



## 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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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, June 8, 2026**

**Members Present:**

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

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. David Joanasie) (interpretation): Item number 1. Mr. Simailak, can you please lead us in prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, people of Nunavut, people watching on TV, listening on the radio, and good afternoon, members. Item number 2, Ministers' Statements. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Lyall.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 70 – 7(2): Appointment of Director of Programs**

**Hon. Cecile Lyall:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon, colleagues and those watching online.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Travis Kalluak as he completes his three-year internship and assumes the role of Director of Programs with the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

>>*Applause*

Travis's success reflects the value of succession planning, training opportunities, and NHC's commitment to Article 23 of the Nunavut Agreement to support Inuit employment and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, Travis takes on this role following the retirement of Patsy Kuksuk. Once again, I thank Ms. Kuksuk for more than 30 years of service to the Nunavut Housing Corporation and wish her all the best in retirement.

Mr. Kalluak's career in housing began 17 years ago while working for a private contractor. He later became an apprentice with the Arviat Local Housing Organization. He officially joined the Nunavut Housing Corporation ten years ago and has progressed through several roles, including Territorial Maintenance Officer, Manager of Maintenance, and senior management. This is a strong example of Inuit leadership growing within our housing system.

As Director of Programs, Mr. Kalluak brings valuable experience, practical knowledge, and a strong understanding of the realities facing Nunavut communities. His leadership will support housing programs and services across the territory as Nunavut Housing Corporation continues its work to improve housing delivery and support Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Travis on completing his internship and assuming full responsibility for this important role. I wish him continued success as Director of Programs.

*Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Tattuinee.

**Minister's Statement 71 – 7(2): Recognition of Elaine Uppahuak's Doctorate and Her Participation in the Amaaqtaarniq Education Leave Program**

**Hon. Annie Tattuinee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hello, colleagues, and everyone joining online.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Ms. Elaine Uppahuak on successfully defending her doctoral dissertation. This is one of the final steps to earning her Doctorate in Social Sciences from Royal Roads University. This is an outstanding achievement for an Inuk leader who has dedicated her entire career to strengthening public service and expanding opportunities for Inuit in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, on April 9, 2026, she defended her doctorate dissertation from inside an iglu outside of Arviat.

>> *Applause*

Her defence was a powerful reminder that Inuit belong in all spaces, including universities, research, leadership, and public service, while remaining deeply connected to who they are as Inuit.

Elaine's success also highlights the value of the Government of Nunavut's training and education programs. She advanced through the Department of Human Resources Amaqtaarniq Education Program, completing both her Master's degree in Leadership and now her PhD.

Ms. Uppahuak currently serves as Associate Deputy Minister of Inuit Employment and Public Service Development in the Department of Human Resources. Earning a master's degree and now a doctorate degree over the last eight years while raising her daughter Chelsea and her son Tyson shows her determination, discipline, and commitment to her family and community.

Elaine's academic work deepens understanding of Inuit experiences and reinforces the importance of research grounded in Inuit Societal Values. Her achievement is a source of pride for her family, her community, and Inuit across the territory. It also sets a powerful example for Inuit students and youth, showing that their voices matter and their goals are within reach.

We look forward to celebrating her convocation and, upon graduation this fall 2026, officially welcoming Nunavut's Inuk Scholar, Dr. Elaine Uppahuak.

On behalf of this House, I offer sincere congratulations, Elaine. We look forward to her continued leadership and contributions in our public service. Congratulations, Ms. Uppahuak.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 72 – 7(2): Prime Power Diesel Inter-Utility Conference**

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

r. Speaker, last month I was honoured to deliver opening remarks at the 28th biennial Prime Power Diesel Inter-Utility Conference here in Iqaluit. This milestone event, held for the first time in Nunavut, welcomed close to 100 participants from across North America, many visiting the territory for the first time.

Attendees participated in technical sessions showcasing technology for integrating and monitoring both renewable energy and diesel-generated power, and shared perspectives on cybersecurity and community safety. Every participating utility shared examples and experiences from their home communities across Canada.

The conference also included a focus on sharing Inuit knowledge and science, which included lessons on the science of the qulliq, and its cultural importance to families historically and today. The delegates enjoyed country food, a craft sale to showcase our arts community, and time on the land to experience fishing in the environment that provides the foundation for all Inuit science and engineering concepts, and which continues to feed innovation. Qulliq Energy Corporation, alongside its partners and supporting contractors, delivered a well-executed and engaging program.

Events like this remind us that building reliable and sustainable energy across the North happens through partnership and shared learning, with Nunavut among the partners contributing what we know and listening to and learning from others.

I extend my sincere thanks to everyone who participated in and contributed the success of this event.

*Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 73 – 7(2): Strengthening Wildland Fire Preparedness in Nunavut**

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce that the Government of Nunavut has joined the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre. This membership connects Nunavut to a national network of wildfire agencies, and strengthens our ability to prepare for and respond to wildland fire risks across the territory.

While much of Nunavut lies above the tree line, changing environmental conditions, including thawing permafrost and warmer temperatures, are increasing the risk of tundra fires and their potential impact on communities and infrastructure.

These evolving risks require us to take proactive steps now to strengthen preparedness and ensure Nunavut is ready to respond when needed.

By joining this national network, Nunavut will have greater access to expertise, training, coordination, and information-sharing with wildfire agencies and emergency management partners across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this membership also strengthens Nunavut's broader emergency management capacity, and ensures the territory has a voice at the national level, including representation on the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre board of directors.

In Nunavut, communities are at the centre of emergency response. Our role is to support them by strengthening coordination, building capacity, and ensuring assistance is available when it is needed.

This work reflects the importance of preparedness, partnership, and looking out for one another, values that continue to guide emergency management across Nunavut.

The Government of Nunavut will continue working with partners across Canada to strengthen emergency preparedness and support the safety and well-being of Nunavummiut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Item number 3, Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Pedersen.

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

#### **Member's Statement 72 – 7(2): Nanuq Cadets**

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

In my statement the other day, I mentioned I would get the names of the cadets of the 3004 Nanuq Cadet Corps so I could recognize them for completing their training this year. They are: Mitchell Kamoayok, Lucas Kaosoni, Jensen Allukpik, Tysean Iryirtuk, Horacio Kavanna, Aryanna Kaosoni, Nevayah Emingak, Marcus Haniliak, Sophia Okhina, Sheila Power, Marissa Uvilluk, Dustin Kapolak, Brody Angohaitok, Maximus Angohaitok, Ilisaki Dimitruk, and Akana Kaniak.

The other volunteers of the cadet program that I did not mention includes civilian instructors Alex Buchan, Reagan Evetalegak, and Nuka Olsen-Hakongak.

