NUNAVUT HANSARD

UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

Hansard is not a verbatim transcript of the debates of the House. It is a transcript *in extenso*. In the case of repetition or for a number of other reasons, such as more specific identification, it is acceptable to make changes so that anyone reading Hansard will get the meaning of what was said. Those who edit Hansard have an obligation to make a sentence more readable since there is a difference between the spoken and the written word. *Debates*, September 20, 1983, p. 27299.

Beauchesne's 6th edition, citation 55

Corrections:

PLEASE RETURN ANY CORRECTIONS TO THE CLERK OR DEPUTY CLERK

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker
Hon. David Joanasie
(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 Akeeagok
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)
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

Steven Taqtu
(Quttiktuq)

Officers

Clerk
Stephen Innuksuk

Deputy Clerk
Wendy Bens

Clerk's Assistant
Kooyoo Nooshoota

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
Maliktoo Nooshoota

Hansard Production
Uqausirmit Uqausirmut Inc.

926 Sivumugiaq Street,
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 3H0
Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266
Website: **www.assembly.nu.ca**

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer 1

Ministers' Statements 1

Members' Statements 7

Returns to Oral Questions 9

Oral Questions 11

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters 24

Tabling of Documents 24

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters 25

Report of the Committee of the Whole 45

Orders of the Day 45

A.

Daily References

Wednesday, June 3, 2026 1

B.

Ministers' Statements

56 – 7(2): Training for Opportunities in the Trades (Healey Akearok) 1

57 – 7(2): Tuglirijavut Student Employment (Tattuinee) 2

58 – 7(2): One-Year Update of the Memorandum of Understanding with Qikiqtani Inuit Association (Healey Akearok) 3

59 – 7(2): Department of National Defence Support for Nunavut Airport Projects (Hickes) 4

60 – 7(2): Nunavut-Greenland Long-Line Open Water Fishing Knowledge Exchange Program (Simailak) 5

61 – 7(2): Increasing Inuit Employment in Qulliq Energy Corporation (Healey Akearok) 6

C.

Members' Statements

61 – 7(2): Laura Gauthier Volleyball Tournament (Tattuinee) 7

62 – 7(2): Sylvia Grinnell Park (Pedersen) 8

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

42 – 7(2): Decentralization (Tattuinee) 9

45 – 7(2): Legal Services Board (Hickes) 9

66 – 7(2): Elder Care Facilities (Brewster) 10

34 – 7(2): Activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation (Lyall) 10

E.

Oral Questions

78 – 7(2): Public and Firearms Safety (Kautuk).....11

79 – 7(2): Elder Care Facilities (Attagutaluk)..... 14

80 – 7(2): Airport Infrastructure (Kuliktana)..... 16

81 – 7(2): Territorial Parks (Pedersen) 18

82 – 7(2): Medical Travel (Angootealuk)..... 20

83: 7(2): Departmental Infrastructure in Arviat (Kablutsiak)..... 22

F.

Tabling of Documents

27 – 7(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Health's Follow-up from Committee of the Whole's Consideration of the 20206-2027 Main Estimates of the Department of Health (Pedersen)..... 24

G.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

2 – 7(2): Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act 24

H.

Bills

Bill 1 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027 – Consideration in Committee 25

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, June 3, 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): Item 1, Prayer. Mr. Attagutaluk, lead us in prayer.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated, and thank you, Mr. Attagutaluk. Good afternoon, people of Nunavut, colleagues, and those people watching the proceedings on live TV and also the radio on Wednesday.

And before we proceed, I would like to remind everyone and think about the people who have lost their loved ones.

Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Member for Family Services, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 56 – 7(2): Training for Opportunities in the Trades

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today I would like to highlight some of the training opportunities available to Nunavummiut in the skilled trades. Across our territory, people are putting their skills to work for their neighbours. A carpenter framing a house in their hometown. An electrician wiring a school their own children attend. A plumber keeping a neighbour's home warm through the winter. These programs give Nunavummiut a path to a good job, a steady income, and the pride of seeing the results of their work in our communities.

As of April 2026, 102 active apprentices and 12 trade qualifiers are registered across 12 designated trades in Nunavut, including carpentry, electrical, heavy equipment, housing

maintenance, oil heat systems, and plumbing. And for those who have never worked in the trades before, the Skilled Trades Worker Program offers a place to start, with a clear path into further construction trades training or an apprenticeship.

The building trades are not the only option. Mining is one of Nunavut's largest employers and a major driver of our economy, and the opportunities in this sector are expanding. Just last month, Iqaluit hosted the Nunavut Mining Symposium, which showcased that growth. Our focus is on making sure Nunavummiut have access to the training and credentials needed for the well-paying jobs these operations bring.

Through partnerships between Family Services and training providers, we have developed a range of mine training opportunities: an Underground Trainee Program at Agnico Eagle Mines; an Underground Miner Program through Aurora College in the Northwest Territories; Class 3 Airbrakes training in Arviat; Heavy Equipment Operator training in nine communities; and Introduction to Mechanics training in eight more. We are also working together with Community Services and Nunavut Arctic College to implement the Government of Nunavut's Mine Training Strategy.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage anyone interested in a career in the trades to contact Family Services' Career Development Division. Our staff are ready to help you find your future right here at home.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Tattuinee.

Minister's Statement 57 – 7(2): Tuglirijavut Student Employment

Hon. Annie Tattuinee: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the Tuglirijavut Student Employment Program, the year-round initiative led by the Department of Human Resources that gives young Nunavummiut meaningful, practical work experience.

Tuglirijavut provides high school and post secondary students, as well as recent graduates, hands on learning, mentorship from experienced GN staff, and a competitive wage. It helps participants build real skills, explore career paths, and gain confidence in the workplace.

Last fiscal year, 153 students from 12 communities across Nunavut took part in the program, including 120 Nunavut Inuit. This year, we are working not only to increase

participation, but also to expand opportunities in more communities beyond our regional centres.

Mr. Speaker, Tuglirijavut strengthens our commitment to Article 23 of the Nunavut Agreement by prioritizing Nunavut Inuit hiring. I encourage all GN departments and agencies to make full use of this program, and I urge students to take that important step and apply.

Our students and graduates are the future of our public service and the future leaders of Nunavut. When we invest in them today, we invest in the strength and success of our territory for years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker(interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Minister's Statement 58 – 7(2): One-Year Update of the Memorandum of Understanding with Qikiqtani Inuit Association

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on March 5, 2025, the Nunavut Arctic College and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association signed a memorandum of understanding affirming our respective organizations' commitment to supporting training and education opportunities in the High Arctic. I am pleased to provide important updates on these efforts.

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association continues to oversee the construction of the Pond Inlet Research & Training Centre. The completion date for this facility is currently scheduled for late summer of this year. With this news confirmed, the College is planning for program deliveries in this facility, starting in September 2026. The programs currently confirmed for delivery at the Pond Inlet Research & Training Centre starting in the Winter Semester of the 2026-27 academic year include:

- Interpreter/Translator (Year 1);
- Fur Production & Design (Year 1); and the
- Personal Support Worker Program.

For these first cohorts, these programs will be offered to residents of Pond Inlet only. Additional programs are still being considered, and further announcements will be made once confirmed.

I encourage residents of Pond Inlet to learn about these programs, and to consider applying for these programs. Nunavut Arctic College will be planning recruitment efforts for these programs in the coming months.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the president of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Olayuk Akesuk, and his team, for being a great partner in this effort. I believe our shared efforts are an important example for our territory. We are bringing together our strengths to address a shared need, and this deserves celebration. The Nunavut Arctic College is proud to be a partner in the success, and in support of, the Pond Inlet Research & Training Centre.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 59 – 7(2): Department of National Defence Support for Nunavut Airport Projects

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues of three Nunavut airport projects currently underway with support from the Department of National Defence.

Mr. Speaker, in March, Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut signed funding agreements with a total value exceeding $11 million for design and other work at the Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Resolute Bay airports.

The Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay funding agreements complement planning and design work underway by Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, and recognize the importance of these regional airports to Canada's Arctic security and sovereignty.

Mr. Speaker and Members, as announced by Prime Minister Carney in March, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay have been designated as Northern Operational Support Nodes, which are secondary support facilities that enable the Canadian Armed Forces to project and sustain forces into more remote Arctic areas.

Resolute Bay has been identified as a Northern Operational Support Hub, which is a more critical asset intended to provide logistical support for military operations in the Arctic.

As the Resolute Bay airport improvements are planned and designed, the Government of Nunavut will continue to engage the Government of Canada to ensure that the development of this ambitious facility provides meaningful benefits for the people of Resolute Bay and Nunavummiut in the surrounding region for years to come.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 60 – 7(2): Nunavut-Greenland Long-Line Open Water Fishing Knowledge Exchange Program

Hon. Craig Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, colleagues, and to everyone back home. I hope you guys have a wonderful day and I see people are now hunting eggs.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an important initiative that supports the future of Nunavut's fisheries sector, strengthens Inuit knowledge exchange across the Arctic, and creates new opportunities for Nunavummiut.

From June 3 to 17, 2026, ten fishers from communities across the Qikiqtani Region will travel to Nuuk, Greenland, to participate in the Nunavut-Greenland Long-Line Open Water Fishing Knowledge Exchange Program.

This multi-year initiative focuses on strengthening fisheries capacity in Nunavut through open-water long-line fishing for *qaleralik*, also known as Greenland halibut. Participants will receive practical, hands-on training alongside experienced Greenlandic fishers and industry partners.

This initiative reflects years of collaboration between the Government of Nunavut, Inuit organizations, industry partners, and hunters and trappers organizations across the region.

Participants were selected from Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, Clyde River, Pond Inlet, and Arctic Bay, ensuring communities helped shape and guide this opportunity from the beginning.

The training program combines classroom instruction with on-the-water experience, covering vessel operations, safety, navigation, long-line preparation, fish handling, and sustainable fishing practices.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative builds on a strong history of Inuit-to-Inuit knowledge sharing across the Arctic. Earlier long-line fishing exchanges helped strengthen fisheries skills in Nunavut, and many Nunavut fishers continue to benefit from that knowledge today.

This new program builds on that success by focusing on open-water fishing techniques that can support the continued growth of Nunavut's fisheries sector.

The goal is straightforward but important: to build local capacity and create opportunities for Nunavummiut who want to help lead the future of fisheries development in Nunavut.

This work supports food security, economic opportunity, and greater Inuit participation within the fishing industry.

Mr. Speaker, this program also reflects something larger than fishing alone: It reflects Inuit working together across the Arctic, sharing knowledge, strengthening relationships, and supporting one another through shared experience.

I look forward to hearing about the experiences of the participants when they return home and seeing how this knowledge continues to support Nunavut's fisheries sector in the years ahead.

Ma'na, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 61 – 7(2): Increasing Inuit Employment in Qulliq Energy Corporation

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

(interpretation ends) I rise today to highlight Qulliq Energy Corporation's ongoing commitment to strengthening Inuit employment and building a workforce that reflects the communities we serve. This work aligns with the intent and obligations of Article 23 of the Nunavut Agreement and the corporation's *Inuit Employment Plan 2024–2034.*

The Qulliq Energy Corporation has taken a deliberate approach to building Inuit capacity across the organization. This commitment is action-oriented and measurable, and focuses on four key Inuit employment programs, each designed as an interconnected pathway to recruitment, training, and long-term career success. The four programs include the Inuit

Leadership Development Program, the Inuit Summer Student Program, the Inuit Apprenticeship Program, and the Inuit Employee Career Development Plans.

Mr. Speaker, these programs demonstrate Qulliq Energy Corporation's ongoing efforts to build meaningful opportunities for Inuit across all levels of the corporation, from entry-level opportunities to leadership roles.

Most recently, two Inuit employees achieved professional designations in human resources and finance through the Inuit Leadership Development Program, and a third employee is currently enrolled. Over the last five years, our corporation has hired a total of 62 students through the Inuit Summer Student Program, which we are about to launch for another year. Four employees are enrolled in the Inuit Apprenticeship Program, and we are focused on further expanding opportunities for skills training and career advancement. Approximately 80 per cent of Inuit employees now have active career development plans in place, with that number continuing to grow as more employees are engaged in structured development pathways.

The per centage of Inuit employment at Qulliq Energy Corporation has increased to 58 per cent in the past six months, with 100 per cent Inuit employment in 21 of our 25 communities. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to celebrate the Nunavummiut who keep the lights on across our territory and are planning for the energy needs of the future. The work they do each day makes everything else in our communities possible.

Mr. Speaker, it is our sincere hope that these efforts will ensure Inuit employees are supported to build lasting, meaningful careers in all aspects of our utility.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): *Orders of the Day*. Item 3, Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Ms. Tattuinee.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 61 – 7(2): Laura Gauthier Volleyball Tournament

Hon. Annie Tattuinee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hello to all the people living in Rankin Inlet.

I just want to mention that the Laura Gauthier Memorial Volleyball Tournament is happening in Rankin Inlet this weekend, from June 4 to 7.

There are 13 women's teams and 9 men's teams registered to participate in this tournament, and I think it's one of the larger tournaments being held in the territory, and I just want to wish all the participants a great deal of fun and success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Pedersen.

Member's Statement 62 – 7(2): Sylvia Grinnell Park

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to you all and to those watching in Cambridge Bay.

As I mentioned the other day, we had an opportunity to visit the Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park over the past weekend. While there I couldn't help but notice the infrastructure that is there for use by visitors.

When you drive there it starts with a good parking lot that includes washroom facilities, and off to the left appears to be a park office and a garage for staff and maintenance equipment.

As you walk up to the main visitors' building, which has a wood stove that's stocked with cut wood available for use, large barbecues with propane, and a generator for powering the building, we also noticed camping platforms, cooking stations and a nice lookout deck.

While there the snow cover didn't allow me to walk further, but I did see another building up to the right, again for use by visitors.

I'm not aware of how long the park has been there, but it's very well-equipped and very close to the community of Iqaluit, maybe a kilometre away.

I've also been to other parks in Nunavut, such as the Kugluk Park at Bloody Falls, south of Kugluktuk, and Ovayok Park, which is northeast of Cambridge Bay.

Both of those parks are 10 kilometres or more from the community. They don't have park buildings that are outfitted with anything to rent. They do have some tent platforms, cooking stations, and outhouses available for visitors.

They don't have park office buildings or garages for use by staff. They also don't have loaders equipped with snowblowers for clearing the road or trail to each park, and this is surprising considering the distance one must travel to get to each one of those.

Mr. Speaker, my questions this afternoon will be to the Minister of Environment regarding territorial parks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 4 in our *Orders of the Day*, Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Tattuinee.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 42 – 7(2): Decentralization

Hon. Annie Tattuinee: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question 42 – 7(2), asked by the Member for Aggu on May 27, 2026 regarding decentralization.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The minister is asking if the response to oral question can be placed into Hansard as read. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We'll move on. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Hickes.

Return to Oral Question 45 – 7(2): Legal Services Board

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement answers provided to Member Porter regarding the Legal Services Board's Inuit Court Worker Program.

Mr. Speaker, the member had asked for the number of Inuit court workers currently employed in the Kitikmeot Region.

As of June 1, 2026, there are five court worker positions in the Kitikmeot Region, one located in each community of the region, and all positions are currently filled.

The court workers are recruited and employed by the regional law clinics, including the Kitikmeot Law Centre, and the court workers are also provided territory-wide support by the Legal Services Board's director of access to justice through weekly training and other engagement.

