quota is valued at \$140 million. So there's money out there. These are only some of the information that I want to provide.

And I want to ask the minister: Can the minister indicate what additional information he requires from the community to bring forward an updated business case to the federal government for capital funding? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with regards to specifically if there's any information that the municipality could provide to my officials or to myself to potentially move this project forward, Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of anything at the moment that would allow us to move forward with a project, other than a significant partnership brought to the table.

Mr. Speaker, as I've talked to in the House right now, as I just did a minister's statement on, we have three airport projects that are priority right now that we have ongoing discussions with our federal partners of resurfacing the runway in Rankin Inlet, taking a look at paving the runway in Cambridge Bay, and as well as work to the Resolute Bay runway as well, which is a project that the federal government is promoting.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage continued dialogue with my officials from the hamlet, municipal officials as well, to continue to prioritize this on their infrastructure desired list. I'd work with my colleague at Community Services to help identify sources of funding down the road.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately just with our fiscal situation right now, just the scale of this project is not something we can take on at this point in time. But I do encourage the minister to promote his municipality, and the officials, the mayor and council there, to continue to promote this project, and hopefully we can gain legs at some point, thank you. Or wings, in this case. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary question, Minister Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Everybody calls me a minister, and thank you for calling a minister. Thank you for your response. (interpretation ends) I will be waiting for additional information, ish, that is required from your office, I mean from the hamlet and forward it to your office. (interpretation) And thank you.

(interpretation ends) I just want to go on. You mentioned about resurfacing the existing airport. I recognize that, and the operational, existing airport is going to remaining in operation for the next few years. Can the minister provide a quick update on what improvements his department will be making to the existing airstrip? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I missed the direction to me. Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Basically the runway will not be out of service. When they do these types of projects, they do it in phases to make sure that the runway is not at a point where it is shut down.

Mr. Speaker, I do recognize the challenge and why the member continues to raise this issue of having the runway right in the middle of town. It doesn't allow an expansion, which would obviously be something that could be entertained in a different geographic location.

Mr. Speaker, with regards to the actual resurfacing, the plan is to continue that this summer, to go forward with that project. I don't have an exact timeline of how long it would take right in front of me, but I do commit to the member that I'll be able to give him full details on a timeline from start to completion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Oral Question 77 – 7(2): Community Health needs Assessment Project

Mr. Kablutsiak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster for Health. It's in regards to my Arviat residents.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to revisit the subject of the Community Health Needs Assessment project that her department has been undertaking in Arviat, Igloolik and Taloyoak.

I raised this subject during our winter sitting. The minister indicated that the goal was to finish the work this summer.

Mr. Speaker, it is now June. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the assessment, and can she describe preliminary recommendations that her department has received? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have an update on the outcome of that needs assessment, and I will be happy to provide more information on that when I do receive that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I raised this issue during our winter sitting, I emphasized the importance of assessing the department's progress in recruiting and retaining health professionals to work at Arviat's health centre.

As the minister will be aware, the government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that her department's total number of positions in Arviat has increased from 39.5 to 44. That's good news.

Can the minister confirm what new positions have been created? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just looking to see if I can pull that information out for the member. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that information right at my fingertips at the moment, and in the interest of time, I will provide that information when I can find it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary question, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will expect the response, two responses to the questions that I will expect the responses.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will also be aware, the government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that the vacancy rate for her department's positions in Arviat remains unchanged at approximately 50 per cent.

Can the minister describe how her department's Community Health Needs Assessment project is addressing the subject of recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have a specific strategy on recruiting nurses, and as part of that strategy, we look at every single community and what their needs are. And I would be happy to provide more detailed information directly to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation) Oral Questions. Going back to *Orders of the Day*, Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Budget Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Kablutsiak.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters**Committee Report 1 – 7(2): Bill 3, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act**

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 3, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the Bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Do members agree that Bill 3, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*, can be placed at Committee of the Whole? Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you.

(interpretation) Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration of Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters.