Once again, I ask all of you to help me in recognizing the 3004 Nanuq Cadet Corps.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 73 – 7(2): Saku School Graduates**

**Ms. Angootealuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to mention the graduates from Saku School. Fourteen students are going to be completing their education in the school. I celebrate with them and tell them that your learning is not quite done; your learning in that school is done.

I'll mention their names: Colton Ell, Hannah Angootealuk, Daria Nataquq, Isiah Heron, Jonathan Junior Imiktau, Katrina Simauk, Christian Imirktauq, Rachel Kuvian Iqtaliuk, Ray Junior Netsir, Ruby Nigertiak, Sebastian Nitirk, Seth Quliq, Tasha Nirtiqak, Ooksoo Sapurnak. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): We congratulate all of you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Kablutsiak.

### **Member's Statement 74 – 7(2): Arviat Arena**

**Mr. Kablutsiak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the minister that I will be asking questions to the Minister of Community Services.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, since 1981, the Hamlet of Arviat has provided and operated the local arena to the residents, sports participants, and visitors to the Hamlet of Arviat.

The Arviat arena is one of the oldest of its kind in Nunavut, and is in desperate need of major renovation. The existing arena is no longer capable of managing the volume of community needs that it should be able to provide. Things have changed in the last 44 years and the community has grown in many ways. The population of Arviat has increased, with the majority of the population being under the age of 30.

Hockey is one of the biggest sports activities in the community. People both young and old, male and female, all take part in the arena ice-related activities during the winter months.

Mr. Speaker, the arena is in part of a bigger complex and is connected to the John Ollie Community Hall and also to an adjoining room housing an indoor playground.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. We will proceed. Item number 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Item number 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Rankin Inlet South, Ms. Tattuinee.

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

**Hon. Annie Tattuinee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize individuals in the gallery:

Elaine Uppahuak, who is here, and I recognized her as she will be receiving her PhD in the fall. Alma Power, Deputy Minister of Human Resources. Teema Palluq, Elaine's partner; Chelsea Uppahuak-Prusky, who is Elaine's daughter; and Elaine Kakasik (ph). All of these individuals played a role in the success of this woman, and I just wanted Elaine to stand up and be acknowledged. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): We are very much proud of you, Ms. Uppahuak. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Arviat South, Mr. Kablutsiak.

**Mr. Kablutsiak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize also Arviat's Travis Kalluak and Lula Chelsea Uppahuak-Prusky, and Elaine Uppahuak, and Teema Palluq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Assembly. Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Healey Akearok.

**Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would also like to recognize Travis Kalluak today. He is a valued member of the board of directors for Qulliq Energy Corporation, in addition to the immense roles and responsibilities he is taking on with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, so I want to recognize his contributions today as well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Brewster.

**Hon. Janet Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize a member of my family, Melanie Kakasik, my niece. Welcome to your House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Netsilik member, Ms. Lyall.

**Hon. Cecile Lyall:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Travis. Welcome to the House, your House, and thank you for all your contributions to housing in Nunavut and the contributions that are yet to come. And we thank your family and your support network for assisting you through the important work that you do with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Arviat North and Tikirarjuaq, Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to recognize, I really believe Elaine is from Arviat. Elaine, I congratulate you, and family, friends, welcome. And Travis Kalluak, both these individuals, Mr. Speaker, yes, I congratulate you for recognizing and I am pleased that we've recognized -- it feels that we recognize the individuals. It's always great to see Arviat residents who come here, and please do come for recognition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): And thank you. Welcome anyone from Nunavut to our Assembly. Whether we are sitting or not, this Assembly is for Nunavummiut. Welcome.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, Uqqummiut MLA, Mr. Kautuk.

**Mr. Kautuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to recognize my friend Ms. Uppahuak. Welcome to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): We're starting to recognize them even more. Welcome, always. And it's great to see our fellow Nunavummiut in this House, when we get to see them. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on the list.

Item 6, Oral Questions. Kugluktuk MLA, Mr. Kuliktana.

## Item 6: Oral Questions

### Oral Question 96 – 7(2): Health Infrastructure

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to say hello to residents of Kugluktuk. I hope you're enjoying your day today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to begin by expressing my deep appreciation and gratitude to the staff of Kugluktuk health centre. The work that they do for our residents is extremely important, and I believe that it is extremely important that they have the proper resources to do their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, Kugluktuk's current health system is in need of replacement. During the previous Legislative Assembly sitting of the October 31, 2024, the minister's predecessor provided an update of the department's replacement schedule, and at that time he indicated:

“Following Baker Lake, a replacement plan would see a new health centre in Kugluktuk, we would see an expansion of the existing health centre in Arviat, and we would also see a new health centre in Kugaaruk.”

Can the minister confirm that this schedule is still in effect, and can she provide a timeline for when she expects Kugluktuk's health centre to enter the planning phase?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Janet Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just looking for that information right now, and I can say that it is still on track. However, I can't say exactly where it is, but I will look for that information and I will get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

As the minister will recall, the Legislative Assembly approved funding in the department's 2026-2027 capital estimates for the replacement and modernization of x-ray machines in all Nunavut communities, including Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, I have previously addressed the importance of cancer screening. It is noteworthy that information provided by the department concerning this initiative

indicates: “these benefits will improve timely diagnostic of tobacco-related illness, timely treatments, reduce unnecessary medical travel, and enhance care delivery closer to home.”

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the procurement process for the new x-ray machine? Thank you. Minister Brewster.

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

**Hon. Janet Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to begin, I would like to confirm that the planning phase for the replacement of the Kugluktuk health centre is scheduled for 2026-2027, and I’m just trying to find the information about the procurement; however, I don’t have it right in front of me. I will share that as soon as I can find it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister. I look forward to the answer.

As the minister will recall, the Government of Nunavut announced on March 7, 2025 that a settlement had been reached in respect to recovering healthcare costs related to tobacco use. The Government of Nunavut announcement indicates: “These funds will strengthen healthcare services with Nunavut receiving \$97 million; \$23 million upfront and the remainder over time.”

Can the minister provide an update today on what specific health infrastructure improvements are being funded from this settlement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Janet Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is safe to say that every current infrastructure project is being funded with the help of those funds as they go into general revenue, and then Health creates business plans and requests for funding. So that’s part of the funding that we’ve received for our most current projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. As per my list, Member for High Arctic, Mr. Taqtu.

#### **Oral Question 97 – 7(2): Activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation**

**Mr. Taqtu:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

I appreciate the information that the minister provided last week for the corporation's housing construction plans.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, Arctic Bay has allocated eight new modular housing units. These are to be used as new public housing for the community.

Can the minister indicate the Nunavut Housing Corporation's timeline for awarding the contract to install the new units, and can she indicate how the corporation will determine the Inuit labour content for the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The minister of the housing corporation, Minister Lyall.

