



## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### Speaker

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

**Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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

**Hon. David Akeegok**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

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

**Hannah Angootealuk**  
(Aivilik)

**Edward Attagutaluk**  
(Aggu)

**Hon. Janet Brewster**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

*Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention*

**Hon. George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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

**Jamie Kablutsiak**  
(Arviat South)

**Gordon Kautuk**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Hon. Brian Koonoo**  
(Tununiq)

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

**Simon Kuliktana**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Hon. Cecile Nelvana Lyall**  
(Netsilik)

*Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

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

**Johnny Mike**  
(Pangnirtung)

**Fred Pedersen**  
(Cambridge Bay)

**David Porter**  
(Gjoa Haven)

**Abraham Qammaniq**  
(Amittuq)

**(Vacant)**  
(Hudson Bay)

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak**  
(Baker Lake)

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

**Hon. Annie Tattuinee**  
(Rankin Inlet South)

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

**Steven Taqtu**  
(Quttiktuq)

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## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1
Ministers' Statements .....	1
Members' Statements .....	5
Returns to Oral Questions .....	9
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	10
Oral Questions.....	12
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	23
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	42
Orders of the Day .....	42

**A.**

**Daily References**

Friday, June 5, 2026..... 1

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

66 – 7(2): Funding for Student Builds (Healey Akearok) ..... 1  
67 – 7(2): Celebrating Nunavut Success at the Canadian Screen Awards (Simailak) ..... 2  
68 – 7(2): Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut Apprentices (Hickes) ..... 4  
69 – 7(2): David Pelly Donation (Koonoo) ..... 4

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

67 – 7(2): Celebrate Volunteers (Healey Akearok)..... 5  
68 – 7(2): Recognize Nanuq Cambridge Bay Cadets (Pedersen)..... 6  
69 – 7(2): Recognizing Abraham Wiebe Jr. (Tattuinee) ..... 7  
70 – 7(2): Happy Birthday, George Hickes (Main) ..... 7  
71 – 7(2): Pangirtung Graduates (Mike) ..... 8

**D.**

**Returns to Oral Questions**

64 – 7(2): Youth Vandalism (Healey Akearok)..... 9  
77 – 7(2): Community Health Needs Assessment Project (Brewster)..... 10

**E.**

**Oral Questions**

91 – 7(2): Municipal Governance (Kuliktana) ..... 12

92 – 7(2): Activities of the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission  
(Pedersen) ..... 13

93 – 7(2): Activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation (Mike) ..... 16

94 – 7(2): Firearms and the Chief Firearms Officer in Nunavut (Angootealuk) ..... 18

95 – 7(2): Churchill Port Expansion Project (Kablutsiak)..... 21

**F.**

**Bills**

Bill 1 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027 –  
Consideration in Committee ..... 24



**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Friday, June 5, 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 09:00*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. David Joanasie) (interpretation): Orders of the Day. Item 1, prayer. Member Mike, open the meeting with a prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mike. Good morning Nunavummiut, MLAs. Welcome. Orders of the Day. Item 2, Ministers' Statement. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Healey Akearok.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 66 – 7(2): Funding for Student Builds**

**Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good morning to all my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, Family Services supports students seeking work in the building trades through innovative partnerships and funding for important programs. Our department understands that in Nunavut, there are many barriers to training. We also know and understand that Nunavut is in the midst of an ongoing housing crisis, and we need Nunavummiut working in the building trades to help contribute solutions to this issue.

Mr. Speaker, a partnership between Family Services, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and Nunavut Arctic College is removing barriers to training through the Skilled Trades Worker Program. The Department of Family Services contributes by financially supporting students as they train in construction techniques.

In 2024, 21 Inuit Skilled Trades Worker Program students and one program graduate started work on a pilot project in Rankin Inlet to build six student housing units. Mr.

Speaker, I was honoured to travel to Rankin Inlet in March with Housing Minister Cecile Lyall for the ribbon cutting of two of the units. The remaining four are expected to be completed by June 2026, and a second phase of the pilot, adding six more student housing units in Rankin Inlet, is planned for fall 2026. Family Services has budgeted \$775,000 in 2026-27 to continue supporting this program.

Through partnerships like these, Mr. Speaker, we are providing solutions and working to support Nunavummiut to build lasting skills here at home.

I thank my colleagues at the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Nunavut Arctic College, and our private sector partners for their willingness to collaborate.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 67 – 7(2): Celebrating Nunavut Success at the Canadian Screen Awards**

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, and residents of Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable achievements of Nunavut filmmakers, actors, producers, writers, and storytellers who were honoured at this year's Canadian Screen Awards.

These awards are a testament to the extraordinary talent that exists across our territory and to the growing strength of Inuit-led storytelling in Canada.

This year, the acclaimed television series *North of North* received 20 Canadian Screen Award nominations and went on to earn nine Canadian Screen Awards, including Best Comedy Series. This achievement places Nunavut storytelling on one of the largest stages in Canadian entertainment and reflects the growing demand for authentic Inuit voices and perspectives.

I would like to congratulate Alethea Arnaquq-Baril and Stacey Aglok MacDonald...

>> *Applause*

...the creators of North of North, who received the award for Best Writing in a Comedy Series. As well, help me in congratulating the winning Nunavummiut performers: Anna Lambe, who received the award for Best Lead Performer in a Comedy Series;

>> *Applause*

Maika Harper, who received the award for Best Supporting Performer in a Comedy Series;

>> *Applause*

and Tanya Tagaq, for Best Guest Performance.

>> *Applause*

Additionally, congratulations to Zoe Hopkins, who received the award for Best Direction in a Comedy Series.

>> *Applause*

I would also like to recognize the talented ensemble cast of North of North, including Anna Lambe, Maika Harper, Braeden Clarke, Zorga Qaunaq, and Jay Ryan, who were honoured with the award for Best Ensemble Performance in a Comedy Series.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge Zacharias Kunuk, Theresia Kappianaq, Leah Panimera, Louise Flaherty, and the many other Nunavut artists and creators whose work was recognized this year. Their contributions continue to elevate northern voices and perspectives within Canada's screen industry.

These achievements are about more than awards. They represent decades of work by Inuit artists, cultural leaders, elders, language keepers, filmmakers, and community members who have worked tirelessly to ensure our stories are told authentically and shared with the world.

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I extend heartfelt congratulations to all nominees, winners, cast members, crew members, producers, writers, directors, and supporters who contributed to these remarkable accomplishments.

Nunavut is proud of you, and we celebrate your success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Nunavut is really proud of the filmmakers in Nunavut. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Minister Hickes.

**Minister's Statement 68 – 7(2): Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut Apprentices**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a hard list to follow. What a sense of accomplishment all those recipients I am sure are feeling today.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share details on an important initiative to support Inuit workforce development in the skilled trades being led by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut's Facility Management Division.

Mr. Speaker, my department is supporting five young Inuit men pursuing careers in high demand trades including Automotive Technician, Electrician, Plumbing, Oil Burner Mechanic, and Carpentry. As part of our support, the apprentices work directly with our fully licensed journeymen in their respective trades. The journeymen teach the apprentices and track the hours required to complete the rigorous apprenticeship program. The department also supports students while attending school to take education leave rather than requiring apprentices to file for unemployment or take leave without pay.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that two individuals have successfully completed their second block of technical training, two individuals are attending their first block of schooling, and the final individual is preparing to write the pre-trades exam in June.