But before we go, we will take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 15:11 and Committee commenced at 15:44*

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Simon Kuliktana): I will now call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following matters to deal with: Bills 1 and 2. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We wish to continue with the consideration of Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027*, and the proposed 2026-2027 Main Estimates of the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Are we in agreement we first deal with Bill 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 1 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027 –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Main: Do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee?

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

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them in. For the record, Minister Main, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) to my right, your left I have Deputy Minister Dan Young; and my left, your right, I have Ivan Gerginov, who is our Assistant Deputy Minister, Expenditure and Management.

(interpretation) Thank you, Chair and Members. I am here to discuss the Department of Finance's 2026-2027 Main Estimates and Business Plan.

(interpretation ends) As a central agency, the Department of Finance supports core financial governance and administrative functions so other departments and public agencies can deliver programs and services to Nunavummiut. We are seeking to appropriate \$119.95 million for our operations in 2026-2027. This represents an increase of \$9.1 million, or 8.2 per cent, compared to the 2025-2026 main estimates.

The increases in Finance's proposed budget relate to:

- \$5 million for increased costs relating to employee medical travel for all Government of Nunavut employees;
- \$400,000 and two new positions to increase capacity in the Internal Audit Services Division;
- \$2.3 million to double the Nunavut Child Benefit, a subsidy to low-income families; and
- \$1.394 million for wage increases negotiated with the Nunavut Employees Union.

Like previous years, approximately two-thirds of the Department's budget is for centrally administered funds. These are programs that the Department administers on behalf of the government. The remaining 27 per cent or \$44.3 million, relates directly to operations of the Department.

Approximately 75 per cent of Finance's budget, after removing the centrally administered funds, is for salaries to pay our 201 employees.

Finance also has 33 employee positions funded from the Liquor and Cannabis Revolving Fund. Because these positions are funded from the sales of the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, they do not require an appropriation and are not voted on in the Legislative Assembly. For public transparency, the commission's budget is included as an information item in the main estimates document.

(interpretation) Mr. Chair, this completes my comments. I am available to take questions about this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the proposed 2026-2027 Main Estimates and 2026-2030 Business Plan of the Department of Finance.

The department's proposed 2026-2027 operations and maintenance budget is \$119,952,000. As the minister mentioned, it represents an 8.2 per cent increase from the previous fiscal year. The number of positions in the department is increasing from 232 in the 2025-2026 fiscal year to 234 in the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Members raised a number of issues and concerns during the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee.

In January 2025, the Government of Nunavut discontinued the practice of issuing letters of expectation to the boards of directors of the territory's five major public agencies. The Department of Finance's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "support the establishment of formal agreements with the five territorial corporations regarding their fiscal and governance responsibilities, relationship with the Government of Nunavut, and annual reporting requirements." The standing committee encourages the government to ensure that these new governance tools include strategic direction to the relevant public agencies and that they be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The Department of Finance provides support to the Financial Management Board. A government-wide issue for which the Financial Management Board has responsibility is the size of the public service. The total number of positions in the government continues to increase. The government's proposed 2026-2027 main estimates indicate that there are approximately 5,596 positions in the government's departments and major public agencies and territorial corporations. This is excluding the Qulliq Energy Corporation. This represents an increase of approximately 20 positions over the number accounted for in the 2025-2026 main estimates, and an increase of approximately 400 positions from the 2022-2023 main estimates.

It is important for the Financial Management Board to be mindful of the need to control the growth in the number of government positions being added to organizational charts at a time when departments, public agencies, and territorial corporations continue to face significant challenges in filling their existing vacancies.

It is also important to note that approximately one-third of the government's total operations and maintenance spending is now allocated to compensation and benefits for its own workforce. For the 2026-2027 fiscal year, this amounts to almost three quarters of a billion dollars.

The new territorial *Liquor Tax Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly during its fall 2022 sitting. However, it has not yet been brought into force. The department's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "develop liquor tax regulations to bring the *Liquor Tax Act* into force." The territorial *Cannabis Act* received Assent on June 13, 2018. Section 64 of the legislation requires that a review of the Act be undertaken every five years. The department's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to initiate the "*Cannabis Act* five-year review report." The standing committee looks forward to updates on these initiatives.