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

Currently we are in discussions with the awards of the contracts for the installation of our modulars across the territory. Once I have an update on when those contracts have been finalized, I'll share that information with each of the MLAs with modulars to be installed within their communities.

When we're looking at the labour force, local labour force within the communities, that is normally a portion of the contract when they are being awarded. So that would be linked through the discussions and negotiations for the installation process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): First supplementary to your question, Mr. Taqtu.

**Mr. Taqtu:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, information published by the Nunavut Housing Corporation in July 2025 indicated that the material for the construction of six new units in Resolute Bay had arrived in the community, and that construction was scheduled to be completed between late 2026 and mid-2027.

Can the minister provide an update today on the construction timeline, and can she indicate when the Nunavut Housing Corporation plans to allocate additional new units to the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Housing Corporation, Ms. Lyall.

**Hon. Cecile Lyall:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for that question. For Resolute, for the six units within that multiplex, the civil work has been completed. Currently we're working on the framing and assembly targeted to begin in July, with a targeted completion date of August 2027.

Currently right now we aren't looking at any new units in Resolute Bay for this upcoming sealift. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Taqtu:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, information published by the Nunavut Housing Corporation in July 2025 indicated that material for the construction of six new units in Grise Fiord had arrived in the community, and the construction was scheduled to be completed between late 2026 and mid 2027.

Can the minister provide an update on the construction timeline? Can she indicate when the Nunavut Housing Corporation plans to allocate new additional units to the community of Grise Fiord? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Lyall.

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

Currently right now units under construction in Grise Fiord include two four-bedroom public housing units, which would be modular units. We're hoping to commence the installation of those following the arrival of some additional materials on this coming sealift.

These units would be utilized with temporary accommodations for contractors coming into the community, and a targeted completion date for April 2027.

Currently right now we don't anticipate any new units aside from these in Grise Fiord for this sealift or the upcoming sealifts next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 98 – 7(2): Baffin Island Caribou Management**

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on that question I asked last week concerning the important issue of the Baffin Island caribou management.

As I previously noted, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will be meeting later this month in the community of Kinngait. One of the board's agenda items is the total allowable harvest of Baffin Island caribou.

The information that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has made publicly available indicates that the Government of Nunavut's Department of Environment has made the following recommendation:

“Based on the current population estimate, all of the available scientific information and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, the Government of Nunavut recommends that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board modify the existing Baffin Island total allowable harvest to a non-sex-selective harvest of 6,000 caribou annually, representing approximately 12.3 per cent of the population, with an annual increase of 125 caribou.”

For the record, can the minister confirm that this is what the department is formally recommending for the Wildlife Management Board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board have the authority to review the recommendation for total harvest, allowable harvest, and they have the authority to set total allowable harvest, but they will have a meeting in Cape Dorset sometime this month.

After their meeting they will be able to give their recommendation to the cabinet. We will also discuss their recommendation at the time. It will be clear after their decision with their recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Attagutaluk.

**Mr. Attagutaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, he participated in a meeting that was held in February of this year management to discuss management recommendations concerning Baffin Island caribou.

As the minister is aware, the current regulation under the territorial *Wildlife Act* regarding the total allowable harvest and non-quota limitations for Baffin Island caribou provide that the numbers for the 2026-2027 harvest year are 550 caribou, including up to 110 females without calves.

Can the minister clarify what changes his department is recommending regarding the harvesting of female caribou? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Member, for your question.

The issue, it's going to just stay status quo, and likewise we're just going to wait for Nunavut Wildlife Management's decision and recommendation. We're still awaiting for that. While we are waiting prior to their meeting, I cannot tell you exactly what the recommendation will be.

I am very aware that the fact that the caribou population has increased. It is around 48,000 after the survey, and we are aware that the population has increased.

But according to Nunavut Agreement, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has the authority to set recommendations, so we are awaiting for the decision. So therefore, I cannot tell you exactly what it's going to be until the decision has been made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Attagutaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify the timeline for when his department expects to receive the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision regarding its recommendations about changes to the total allowable harvest of Baffin Island caribou? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is scheduled to have a meeting in Cape Dorset from June 24, 25 and that week, and right after the meeting they will be providing the recommendation to Nunavut government, and if my cabinet can meet early as possible, perhaps in July, then we would like to be able to have a decision on the recommendation for population of caribou in Baffin Region.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sure the harvesters have a good expectation now. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Kautuk.

#### **Oral Question 99 – 7(2): Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit**

**Mr. Kautuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the minister responsible for Language, and they concern the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to build off questions raised last week during Committee of the Whole with the minister's department.

Mr. Speaker, back in 2022, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit issued a news release indicating that they were travelling to Pangnirtung and Qikiqtarjuaq to conduct in-person Inuktut language assessments.

Mr. Speaker, during the minister's recent appearance before the committee, he indicated that "The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit do not do community visits. They do online assessment."

Can the minister clarify when and why the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit decided to transition to online Inuktut language assessment? And did his department visit Qikiqtarjuaq and/or Pangnirtung? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Member, for your question.

The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit language authority are very busy, and they have a lot to do and they are short on capacity.

The Inuktitut language is very important and they are very aware of the fact that it's very important and they work very hard; and they have been shortage on staff for quite some time, and they work very hard to do their work.

But they do also lack funding, and they applied for funding to strengthen Inuit language, so in order to try not to use too much money, they do assessments through online only. When they require to do assessments, that's what they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kautuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department's current main estimate indicate that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit has eight positions. Can the minister indicate how many of those positions are currently filled and how many are currently vacant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are eight positions, and they have been looking to fill these positions. At this time I cannot exactly tell you how many positions are filled at this moment, so therefore I cannot exactly tell you how many positions are vacant or filled.

Oh, I'm sorry, there are four positions that are open for competition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kautuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for the response.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, in March 2024, a fire destroyed a building with a number of offices in Iqaluit, including the office of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that this incident displaced a number of staff members who worked for the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit.

Can the minister confirm if the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit has secured a new office space since then? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you member for your question. Yes, they have been working very hard. The Culture and Heritage department have been working very hard to secure a new office. Their office building 1084. Their office is situated there in that unit.

Although the office space is quite small, they are utilizing it at this moment, because they lack funding, and due to the fact that there are three positions that are filled, so that office space is good for now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 100 – 7(2): Cambridge Bay Airport**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, and are regarding the Cambridge Bay airport.

As we all know, we rely on our airports for all passenger travel to and from every Nunavut community, as well as for freight of perishable foods, mail, et cetera.

Mr. Speaker, we rely on these airports on a daily basis. It is our only way in and out, and because of this, we should ensure that our airports are of the Cadillac version of airports, meaning that they are equipped with the most advanced systems and services possible.