Mr. Speaker and members, This initiative reflects my department's ongoing commitment to build our local workforce and support Inuit in pursuing careers in the skilled trades. I encourage anyone interested in becoming a tradesperson to contact the Government of Nunavut to find out what programs and on-the-job opportunities, such as this one at Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, are available to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Koonoo.

**Minister's Statement 69 – 7(2): David Pelly Donation**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today with some amazing news. We have received a donation to the Nunavut's Archives from Mister David Pelly. As a writer,

ethnographer, and historian, David Pelly's generous gift helps us grow our collection, preserve and share the diverse and rich history of Nunavut and Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, among his donations are:

- oral history interviews with many Nunavummiut Elders who have since passed on;
- extensive selection of colour slides from 1982 to 2005 of elders, activities, and landscapes of his film and video productions including:

Back to Wager Bay;  
thirteen books, including Sacred Hunt, Uvajuq; and most recently,  
The Ancestors are Happy – True Tales of the Arctic; and  
numerous Above and Beyond published articles.

Mr. Speaker, this new collection is currently being processed into the archives and can be viewed at the Nunavut Archive's storage facility in Gatineau.

In addition to in-person visits, the Nunavut Archives seeks to improve access to Nunavut's extensive archival collections by expanding our online presence and through the creation of digital reproductions, making it possible to more readily share information from irreplaceable objects.

The Pelly collection interviews and colour slides have been digitized, and copies are available upon request. The public can also request digital reproductions.

The David Pelly donation is culturally significant and historically important in contributing to the greater story of Nunavut and has deepened our knowledge and ways of life of our Elders.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 3, Members' Statements. Iqaluit-Manirajak Member Healey Akearok.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 67 – 7(2): Celebrate Volunteers**

**Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize and thank the many dedicated volunteers in Iqaluit who have worked tirelessly over the last

two months to organize activities and events that bring joy to families and strengthen our community.

This spring has been filled with opportunities for people to come together through events such as Toonik Tyme Festival, skidoo races, and two successful fishing derbies.

These gatherings are more than just entertainment; they are an important part of community life in Nunavut. They create opportunities for families, friends and neighbours to connect, celebrate our Northern life-style, and enjoy time together on the land and in our community.

Behind every successful event are countless hours of volunteer work, from planning and organizing to preparing food, fund-raising, setting up, cleaning up, and ensuring activities run safely and smoothly. These efforts do not go unnoticed.

I would also like to recognize the many local businesses, donors and organizations that contributed financial support, prizes, sponsorships and online promotions to help make these events possible. Their generosity and community spirit are deeply appreciated.

To all of the volunteers and supporters who helped create memorable experiences for families in Iqaluit, *qujannamiik*. Your hard work strengthens our community in meaningful and lasting ways. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Cambridge Bay member, Mr. Pedersen.

### **Member's Statement 68 – 7(2): Recognize Nanuq Cambridge Bay Cadets**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning to you all and to those watching in Cambridge Bay.

Today I want to recognize the 3004 Nanook Cambridge Bay Cadet Corp. A couple of days ago they completed their annual ceremonial review. That event celebrates the end of their training year and (check audio) recognized cadet achievement.

It has been 45 years now since they evolved from the 833 Squadron into 3004 RCACC. They are affiliated with the Royal Edmonton Regiment, and members from there joined them in the celebration this past week.

Mr. Speaker, I had previously spoken to volunteers in our communities, and those volunteers make sure that their events for members of the community and family members passed on that volunteer tradition as well. I will endeavour to get the names of the cadets, but at this time I would like to recognize the volunteers.

Although Rick Gillis (ph) isn't active anymore, he was there from the beginning. His son Chris Audluk (ph), who was once again cadet, and Michelle Buchan (ph), whose son has gone through the program in Cambridge Bay, continued to volunteer to ensure this program continues.

Our communities need more volunteers like this to give our youth positive ways to spend their time and to grow into the young adults that they become.

I ask members of this House to join me in congratulating all of the cadets in the 3004 RCACC, and to the volunteers that keep this program going year after year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Rankin Inlet South, Ms. Tattuinee.

**Member's Statement 69 – 7(2): Recognizing Abraham Wiebe Jr.**

**Hon. Annie Tattuinee** (interpretation): Good morning Rankin Inlet residents and my co-workers who I work with every day and meet with every day.

This morning I rise. I would like to recognize Abraham Wiebe Jr. from Rankin Inlet. (interpretation ends) He became first officer for Calm Air. Based out of Rankin Inlet, he performed his first flight a couple of days ago from Rankin Inlet to Arviat.

>> *Applause*

We celebrate his success and wish him well in his endeavour to be a pilot. He's one of the first individuals that has completed I guess this program that Calm Air has put on for pilot-training pilots. So I take my hat off to him and I would like to say hello to his grandparents, Lyle and Lucy Weibe, as well as Gita Anawak (ph). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Very proud of them. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North and Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Member's Statement 70 – 7(2): Happy Birthday, George Hickers**

**Hon. John Main:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues and all the visitors here.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it's often said that here in the House we're somewhat like a family; maybe not one big happy day every day, but we are a family of sorts.

And a special day for one of our members here, the member from Iqaluit-Tasiluk; I would like to wish him a happy birthday. I believe it's his 35th.

>>*Laughter*

I'm not sure, but I know there's nothing better that he likes than participating in parliamentary democracy here in the House. And so you got your wish, we're sitting on your birthday. Happy birthday, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Have a happy birthday, Mr. Hickes. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Mike.

### **Member's Statement 71 – 7(2): Pangirtung Graduates**

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy birthday to the birthday boy, and I know we're going to have cake at coffee break.

I say good morning to the people of Pangnirtung and all the students who completed grade 12 in 2026 and their parents. I'm very proud of them and all the graduates' families.

When we have this occasion it makes us remember in Iqaluit when it was a GREC high school. I went through that in 1975. It was the very first time I had spoken to a crowd, and I was very shy. I'm still like that today. It's obvious. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to say the names: Julie Pitsiulak, Judy Naudluk (ph), Caleb Kilabuk, Megan Kakee (ph), Ricky Dhialla (ph), Johan Keenainak, Josiah Evic (ph), Loralene Akalukjuk (ph), Scotty Kilabuk (ph), Christine Angungiak (ph), Elia Kilabuk (ph), Andrea Kulualik (ph), Andrew Kilabuk (ph), Linda Evic (ph), Simon Nakashuk (ph), Elia Michael (ph). Those are the students that are graduating this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I'm proud of you. Members' Statements. I have no more names.

We will proceed to Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Healey Akearok.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I don't have any more names. Return to our *Orders of the Day*. Return to Oral Questions. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Tattuinee.

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

##### **Return to Oral Question 64 – 7(2): Youth Vandalism**

**Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [] (Interpretation ends) I rise today to supplement an answer I gave during question period on June 1, 2026, number 64-7(2) concerning Mr. Pedersen's question about the number of Inuit employed in the Family Wellness Division of Family Services.

I agree that having Inuit staff in Child and Youth Protection is essential. When the people delivering services understand the language, culture and lived experiences of the families they support, outcomes improve and trust is strengthened. This is why Inuit employment remains a mandate priority for our department.