On November 8, 2016, *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The department's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that two of its priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year are to "prepare legislative review materials, including consultation documents, for the *Liquor Act* review" and to "facilitate formalizing an information-sharing agreement and protocols between the Department of Finance on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with respect to information about liquor and cannabis permits, customer information, and other client or sales information." The standing committee encourages the department to revisit the issue of how the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission can better support the enforcement of court-ordered restrictions on alcohol.

The department's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that two of its priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year are to "explore new ways to serve smaller communities, including online sales, and researching and developing model agency store agreements while expanding and improving remote sales service" and "develop an updated pricing structure that includes factoring each product's specific alcohol content, expanding from the existing four categories." Members emphasize the importance of ensuring that any decision to allow in-person, over-the-counter retail sales of alcohol in a Nunavut community is based on the results of a formal plebiscite, as have been held in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet.

In April of this year, the department published an updated *Financial Administration Manual* directive on grants and contributions. The department's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "develop a government-wide program evaluation initiative to evaluate programs across standard evaluation areas: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, impact, sustainability, coherence, and additional Nunavut-specific areas, such as alignment with Inuit societal values." The standing committee looks forward to updates on this initiative.

The department's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "lead the early adoption of the new Public Sector Accounting Board conceptual framework across all Government of Nunavut reporting entities." The standing committee looks forward to examining this issue at its upcoming televised hearing on the 2024-2025 public accounts, which will be held in September of this year.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2026-2027 main estimates and 2026-2030 business plan of the Department of Finance. Thank you.

Chairman: Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? I have no names for general comments. We will now proceed to page-by-page review of the 2026-2027 Main Estimates, starting on page C-4.

We will now review the Department of Finance Corporate Management Branch main estimates for 2026-2027 for a total amount of \$4.965 million.

Do members have any questions? Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Chair. The department's new organizational chart indicates that it has added a new Human Resource Division. What is the change intended to achieve? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So this is something that we're seeing in multiple departments across the GN. The intention is to support a bit more focus on human resource issues within Finance, particularly the outcomes that we're wanting to work towards: greater Inuit employment, greater support for on-the-job training initiatives.

There's a lot that we want to do, and there's a potential in terms of our labour force to increase Inuit representation within the department, and the new division we see as part of achieving that in the future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Next on my list, Member Johnny Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Are you done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't expect that.

(interpretation ends) I just want to, on the standing committee of oversight opening comment, the government proposal 2026-2027 main estimates indicate that there are approximately 5,596 positions. Why is QEC excluded in those numbers? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's due to the nature of Qulliq Energy Corporation being arm's-length, the fact that they don't come for annual appropriations to the Assembly. They fund their positions through the revenues that they generate through sales of power. And so, I mean there's certainly an argument that could be made that they should be included in our counts, But the distinction is the arm's-length nature of their operations.

If we look at the Nunavut Housing Corporation, it's also a corporation, but it's a bit closer in terms of their relationship. They do come for annual appropriations to the Assembly, so their numbers would be included in this overall count. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Your department's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that it will explore options to support public agencies, including a departmental reorganization to better align with and support existing financial reporting process and committees. What specific options are being considered? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, so we're looking at ways to strengthen the relationship with the corporations. There is a Territorial Corporations Committee, and so that includes policy and finance staff from the five territorial corporations and the coordinating role lies with finance staff. And so we're looking to breathe new life or new energy into that committee.

We're also looking at this function, whether it wouldn't be situated better under our Comptrollership Branch, which may provide more financial oversight and help us rely on existing resources to support the position. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Just want to know how many public agencies you are talking about that is going to be involved in this process, reporting process. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So it will be the five corporations that we have underneath our governmental umbrella, so Qulliq Energy Corporation, Nunavut Housing Corporation, Nunavut Development Corporation, Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, as well as the Nunavut Arctic College. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) In the standing committee I had a question, about excluding the Qulliq Energy Corporation in this idea of having to realign, I guess. Then they're going to be part of the system? Or is it just financial reporting? Or is it going to be including QEC positions? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's more around wanting to manage the relationship and strengthen the relationship between corporations like Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Department of Finance. If we look at the details of the relationship, there are a number of different ways that we are tied to Qulliq Energy Corporation, one example being they have the ability to use debt financing for capital projects, and ultimately the responsibility lies with the Financial Management Board around managing that debt load. But at the same time they are an arm's-length corporation. I just provide that as one example of an area where we want to strengthen the relationship.