Can the minister update the House on how discussions are going regarding what the federal announcement of Cambridge Bay being selected as an operational support node for the Department of National Defence means in terms of the types of upgrades that are being planned for the Cambridge Bay airport. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the question from the member.

As it was tapped to be a northern operations support node by the Department of National Defence, it put a lot of interest to what improvements we could take a look at.

Mr. Speaker, I know when announcements are made, there is a desire to get as much information out the door as quick as possible, and we recognize that people are waiting for further information; that's why the members ask the questions.

Mr. Speaker, these negotiations and discussions are still very preliminary. There has been a lot of work behind the scenes to establish what those nodes would encompass, yet at the same time, when it comes especially to air-side infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, there's still a lot of very preliminary discussions going on.

I did state the other day that resurfacing the Cambridge Bay runway is high on the priority list, but with regards to other air-side infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, those discussions are very preliminary.

I am looking forward to announcements in the coming months, but at this point it's too early for me to say exactly what is being considered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the minister for his answer.

My next question is, will the minister go on record to say that he will lobby on his federal counterparts in seeing that an airport extension, paving of the runway and ramp, and the installation of new lighting and instrument landing systems be included in the upgrades for the Cambridge Bay Operational Support Node Project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as these assessments are being done, and as we're identifying the scope of work that needs to be done, I will commit to the member that I'll lobby for everything that we need to make sure that that

airport is meeting the demand, not just from the Department of National Defence, but for the community and for the territory of Nunavut to make sure that all the infrastructure, the lighting, the extension, the resurfacing, all those factors are considered and will continue.

Like I said, I will commit to the member that I will continue to lobby the federal government on any and all improvements that we can make to make our airline safety paramount of a priority across the territory.

But specifically to the member's question, Mr. Speaker, as part of the assessment process, we will work with the Department of National Defence and other federal partners, like Transport Canada, to identify what improvements are needed to maximize the impact of these investments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again I thank the minister for his response.

My final question is: If additional funding is needed on top of the federal portion of the project to see an extension of the airstrip, including paving of it is completed, is he prepared to seek cabinet approval followed by support of this house to approve of the Government of Nunavut contribution to the project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can't presume to what I would bring forward to the Financial Management Board or to cabinet.

But Mr. Speaker, what I can assure all members, whenever we look at making improvements to infrastructure in the territory, there's often a cost-sharing component of that, which does have to go through the House through the normal approval processes.

Mr. Speaker, when you're getting funding through third parties and you're lessening the burden on the Nunavut taxpayer or the Nunavut coffers, if you may call it so, we're going to take advantage of every opportunity we can to leverage those funds from a third party, especially federal funding partners.

So Mr. Speaker, I can assure the member that we will do as much work as needed to make the improvements necessary for that air terminal and runway project. And if further funds are required for that project, I will go through the normal approval processes, including support in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Member for Uqsuqtuuq, Mr. Porter.

**Oral Question 101 – 7(2): Activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation**

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

I thank the minister for the detailed information that she recently provided to the members of the Legislative Assembly concerning the Corporation's construction plans for the current 2026-2027 fiscal year.

As the minister is aware, Gjoa Haven has been allocated four new modular housing units. This will help to address the housing shortages in the community.

Can the minister indicate the approximate length of time that it will take for a modular unit to be installed once the components have arrived into the community? 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.

Currently right now for the modular units coming into Gjoa Haven, we are still in discussions in awarding the installation contract for those four modular units coming into Gjoa Haven.

The time varies from community to community and the length in how long it would take for a complete install of the modular units from the unit arriving into the community to the lot being developed and connected to power and ultimately ready for occupancy.

Historically we've seen anywhere from about a year or longer for the installation of modular units. Again, it depends on community readiness and the length of time it takes to mobilize the installation contractors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Porter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the response.

As the minister is aware, a number of Nunavut communities have been allocated new modular housing units that are being supplied from a number of different companies.

Can the minister describe the extent to which modular units have a common design? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

We are utilizing a number of different suppliers for modular units across the territory. We are trying to ensure that we have a mixture of different type of modulars and bedroom sizes and configurations of these units across the territory, so we have worked with the different suppliers that are supplying modulars to the different regions and communities. We are hoping that this is something we will be able to continue to do in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Porter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the response.

I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the board members and employees of Gjoa Haven's Kikitak Housing Association.

As the minister is aware, the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a request for tender in April of this year to undertake major renovations at Gjoa Haven local housing organization's warehouse.

Information provided by the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that:

“In the spring 2024, the Nunavut Housing Corporation was approved to purchase an existing warehouse building in Gjoa Haven for the local housing association. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is currently targeting to undertake specific modifications in 2026 and 2027 to renovate some sections of the building to make more suitable for the local housing corporation's program needs.”

Mr. Speaker, the tender closed on May 11. Can the minister provide an update on the status of the procurement process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Lyall.

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

Through the capital allocation process, we have been exploring new ways of either retrofitting or being able to construct new local housing organization warehouses and office spaces. Due to the constraints within budgets, we are not able to do all of that at once.

We have commenced in Cambridge Bay with the award of that contract, and in Gjoa Haven we have been working with a privately owned company in acquiring space there.

Retrofitting that was expected in June and August of last year was delayed do to some issues within the community, and we're hoping to have that completed very, very shortly. But I can get back to the member once I have information on that particular retrofitting and the local housing organization warehouse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Ms. Angootealuk.

**Oral Question 102 – 7(2): Granular Equipment and Sources**

**Ms. Angootealuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community Services I want to revisit the issue of gravel.

As the minister is aware, a long-lasting concern in the community of Coral Harbour is the high level of dust that we experience during the summer months.

This dust impacts our air quality and is a health problem, especially for residents with breathing conditions like asthma.

The municipality has identified a potential new quarry site that would help to address this situation, and it's requesting help to develop an access road to the site.

Mr. Speaker, summer will be here soon. Will the minister commit to meeting with the mayor and council to discuss this important project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Yes, I would be able to sit down with the member herself and the mayor and council to discuss the access road or granular issues, or any other issues or concerns that the hamlet may have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angootealuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Minister.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that all Nunavut communities, including Coral Harbour and Naujaat, have adequate equipment, including gravel screeners and rock crushers. As the minister is aware, information provided by the department indicates that:

“Starting in 2026-2027, the granular crushing equipment program will be discontinued, and its funding will be relocated to the municipal capital block fund.”

Can the minister explain why his department made this decision? And can he confirm how much funding is available for communities such as Coral Harbour and Naujaat to access equipment such as gravel screeners and rock crushers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Regarding the granular crushing equipment program being discontinued, that decision was made previously, and rolled into the municipal capital block funding, as the member mentioned. That was so that each hamlet can run it their own selves better. There will be less red tape, there will be less application process coming to Community Services, and the hamlets can run with it as they please, as long as they go through Integrated Community Sustainability Plan or an approved capital project.