Mr. Speaker, there are currently eight indeterminant and five casual employees working in the Family Wellness Division in Cambridge Bay. Of these, three indeterminant staff are Inuit, and two casual employees are Inuit. As more Inuit graduate from Nunavut Arctic College's Social Services Worker Program, we hope to see these numbers increase.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, our department is developing job descriptions to support paid practicums for college students, expanding on-the-job training and creating clearer pathways for Inuit graduates to move into permanent social worker positions.

We are also increasing the use of Inuit-restricted competitions and providing leadership development opportunities, specifically for Inuit staff. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Returns to Oral Questions. The Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

**Return to Oral Question 77 – 7(2): Community Health Needs Assessment Project**

**Hon. Janet Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide a response to a series of questions that I received on June 2, 2026 from the member from Arviat South, question number 77-7(2) regarding the Department of Health's Community Health Needs Assessment and new positions created in Arviat.

The Community Health Needs Assessment Project remains on schedule, its completion anticipated by July 31, 2026.

Community consultations have been completed in Igloolik and Taloyoak and are currently underway in Arviat.

For this project, the Department of Health partnered with experts from Dalhousie University's World Health Organization Pan-American Health Organization Collaborating Centre on health workforce, planning, and research.

The purpose of this project is to develop workplace planning tools for remote communities and identify workplace innovations that support timely access to quality care, improve patient outcomes, and enhance the experience of healthcare providers. This work includes examining health workforce needs and challenges that affect the recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals.

Project reports are not yet complete, and the analysis of information gathered through consultations is ongoing. The findings will inform future Department of Health workforce planning and service delivery initiatives.

As the member noted during his questions on June 2, 2026, the number of Department of Health' positions in Arviat has increased from 39.5 to 44. The positions that have been created are:

- Two full-time-equivalent home and community care worker 2 positions;
- One full-time-equivalent home and community care representative position;
- One full-time-equivalent licensed practical nurse position, and
- One half-time-equivalent housekeeper position.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the assistance of my colleagues to help me welcome a few different people here in the House visiting us today. First one is Vinnie Karetak. He plays the character of Jeffrey.

>> *Applause*

Jennifer Kilabuk plays the character of Lucy.

>> *Applause*

Anisya Todd plays the character of Judy.

>> *Applause*

And Jessica Pearce plays the character of Hotel Patron #1.

>> *Applause*

They were on season 1 of North of North. There's also a couple of other people I would like to help welcome, please, so help me to the House. The first one is no stranger, my deputy minister, Kristie Cronin.

>> *Applause*

And senior administrative officer with my Department of Community Services, Leah Delfini (ph).

>> *Applause.*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

**Hon. Janet Brewster**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like the opportunity to welcome Jessica, who inspires me to do better everyday.

Mr. Speaker, like you and I, my friend Vinnie was youth intervenor. We were ITC; I believe you were ITK, and I'm so proud to have Vinnie in the House with us today. He is a very dear, long-time friend, a world traveller, so very well-accomplished. Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome them both to our House. Their House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. We will proceed. Item 6, Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Kuliktana.

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

#### **Oral Question 91 – 7(2): Municipal Governance**

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Good morning, colleagues, and members of Kugluktuk. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Community Services.

As a former mayor of Kugluktuk, I want to [begin] today by expressing my deep appreciation to all mayors and municipal councils that serve our communities. Serving on your municipal council is not always glamorous work, but it's essential work.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, his department's currentness plan indicates that one of his priorities is to "begin consultations on the *Hamlets Act* and the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*."

Can the minister highlight some of the specific areas that are being looked into for possible amendment or changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Regarding the *Hamlets Act* and the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, Community Services is committed to supporting growing municipal responsibilities coupled with fiscal and administrative pressures. We are trying to ensure that we are keeping up with the changes that are happening across our territories. Those are two of the examples we're looking at amending to ensure that they are up to speed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): First supplementary question, Mr. Kuliktana.

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One area that I would like to see the department look at are the authorities given to municipal councils in relation to hiring hamlet staff.

As a former mayor of Kugluktuk, I am very much aware there's a fine line between micro-management and oversight. However, I believe that councils need to have clear authority to ensure that hiring decisions taken by senior managers are subject to appropriate review to avoid such problems as favoritism or nepotism.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that his department's review of municipal legislation will address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Simailak.

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

We can certainly take that into consideration. Our department works with Nunavut Association of Municipalities, who works with all the hamlets across the territory. We try to hear and listen to what concerns there are coming from each hamlet, and we can certainly look into that and see if we can meet the needs of each hamlet to the best of our abilities. But it's not only community services. We are part of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, so we're trying to find a common ground. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the answer, Minister.

Yes, as a former mayor, when they changed the *Hamlets Act* they had good intentions, but during my time as a mayor I saw the negative repercussions of the change of that act, and so I do appreciate that you will look into that.

Can the minister clarify the extent to which the Nunavut Association of Municipalities will be involved in review of municipal legislation, and can he confirm his timetable for introducing a bill or bills into the legislation to amend the *Hamlets Act* and the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

With regards to introducing legislation and whatnot, that will come. Currently we are going through pre-consultation, which will begin this fall, 2026, to the end of this calendar year and a report expected early in 2027. That's as far as I can commit to right now before, without going through the actual review of recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Pedersen.

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this morning are for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, and they relate to

coverage for volunteer firefighters and first responders such as search and rescue volunteers.

I know some of us have either been involved in community fire departments or local search and rescue committees. I myself have spent 20 years volunteering with the Cambridge Bay Fire Department, and have participated in a number of searches for missing hunters.

I encourage more residents to volunteer for these important organizations that help to keep our communities safe and help to bring missing people home.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that we share the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission with the Northwest Territories. There are staffed offices in both Iqaluit and Yellowknife, and I believe that the president currently resides here in Iqaluit.

As the minister will be aware, our counterparts in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories recently passed significant amendments to their *Workers' Compensation Act*. These amendments went through their House earlier this week. These amendments expand and modernize presumptive coverage for both firefighters and first responders. This now means that certain illnesses or injuries or are presumed to be work-related when the worker meets the requirements set out in the legislation or regulations. As both jurisdictions share the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, it means that when one legislature amends the legislation, the other must follow suit to mirror it.

Can the minister inform this House when she will be introducing a bill in the House to mirror these changes in our *Workers' Compensation Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Minister Tattuinee.

**Hon. Annie Tattuinee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Yes, Bill 48 was passed in NWT House on Wednesday. It comes into effect on January 1, 2027.

As the member indicated, the WSCC will need to update their policies which is scheduled to go to the government house in the NWT. Nunavut still has yet to review those documents and to initiate any changes to WSCC related to that subject, and that should be forthcoming after we have a discussion with cabinet on those things.

But it has been presented, re-moved and presented again to us, back and forth, as the NWT were going through their legislative process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Can the minister confirm if her office has been in discussions with her counterparts, officials in the Northwest Territories throughout this process so that the preparations can begin to mirror the legislation for Nunavut firefighters and first responders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Tattuinee.

**Hon. Annie Tattuinee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you to the member.

For the question: Yes, we've been having discussions. Again, it was presented and then we moved and presented and those kinds of things, so yes, discussions will continue. That being said, I hope that answers your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Pedersen.

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague from Aivilik recently raised important questions concerning the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's programs for hunters and harvesters.