In terms of the staffing complement, our intention is not to bring Qulliq Energy Corporation's positions to be within the overall civil service accounting, and it would still lie outside. That's our intention. *Mat'na*.

Chairman: Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) I'm going to read not the whole paragraph, but that relates to the idea.

“And to support establishment of formal agreements with the five territorial corporations regarding the fiscal and governance responsibilities, relationship with the Government of Nunavut, and annual reporting requirements.

Can you elaborate on that so that we could have a better understanding? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you will allow Mr. Young to respond? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Please proceed, Mr. Young.

Mr. Young: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question.

The purpose of the memorandums of understanding that we are looking to sign with all territorial corporations is to set expectations, what we expect from all the corporations with respect to their financial reporting and their obligations throughout the year that are placed on them through mechanisms such as the Financial Management Board directions or in their business plans.

Currently there’s no formal mechanism that captures all that in one place. So that is the expectation that we have when we go forward with these MOUs, so the message is clear what Department of Finance expects for financial reporting, which ultimately feeds into our public accounts at the end of the year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Minister.

(interpretation ends) In January 2025, the Government of Nunavut discontinued the practice of issuing letters of expectation. That is discontinued now, but it sounds like getting back to a similar expectation through our formal agreements. Can you elaborate on that, how it’s going to be like? Is it going to be different from letters of expectations? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, our intention is that the memorandums of understanding would in essence replace the letters of expectation, and the hope is that they will be a better fit in terms of managing the relationship.

The letters of expectation were one way of providing direction to the corporations. Potentially, memorandums of understanding would be facilitating better information flow between the corporations and the department so that it's not necessarily through formal correspondence that we're discussing or exchanging ideas; it will be a stronger mechanism, is our hope.

These are important corporations. I mean in terms of housing, in terms of electrical generation, these are absolutely critical functions. And financial-management aspects of it, the relationship with the government, they are important to make sure they're working properly.

Maybe a good analogy is we're trying to go from mineral oil to a synthetic, and we think the synthetic oil is going to help the gears of government run better. (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Taqtu. No questions. Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Your department's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to prepare legislative review materials, including consultation documents for the *Liquor Act* review. What specific amendments to the legislation are being actively considered?

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I mean that's yet to be determined. It is an important policy area to be looking at in terms of Nunavut. We see lots of issues with alcohol in Nunavut, and needing to make sure our legislation is keeping pace and responding to the needs of our communities is our intention.

And so in terms of the different steps in the process, there will be a pre-consult, and then a consult, from a high level we want to hear where we can improve things and where we can make our systems work better for Nunavummiut in terms of reducing harm, in terms of learning from best practices.

You look at communities across Nunavut, there's a range of different approaches that are taken, and we want to be a supportive partner when it comes to these issues.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you. Your department's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to facilitate formalizing an

information-sharing agreement and protocols between the Department of Finance on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with respect to information about liquor and cannabis permits, customer information, and other client or sales information. What types of information will be shared with law enforcement agencies?

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the intentions there, we are looking at ways to curb bootlegging, and specifically looking at high volume purchasers of alcohol.

Just to clarify, we already have an ongoing relationship; the Liquor and Cannabis Commission has a relationship with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and under the *Access to Information and Privacy Act*, we are allowed to share information for law-enforcement purposes, but intention is to develop a memorandum of understanding which will clarify the roles and responsibilities.

The Liquor and Cannabis Commission wants to share as much information as possible while also respecting client confidentiality and all the privacy considerations.