And the second part of her question regarding the block funding, I’m just getting to it, Mr. Speaker. If you can give me a second here.

For Coral Harbour, they’re stated to get \$917,000 this year, and Naujaat \$705,000. So each hamlet can work with that and start planning for their capital needs, such as purchasing granular material. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Angootealuk.

**Ms. Angootealuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The distance between Coral Harbour’s airport and the town is significant. The road is over ten kilometres in length. During the summer months, the dust gets very bad.

Can the minister highlight what assistance his department can provide to Coral Harbour and Naujaat and other Nunavut communities to improve ways of reducing dust on gravel roads? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question around dust issues on the roads.

Currently I believe majority of the hamlets use the, is it salt; I don't know. Sodium, or calcium chloride, yes, thank you for that. That seems to be the best option for now, but the department does look at other options that may be coming available on the market, and perhaps we could look at that. But currently that's the option that the department uses, along with the hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 103 – 7(2): Mine and Trades Training**

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, two of Nunavut's operating mines are in the Kivalliq region of the territory. As the member of the Legislative Assembly for Arviat South, I strongly support a partnership in training initiatives to enable our constituents to pursue meaningful careers in the industry.

As the minister is aware, Nunavut's *Mine Training Strategy* was tabled in the House during the Legislative Assembly's sitting of March 1, 2024.

Mr. Speaker, during the last Wednesday sitting, the minister stated that:

“Through partnerships between Family Services and training providers, we have developed a range of mine training opportunities, an underground trainee program at Agnico Eagle Mines, an underground miner program through Aurora College in the Northwest Territories, class 3 air brakes training in Arviat, heavy equipment operator training in nine communities, and introduction to mechanics training in eight more. We are also working together with Community Services and Nunavut Arctic College to implement the Government of Nunavut's *Mine Training Strategy*.”

Can the minister elaborate on what programs are currently being delivered in Arviat, and what programs are planned to be delivered in Arviat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The Minister of Family Services Ms. Healey Akearok.

**Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question on this very important topic.

Currently, as the member mentioned, or just finishing in the 2025-2026 fiscal year was the class 3 air brakes program training, which took place in Arviat.

For the 2026-27 year, the programs that will be available and the locations are still being confirmed for this year. I would be happy to return to the member with more information once we have that confirmation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

As the minister is aware, a new *Apprenticeship and Certification Act* received assent on June 8, 2021, exactly five years ago today; however, the legislation is not yet in force.

Mr. Speaker, as a newly elected member of the Legislative Assembly, I have been surprised and concerned by the number of statutes that were passed by previous Legislatures but are still not yet in force.

The 2026-2030 Business Plan of the Department of Family Services indicated that one of its planned actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to develop regulations to support the coming into force of the *Apprenticeship and Certification Act*.

Can the minister provide a clear explanation for why it has taken almost five years to develop the regulations, and can she provide a clear timeline for when the legislation will come into force? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The Minister of Family Services, Ms. Healey Akearok.

**Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the follow-up question, because this is such an important topic for us. We know that apprenticeship is a very important pathway for Nunavummiut into these industry trades and developing those credentials for key sectors like mining, as the member mentioned in his first question.

Those regulations, Mr. Speaker, were in development and almost complete and in January 2026 it was discovered there was an administrative challenge, an administrative issue that required being addressed, that needed to be addressed in the act. And so amendments are also part of our business plan for 2026-2027 to address those administrative challenges. So those steps to implement those amendments to the act that will allow the regulations to move forward are in development.

Those initial consultations on the amendments will take place this summer, in 2026, and Mr. Speaker, we anticipate the timeline for completing those amendments and having them in front of the House will hopefully be winter 2027. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are numerous career opportunities for skilled and certified electricians, plumbers and mechanics.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize and understand that the Department of Family Services focuses on adult learning and career development.

Can the minister describe how her department works with the Department of Education to encourage high school students to consider careers in the skilled trades for careers in the mining sector or other industries? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Healey Akearok.

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

While the member is correct, Mr. Speaker, we do focus on adult learning primarily at Family Services, but we celebrate all forms of learning and all pathways into the trades and apprenticeship programs, and our Career Development Division works in a variety of areas that are focused on helping to meet the current Inuit Ikajuqtigiikta mandate, uplifting families and improving opportunities for Nunavummiut to participate in the economy.

But we do still work with the Department of Education as well; particularly, the department has worked on a collection of career and skills books for all reading levels, as well as the high and low magazine for middle and high school students, and those are incorporated into the curriculum at all Nunavut schools.

In addition, the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy, which was originally published in 2026, is being renewed in a 2.0 version in partnership with the Department of Education, and that is just in progress now.

And then we also have a high school trades training grant of \$7,500 per student for trade-based projects within the school year.

And then additionally, as I mentioned in the House previously, through our skilled trade worker partnership, skilled trade worker program partnerships and the Nailed It! program, we continue to work with our partners at Nunavut Arctic College and Department of Education to promote all of these opportunities for our youth and for our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 104 – 7(2): Fisheries Sector**

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon people of Pangnirtung and people of Nunavut.

My questions today are for the Minister of Community Services, whose department is responsible for the government's Fisheries and Sealing Division. I'd like to want to be able to say the Minister of Fisheries. I don't know when I'll be able to say that.

As the minister will recall, he made a statement in the House during last Wednesday's sitting, last week's sitting of the Legislative Assembly concerning the Nunavut–Greenland Long-Line Open Water Fishing Knowledge Exchange Program. I believe that is going ahead now.

Mr. Speaker, I support initiatives. Can the minister confirm how many residents of Pangnirtung are participating in this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the questions from the MLA.

For the people of Pangnirtung, there are two residents of Pangnirtung taking part and two from Pond Inlet and two from Clyde River and two from Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister.

I want to revisit this issue of fishing quotas, especially in the 0B fishing area. The total allowable quota was 7,797 tonnes. That's around 19 million pounds of halibut or turbot, and Nunavummiut have less than half that weight quota. Around 3,840 tons go to Nunavut from that 7,000.

This can really help Nunavut economically, and I asked the minister at one time during Committee of the Whole on Monday, and at that time the minister indicated that he had met with the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to discuss this issue and other Nunavut matters.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister confirm what commitments he received from his federal counterpart to review the issue of fishing quota allocation in 0B? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his question regarding the meeting I had with my federal counterpart, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Minister Thompson.

The minister was very forthcoming as to the challenges around the quota allocations. The minister did understand where I was coming from: Increasing the quotas or assigning the more of the quotas to Nunavut would help our economy. It would help train our young people to become people taking over for the ones that have been in the fisheries for decades now that want to retire.