Mr. Speaker, I do apologize, I didn't introduce the question number. It is 45 – 7(2) from May 27. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Return to Oral Question 66 – 7(2): Elder Care Facilities

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide a response to question 66 – 7(2) regarding elder care facilities. Mr. Speaker, the response to the question I received on June 1, 2026, regarding elder care facilities and Indigenous Community Infrastructure Funding, is that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is investing $15 million of the Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund to support the renewal of care facilities in the territory. Of the $15 million, the Department of Health and NTI used $500,000 for a contribution agreement to conduct building condition assessments of Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, and Arviat to identify items that needed replacement. Igloolik, Gjoa Haven and Arviat have been allocated just under $5 million each for repairs and planning.

The building condition assessments for all three facilities have been completed. All have been approved for planning starting this fiscal year. The planning work will inform potential facility expansions in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik to increase territorial capacity. To date, class D estimates for three facilities have been developed for repairs and upgrades, and to support early stage expansion planning. Planning efforts will further refine scope, timelines, and funding requirements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Return to Oral Questions. Minister for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Lyall.

Return to Oral Question 34 – 7(2): Activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to supplement an answer I shared during question period on May 26, 2026 in response to Mr. Kautuk's question about activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The member asked for further information on planned public and staff housing for 2026-2027 construction season, including where the units are planned, who will build them, and the use of modular housing.

As the members will recall, in March I shared community-specific housing information with each member. I also shared a community-by-community breakdown with members

of this House on June 2, 2026, outlining the planned public and staff housing construction for the 2026-2027 construction season.

NHC is hoping to start construction of 167 new housing units this fall, with 92 units planned for traditional stick build, and the remaining 75 units are modular units.

157 of the planned units will be for public housing, while the remaining 10 will be for GN staff housing.

Some planned projects remain subject to approvals by local authorities. For example, 12 units planned for Arviat and 58 units planned for Iqaluit are currently going through municipal development permit processes. These projects will only move forward in the 2026 construction season if these local approvals are granted.

Mr. Speaker, NHC is well positioned for the upcoming construction season for modular projects. Supply contracts have been awarded and sealift reservations have been secured so that the units can arrive in their respective communities this season.

NHC has also started the tender process for the modular housing installation contracts, and expects to have the installation teams finalized before the modular units arrive on the 2026 sealift.

These figures reflect the information NHC has confirmed to date. As construction planning continues, timelines and project details may change because of approvals, shipping, contracting, weather, site conditions or operational factors. NHC is also discussing a few additional builds, so the total number of units may change.

I will continue to share relevant updates with members as information is confirmed. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on, Item 6, Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Kautuk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 78 – 7(2): Public and Firearms Safety

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice, and they concern public firearms safety in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq.

Mr. Speaker, as the member for the Legislative Assembly representing the constituency of Uqqummiut, I am a strong advocate for public and firearm safety now of Nunavut's communities, including Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage my constituents to do their part to ensure our communities are safe for everyone. I strongly encourage community members to use trigger locks and store firearms in locked cabinets.

On May 31, 2023, the *Nunavut Minister of Justice - Nunavut RCMP Commanding Officer Shared Directional Statement 2022-2025* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The shared directional statement outlines five priorities, including crime prevention and reduction. Can the minister confirm when a new shared directional statement will be tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member's attention to this. I think it's very important that we communicate our expectations with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and their expectations of us as a Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, we're actually continuing to work on that shared directional statement. I don't have a specific timeline. We've been looking at a lot of things internally in the last six months since we've come into our roles here, and I am looking at finalizing that document in the very near future, but I can't give a very specific timeline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary question, Member Kautuk.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Minister, for the reply. Mr. Speaker, the department's Qukiutiliritsiarniq Nunavummi, Firearms Safety Nunavut campaign, offers resources, support and promotes the safe usage and handling of firearms in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, information published by the department indicates that:

"Firearm Safety Nunavut is working in partnership with the Firearm Safety Office, Embrace Life Council, Community Justice Outreach Workers, Departments of Health and Education, and the Pirurvik Centre, to offer safety awareness activities throughout the year… including possession and acquisition licence courses in combination with awareness outreach events in Nunavut communities."

Can the Minister indicate if and when the Firearm Safety Nunavut program will be delivering possession and acquisition licence courses in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as members are aware, there's a position within this budget that we're debating right now that will help expedite the firearms training component of that.

Just a couple months ago, in March of this year, in Qikiqtarjuaq there was firearms training program that was administered. I would have to look into when the next one is going to be scheduled for Clyde River, but specifically for helping people to get their acquisition licence or their PAL, as it's called. know the interpreters don't like when we use shortened. Anyway.

Mr. Speaker, as we move forward, there has been a person that was hired in that position quite recently, and they will be helping all communities' residents to be able to help get their firearms acquisition certification.

I would be happy to follow up with the member if he has any specific questions or any specific concerns on how that position will roll out, but that position has been filled, and we are looking at implementing a little bit more service to Nunavummiut to be able to access the certification so that everyone follows the firearms compliance. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member Kautuk.

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, on April 2, 2026, he signed correspondence, in collaboration with the Ministers of Justice for the Northwest Territories and Yukon, directed to the federal Minister of Public Safety of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the correspondence from the three northern Ministers of Justice indicated that:

"We are writing to convey our significant concerns with the impact of federal firearm policy on the Northern way of life… the federal prohibitions have not considered the unique circumstances of northern Canadians. That is why we see it as critical that the federal government pause the Firearms Compensation Program… Consideration of a northern exemption for this program would lend us all the opportunity to work together on the development of more evidence-based public safety options suitable for the north."

Can the Minister indicate what actions his department will undertake, in collaboration with the Government of Yukon and Northwest Territories, to provide more public safety options that are more suitable for the northern territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for again continuing this dialogue. I think it's very important to recognize that oftentimes when decisions are made and policy decisions or policies are developed from southern jurisdictions, they don't always really fully comprehend the impact that it's going to have on northerners, especially people that are trying to provide for their families.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think there's much argument that people would put up that we don't really need the assault-style weapons that are out there. But Mr. Speaker, I think it's very clear that the big bore restrictions on certain weapons or certain firearms has significant implications for large game: whale, walrus, bear.

When we look at large-bore firearms, they are a critical component to many of our hunters' livelihoods. I've conveyed that information to Minister Anandasangaree, and I do thank my Arctic colleagues or northern colleagues, but other jurisdictions across the country. I received correspondence as recently as this morning from other jurisdictions who are raising similar concerns from an agriculture-protection type of a component as well.

So it is a continuing dialogue. I know that the amnesty period is still there. I know that the buyback program has expired; now it's in an amnesty period.

But we want to make sure we're not criminalizing our hunters. I know as a cabinet we've all been very clear on our stance, that we feel that some of the guns, some of the firearms that are on the restricted list should not be there.

Mr. Speaker, I think we've been very clear in our position and we understand the implications, and we're hoping that we can continue to convey those concerns and that those concerns are addressed by the federal ministry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Mr. Attagutaluk.

Oral Question 79 – 7(2): Elder Care Facilities

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health.

I would like to begin by thanking the hard-working staff in Igloolik continuing care centre for their hard work on behalf of our elders.

As the minister will recall, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated announced on February 2025 that it would be "contributing $500,000 for the purpose of conducting building condition assessment of the more recent continuing care centre in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik, taking a proactive approach to identify items that need replacement. The

funding will also be used to conduct a feasibility study on potential expansion for these facilities. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Nunavut will oversee these analyses together, then jointly create a spending plan for the remaining $99.5 million."

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this work in relation to the Igloolik Continuing Care Centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The building condition assessments for all three facilities have been completed. All have been approved for planning starting this fiscal year. The planning work will inform potential facility expansion in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik, to increase territorial capacity.

To date, class D estimates for the three facilities have been developed for repairs and upgrades to support early-stage expansion planning and planning. Planning efforts will further refine scope timelines and funding agreements, and as I said earlier, they have been allocated just under $5 million each, for repairs and planning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary question, Mr. Attagutaluk.