So we are in the process of drafting an MOU. We have a draft memorandum that we're ready to share with Justice and the RCMP, so we're hoping to see that report move. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you. Will this agreement include sharing information with the Nunavut Court of Justice regarding individuals who have been subject to court-ordered restrictions on the possession of alcohol? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's currently not within the scope of what's being proposed, so no. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you. I'm surprised by that answer. I thought something like that would be, because the court does order those restrictions on people sometimes. And if the commission doesn't know, I don't know how they can not sell to them, I guess.

But my final question: A new *Liquor Tax Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2022. Your department's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to develop liquor tax regulations to bring the *Liquor Tax Act* into force. How much revenue is the *Liquor Tax Act* expected to generate on an annual basis? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We are one of the few jurisdictions in Canada that doesn't have a consumption tax on alcohol.

The preliminary numbers setting a tax rate at 10 percent could result in more than one-and-a-half million dollars of revenue, but ultimately the amount of revenue will depend on the tax rate that is decided upon.

There is range that we're allowed to have the rate fall between. The Legislative Assembly in terms of determining that range through the legislation, but ultimately the rate will be set through regulations.

I wish that it would be more revenue so that we could put that tax revenue to programs in our communities, but it's quite a small amount that we're projecting. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your new organizational chart indicates that it has removed three regional operations divisions. The positions in these divisions appear to have been absorbed by the department's Financial Operations Division and Compensation and Benefits Division. Why was this change undertaken?

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you'll allow my deputy to respond, through you.

Chairman: Please proceed, Mr. Young.

Mr. Young: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for the question.

This change occurred two years ago. The reason for the change was because we had persistent vacancies in those shops, particularly at the director level. We weren't able to find anyone to fill them.

We did, however, have some individuals who were interested in a managerial level, and so we made those changes and we were successful in filling those roles at a managerial level.

There was some efficiencies also found with the new financial system when we implemented that last year, and the level of work just did not necessitate having an additional level of directors. That was absorbed into the central function. And realistically, that's where the work was happening anyway because we couldn't fill those positions.

So we made that change formally and we were better staffed in the regions because of that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak: The territorial *Cannabis Act* received Assent on June 13, 2018. Section 64 of the legislation requires that a review of the act be undertaken every five years.

Your department's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to initiate the *Cannabis Act* five-year review report. What specific amendments to the legislation are being actively considered?

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the sequencing, there was a review that's being done federally. So in terms of the sequence, we did see benefit to waiting for Canada's review of their legislation to be done, so we could follow.

In terms of the work to date on this and how much change we can expect, we're not looking at anything major in terms of an overhaul.

In general, our position is that the act is serving the function it's supposed to. There are a few administrative issues that have been flagged, but I think minor amendments is what the work to date is pointing towards.

But of course we're open to opinions on this, and if there's areas where we need to direct improvement, we're open to consideration from members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Do members have any questions? Do members agree with the Department of Finance Corporate Management Branch, total operations and maintenance of \$4,966,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please proceed to page C-5. We will now review the Department of Finance Fiscal Management Branch. Do members have any questions? Mr. Qammaniq.

Mr. Qammaniq: Communities? (interpretation) Can you hear me now? I apologize. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to explore new ways to service smaller communities, including online sales and researching and developing model agency store agreements, while expanding and improving remote sales. How does your department define "model agency store agreement"? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So in terms of the model agency store agreement, in essence what we're looking at with that is developing a mechanism where the private sector could operate an agency store on behalf of the Nunavut Cannabis and Liquor Commission.

Currently the two stores that we do have in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet are government-operated. And for smaller, not jurisdictions, smaller communities, the potential of the agency model is that it would be in many ways easier to operationalize for the commission.

We know Cambridge Bay has had a plebiscite on this issue, and there was support for it at their community level, so that is a community we are focussing on right now in terms of developing this mechanism. And if it's successful in Cambridge Bay, then that mechanism would be there. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qammaniq.

Mr. Qammaniq: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to develop an updated pricing structure that includes factoring age and product-specific alcohol content, expanding from the existing four categories. What specific changes are being considered? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you'll allow Mr. Gerginov to respond to this. *Mat'na*.