The minister was very welcoming and willing to listen to our concerns that we're bringing forward to Nunavut. So not only the Government of Nunavut, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association have also been voicing our concerns on behalf of Nunavummiut, and we continue to work with them as well. (interpretation ends) Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Moving on to item -- my apologies. Second and final supplementary, Mr. Mike.

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister.

For the Baffin Region, our issue here is very important, and this has been like this for a time now, in the Nunavut Agreement about the oak door may appear to be open, but in the 0B zone, the halibut, shrimp quota, we don't even have half the figures. Since 1993 we've been pursuing this very hard.

I have no problem with our discussions now, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps going back to minister's comment, (interpretation ends) "Efforts are ongoing to advocate for federal financial support to facilitate the repatriation and acquisition of fishing quotas."

It's very obvious what this refers to. 3,156 tons is what we don't have, and the cost, it would be around \$27 million in total of the weight.

I did raise this to the minister previously, and the response given was, (interpretation ends) the minister indicated, that costs would be in the "high tens to hundreds of millions of dollars."

(interpretation) I would like to bring some of these here where fisheries or DFO allocated the quota in 0B. And this, for operations, and I'll just use there as a last example: on 27 0B sales (interpretation ends) landed value, 47,299,000. (interpretation) That's how much monies there are. And the landed value, 29,663,000 outside of Nunavut, from 0B sales, \$26, 736,000.

I would like to mention here, or ask the minister whether the minister can confirm when he will be meeting with people in Ottawa and discuss what I just raised here and the question I asked and if it's possible that we get funding from federal government to purchase the licences. When the DFO or senator or MP in Ottawa will show their support to the issue that we are discussing, when is that going to kick-start? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Community Services, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member around lobbying issues. We will continue the lobby the federal government, either by phone or by e-mail or in person. Again, we will incorporate the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and I will also reach out to our MP, our Member of Parliament Laurie Idlout, and our senator, asking for their assistance because they would understand the importance of reallocating some more of the quota to Nunavut. It will help our economy. It will help our young people that want to get into the fisheries, and create a good, stable work life for their households. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Moving on. Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Return to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committee on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Minister of Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Lyall.

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

#### **Tabled Document 29 – 7(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2024-2025 Annual Report**

**Hon. Cecile Lyall:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2024-2025 Annual Report*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Petitions. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Taqtu.

### **Item 14: Notices of Motions**

#### **Motion 2 – 7(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice of Motion**

**Mr. Taqtu:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice Wednesday June 10, 2026 I will move the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Baker Lake, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes today's sitting, it shall be adjourned until October 22, 2026.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Item 14, Notices of Motions. Cambridge Bay MLA, Mr. Porter. Gjoa Haven, sorry.

#### **Motion 3 – 7(2): Legislative Assembly Appointments – Notice of Motion**

**Mr. Porter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Notice of Motion, Legislative Assembly appointments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, June 10, 2026 I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Amittuq, that the following members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges: Jamie Kablutsiak, Member for Arviat South; Gordon Kautuk, Member for Uqqummiut; Fred Pedersen, Member for Cambridge Bay; the Hon. Craig Simailak, Member for Baker Lake; and Steven Taqtu, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Taqtu.

### **Item 16: Motions**

#### **Motion 2 – 7(2): Extended Adjournment**

**Mr. Taqtu:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my issue today. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Member is seeking unanimous consent to deals with his motion today. Any nays? Hearing none, Mr. Taqtu.

**Mr. Taqtu:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Baker Lake, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes today's sitting, it shall be adjourned until October 22, 2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): High Arctic MLA, Mr. Taqtu.

**Mr. Taqtu:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry about that, colleagues, and Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry about that.

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Baker Lake, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes on Thursday, June 11, it shall be adjourned until October 22, 2026. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Motion is in order. Those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried. Motions. Mr. Porter.

### **Motion 3 – 7(2): Legislative Assembly Appointments**

**Mr. Porter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Member is asking to deal with his motion today. Any nays? Hearing none, Mr. Porter, carry on.

**Mr. Porter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, colleagues.

**WHEREAS** section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly may establish such committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary;

**AND WHEREAS** section 38 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides for the establishment of the Management and Services Board;

**AND WHEREAS** Rule 83 of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* provides for the establishment of the Striking Committee;

**AND WHEREAS** the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make appointments;

**NOW THEREFORE I MOVE**, seconded by the Hon. Member for Amittuq, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges: Jamie Kablutsiak, Member for Arviat South; Gordon Kautuk, Member for Uqqummiut; Fred Pedersen, Member for Cambridge Bay; the Hon. Craig Simailak, Member for Baker Lake and Steven Taqtu, Member for Quttiktuq;

**AND FURTHER**, I move that Simon Kuliktana, Member for Kugluktuk, be appointed to the Management and Services Board;

**AND FURTHER**, I move that Edward Attagutaluk, Member for Aggu, be appointed to the Striking Committee.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Those in favour? Against? The motion is approved.

*Orders of the Day:* Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration of the Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Before we proceed, we'll take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:03 and Committee commenced at 15:33*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Fred Pedersen): Good afternoon. I'll call the Committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following matters to deal with: Bills 1, 2, 3 and 4. 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 continue the review of the proposed 2026-2027 Main Estimates of the Department of Culture and Heritage; and if time permits, we will proceed to the proposed 2026-2027 Main Estimates of the Department of Justice. 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 any officials you would like to appear before the committee?

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Yes, Chair. I have officials here with me. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. 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 reintroduce your officials.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have Deputy Minister Teresa Hughes and Assistant Deputy Minister Jeannie Kullualik. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Koonoo. We'll now proceed to a page-by-page review of the 2026-2027 Main Estimates starting on page F-5. Languages Branch; we will now review the Department of Heritage Languages Branch. Total operations and maintenance of \$17,763,000. Do members have any questions? Mr. Kuliktana.

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question today is: What other initiatives is your department undertaking to support the revitalization of Inuinnaqtun? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. We are using the grants and contributions program to revitalize Inuinnaqtun. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Chair. Your department's draft 2026-2027 Business Plan indicates that it has budgeted 11.346 million under its "language implementation fund for the 2027-2027 fiscal year." What specific new initiatives will be undertaken with this funding? Thank you, Chair.

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

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

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

**Ms. Hughes (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Usually the funding is used, first of all, and it's a first time the Language Implementation Fund has increased for Inuktitut

language. We use that in each department and agencies they apply for funding to implement the Inuit language within the government departments. That is what the funding is for. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my previous question, I want more of a clarification. I didn't seem to get the answer. What other initiatives is your department undertaking to support the revitalization of Inuinnaqtun? I understood it was grants and contributions. Can you further elaborate on your answers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Yes, the grants and contributions program has different obligations, and I would like to request Teresa Hughes to further elaborate on that question. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Koonoo. Ms. Hughes, go ahead.