Can the minister indicate what discussions she has been having with the Northwest Territories' Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety & Compensation Commission concerning other areas for amendments to the legislation or improvements to the commission's programs for workers and employers in both territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Minister Tattuinee.

**Hon. Annie Tattuinee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I ask clarification if you're talking specifically about harvesters or you're talking firefighters? If I may have clarification, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Pedersen, if you would rephrase your question.

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To clarify, I mentioned the hunters and harvesters because it was brought up, but I'm just wondering if there have been any discussions concerning amendments or legislation to bring improvements for programs for other workers and employers in both territories. So not specifically for hunters or

harvesters or firefighters and first responders, but for other workers and employers.  
Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Tattuinee.

**Hon. Annie Tattuinee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question.

Not at this point in time. The only ones that I'm aware of are the one presumptive changes to the proposed legislation related to firefighters, and nothing else at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. We're on Item 6 on *Orders of the Day*. Oral Questions. Mr. Mike.

### **Oral Question 93 – 7(2): Activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation**

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning people of Nunavut, and especially the housing corporation, these people who are homeless and also waiting for housing corporation to allocate houses.

My questions today are for the minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation. And as the minister will recall, I have raised a number of questions about the delays in construction of new housing units in Pangnirtung. I believe there's 14 that I'm referring to.

I have also shared photos of crates and materials that have been sitting in the community since 2024, where they have never started construction.

And as the minister is aware, information published by the Nunavut Housing Corporation in July 2025 indicated that 16 new units for Pangnirtung have been under construction and were scheduled to be completed in late 2026. Can the minister confirm if this timeline has changed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Lyall.

**Hon. Cecile Lyall:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. For the builds in Pangnirtung, there were issues with the completion of the pile foundation in the community.

It is anticipated that the pile foundation will be completed sometime this spring. The contractor is currently in the community finishing up other contracts in Pangnirtung, and

we are still anticipating that the pile foundation will be completed this spring so that we can commence with the framing of the buildings.

The new anticipated completion date for the construction in Pangnirtung is August 2027. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the minister for the information, and the huge delay in construction. We've been waiting for quite a number of years.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for the information that she recently shared with members of the Legislative Assembly concerning the Nunavut Housing Corporation's construction plans for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

As the minister is aware, there are 14 new public housing units that have been allocated to Pangnirtung, and it very clearly states 14 new public housing units that will be arriving. Information provided by the minister indicates that 12 of the new units will be stick-build units, and two of the new units will be modular units.

Can the minister clarify how this allocation for Pangnirtung was determined? They are stick build units and modular units that we're referring to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Lyall.

**Hon. Cecile Lyall**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question.

So these units, the allocation of units, we do recognize there is an immense need in all of our communities across the territory for the construction of new housing.

Unit allocations were done typically on the number of individuals on the wait list, so individuals submitting their applications and renewing them periodically weighed against the number of units available within the community.

Coming in with Igluliuqatigiingniq, we realized that we needed to build in all of our of communities, so construction for the new units, the 1,400 public units within that plan, were staged in a way where we can build across the territory.

The builds in Pangnirtung and across Nunavut, a portion of these builds would be funded through the Build Canada Homes agreement, and within that agreement, a portion of those builds need to be modular housing. So we'll see across the territory a mix between

the traditional stick builds and modular housing utilized across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it's very good news that Pangnirtung has been allocated over a dozen new public housing units. This will help to alleviate the shortage of housing in the community, and it is a good first step.

(interpretation ends) What changes is the Nunavut Housing Corporation making to its contract management practices so that the construction of Pangnirtung new units proceed on schedule and does not experience the delay that we have recently seen?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Minister Lyall.

**Hon. Cecile Lyall:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question.

We do recognize the issues that our contracts in prior years have had and the cost escalations that that may cause due to delays within our construction scheduling.

Currently we are working with a number of contractors across Nunavut, and we're hoping that the mobilization of the contracts being spread across a number of different contractors will ensure that we're avoiding any further delays.

We are also exploring different building methods on the mixture of both modular and traditional stick builds and different types of foundations on which these units may be built upon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Ms. Angootealuk.

**Oral Question 94 – 7(2): Firearms and the Chief Firearms Officer in Nunavut (Angootealuk)**

**Ms. Angootealuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to extend my happy birthday greetings. I didn't know that you were just 35 years old only.

(interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Justice, and they concern firearms and Chief Firearms Officer in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to build on questions that my colleague representing the constituency of Uqqummiut raised in the House earlier this week regarding the Department Firearms Safety Nunavut Campaign.

Mr. Speaker, the minister stated earlier this week that a position within the department was recently filled that will help community members obtain their firearms licence. Mr. Speaker, this is great news.

Can the minister indicate when the Firearms Safety Program will be delivered, the possession and acquisition licence courses in Coral Harbour and Naujaat. (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think this is a great initiative to go across the territory to support safe gun ownership and operations.

Mr. Speaker, we are very familiar with using weapons in our territory for hunting and for protection. I think it's very important that people learn how to do so safely.

Mr. Speaker, as that position was just recently filled, I don't have a schedule of courses that are upcoming, but I will work with the member to confirm when the Firearms Safety Program will be offered in Naujaat, as well as Coral Harbour. But I do encourage people that when the opportunity does arise, to make sure that they register for this program so they can learn how to safely operate firearms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Ms. Angootealuk.

**Ms. Angootealuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during my recent visit Naujaat, constituents raised the concerns to me regarding the issue of extending firearm licence terms. When Nunavummiut face delays in either obtaining and acquiring their renewed firearms licence, it can impact their ability to hunt and harvest food for their families.

Mr. Speaker, I understand and recognize that the issue of the firearm licence expiries and renewal falls under the federal jurisdiction under the federal *Firearms Act*.

Mr. Speaker, when Canadians apply for a passport, they have the option of having a five- to 10-year passport.

Can the minister indicate if he has had a discussion with the federal government on extending the five-year firearm licence term for residents or remote and northern communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I personally haven't raised that issue, but I take the member's suggestion very positively. I think it's a good idea and I will commit to follow up with my officials to propose that as an option going forward.

I know as we have driver's licences and passports with extended expiry dates, so I think this might be something worth exploring as well. I appreciate the suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angootealuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, Nunavut does not have a resident chief firearms officer. However, a chief firearms officer travels from Winnipeg on rotation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister may be aware, on June 2, 2026, the issue of public safety and chief firearms officers was raised during the Senate question period.

The Hon. Dawn Anderson, the senator for the Northwest Territories stated:

“On December 5, 2023, correspondence from the minister, Dominic LeBlanc, committed to appointing a resident chief firearms officer... in the territories... following consultations with territorial governments. On May 4, 2026, the minister's office advised that the federal government had restored resources in place to establish a territorial chief firearms officer and that the Government of Yukon had already identified an individual to serve for all three territories.”

Mr. Speaker, the senator also stated that “the government committed that appointments would follow constituencies with territorial governments. None of the three territorial premiers or Indigenous organizations were consulted.”

The senator also questioned how the initial decision to have three separate chief firearms officers for each territory was changed to one position for three territories.

Can the minister indicate if he has had discussions with the federal government on this important issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I'll have to look into the matter with my officials to see exactly how and when that decision came about and the logic behind it. I appreciate the member's attention to that, and I will follow up with my officials on that topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 95 – 7(2): Churchill Port Expansion Project**

**Mr. Kablutsiak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I will be directing my question to the Minister of Environment in regards to Churchill Port Expansion Project.