Chairman: Please proceed, Mr. Gerginov.

Mr. Gerginov: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question.

The primary mandate of the Liquor Commission is to reduce harm, and the stores are one of the tools used to shift consumer behaviour towards smaller alcohol content drinks.

We see the pricing strategy as an enhancement of that mandate, whereby in general, lower alcohol content drinks will have a lower markup compared to higher alcohol content drinks.

This change is effectively, it has a base of the landed cost for the products, and then adds a standard markup per standard alcoholic drink.

So people will see small changes in the pricing of the drinks. Some of that change will be driven by the new sealift prices and our new purchase agreements for this year, and some of that will be reflecting the higher or lower alcohol content in the drinks. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Do members have any questions? Mr. Kautuk.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Chair. When will the Government of Nunavut 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 *Annual Report on Grants and Contributions* be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Those reports have been posted to the website of the departments, so that's where they are available. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kautuk.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Minister, for the answer. Your department's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to develop a government-wide program evaluation initiative to evaluate programs across standard evaluation areas: effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, impact, sustainability, coherence, and additional Nunavut-specific areas such as alignment with the Inuit societal values.

Which program will be prioritized for review? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just bear with me here. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) I think it's important to note that at the heart of this, this initiative is about ensuring or attempting to ensure that we are spending public dollars wisely, with the underlying principle that the funds that are appropriated through the Assembly don't belong to us; they belong to the people of Nunavut, and we have to use them carefully.

So in terms of programs or areas that will be targeted for the initial work on this, I'm not at liberty to share that here in the House. However, we would be looking for programs that are of significant financial footprint, programs that have significant interest from stakeholders, whether it's for public or for not-for-profits or from private enterprises.

We need to make sure that the money we are expending through our programs is having the maximum impact and that it's going to places where it's needed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Do members have any questions? Mr. Attagutaluk.

Mr. Attagutaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As for what Mr. Gerginov said earlier, explore new ways to serve smaller communities, including online sales, and researching and developing model agency store agreements while expanding and improving remote sale services. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the intention here, we're looking to make it more convenient for customers to purchase and to access the products. We're trying to move away from use of fax machines. I don't know if I'm the only one here who has a big hate for fax machines. I realize they are necessary in some cases for things like prescriptions and official, but in terms of placing a liquor order, the commission is trying to look at ways to move those online.

Mr. Chair, if you'll allow while we're on this topic, in terms of the agency store concept, and Mr. Gerginov's answer earlier, it is about attempting to reduce the harm. When we see communities without beer and wine stores, we see higher consumption of hard liquor, and I believe it's just a function around freight rates.

It's very expensive to ship lower alcohol content products like beer and wine, so customers gravitate more towards the hard liquor products, which are, I think, more problematic, based on the research that's been done based on the harm reduction approach.

And so that's where the model agency store concept is of high interest to the commission. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Do members have any questions? Do members agree with the Department of Finance Fiscal Management Branch total operations and maintenance of \$6,521,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please go to page C-6. We will now review the Department of Finance Comptrollership Branch for the 2026-2027 for a total amount of \$32,738,000. Do members have any questions? Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Your department's proposed 2026-2027 main estimates indicate that the Comptrollership Branch's budget for service contracts is increasing from \$386,000 in 2025-2026 fiscal year to \$3.656 million in 2026-2027 fiscal year. This represents an increase of almost 850 percent. What accounts for this increase? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This is related to the Oracle Fusion Cloud system. Some of this increase is temporary, as we work to develop the application, and some of it is also tied to licensing fees for the software. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you. Your department's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to lead the early adoption of the new Public Sector Accounting Board conceptual framework across all Government of Nunavut reporting entities. What impact will this framework have on the government's operations?

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So in terms of our operations, we don't anticipate any large impact. I think the impact that we're looking for is to make the fiscal reporting clearer and easier to understand.

For example, we're adding new financial statements such as net financial assets and net financial liabilities. And so we are proactively working on this.