**Ms. Hughes (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they go through the agreement with the community for Inuinnaqtun language. For example, in Kugluktuk and also in Cambridge Bay, in order to revitalize the Inuinnaqtun language within the community, we have a policy that states that in order for the language to be enhanced, they can be given a contribution of funding through agreement.

These programs are usually done through community like the Kuugalaaq group, that train Inuktut language. Inuit usually train young people through Kitikmeot Heritage Society. We do partner with them to run the programs.

As well, Nunavut Arctic College, we provide funding for them and for language programming. And also with the Department of Education we provide funding through agreement to the department to be used for Inuinnaqtun language and other Inuktut language.

And also they make their annual report through the minister's report, and that report will be tabled and you'll be able to review the programs that were done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hughes. Any other members with questions on Languages Branch? Mr. Qammaniq.

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

2026-2027 fiscal year is to complete the engagement process outlined in the Katujjiqatigiinniq Article 32 policy process outlined in the Katujjiqatigiinniq Article 32 policy process with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on the Uqausivut 2 review. What is the expected timeline for the completion of this work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. The Uqausivut 2.0 remains the strategic direction of our government and our formal implementation plan. We are committed to continue to address the four identified pillar, languages, learning, work, languages services, language revitalization. The timeframe to be expected during is the 2027-2028 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2027-2027 fiscal year is to begin internal consultations with departments and agencies on departmental language plans. What is the expected timeline for the completion of this work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. I would like to request Jeannie Arreak-Kullualik to answer that question, through you, thank you, Chair.

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

**Ms. Arreak-Kullualik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your question. At this time Uqausivut 2.0, I think he is asking in regards to that, in regards to, through recognition of Inuit language culture and also protection of Inuit language.

We're now starting the talks with Nunavut Tunngavik as well, and Katujjiqatigiinniq Article 32 policy process during this fiscal year. We will be meeting with NTI to complete this process, and then it will be more clear what the language plans will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response.

(interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of the priorities for 2026-2027 fiscal year is to complete consultations with Inuinnaqtun community and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association to assist.

What government communications should be prioritized for Inuinnaqtun translations and update the translation policy. What is the expected timeline for the completion of this work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qammaniq. Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, member, for that question. They were supposed to be meeting with the board, but they weren't able to, so they are planning on meeting this summer. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your response. (interpretation ends) When do you anticipate the new translation policy to be implemented? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are anticipating to be implemented this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response.

(interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2026-2027 Main Estimates indicate that it has a total of 32 positions in its translation bureau. As of today, which positions are vacant? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo**: Thank you, Chair. There's currently 70 per cent capacity, with nine vacancies. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your response again. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its department priorities for 2026-2027 is to begin speech-to-text data collection for the Inuktuurutit initiative. What specific actions will your department undertake to support this priority? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Ms. Arreak-Kullualik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Culture and Heritage to be efficient in usage of the Inuktitut language, and also be culturally relevant, and to improve the usage of the Inuktitut language.

We are going to be filling in more details. We will make it available in Inuktitut on your cell phones. So that's what we're trying to do. We can write Inuktitut on the cell phone, but we would like to improve it, and we're still compiling all the details.

We are going to be working on this system until 2030. It's going to be a living document and add more and more each year. So we're at that stage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Arreak-Kullualik. Mr. Qammaniq, any more questions? Go ahead.

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you for the detailed response.

(interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2026-2027 Business Plan indicates that one of the department priorities for the 2027-2028 fiscal year is to plan for Inuktitut conference in 2028, including working with partners to identify thematic areas of focus. Where will this Inuktitut conference take place? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we need to discussion that further with our partners in order to proceed further. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Koonoo. Next on my list, Mr. Kautuk. Next on my list, then, Ms. Angootealuk.

**Ms. Angootealuk** (interpretation): (no interpretation)

For the people of Baffin and Kivalliq, and we do have some Northern Quebec dialects in order to preserve Inuktitut. What I have heard from out there is that there's going to be a unified or a uniform kind of Inuktitut dialect that would be spoken in the communities. That's my question, if you can understand me. Thank you. Or standardized Inuktitut. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have monies that are available for any group or organization that would like to compile their dialect and put it together, if they should wish to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Angootealuk** (interpretation): I know that there are grants and contributions available to those individuals. When it comes to dialects, there's different dialects in each individual community. Are you going to be compiling that information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Ms. Hughes** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have translators. We have the Inuit Language Authority. And then there's different programs that have been put together by the different communities.

If I use Pond Inlet as an example, they compiled all the standardized or the compilation of the words in their dialect. The Inuinnan have also done the same thing with the use of our grants and contributions. Different dialects make you unique to your dialect, and you're the best one to compile that kind of information.

With the translations, we're trying to standardize with the government language, and usually we use standardized words; and then the Inuit Language Authority tell us that they should be using this particular Inuktitut word for a particular government standardized language, in English. Our translators are trying to standardize the use of the Inuktitut words within the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hughes. Any other members with questions on Languages Branch? Seeing none, do members agree with the Department of Culture and Heritage Languages Branch total operations and maintenance of \$17,663,000?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go to F-6. We will now review the Department of Culture and Heritage Culture Branch, total operations and maintenance, \$11,383,000. Do members have any questions? Mr. Kautuk.

**Mr. Kautuk:** Thank you, Chair, and welcome. Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to complete consultation with the Inuit Heritage Trust on the development of a heritage collection policy and procedures manual. What is the current expected timeline for the completion of this work? Thank you, Chair.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Yes, we were aiming for next fiscal year. However, it's all dependent on the consultations with the Inuit Heritage Trust, and hopefully it's going to be within the year 2027-2028. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Kautuk:** Thank you, Chair. Your department's approved 2026-2027 Business Plan indicated that one of its priority's for 2024-2025 fiscal year was to "begin the process of rescinding derogatory official place names."

Your department's approved Business Plan indicated that the department is on schedule for completion on the first half of the 2025-2026 fiscal year. What is the status of this work? Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kautuk. Minister, before I go to you for a reply, I would like to ask people to please ensure their cell phones are on silent mode. I can hear the ringing of a phone occasionally. Go ahead, Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Through you, I would like to request my Deputy Minister Teresa Hughes to answer that question. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Hughes** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We found that there were some derogatory names on the map, so we were going to be converting them from English to Inuktitut with the help at the Inuit Heritage Trust.