In the ocean of Hudson's Bay, the wildlife marine mammal such as clams, there are seabed creatures, and also in Coats Island there are walruses, and as well narwal and belugas. Quite a large population exists there. And we also have Arctic char.

The concern that I have, if ships pass through there all year round, we're concerned about that in regards to that. I'm sure that you have heard of the Exxon Valdez, that there was an oil spill. That if that ever occurred in that area of Hudson Bay, it would have a negative impact on our wildlife within the Hudson Bay marine mammals.

I would like to ask the minister, if there is going to be Hudson's Bay roundtable, would your department be part of participants in that roundtable? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, member. Yes, the department would also be included in the roundtable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kablutsiak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question in regards to total allowable harvest of western Hudson Bay.

As Kivalliq Region, especially the people in the community of Arviat, every year annually in winter and fall time, it's quite dangerous because the huge wildlife before the ocean freezes up. We get polar bear disturbances coming into the community.

If you can increase the total allowable harvest or if you can provide additional funding for bear patrol, to increase the bear patrol numbers because of the disturbance of polar bears. they are dangerous coming into the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, member, as well. (interpretation ends) We understand the importance of beluga whales and recognize the concerns of Nunavummiut they have regarding reports of beluga whales near the Port of Churchill.

Inuit have long-standing knowledge and stewardship practices related to the marine mammals, and we appreciate that and potential impacts to beluga populations are taken serious by Nunavummiut.

At this time it is important to clarify that marine mammals such as beluga whales do not fall under the mandate of the Department of Environment and application of *Nunavut Wildlife Act*. So this policy, the management and protection of beluga whales, rests primarily with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and federal legislation and regulations.

In addition, the Port of Churchill is located outside of Nunavut's jurisdiction, and as such, this should relate to port operation and marine traffic and associated environmental oversight are managed by federal authorities in the province Manitoba.

Nunavummiut with concerns related to this matter, including shipping impacts and monitoring activities, should contact the regional office of Fisheries and Oceans. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Second and final supplementary, Member Kablutsiak.

**Mr. Kablutsiak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear on the total allowable harvest on western Hudson Bay quota in Arviat. I'll expect that by way of a letter, if you can respond in that way.

My question is: The caribou collaring and wolf program within his department, can the minister give us an update on the collaring of caribou and what update they may have on the monitoring for wolf kill programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Member, it may be indirectly related to your earlier question, but I'll allow Mr. Koonoo to respond.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, with respect to polar bears, I didn't quite get that. I thought he was referring to whales.

(interpretation ends) For polar bears, total allowable harvest was increased from 34 to 38 on March 27, 2018. The Department of Environment continues to monitor the polar bear population.

And for wolf, could you repeat what exactly you were saying about the wolf? Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Member Kablutsiak, would you clarify your question?

**Mr. Kablutsiak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The comment and concern on the part of the hunters, wolf hunters, they would ask the wildlife office if they can give an update report on the collared caribou and tracking where the caribou are going. And I'm asking about the wolf program, if they would be able to provide updates to the HTO with respect to the wolf program.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleague. The caribou collars that are utilized can provide only old information where the caribou have been passing through areas. The tracking, it comes a year later.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Moving on with our agenda, item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Return to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters.

Before we proceed with the Committee, we'll take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 10:07 and Committee commenced at 10:38*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Fred Pedersen): Good morning again. I will call the meeting to order. In the Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 2, and 3. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Taqtu.

**Mr. Taqtu**: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We wish to continue with the consideration of Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027*, and the proposed 2026-2027 Main Estimates of the Department of Culture and Heritage. 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 Koonoo: Do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee?

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Yes, I do.

**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 Koonoo, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. I have Teresa Hughes, deputy minister for Culture and Heritage, and Jeannie Kullualik for assistant deputy minister. Thank you. I'll proceed with opening comments.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today I am pleased that I can appear before this committee with respect to 2026-2027 Main Estimates and 2026-30 Business Plan for the Department of Culture and Heritage.

Under the *Ikajuqtigiikta* mandate of the 7th Legislative Assembly, the department of Culture and Heritage is the main vehicle for programs, and information gathered is based on Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. Culture and Heritage is a leader to provide development and enhance Nunavut's culture and languages for Nunavummiut.

I am seeking your approval to appropriate \$34.550 million, which represents less than 2 per cent increase from the 2025-26 Main Estimates. I would like to indicate that the slight increase in our 2026-27 Main Estimates of \$409,000 is as a result of increases in compensation and benefits due to the collective agreement that was recently signed by the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the Corporate Management Branch is proposing a budget of \$5.504 million for the fiscal year 2026-27, representing about a 4 per cent increase from the 2025-26 budget.

As a key priority action item emanating from the department's Business Plan for 2026-27, the corporate management team would be leading efforts to review and update the grants and contributions policy to identify ways to improve community access to the department funding streams.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the Languages Branch is proposing a budget of \$17.663 million for the fiscal year 2026-27, representing less than 1 per cent increase from the 2025-26 budget.

As a key priority action item from the 2026-30 Business Plan, during 2026-27 fiscal year, the department will be undertaking a formal consultation process under Katujjiqatigiinniq Article 32 Policy, resulting in building and strengthening partnerships with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, regional Inuit associations and other key stakeholders while in 2027-28, a comprehensive language plan based on Uqausivut 2.0 review will be updated.

In the interim, the department will continue to utilize Uqausivut 2.0 framework focusing on language of learning, language of work, language of service and revitalization.

For Cultural Branch, Mr. Chairman, the Culture Branch is proposing a budget of \$11.383 million for the fiscal year 2026-27, representing an increase of about 1 per cent compared to the 2025-26 budget.

The Department of Culture and Heritage will be undertaking a formal engagement process under the Katujjiqatigiinniq Article 32 Policy, to review and update Iviqtippalliajut framework with the intention on reinforcing Inuit Qaujimaqatigiinniq and Inuit Societal Values, which is a key priority of the Ikajuqtiigiikta mandate of this current government.

I would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have regarding the Department of Culture and Heritage's Main Estimates and Business Plan for the fiscal year 2026-27.

Qujannamiik, Iksivautaaq.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Does the Chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Porter.

**Mr. Porter** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness on its review of the proposed 2026-2027 Main Estimates and 2026-2030 Business Plan of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

The department's proposed 2026-2027 operations and maintenance budget is \$34,550,000. This represents an increase of 1.1 per cent from the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

The number of positions in the department remains unchanged from the 2025-2026 fiscal year at 110.8 person-years. The Department of Culture and Heritage has three branches and nine divisions. His also remains unchanged since the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

A number of the Department of Culture and Heritage's responsibilities relate to the preservation, promotion and utilization of the Inuit language. This includes programs and policies related to language of work, territorial and federal language promotion funds, and the provision of language services within the public sector.

The standing committee notes that the department currently has one outstanding statutory tabling requirement under the *Official Languages Act*. The standing committee encourages the minister to table this report at the earliest opportunity. Members appreciate that the department has published its 2022-2023 grants and contributions annual report. This report provides a detailed summary of the projects funded by the department. Members look forward to reviewing future grants and contributions annual reports.