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of staffing at Igloolik continuing care facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Igloolik there are a total of 39 staff, and 35 staff are Inuit. That's 88 per cent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, her department issued an announcement in December 2025 concerning new long-term care facilities for elders. The announcement indicated that the planned Qikiqtani facility will have a total of 48 beds.

Can the minister provide an update today on the timeline for construction of the new long-term care facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That planning is going back out to tender for bidding, and I can't provide a concrete time on how long that will take. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 80 – 7(2): Airport Infrastructure

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Transportation and they concern issue of airport infrastructure.

As the minister will recall, Kugluktuk's new airport terminal building was officially open in June 2025, one year ago. As the member of the Legislative Assembly for Kugluktuk, I have spent a fair amount of time in the terminal, travelling back and forth from the community to the capital.

Mr. Speaker, the new facility has been in operation for almost a year. As the minister will appreciate, the first year of new building's life is an opportunity to identify issues with facility or areas for improvement.

Can the minister indicate how his department has been evaluating the operations of the new airport terminal building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister of Transportation, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for following up on this very exciting project yet completed.

Mr. Speaker, just through normal communications with airport staff and responsibility with Nunavut Airports' senior management to make sure that there aren't any outstanding concerns or issues that need to be addressed. As of right now, Mr. Speaker, since Nav Canada moved their operations over from the old air terminal building to the new one, everything has gone very smooth. There hasn't been any concerned raised.

In fact, now that the NAV Canada equipment and responsibilities over in the new aircraft terminal, the decommissioning and I guess the deconstruction of the old aircraft terminal building is actually currently underway. So it is currently being demolished, and that should be done in the coming weeks as well. So that site will be cleared up as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary question, Member Kuliktana.

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

As the minister will recall, his department issued a request for tender in January of this year for the construction of a new airport equipment shelter at Kugluktuk's airport. A contract for this work was delivered in March of this year.

Information published by his department indicates "the department has also included an economic development component to the project by adding a cargo facility within the shelter. One purpose of the cargo facility is to promote food security by providing a space for a vendor to operate a cargo service to distribute commercial freight merchandise, frozen, perishable goods for the community."

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this project, and can he indicate a timeline for identifying a vendor to operate the cargo service? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again I thank the member for raising this. I think it's an important component, whenever we do have, especially with new terminals and we have new equipment coming in. There is a loader-mounted snowblower also coming in on the sealift this summer for Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, with regards to the forebay airport equipment shelter material, as the member stated, the tender did close in March and was awarded. Materials are expected on site this summer, and work will begin to be started as far as the site preparation and getting the site prepared for the construction to continue into the next year.

Mr. Speaker, at this time we don't have a clear timeline into when we're going to be looking at the partner with regards to the cargo component to it, but that is something that as the construction progresses we'll make sure that we continue to follow up, and if the member has any concerns or any suggestions, I would be open to listening to them. Thank you.

Speaker: Last supplementary, Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you for the response. As the minister is aware, Kugluktuk received a jet service at one point in time. However, this was discontinued with Canadian North. Canadian North retired its old 737s with gravel kits.

Mr. Speaker, at that time I was the mayor of Kugluktuk. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that paving runways in not cheap. Can the minister indicate if his department has any plans in this area with respect to Kugluktuk's runway? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, I appreciate the member's line of questioning on this. I think it's important to recognize the fiscal restrictions that we have on.

Mr. Speaker, that's not always the only thing we take into consideration; the safety of the runways as well too. And with that in mind, Mr. Speaker, in the 2025 year, last fiscal year work had started on a resurfacing for the Kugluktuk runway, and that work will continue over to be completed this summer. So we look at, it should be completed by the end of September. We will obviously accommodate any scheduled flights or Medevac flights that are needed.

We also want to acknowledge that there is a lot of work going on within the Kugluktuk airport with the new ATV, or their air terminal building, the new equipment shelter, and then the resurfacing runway. So I'm very excited, and I'm looking forward to taking all that in and hopefully some upcoming travel opportunities to go visit the member in his home community. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Cambridge Bay MLA, Mr. Pedersen.

Oral Question 81 – 7(2): Territorial Parks

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment.

I understand that the operation of territorial parks in Nunavut must follow the processes outlined in the Territorial Parks *Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement*. I also understand that as part of that process, there are both community joint planning and management committees and the Nunavut joint planning and management committee. These committees are in place to provide recommendations to the minister on operational and planning matters.

My first question is: Do all of the community joint planning and management committees and the Nunavut Joint Planning and Management Committee have complete appointments in place so that they are able to operate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Minister Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank my colleague.

(interpretation ends) All the parks have Joint Planning and Management Committee, and they are all appointed and they meet regularly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks for your reply, Minister.

My second question is: Do the community joint planning and management committees share information between themselves, such as park management-type decisions or requests for any capital-type acquisitions they are making as a means of ensuring best practices are followed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Minister Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member.

To perhaps add to the response, (interpretation ends) there's a few vacancies in the joint park management committees, but we're working hard to fill those positions right now.

For the second question, it's coordinated at the department level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question to the minister is, and I believe this process would be out of the hands of the community joint management committees. I am asking this because there must be great thought required prior to making capital requests which can reach over half a million dollars for one park, but not for others.

And to be clear, this is in relation to the department purchasing a loader, slash snowblower for a park that is within a kilometre of our community, but not for parks that are over 10 kilometres from a community.

How does his department move forward in requesting capital items for territorial parks? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Mr. Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Member.

(interpretation ends) For Iqaluit, the road is within the park boundary. But in other parks, the park may be away from the community, several more kilometres from the community, and the Department of Environment has no jurisdictions over anything outside the park. So building a road would have to depend on coordinating with the different agencies to start planning a road.

To purchase snowblowers, it has to go through the joint park management committee to address the needs of the park. And also, trying to get a snowblower, you have to have storage facility in place before that could be taken into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Ms. Angootealuk.

Oral Question 82 – 7(2): Medical Travel

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Health.

(interpretation ends) During my recent visit to Naujaat I had the opportunity to speak with a number of constituents. One of the issues that was raised with me is the issue of establishing a new medical boarding home in Rankin Inlet.

As the minister will recall, this subject has been discussed by Kivalliq mayors at the recent meetings. A new medical boarding home in Rankin Inlet would improve the medical travel experience for patients, especially our elders.

Can the minister provide an update on her department's review of this issue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A feasibility study was conducted to formally assess if there is potential for a boarding home in Rankin Inlet, and the study concluded that it is not currently feasible, and that Health needs to plan and increase service provision in Rankin Inlet so clients are there for days and not travelling to Winnipeg to access services, as it is now.

And we also provide short-term rooms in Rankin Inlet. We have ten rooms and a total of 18 beds. The rooms either have two single beds, one single bed and one pullout couch or a double bed that are available to anybody who is on medical travel and has to stay in Rankin Inlet.

We also did a utilization analysis for the rooms in Rankin Inlet for the fiscal year of 2025-2026, which identified 3,650 available room nights with an average occupancy rate of 30 per cent. Utilization is largely dependent on weather and flight disruptions, and it varies significantly with periods of elevated demand.

Overall utilization has increased modestly, reflecting a gradual increase in demand while remaining variable, but it's still not sufficient to support a boarding home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another issue that was raised during my recent visit to Naujaat is the need for more aircraft to be available for medical evacuation flights.

When it comes to medevacs, every minute counts. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the awarding of the department's new contract for air ambulance service? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The negotiations are continuing. We do have an interim measure that is ensuring that our medevac contracts are extended during the negotiation period, so that won't be interrupted. And our hopes is that the negotiations will conclude very shortly, so that we can have longer term medevac contracts in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angootealuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I sometimes forget to thank the Minister. I thank you for your reply.

(interpretation ends) The issue of escorts for medical travellers was also raised with me during my recent visit to Naujaat. I understand that the department's resources are limited and not every request can be accommodated.