So when we look at the 2025-2026 financial statements associated with the framework, they will be implemented across the Government of Nunavut departments as of April 1, 2025. So it's something that's already in motion. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Do members have any questions? Do members agree with the Department of Finance Comptrollership Branch total operations and maintenance of \$32,738,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please proceed to C-7. We will now review the Department of Finance Centrally Administered Funds Branch. Do members have any questions? Mr. Attagutaluk.

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Chair. Your department's draft 2026-2027 main estimates includes \$30.1 million in funding for travel and transportation under its Centrally Administered Funds Branch. This branch includes funds for Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission premiums, employee medical travel, and other benefits for employees. This amount has increased by 19.9 per cent from the 2025-2026 budgets of \$25.1 million. What accounts for this increase? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the employee medical travel item, it's something where we're managing continued demand increases. In terms of determining these amounts, we were looking at the 2024-2025 disbursements and trying to make sure that the budget keeps pace.

It's important that our employees have these important supports for them and their families, and on the back end the financial resources to support those. *Mat'na*.

Chairman: Do members have any questions? Seeing none, do members agree with the Department of Finance Centrally Administered Funds Branch total operations and maintenance of \$75,727,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please go to page C-3. Do members agree with the Department of Finance 2026-2027 main estimates total operations and maintenance of \$119,952,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree we have concluded with Department of Finance?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Any closing comments, Minister Main?

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just want to thank you and the committee members for consideration of our ask here today. We're really excited about this budget, and of course I appreciate the staff who work really hard behind the scenes.

All the numbers and figures in the main estimates, don't add them; trust me, they don't add up when I do the work, but thankfully I have skilled folks within Finance who are very dedicated.

And I also wanted to thank members for helping. Hopefully through this, it's still under consideration, but just collectively we are working to put more money in the pockets of Nunavut parents with the Nunavut Child Benefit proposed budget.

What we're proposing is for each child, each year the payment would go from \$348 a year to \$696, so roughly \$700 a year per child in Nunavut, through the Nunavut Child Benefit.

So my hope is that we'll see continued support from the members, because the cost of living pressures are so high right now on Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

>>Committee adjourned at 16:45 and House resumed at 16:46

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Kuliktana.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and would like to report progress.

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

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Ms. Angootealuk. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Item 22, *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Clerk: A reminder there is a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at 10 a.m. in the Nanuq boardroom tomorrow morning.

Orders of the Day for June 3:

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

17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. *Orders of the Day.*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, members. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow on Wednesday, June 3, at 1:30 in the afternoon. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:48*

Appendix, June 2, 2026

communities to validate the prioritization framework. This work is anticipated to be completed in the 2026–2027 fiscal year, in alignment with the Ikajuqtigiikta Mandate business plan priority.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to stakeholder engagement, our Inuktitut Revitalization Officer based in Kugluktuk is tasked with maintaining active communication with community partners. I would also note that under the Indigenous Languages Component, federal Inuktitut funding flowing directly to Inuit organizations collectively exceeds the amount the Government receives to meet its own legal obligations. This makes coordination and collaboration even more essential.

On public servant training, Mr. Speaker, three Requests for Proposal are currently in their final review stage before submission to Procurement. One of these is specifically designed to identify qualified contractors to deliver targeted Inuinnaqtun revitalization programming. In the meantime, public servants continue to have access to Pirurvik's Pigiarvik and Qimattuvik programs.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge the importance of investing in future generations. Our broader investment profile includes \$1.35 million annually to Nunavut Arctic College, supporting initiatives such as the Inuinnaqtun Language Revitalization Certificate Program. Additionally, we provide \$6.9 million annually to the Department of Education for Inuktitut resource development, 20 per cent of which was produced or adapted in Inuinnaqtun in 2025–2026.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that \$487,602 has been approved through Grants and Contributions for Inuinnaqtun projects in 2026–2027. This represents 22.6 per cent of all public-facing Inuktitut revitalization funding.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize the urgency of this work and remain committed to open dialogue with Members as these efforts continue.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.