Members note that the department's proposed 2026-2027 main estimates includes \$1,479,000 in funding for the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit implements the Inuktut Language Incentive Program. During the Minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members questioned how many employees are currently waiting for their assessment and how many employees have been assessed.

Members note that the department's proposed 2026-2027 main estimates includes \$4,388,000 for its Translation Bureau division. The standing committee questioned how many positions in this division are filled, how many are vacant, and where they are located. Members also note that the department's 2026-2027 business plan indicates that the department will "complete consultations with the Inuinnaqtun community and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association to assess what government communications should be prioritized for Inuinnaqtun translations and update the Translation Policy." Members look forward to reviewing the new translation policy.

The government's Uqausivut 2.0 strategy is a five-year implementation plan that outlines a number of objectives with respect to Inuit language use in the fields of learning, work, the delivery of services, as well as the revitalization of the Inuit language.

The five-year strategy expired in 2023. However, the department's 2026-2027 business plan indicates that the department will "complete the engagement process outlined in the Katujjiqatigiinniq Article 32 policy with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on the Uqausivut 2.0 review." Members look forward to receiving updates on the status of this important work.

The standing committee notes that the department delivers information sessions in communities across the territory that advise Nunavummiut about funding resources available to support the promotion, protection, and preservation of Nunavut's culture, heritage, languages, and activities to support elders and youth programming.

The standing committee notes that the Languages branch budget includes \$1,950,000 in funding for grants and contributions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The standing committee appreciates that the department has a number of grants and contributions funding programs to support cultural activities, as well as elders and youth programs across the territory.

The department's proposed 2026-2027 main estimates includes \$3,666,000 for the Inuit Tunngavingit's operation. The division is "responsible for programs that promote the use and transfer of Inuit qaujimajatuqangit throughout Nunavut." The department's proposed 2026-2030 business plan indicates that the department will "host an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit conference in Rankin Inlet in June 2026 and produce a conference report." Members look forward to reviewing the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit conference report.

Members note that the department's proposed 2026-2027 main estimates includes \$1,485,000 for its Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit division. The division "works to ensure Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is integrated across the government. This division also provides administrative support to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit and chairs the interdepartmental Tuttarviit committee."

Members note that a number of the Tuttarviit departmental seats are currently vacant. Members sought clarification regarding the Tuttarviit's vacant seats and looks forward to the filling of all its seats on a timely basis.

Mr. Chair, That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2026-2027 Main Estimates and 2026-2030 Business Plan of the Department of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Porter. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Seeing none, we will now proceed to a page-by-page review of the 2026-2027 Main Estimates starting on page F-4. And we'll now review the Department of Finance, Culture and Heritage Corporate Management Branch, total operations and maintenance, \$5,504,000. Do members have any questions? Mr. Attagutaluk.

**Mr. Attagutaluk:** Thank you, Chair. In May 2021 your department submitted a legislative proposal to amend the *Historical Resources Act*. However, your predecessor

indicated that due to COVID-19 pandemic, consultations were delayed and your department could not move forward with this legislative initiative.

When will your department introduce this Bill in the House? Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Attagutluk. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Beginning consultation with the Inuit Heritage Trust, Inuit organizations and other external partners on exploring possible updates of the *Historical Resources Act* and the *Historical Resources Act* will begin in 2026-2027 with Inuit Heritage Trust and other external partners, and options for updates by 2027-2028. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Koonoo. Mr. Attagutluk, go ahead.

**Mr. Attagutluk:** Thank you, Chairman. Thank you, Minister, for the reply.

Your department's approved 2024-2026 Business Plan indicated that the department will continue to work with the Inuit Heritage Trust in exploring various options on the best way to proceed toward the building of a heritage centre.

The department was developing a memorandum of understanding with the Inuit Heritage Trust outlining the process and the roles and responsibilities in the creation of a Nunavut heritage centre. What is the current status of this work? Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Attagutluk. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Member, for the question.

We continually meet with the Inuit Heritage Trust, and we just met with them last week. Officials met with them to start discussing the MOU again, and they are proceeding forward and moving along with the MOU. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Koonoo. Any other questions from members for the Corporate Management Branch? Mr. Qammaniq.

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome. (interpretation ends) When will the memorandum of understanding be signed and publicly released? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Qammaniq. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is in the planning process. They're still negotiating. We're still not sure when it will be completed. However, when it is completed we will inform the House of the signing of the memorandum of understanding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Qammaniq, go ahead.

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the response.

(interpretation ends) On February 27, 2023 Government of Nunavut announced the creation of associate deputy minister positions which allow all departments and agencies to assign Inuit into these new positions for a term of three years.

Will your department be appointing an associate deputy minister? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Member, for the question. Currently we have no plans on associate deputy minister at Culture and Heritage. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Qammaniq, go ahead.

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the response. (interpretation ends) Your department's approved 2025-2026 Business Plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2024-2025 fiscal year was to support implementation of the comprehensive Elders and Seniors Strategy. Your approved business plan indicated that your department is supporting Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs-led strategy.

What specific actions has your department undertaken to support this strategy? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qammaniq. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. For the previous question I would just like to add that we don't have plans for an associate deputy minister, but for Languages we have plans to have an assistant deputy minister for Languages.

And for the question, I would like to have Teresa Hughes answer the question, through you, if that's possible. Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go ahead, Ms. Hughes.

**Ms. Hughes** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the Elders and Seniors Strategy, it's something that's very important for our department.

**Chairman:** I think you can hear me now. We couldn't hear the English translation of that last response. If the system is working again, maybe we don't need to take the break. But, Ms. Hughes, if you can re-answer the question, please.

**Ms. Hughes** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** We'll take a short break while we get this figured out. Thank you.

*>>House adjourned at 11:03 and resumed at 11:04*

**Chairman:** Thank you to the staff. I think the problem has been resolved and we can hear the translation on the English channel now, so we'll proceed. My apologies, Ms. Hughes, but we'll ask you to answer the question again.

**Ms. Hughes:** Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I believe it's not working again. We've confirmed that. So Ms. Hughes, I'll ask you to once again respond to the question. My apologies and thank you.

**Ms. Hughes** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier in the first and second try, the Elders and Seniors Strategy is something that is very important to our department. All the government departments have to work together in regards to this Elders and Seniors Strategy.

With our department, we have money that is set aside for contributions to the communities, and should they decide to set up a group or a committee, there is monies available from the Department of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hughes. Mr. Qammaniq, any other questions? Any other members for questions on Culture and Heritage Corporate Management Branch? Go ahead, Mr. Kablutsiak.

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** Thank you, Chair. Your department's approved 2025-2026 Business Plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2024-2025 fiscal year was to explore opportunities to further engage program branches in ongoing promotion efforts. Your department's draft business plan indicates that the department is working to develop an

advertising strategy with its various program areas to make the public more aware of the available programs and funding.

What is the current status of this work? Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Through you I would like to request Jeannie Kullualik to answer that question.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go ahead, Ms. Arreak-Kullualik.

**Ms. Arreak-Kullualik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were looking at the communities that don't usually apply for some of these grants and contributions. Usually we give them what is available from our department through grants and contributions, how they can apply, and other information for this winter.

We have Qillau (ph) Concept Services for the communities and celebrating languages in three communities. We used it as a pilot project in those three communities, and while they're in the communities, they give out the information and also give outlines of what is available to what group.