Can the minister indicate if her department is reviewing its policies regarding escorts for medical travellers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Health is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the medical travel policy to ensure more effective service delivery to Nunavummiut, and that, the question of escorts, medical travel escorts, is under review as part of that overall review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 83: 7(2): Departmental Infrastructure in Arviat

Mr. Kablutsiak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Acting Minister of Education. My concern regards to the departmental infrastructure in Arviat.

The correspondence, or rather announcement that was made in September 2023, the minister may recall, concerning a pilot project to provide full-day kindergarten in five communities: Nanook School in Apex, Qaqqalik School in Kimmirut, Victor Sammurtok School in Chesterfield, Inuglak School in Whale Cove, Jimmy Hikok Ilihakvik School in Kugluktuk, (interpretation ends) but his department indicates that it wants to expand this initiative to the Levi Angmak School in Arviat.

When I raised this issue earlier this year during our winter sitting, the minister indicated that the department is planning to undertake the necessary renovations and related work during the upcoming 2027-2028 fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, the government's next set of capital estimates will be introduced in this House, just a few months from now.

Can the minister confirm that funding for this project will be included in the department's capital budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Acting Minister of Education, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to thank the member for asking the questions.

In regards to some of the schools, for example, including Levi Angmak School in Arviat, we look at the total population from kindergarten versus full-day education where there would have to be additional work, then, to enlarge the classrooms. And looking at the capital projects in the fall, we are currently working on the budget, and at this time we don't know if there's going to be monies available for those types of projects. But the Department of Education has identified various plans, including Levi Angmak School in Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, the department's 2026-2027 capital estimates included funding for ongoing lifecycle repairs to schools across Nunavut. Can the minister provide a summary of the department's major projects that are being undertaken during the current fiscal year in relation to Arviat's Levi

Angmak Elementary School, Qitiqliq Middle School and the John Arnalukjuak High School? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Acting Minister of Education, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the Levi Angmak School, as well as John Arnalukjuak School, I don't have level of detail on those two schools. Specifically there may be some minor work that is happening, but I'm not seeing it in the information in front of me right now.

I can say that for the Qitiqliq Middle School, the water tank replacement project is ongoing. The water tanks are currently in the community, and contractors are actually waiting for the school year to end before they can get into the Qitiqliq Middle School. The plan is to replace the water tanks, Mr. Speaker.

I must say, I have the unique perspective of having spent sometime inside those old water tanks as a summer student years ago, so I can speak to their condition from the inside out, and they definitely need replacement. I can speak to that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Must have been a very tall water tank. Second and final supplementary question, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak (interpretation): Thank you. And I believe I did work as a summer student over there when it was CGS, and it has been quite a while.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the Department of Education has a number of positions at its offices in Arviat, including positions related to curriculum development and the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students Program.

It is important that our staff have adequate and suitable space in which to work. Can the minister highlight what work will be undertaken during the current fiscal year to address any identified issues with the current office space? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Acting Minister of Education, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The office space of the curriculum development office and the FANS office there in Arviat, again I apologize, I don't have the level of detail. I can return to the member with some more detail, either directly to the member or here in the House.

In terms of the vacancies at the curriculum division, it is a concern that we have. Currently there are 20 positions at the curriculum division. Unfortunately, only four are

filled right now. I can't say that the department is working to staff up. There are competitions in process, so we're hoping to see some improvement soon.

Staff housing availability is a factor in terms of being able to fill those positions, as well as the relatively high level of education required for those curriculum development jobs. They all require, most of them require university degree qualifications, currently. So high vacancies being what they are, the department is committed to staffing up that curriculum division in Arviat. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): *Orders of the Day*: Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Petitions. Item 10, Responses to Petitions. 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. I recognize the Chairperson on Legislation, Mr. Kablutsiak.

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

Committee Report 2 – 7(2): Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation, and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree that Bill 4 as amended will now be referred to the Committee of the Whole and to include on the *Orders of the Day*? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation)Thank you. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Pedersen.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 27 – 7(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Health's Follow-up from Committee of the Whole's Consideration of the 20206-2027 Main Estimates of the Department of Health

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one document to table today in my capacity as chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, which is a copy of correspondence from the Minister of Health in response to questions that were asked during the consideration of the department's 2026-2027 Main Estimates during the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole during the spring 2026 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. I encourage all members to review the document with care, and I

would like to thank the minister for providing the correspondence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. *Orders of the Day*. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motion. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Item 17, Second Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters.

And before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 14:41 and Committee commenced at 15:14

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

Chairman (Mr. Fred Pedersen): I call the committee meeting in order. We have the following items 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 Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. 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 Healey Akearok: Do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, I do have officials. *Qujannamiik*.

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 Healey Akearok, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Joining me today is the president of Nunavut Arctic College, Jackie Price; and Bola Lawal, our Chief Financial Officer. And in the gallery today we have Sherrie Young, the Director of Policy and Strategic Planning.

Thank you, Mr. Chair and fellow members. I am happy to present the Nunavut Arctic College's 2026-27 Main Estimates. Nunavut Arctic College maintains the operations laid out in the Business Plan based on its proposed budget.

While the college's overall operating costs are supported through different sources, including third-party funding and its own revenues, this presentation focusses specifically on the contribution from the Government of Nunavut. For the upcoming fiscal year, the college is seeking approval for $52,201,000. This amount represents an increase of $4,076,000 from the previous fiscal year. This proposed increase will support the college in the following areas:

- Trades Training programs; and
- Increasing staff and faculty wages and benefits.

The college is requesting $2,842,000 to support the college's Construction Trades programs. These programs range from preparatory trades programs to full apprenticeship programs in the five construction areas offered by the college.

The college is proposing to expand its trades training at the Sanatuliqsarvik Trades School by continuing partner-based building projects. Through partnerships with building leaders in the territory, like the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the college aims to increase supporting home builds to provide students and alumni with paid, hands-on training while contributing to the construction of much-needed housing units. These active building sites require qualified site supervisors and journeypersons to mentor learners and verify their skill development, so their hours count toward apprenticeship requirements under the territory's *Apprenticeship Act*. The college's proposed budget includes dedicated funds to ensure these on-site supports are secured.

The college is proud of the range of house building that has been completed by its students. A duplex was just completed this past March, and two more duplexes are slated for completion by the end of this summer. These three duplexes, totaling six units, are dedicated student housing for the Nunavut Arctic College. Students building housing for students, learning together and being guided by trades professionals, is a winning model for the territory.

The college continues to explore and develop mechanisms to allow for the expansion of this model to other communities through the Nailed It! program. The Nailed It! program is a pre-apprenticeship pathway designed to recognize the real-world competencies Nunavummiut gain on construction sites. With condensed academic requirements, and expanded hands-on learning opportunities, this program offers an alternative to traditional pre-trades training and supports learners whose strengths come from onsite learning and mentorship, and who appreciate learning the skill to understand the theory. It is the aim of the Nunavut Arctic College to develop a pool of students looking to begin their apprenticeship journey within the territory.

A central support in all successful delivery of these programs is effective coordination. This funding will also allow the college to develop additional mechanisms to ensure effective coordination between training, construction projects and stakeholders.

Finally, the trades-specific funding will ensure all students have the tools and safety equipment required to work on construction sites. The college is committed to ensuring students in the pre-apprenticeship and leveled trades programs, have the tools they need to learn with instructional staff and journeypersons. This is necessary to ensure high-quality, real-world training that meets both industry needs and Nunavut's growing demand for skilled tradespeople.

Nunavut Arctic College is also requesting $1.276 million to cover the wage and benefit increases aligning with the collective agreement between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Employees Union.

In closing, I would like to affirm the college is committed to supporting the four pillars of the Ikajuqtigiikta mandate, to:

- Strengthen and Uplift Families and Communities;
- Drive local economic growth and employment;
- Simplify operations and enhance partnerships; and
- Invest in a brighter future for all Nunavummiut.

The college will do its part to ensure these pillars are supported. Through the design and delivery of its wide range of programs and services across the territory, the college remains committed to providing quality learning that includes Inuit language, culture, and experience, to continue engaging with relevant stakeholders within and outside the territory, and ensuring Nunavummiut have meaningful options for their learning and training needs.