It's a pilot project and we will, for example, if there was no request for funds from a particular community, or if they had applied for one or two programs, then we will make plans to give a briefing of what's available, and also do some promotional efforts on what's available for what types of programs.

So that is what we're doing at this time. We're working on it, and we're doing promotional efforts in those communities that don't apply for these available services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Kullualik. Mr. Kablutsiak.

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** Thank you, Chair. In September of 2023, the Standing Committee on Legislation held a televised hearing on *Nunavut's Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit appeared before the committee and provided a written submission. Documentation provided by the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit indicated that the independent public body recently made structural changes to help support the organization's function.

What other supports is your department providing the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to assist with fulfilling its mandate? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Mr. Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I would like to request Teresa Hughes to answer that question. Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Ms. Hughes.

**Ms. Hughes** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit Language Authority has been an independent body, but due to lack of resources, and their office set on fire, we are currently providing our staff to help them in their administrative level. We also have a government employee who is currently being seconded by the Inuit Language Authority. That is one type of support that we're providing. And we also have been telling them to complete their annual report, and we also provide financial services, as they don't have one on staff.

I'm not going to be making a statement right now, but we will have a ministerial statement on the issue of the Inuit Language Authority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hughes. Mr. Kablutsiak, go ahead.

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** Thank you, Chair, and thank you for your detailed response.

Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that the budget for its policy and planning budget is increasing by \$129,000. How was the amount of this increase determined? Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. I would like to request the member to repeat the question, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please rephrase your question, Mr. Kablutsiak.

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that the budget for its policy and planning budget is increasing by \$129,000. How was the amount of this increase determined? Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Go ahead, Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That decision was reached through the collective agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Koonoo. Mr. Kablutsiak, any more questions?

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of the priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to complete internal consultations and begin external consultations on the review of the department's grants and contributions policy to identify options for improving community access to departmental funding.

What specific actions will your department undertake to support this priority? Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Member, for the question. The department is trying to streamline and they are trying to reduce duplication. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Koonoo. Any questions from other members on the Corporate Management Branch? I have no more names. Sorry, Mr. Kuliktana.

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Chair. Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates one of the priorities for 2026-2027 fiscal year is to develop a senior level interdepartmental working group to provide leadership and guidance on meeting languages obligations across the Government of Nunavut.

What is the current expected timeline for this establishment of this working group, and how often would this working group meet? Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Member, for the question.

We're currently discussing this at the department level, the deputy minister's table. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Koonoo. Any other questions from members? Ms. Angootealuk.

**Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation):** Thank you. My question: In my community there's a fur program. The women have been requesting to get a program for fur program and to have a place where they can dry the skins. Would we be able to apply for funding to be used for the fur program or to dry the raw fur?

The KIA was going to build or construct a building, but still they have not constructed any infrastructure. And the women's group would like to know if they are eligible to apply for such a thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you for the question, Ms. Angootealuk. I believe that would better fit under the Cultural Branch, which supports funding for programs like that in communities. So if you could ask that question then, please. Thank you.

Any other questions from members for Corporate Management Branch? Mr. Mike.

**Mr. Mike:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister and your officials, for appearing before the committee.

I'm going to ask a question in regards to Iqajuqtigiikta Mandate, and also your department have also stated that they would use the mandate during our term.

My question is in regards to Iqajuqtigiikta Mandate. It states, and I'm very pleased that it is being utilized as their mandate to work closely with the elders and also others that are working to enhance and to protect the elders, and also identify Inuit understanding between the department and Inuit language and that the culture be clearly understood within the government, for programs and services with that mandate.

If you can explain further on that. Can the minister explain further on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, member, for the question. I would like to have Teresa Hughes answer that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. Go ahead, Ms. Hughes.

**Ms. Hughes (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very pleased that we're able to take part in Iqajuqtigiikta Mandate.

Our mandate and objective for elders services is that for elders, to provide a support, because they're very important to promote language and culture. How can we involve Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit traditional knowledge group that will be working with that group? We're going to look at ways how we can involve them more.

As a government, we get advice from them, and the legislation, when they're on the proposed legislation, the other departments do go to that group to get cultural advice and make them more readily available within the government programs and services. If

there's going to be a policy request, we would review it to make sure that it's including, based on Inuit traditional knowledge and culture. That is the mandate.

The terms of reference will be amended, and also that the government had also updated when Tuttarvik traditional knowledge committee, when they can be approached, or also through themselves, the board or the committee themselves can also look into it and also request to be part of that.

And also into Family Services, Education department and Justice Department as well, the board or the committee would like to be involved to make sure that culture and Inuit ways are included in those departments' requests. And Tuttarvik and the government departments have to work closely together, and we're looking at ways how we can strengthen our relationship. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hughes. Go ahead, Mr. Mike.

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister's officials. The Iqajuqtigiikta Mandate: To help each other; that's what it says. Let's not forget the term because we have to work together and help each other, and that's the mandate and the foundation of my question. The government officials or the government work and Inuit language and culture. Perhaps how strong of a use do you have, or have you incorporated Inuit knowledge and traditional culture into the government system? I'm talking about Inuktitut language use, only Inuktitut official language to be used.

And looking at the program and services of government and also in the departments providing that language services to Inuit to protect Inuit language and culture, and it has to enhance and develop. If I work only in Inuktitut language with program services, this would also, it would enhance our language.

Can the minister clarify? There are many Inuit out there in public. I believe that they need to clearly understand the mandate of having to provide Inuit language in the programs and services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Member, for the question. (interpretation) Yes, the Department of Culture and Heritage, Inuit language is very important to that department, and to provide and make sure the public is more aware that Inuit have the right to speak Inuktitut in providing services and programs in Inuktitut. We want the public to be aware of that fact, that they have the rights.

The Department of Culture and Heritage provides information through its website. And we are now planning on providing a computer program where when you speak Inuktitut,

that it would automatically translate it to English. So that program could be helpful, even if you speak Inuktitut, so it could translate to English.

Inuit language needs to be used more and to be enhanced and strengthened, and that's part of what we do within our department, no matter whether other departments, usually Tuttarvik is usually approached for advice. Inuit Language Authority usually consults it when they are coming up with a new Inuit or working with an Inuktitut term.

When there are new terminology, Inuktitut, like traditional use of terminology, when they have questions, they usually go to the Inuit Language Authority to get advice. And our department, Culture and Heritage, believes that Inuit language is very important.

Inuit Language Authority, we are working with them to come up with traditional terminologies as listed in the terminology to be utilized by the Inuit public so that Inuit language can be strengthened. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Koonoo. I'll just remind members we're on Corporate Management Branch. There is a Languages Branch and a Culture Branch coming up next, so keep your questions right now for corporate management. Mr. Mike, you had your hand up again. Go ahead.

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Yes, thank you for reminding us, Mr. Chairman.

But the issue I'm alluding to will need budget under Iqajuqtigiikta Mandate. I'm talking about that. And I believe that that's what we're based on, in the 7th Legislative Assembly, that has been our mandate that we assess in the core business to make sure (interpretation ends) of Culture and Heritage.

Mr. Chairman, if I'm unable to speak under that page, it's okay with me. But according to what you just said as chairman, I just wanted to get clarification on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mike. I think your line of questioning had to do with communications and strategic planning of that, so it is incorporated under Corporate Management Branch. I'll ask the minister to reply to your question. Thank you. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, my colleague. The Iqajuqtigiikta Mandate that I know well, as I coined the word, and I shortened the length and it was approved.

This is being adhered to, and we get support from departments. They come to us as foundation when Inuktitut is needed. And not just in Inuktitut; English and French are also included in our work.

We also work with elders and others, for example, at workplace, along with the stakeholders. We are strengthening and encouraging that Inuktitut language and culture be very much part of the government's operation and government offices. This is a priority.

Culture and Heritage does provide much collaboration, and focuses on working relationships and with budget to put towards that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mike.

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister, for this. I think all the questions have based in mind on this 7th Assembly. I have a question, the question being: What is the status under Iqajuqtigiikta Mandate in view of wanting to make sure the public understands and to involve youth in our communities for the communities?

For example, those participating and anything that relates to this, the youth well-being, and in that, does that include elders? The earlier question I asked also includes elders in respect to the proposed estimates.

So my question is: Will the youth be involved in activities in their communities with the well-being of our youth? Because the Iqajuqtigiikta Mandate emphasizes that, right at the get-go. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member, for that question.

(interpretation) The word Ikajuqtigiikta and not Ikajuqtigiikta. Ikajuqtigiikta is "being reinforced." And grants and contributions, for example, are made available for elders and youth who may want to pursue for program or in further education.

For 2026-2027 fiscal year, I will say (interpretation ends) it is complete internal consultation and begin external consultation on the review of the department's grants and contribution policy to identify options for improving community access to the departmental funding. (interpretation) So that is the priority, as a goal for the Department of Culture. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Next on my list is Mr. Attagutaluk.

**Mr. Attagutaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman. Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of the priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year

is to update the memorandum of understanding between the department and Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to clarify responsibilities and to formally establish working-level relationships.

With respect to Inuktitut development and youth, what is the anticipated timeline to complete this work? Thank you, Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Attagutaluk. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Thank you to the member for the question.

We're planning to update the memorandum of understanding between the department and Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to clarify the responsibilities, and to formally establish the working-level relationship with the Inuktitut development in youth.

Currently they are working on it. They don't have a definite timeline at the moment, but they are sharing. They're doing the work together, and that's about it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Koonoo. Mr. Attagutaluk, go ahead.

**Mr. Attagutaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit implement the Inuit Language Assessment Program. How many employees are currently waiting for their assessment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kautuk. Mr. Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Member, for the question.

This was asked yesterday during oral questions. There are currently 137 people that are waiting for the assessment across Nunavut. It's not by region, it's the whole territory. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Koonoo. I don't have any other names on my list for Corporate Management Branch. Oh, Mr. Kablutsiak.

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** Thank you, Chair. Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of the priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to begin consultations with the Inuit Heritage Trust, Inuit organizations, and other external partners on exploring possible updates to the *Historical Resources Act*.

Which Inuit organizations and external partners is your department considering consulting with? Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. The department is currently working with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, Inuit Heritage Trust, mainly with that organization, but they are also working with different Inuit organizations, either NTI or QIA, so these. They are working together with those departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Koonoo. Go ahead, Mr. Kablutsiak.

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** What specific changes to the *Historical Resources Act* is your department considering at this time? Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. The department is currently just reviewing it for now, and they are going to act and they will determine what changes will be required for the next decision. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Koonoo. Ms. Angootealuk.

**Ms. Angootealuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Which communities Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit planning to visit to complete these assignments? *Qujannamiik*.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Angootealuk. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. One of my associates would like to have you rephrase the question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angootealuk, please rephrase your question.

**Ms. Angootealuk:** Which communities is the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit planning to visit to complete these assignments? Taima. (interpretation) I may be confusing you. Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, yes.

**Chairman:** Which communities are the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit planning, are they planning to visit to complete these assessments? The language proficiency assessments? Thank you. Minister Koonoo, go ahead.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Thank you, member, for the question. Yes, sorry for the confusion. The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit do not do community visits. They do online assessments. Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Koonoo. Go ahead, Ms. Angootealuk.

**Ms. Angootealuk:** Mr. Chair, I'm going to ask you: Are we on Language or are we still on F-4?

**Chairman:** F-4.

**Ms. Angootealuk:** We are not on Language yet, so *taima*.

**Chairman:** Thank you. And I just want to remind members that in 15 minutes, at 12 o'clock, according to our rules, we will have to report progress, so we have 15 minutes more left for this department to ask questions and receive answers.

If we have no more questions for Corporate Management Branch, do members agree with the Department of Culture and Heritage Corporate Management Branch, total operations and maintenance of \$5,504,000?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go to page F-5 and we'll now review the Department of Culture and Heritage Languages Branch. Do members have any questions? Mr. Qammaniq.

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's approved 2024-2026 Business Plan indicated that the department has identified the need for departmental reorganization of the Inuinnaqtun Revitalization Unit. The department is working to review current job descriptions and draft new job descriptions for Inuinnaqtun language revitalization-related duties, to submit a job evaluation for review. What is the status of this work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qammaniq. Go ahead, Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Thank you to the member for the question. I would like to have Teresa Hughes answer that question. Thank you.

**Ms. Hughes:** Go ahead, Ms. Hughes

**Ms. Hughes** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This has been a not easy job and kind of hard, and it affects employees or staff. It also touches on vacant jobs or lack of capability.

We thought we could do more encouraging about the Inuinnaqtun revitalization to see if we can change the descriptions in the government.

We have one staff right now in the Kugluktuk office, and that person is responsible for Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay Inuinnaqtun speakers, and that person will be relying on those people.

The Kivalliq Inuit Association is going to be involved when the government is trying to see how we can improve the Inuinnaqtun revitalization efforts in the communities. Translators in Inuinnaqtun are very few now, and there are really no student replacements that are being formed.

Nunavut Arctic College has a program to teach interpreter-translators, but they don't have one for Inuinnaqtun language now. It's in a worrisome spot, the Inuinnaqtun language, and the speakers are getting fewer and fewer.

We provide funding to the communities for revitalization efforts. Things are improving a little bit. We teach government employees how to work in Inuktitut, and through a procurement process we will be initiating Inuktitut teachers and Inuinnaqtun promotion on how we can promote it more, and also for the French language.

What we wanted to set up previously has a position working there now, and that person will be looking for other ways to revitalize So through iPhones or things like that, you can see Inuinnaqtun language now, and you can look at that and read that now online through iPhones.

We're fortunate to have a translator in Kugluktuk that really helped us in making them available on cellphones or iPhones. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** I'll now recognize Mr. Taqtu.

**Mr. Taqtu:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is almost 12 o'clock noon. I move a motion to report progress.

**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'll now rise to report progress. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses.

*>>Committee adjourned at 11:51 and House resumed at 11:52*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member Pedersen.

### **Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee has been considering Bill 1, and I 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): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Simailak. All those in favour of the motion? Opposing? Motion carried.

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

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Mr. Clerk** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) A reminder there's a meeting of the full caucus this afternoon at 1:30 in the Nanuq boardroom. This will followed by a meeting of the regular members caucus in the same boardroom as well.

As well I would like to announce the Management Services Board will be meeting tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 in the same boardroom, the Nanuq boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for June 8:

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. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you as well. The House stands adjourned for today and will resume on Monday, June 8 at 1:30 in the afternoon. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:55*