Colleagues, this concludes with my opening comments. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2026-2027 main estimates and 2026-2030 business plan of Nunavut Arctic College.

The college's proposed 2026-2027 operations and maintenance appropriation from the Legislative Assembly is $52,201,000. This represents an 8.4 per cent increase from the 2025-2026 main estimates. The college's total operating budget will be approximately $75.1 million, (interpretation ends) taking into account third-party funding and revenue from tuition fees and other resources. The college's number of positions remains unchanged at 315.8.

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

Nunavut Arctic College's 2023-2024 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 19, 2026. Members look forward to the timely tabling of the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 annual reports.

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, including Nunavut Arctic College. The Department of Finance's 2026-2030 business plan (interpretation ends) 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 the strategic direction to the relevant public agencies and that they be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation) In February 2026, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami announced that the main campus of the new Inuit Nunangat University will be located in Arviat. The Department of Education's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "begin a review of the *University and Degree-Granting Institutions Act*." Information published by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami indicates that the Inuit Nunangat University plans to offer major and minor degree programs in a wide number of fields, including education, nursing, midwifery, social work, Inuktut interpretation and translation, arts, and environmental detection.

Given the overlap with Nunavut Arctic College's current program offerings, it is clear to members that close co-ordination between the institutions will be required prior to the new university's planned opening in the year 2030.

Nunavut Arctic College's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to (interpretation ends) "initiate formal reviews of programs under the language and culture portfolio, including program outlines, learning outcomes, and program materials and resources." The relationship between Nunavut Arctic College's Piqqusilirivvik Cultural Learning Facility and the new Inuit Nunangat University is another issue that requires attention.

The Government of Nunavut's December 31, 2025, Inuit Employment Plan quarterly report indicated that Nunavut Arctic College had 100 per cent vacancy rates in the communities of Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, Kugaaruk, Naujaat and Resolute Bay. The report indicated that Nunavut Arctic College's overall vacancy rate for positions located outside of Iqaluit was 61 per cent. Members are concerned at the impact of the vacancy rate on the delivery of programming at the community level.

Nunavut Arctic College's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "expand delivery of the personal support worker certificate program into two communities, providing culturally relevant, community-based training." Members encourage the college to develop and deliver programs to enable Nunavut Inuit to gain the necessary training and certification to pursue careers at the government's new long-term care facilities in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Iqaluit, as well as the new Aqqusariaq Recovery Centre.

Nunavut Arctic College's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "conduct feasibility research into delivery of the Bachelor of Social Work degree across three regions and evaluate outcomes to inform scalable territorial expansion." The 2026-2030 business plan of the Department of Family Services indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "conduct internal and partner discussions to inform development of a pathway within family wellness to support Inuit social work graduates from Nunavut Arctic College interested in child protection roles." Members encourage Nunavut Arctic College and the Department of Family Services to work closely together to address the urgent need for more Nunavut Inuit to fill these critical positions.

The Government of Nunavut's Mine Training Strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 1, 2024. Nunavut Arctic College's 2026-2030 business plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year its to "develop strategies to determine needs in the expansion of heavy equipment operator programs and mine training opportunities." Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of implementing the strategy.

Nunavut Arctic College's 2025-2026 business plan included a detailed and informative "Program Delivery Summary" as an appendix. The standing committee encourages the college to resume the practice of including this summary in its future business plans. The standing committee also encourages the college to include detailed information in its future annual reports concerning the number of graduates of its programs, as well as detailed information concerning the number of graduates who successfully gain employment in their field of study after graduation.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Seeing none, we will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the 2026-2027 Main Estimates starting on page M-iii-3. We will now review the Nunavut Arctic College Headquarters branch. Do members have any questions? Go ahead, Mr. Attagutaluk.

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Chairman. Nunavut Arctic College's 2023-2024 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 19, 2026. When will the 2024-2025 annual report be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Attagutaluk. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question. The 2024-2025 annual report will be available for tabling in the fall session. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. Go ahead, Mr. Attagutaluk.

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Finance's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions 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.

What is the status of the Nunavut Arctic College's work to develop agreement with the developed department? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Attagutaluk. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the follow-up question. I can confirm the college will

be working with the Department of Finance on this matter, and that work has not yet begun. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. Go ahead, Mr. Attagutaluk.

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Minister, for your response. Nunavut Arctic College's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "conduct a comprehensive audit of policies to identify legislative gaps, governance risk, duplication, and outdated provisions."

What specific changes to the *Nunavut Arctic College Act* and the college's policies are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Attagutaluk. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the follow-up question.

The college has several policies that oversee its operations, and most policies were last updated in 2012. The college will work with staff and students to ensure the policies are up to date, that they're easy to follow, and that they reflect the practices of the college in addressing issues today.

I believe the second part of the question was about legislative gaps. In respect to updating the policies regarding the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Any other questions? Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Chair. Nunavut Arctic College's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "initiate the development of a public administration degree that ladders from the business career certificate and/or diploma program, and engage with stakeholders on program objectives."

Will the college be in partnership with a southern Canadian university to develop and deliver the new program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question. At this time the college is not engaging in

a partnership for this program; it will be lead by the Nunavut Arctic College. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Chair. When does the Nunavut Arctic College plan to start offering this program? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and thank you for the follow-up question. The earliest that a first cohort would begin this program would be in the 2027-2028 academic year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. Next on my list I have Ms. Angootealuk.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In February 2026 Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami announced that the main campus of the new Inuit Nunangat University will be located in Arviat. To what extent will the Nunavut Arctic College be involved in planning for a new institution? *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angootealuk. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the member for the question. There have been no formal discussions to date, but the college looks forward to the opportunity to engage in those important discussions around the operationalization of this post-secondary institution.

College representatives attended the celebratory event in Arviat. Minister Akeeagok attended and President Price attended, and the community was so welcoming, and the college looks forward to those continued discussions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. You're done? Okay. Any other questions? Mr. Qammaniq.

Mr. Qammaniq: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) the Department of Education's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to begin a review of the *University and Degree Granting Institutions Act*. To what extent will Nunavut Arctic College be involved in this review? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qammaniq. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question.

This work is just in the beginning stages, and the college is committed to working with the Department of Education as that unfolds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Any other questions for members on headquarters? Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister, and your officials.

I would like to add on I think my colleague, Mr. Attagutaluk, asked this question already, but (interpretation ends) the 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "support the establishment of formal agreements with the five territorial corporations regarding their fiscal and governance responsibility, relationship with the Government of Nunavut, and annual reporting requirements."

That wording is there because the letter of expectation is discontinued. I just want to ask the minister if the minister sees any difference in the absence of letters of expectation going on into formal agreements with the Government of Nunavut? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the important question.

The college has an excellent working relationship with the Government of Nunavut as a key funder, and that work has continued even with the discontinuation of the use of that letter of expectation, and the mandate work helps guide the forward momentum of the college. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you to the minister.

This affects the presentation of annual reports that need to be tabled, and many important things like finances for the Nunavut Arctic College and policies.

I understood that there hasn't been any problem in Nunavut Arctic College with the absence of the letter. We need to understand this better. Nunavut Arctic College is said to be arm's length from the Government of Nunavut. I believe the members will have to be updated on what's happening and what sort of developments are happening with the university. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. I believe that was more of a comment. But do you have a reply to the comment, Minister Healey Akearok?

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and thank you for your comments, the Member from Pangnirtung.

We agree and we're happy to keep the House updated, the committee updated as things move forward, to the best of our ability. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. Ms. Angootealuk, do you have another question? Go ahead.

Ms. Angootealuk: This is coming from me, the question. If you can't answer it, maybe David will answer it some day.

For non-profit organizations, they do a lot of teaching, like our cultural programs, traditional clothing, kamik making, qamatiik. Is Silattuqsarvik funding them, or how are they getting that? Or do they make proposals to select Silattuqsarvik? That's coming from me. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angootealuk. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) And I thank the member for the question. The Nunavut Arctic College doesn't fund non-profits for that community-based programming. There are other opportunities available through other departments, for sure.

The college does offer Inuit and language programs throughout the operations of the institute, and the funding comes from a multitude of sources, including the Government of Nunavut funding. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mike, do you have another question?

Mr. Mike: I just want to ask the minister on the Action Plan 2026-2027, develop a system to collect statistical and quantitative information to demonstrate elder involvement within the college. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and thank you to the member for the question.

Many of the college's programs and services work with elders in a number of ways, and the college would like to start tracking that information to maintain a record of the Inuit elders who are engaging with our students and involved in our programs, and to be able to include that in the annual reports.

This new initiative will allow the college to further demonstrate its engagement with elders throughout the territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. Mr. Mike, any more?

Mr. Mike: Another one in the action on the 2026-2027: Undertake phased consultation with academic leadership, faculty staff, students, and elders to ensure policy transparency and alignment with *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principles.

Can you elaborate on that, please, Minister? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the follow-up question. Mr. Chair, if you'll allow, I would like to invite President Price to help provide additional information to answer that question. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Go ahead, Ms. Price.

Ms. Price: Thank you, Chair, and I thank the member for his question.

As the minister alluded to earlier, a lot of the college's policies are outdated and require updating. A lot of the college's operations have really grown and expanded since 2012, including the college's interest in engaging in more land-based activities, language-based learning.

The college would like to ensure that its policies reflect these operational realities, these updates in how we teach and train in the college. There will be a number of policies that we would like to consider to support those kinds of efforts. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Price. Done? Any other questions from members on Headquarters branch? Do members agree with Nunavut Arctic College Headquarters?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page M-iii-4. We will now review Nunavut Arctic College Nunavut Research Institute. Do members have any questions? Go ahead, Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nunavut Arctic College's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to collaborate with territory and research partners to host a gathering of Nunavut research regulators to improve coordination, strengthen information sharing, and streamline recent review and approval processes.

What specific changes to existing processes are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question.

In May 2026 in Iqaluit, the Nunavut research gathering took place as part of this initiative to collaborate with the regulators. And so as part of the actions, they agreed to implement changes to licensing administrative processes to enhance coordination. They agreed to strengthen information sharing, and to streamline research review and approval processes. This would be done to enhance efficiency and reduce our duplication, and then improve community consultation as well.

All of this will be shared in a workshop report that will be forthcoming. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. Mr. Taqtu, go ahead.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nunavut Arctic College's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to co-host a One Health Summit in Iqaluit with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to share knowledge on Arctic wildlife health surveillance, and to explore for enhancing the college's capacity to perform laboratory-based testing for country foods.

What specific options are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. And, Minister, before I ask you for your reply, just keep in mind for the translations and don't speak too fast. Thank you. Go ahead, Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I apologize to my interpreter colleagues for going too fast. I'll attempt to slow down.

So the question is about the One Health initiative which took place in March of this calendar year. The summit had the objective to continue to advance an Inuit-led research collaborative, and One Health surveillance system that would be designed to protect the health of Nunavummiut and wildlife and the environment.

The main topics that were discussed included wildlife monitoring, surveillance and human health, as well as new lab technologies and how this relates to country food sustainability and sovereignty, and how all of these different components interact.

So in addition, challenges and gaps were discussed, as well as some brainstorming activities around solutions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. Mr. Taqtu, any more? No? Other members with questions on Nunavut Research Institute? Seeing none, do members agree with the Nunavut Arctic College Nunavut Research Institute?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page M-iii-5. We will now review Nunavut Arctic College Regional Campus. Do members have any questions? Go ahead, Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Government of Nunavut's December 31, 2025 Inuit Employment Plan quarterly report indicated that Nunavut Arctic College had 100 per cent vacancy rates in the following communities: Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, Kugaaruk, Naujaat, and Resolute Bay.

What specific changes have been identified in filling these positions? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question.

At a minimum, each community has an adult basic educator. In communities where there's only one position for the college, and it's vacant, this results in a 100 per cent vacancy because one position would be vacant.

The delays have been related to some transitions in the HR division of the college, which have now been addressed, and the work is underway to fill the backlog of those positions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. Go ahead, Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Chair. How is Nunavut Arctic College delivering programs in communities where it has 100 per cent staff vacancy rate? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the follow-up question.

It's true; without an adult educator in the community, it can be very difficult to offer programs in the community. If space permits, the college can offer additional programs in the community through the support of other instructors.

And all that to say the college is very committed to filling these vacancies. At the moment it takes time, but we're committed to seeing them filled. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Next on my list is Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. Before I ask, I would like to refer back to the opening comments: (interpretation ends) "for the upcoming fiscal year, the college is seeking approval for $52,201,000." (interpretation) The funds relate to Inuktitut programming, for example, for bachelor degree, red seal in the programs, certificates and so forth.

However, I think we need to push as MLAs, base our arguments on article 23. My question then in English:

(interpretation ends) The average vacancy rate for Nunavut Arctic College's positions outside of Iqaluit is approximately 60 per cent. What specific actions is the college taking to address the high vacancy rate? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Go ahead, Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for this important question.

The vacancy rate reflects the number of positions that are not filled by indeterminant employees. So the college uses a process to fill those vacancies with casuals and works to continue to fill the indeterminant positions through competitions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. Go ahead, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Chair. Nunavut Arctic College's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to work with the college's Student Services Division to determine opportunities for expanding and delivering services to students learning at community learning centres.

How will the college accomplish this goal if over 60 per cent of its positions outside of Iqaluit are vacant? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the follow-up question.

The Nunavut Arctic College has student services teams at each of the regional campuses, and they're exploring how to mobilize those teams for different outreach opportunities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Any other questions from members on regional campuses? Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. I just want to ask about the *Qaujimajatuqangit* Mandate for Nunavut Arctic College. One of them is work with elders and other partners and stakeholders to promote, protect, and advise on Inuit language, culture, and cultural well-being in government programs, services and workplace. That's what it says in the mandate. Maybe the minister can elaborate on the way that Arctic College is responsible for that, and the mandated commitments in terms of that point? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question.

So I'm happy to share that the Inuit language and culture portfolio in the college includes the Piqqusilirivvik School in Clyde River as well as for four other programs: Inuit

Studies, the Interpreter-Translator program, the Fur Production and Design program, and the Jewellery and Metal Work program.

In addition, there's a focus at the college in the Business Plan on integrating Inuit terminology and cultural knowledge more consistently in the courses to ensure that these programs, they still focus on studio learning and other forms of learning. The college is looking to this year explore how these courses can even further be centred on Inuit knowledge, best practices in terms of how they're delivered for our learners. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. Mr. Mike, go ahead.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Minister, and in regards to your comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next on my list I have Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. (interpretation) I don't believe I heard the question. If the member could please repeat it? *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mike, could you repeat your question, please.

Mr. Mike: Thank you, Chair. When I asked about the mandate commitments by Arctic College, you mentioned culture and language and the partners and stakeholders. I was asking, then, how many elders are involved in that area? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for clarifying the question. If the Chair will allow, President Price can speak to that operational detail. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead, Ms. Price.

Ms. Price: Thank you, Chair, and I would like to thank the member for his question. So as the minister alluded to earlier, the college has a number of programs and services that already interact with elders.

In addition to those supports in the community, we also have elders in residence within the college who provide direct support to students and staff. So any developments, say in the areas of policies or procedures or guidelines in how to better engage and include Inuit language and culture, they are very important resources.

As well, the college does have within its policy shop the Iviqtupalliajuk Advisory advisor, whose role is to provide advice to the college on how best to include Inuit societal values in our policies and governing structures.

So the college does have a good network of relationships across the territory that it could draw upon for this important work. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Price. Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I like the idea of what it says in the mandate, *Qaujimajatuqangit*, but I'm trying to get down to where when an elder is involved, whether at an advisory level, do students gain credit to their cultural, Inuit culture and language when it's being delivered by the elder? Is there a credit to a student who may be attending that area? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the follow-up question.

When students are enrolled in our programs and courses, they receive credit for those programs and courses, and elders are invited and engaged in different ways, as invited guests, as guest instructors, and so they support and enhance the programs that the students are getting credit for when they are enrolled in the college. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mike, go ahead.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and (interpretation ends) Minister. I guess elders contribute at minimum level to have a credit course for the student; is that correct or not? *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the follow-up question.

They're contributing at all levels of programs, from the certificate -- if I understand the question correctly – I want to say they're contributing at all levels from the certificate pathway all the way up to the degree pathways.

A great example of this would be the Nunavut Teacher Education Program. They have a great example of how elder support is incorporated into the program for the benefit of the students and all the instructors involved as well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Minister. The Nunavut Arctic College 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to initiate formal program reviews of programs under the Language and Cultural portfolio, including program outlines to learning outcomes and program materials and resources, to ensure program is updated and expand its use of relevant Inuit language, culture, history, and contemporary experiences.

Will the review be undertaken by college staff or external consultants? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question.

This is part of the regular academic schedule for the college, to review its programs to ensure they are up to date and relevant. That work is lead by the college, and where necessary they call on others for support. But it's led at Nunavut Arctic College. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. Mr. Kuliktana, did you have a question?

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to follow-up on my colleague's question, Mr. Kablutsiak, because I feel this question was not answered in regards to opportunities for expanding and delivering service to students at community learning centres where the college has over 60 per cent of its positions vacant.

My question is: How are you going to accomplish this goal? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for returning to the question.

For further operational detail, if you'll allow, Mr. Chair, I would like to ask President Price to provide more information. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Go ahead, Ms. Price.

Ms. Price: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for his question.

The college is working diligently to fill its vacant positions. As the minister alluded in a previous answer, we are getting through the backlog of our human resource competitions.

The college is staffed in its own Human Resources Division, and has secured supports of some consultants to help the college through its backlog. The college does continue to have a number of ways that the public and communities can engage with the college.

If there's no adult educator, we do have a Communications Division, and there's an e-mail and toll free number for concerns to be raised by the public.

The college also has a very dedicated board of governors who also bring forward concerns and suggestions from their respective communities-slash-region, and of course we hear from individuals who reach out to the college through a various range of communication avenues.

So while the college is working to fill its very important adult educator roles, we do have a network of individuals that can still engage with the community and allow us to learn from those suggestions or concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Price. Mr. Kuliktana, any more? Okay, Mr. Attagutaluk, you're next on my list.

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Chair. How is Nunavut Arctic College working with the Department of Health to provide training for Nunavummiut who wish to pursue a career at the new long-term care facilities in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Iqaluit? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Attagutaluk. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question.

The college has a very good working relationship with the Department of Health. We work together to deliver training opportunities online to health employees. We work together through third-party funding to ensure programs are delivered to meet those needs, as the member identified. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. I don't have any other names on my list. Do members agree with the Nunavut Arctic College Regional Campus?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page M-i-3. Do members agree with the Nunavut Arctic College 2026-2027 Main Estimates, total operations and maintenance of $52,201,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree we have concluded with the Nunavut Arctic College?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Any closing comments? Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) And I would just like to thank the committee for their attention to the college for their questions. Their care for the education available at our communities is very clear.

And I just want to share thanks as well on behalf of Minister Akeeagok, who couldn't be here today. I would like to thank my officials who joined me today, as well as all the staff at Nunavut Arctic College working behind the scenes.

And most importantly, I would like to thank all of our students who are working hard, who were celebrating in their graduations these past few weeks.

My last message would be that it's never too late to learn something new. We at the college welcome everyone of all ages to try our programs and courses, and we welcome all learners across Nunavut at the college. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman: Thank you, Minister, for your closing comments. 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.

Chairman: Thank you. There's a motion on the floor which is non-debatable. Those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? Motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

>>Committee adjourned at 16:24 and House resumed at 16:25

Speaker (interpretation): Item 20, Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Pedersen.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Pedersen: 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, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. Seconder? Mr. Mike. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Item 22, *Orders of the Day*. Ms. Bens.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Deputy Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Reminder, there is a meeting of the Standing Committee on legislation tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. in the Nanuq boardroom.

Thursday, June 4, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Responses to Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

12. Tabling of Documents
13. Notices of Motion
14. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
15. Motions
16. First Reading of Bills
17. Second Reading of Bills
18. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
19. Report of the Committee of the Whole
20. Third Reading of Bills
21. *Orders of the Day*.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The House stands adjourned today on Thursday, June 4, at 1:30 in the afternoon. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 16:28

Appendix, June 3, 2026

ᓄᓇᕗᑦ ᒪᓕᒐᓕᐅᕐᕕᐊ
Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

Return to Oral Question

Asked by: MLA from Aggu, Edward Attagutaluk

Asked of: Hon. Annie Tattuinee, Minister of Human Resources

Number: 42 – 7(2)

Date: May 27, 2026

Subject: Decentralization

Question 1:

As the minister is aware, Igloolik is considered to be a decentralized community. Information published by the government in its current business plans indicates that it is working to review its decentralization policy.

Can the minister indicate how the Department of Human Resources is involved in this review, and can she indicate what options are being considered?

Response:
The decentralization review was completed in 2024, and the report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 6, 2024. The departments of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and Human Resources worked in collaboration to provide responses to the recommendations and the responses were tabled on March 10, 2025.

The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs will be developing policy options for decentralization in 2026-27 fiscal year, with the support of the Department of Human resources.

Meanwhile, the Department of Human Resources has developed the following mechanisms to enable Inuit employment through decentralization and address challenges in the Nunavut labour market:

- The Nunavut-Wide Hiring Policy – supports and promotes decentralization and Inuit employment by allowing departments to hire individuals who can work from any community (outside of Iqaluit) in Nunavut where there is an available government office. The department is working with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut to maximize the potential of local hires in communities through wide-spread use of this policy by exploring opportunities for available office space in communities
- Increasing awareness and departmental use of the year-round Tuglirijavut Student Employment Program, emphasizing strategic application to boost Nunavut Inuit students' employment in all communities.
- Implemented expedited direct appointments for Nunavut Inuit, which is increasing Inuit employment in all communities.

Question 2:

I asked questions to the Minister of Environment about the positions in his department that are being moved out of Igloolik.

It is my understanding that the government's practice has been that when it moves decentralized positions out of a community, new positions are moved in, or are created to make up for the loss.

Can the Minister of Human Resources confirm what the new government's policy is in situations like this?

Response:
Under the Government Organizational Policy, the move of positions between communities requires Cabinet approval and the creation of net-new positions requires Financial Management Board approval; although departments may deactivate and create positions on a one-to-one basis with Deputy Minister approval.

Understanding the great benefit of having positions at the community level, government tries to use a balanced approach to positions moving in/out of communities Since 2011 the Government of Nunavut committed to maintaining 60% - 40% split of positions outside-inside Iqaluit. This proportion has remained relatively stable, even as the government change and add positions in Iqaluit and communities.

Overall, positions are growing in each community. Over the 6th Assembly, positions in Igloolik had a net increase of 4 positions. There have been no changes in the number of positions in Igloolik under the 7th Assembly.

Question:

3. As the minister is aware, her department is responsible for administering the government's Nunavut-Wide Hiring Policy. The policy indicates that the government

is “committed to Inuit employment and decentralization.”

Can the minister indicate how many positions across Nunavut have been filled under this policy, and can she indicate how many of these positions are filled by residents of Igloolik?

Response:

As of March 31, 2026, 13 requests for hire under the policy have come forward:

- 10 have been successfully hired,
- 2 closed unsuccessfully, and
- 1 was cancelled.

One position has been hired in Igloolik under the Nunavut-wide Hiring Policy.