We are currently working on a few maps, and quite a lot of them were approved, and there's still some outstanding maps that will have to be changed with the Geographical Names Board of Canada. We will be giving it to them once they are completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kautuk:** 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 "collaborate with the Inuit Heritage Trust on the backlog of Inuktitut place names that it is recommending to make official."

Your department's approved Business Plan indicated that the department anticipates submitting a significant batch of Inuktitut place name to the Geographical Place Names Board of Canada before the end of the fiscal year. What is the status of this work? Thank you, Chair.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the member for the question. There has been a significant amount of work that has been with the Inuit Heritage Trust and Culture and Heritage. Between 1999 and 2021 we have reviewed nearly 2,000 place names submissions, and we have made 1,900 official. There has been a lot of work that has been done over the years.

For a while there was misunderstanding of where they were collected, but now Inuit Heritage Trust and Culture and Heritage have made significant effort to provide these place names.

We continue to work towards resiling 1,500 identified derogatory official place names that should not be in there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Koonoo. Do members have any questions? Culture Branch? 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 options for training Inuit in heritage collections management, such as curators and

conservators. Your department's approved 2025-2026 Business Plan indicates that this priority was deferred to 2025. What is the status of this work? Thank you, Chair.

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

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

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

**Ms. Hughes (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're always looking into that, and we're still looking into it to see where we can help financially or what we can do things with money. There was money from the Nunavut government for Inuit employment planning, and we wanted to see if we could use some of that.

Every year people who work in heritage centres and visitor centres annually are sent out for training in the Winnipeg Art Gallery, and the gallery teaches them. We are always going to be looking to see where we can create within the Inuit Employment Plan and through Human Resources, to get them going to see if we can make some movement in that area for Inuit employment when we're getting staff for the heritage centre, or for Heritage. And some of our workers go to the Canadian museum to do summer work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** Thank you, Chair. Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2026-2027 fiscal year is to coordinate the engagement of existing elders committees on how to improve engagement of elders in providing advice to government in relation to Inuktitut and cultural well-being. 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, Chair. Yes, we are trying to develop and publish a comprehensive Inuit committee handbook, with information and tools to assist communities in establishing and maintaining community-based committees. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** Thank you, Chair. Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to complete

consultations outlined in the Katujjiqatigiinniq Article 32 policy process with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on the Iviqtippalliajut framework review and update the Inuit framework. What is the current expected timeline for the completion of this work? Thank you, Chair.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. For Iviqtippalliajut timing, internal consultations are underway and the Iviqtippalliajut framework. The framework will be assessed and updated in 2026-2027, in consultation with NTI, under Katujjiqatigiinniq Article 32 policy and also Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajiit terms of reference. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** Thank you, Chair. When will this new framework be tabled in the House? Thank you, Chair.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member, for the question. It's going to be tabled as soon as it's completed. Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Koonoo. Any other questions for Culture Branch from members? Seeing none, do members agree with the department, sorry. Ms. Angootealuk.

**Ms. Angootealuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I started to ask this question previously. Places where seal skins can be dealt with, some women these days don't like to work with smelly furs or skins that women usually work on.

If the women wanted to create a building where they can work on seal skins and different kinds of skins, where can they request for funding?

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to my colleague for the question. People can request funding in Nunavut from the funding that is available through proposals. We've set aside \$500,000 for the purposes of requests like that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Koonoo. Any other questions? Mr. Qammaniq.

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2026-2027 Main Estimates indicate that a total of eight person-years is allocated to the Inuit Tunngavingit Division. How many of these positions are filled, and how many are vacant? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Through you I would like to get my Assistant Deputy Minister Jeannie Arreak-Kullualik to answer that question. Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Ms. Arreak-Kullualik.

**Ms. Arreak-Kullualik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now our staff there, four our working, and four more are held through casual staffing action. So that's the eight positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

(interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to complete consultations with external partners, including municipalities, non-profit organizations, and existing elder and youth committees to gather information to the best practice on establishing and maintaining community-based advisory committees. What is the expected timeline for the completion of these consultations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. We are trying to look for that information. We are trying to be completed by the year 2028-2029 fiscal year. Thank you, Chair.

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

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

(interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicated that one of its priorities for that 2026-2027 fiscal year is to host an Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit conference in Rankin Inlet in June 2026, and produce a conference report. When will this report be tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qammaniq. (interpretation) Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Yes, it was going to be in June this year, but it has been postponed to December 2026, due to hotel accommodations in fall in Rankin Inlet. So it's going to be here in Iqaluit in December 2026, and it will probably be tabled in the year 2027. Thank you, Chair.

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

**Mr. Qammaniq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the response. (interpretation ends) Your department's approved 2024-2026 Business Plan indicated that one of its priorities for 2024-2025 fiscal year is to continue to work to revitalize elders and youth committees.

Your department's approved 2025-2026 Business Plan indicated that the department anticipates increasing the number of active committees by the end of 2024-2025 fiscal year. How many elders and youth activities are currently active, and how many are inactive? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the member for the question. I would like to request Jeannie, my assistant deputy minister, to answer that question to you, if that's okay. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Arreak-Kullualik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For that one I'm looking for the detail. I'm looking for the right page number as to how many they are. How many committees there are. Right now there are only five. Oh, wait. My apologies, 10 committees that receive funding. There are 10 of them, and this is for youth and elder committees.

And those who want to become a committee, they are eligible for a grant of 15,000, and that is usually done through the hamlet municipality. Right now there are only 10 committees that have requested funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Arreak-Kullualik. Mr. Qammaniq, go ahead.

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the response. (interpretation ends) On November 1, 2018, the minister of the day tabled Iviqtipalliajut, which outlines a five-year framework to strengthen the use of Inuit societal values in the Government of Nunavut. How has your department measured the effectiveness of this framework? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Through you I would like to request my deputy minister Teresa Ullualik to answer that. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Hughes** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was the very first one that was brought out, to see how else Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit can be utilized within the Nunavut government, and this was the very first time it was brought out in 2018.

Ever since it was brought out, the Iviqtippalliajut committee started to be formed within the government. We were called the people who work on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, before we got the title Iviqtippalliajut. We wanted to make sure people understood how Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and language and culture are cared for, or used in the Nunavut government.

Ever since that was created, we've tried to follow it. However, we had a distraction due to a lack of capacity, and our computers had a virus. And COVID-19 happened afterwards.

The Iviqtippalliajut senior advisor was created, and the person that we hired quit very soon after we hired the person, and we're still trying to re-hire through Human Resources. There has been very few applications, but we found someone that can work there for a while. But then the person found a better job for the person and quit, and so the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit committees, the laws and policy that has to be followed are written down, put down, and then they either have a legislative proposal or a policy or amending policies.

We're trying to see how and which Inuit values are used within the Nunavut government.

The committee met twice a week, and we know the first one can be made better, and then after the next one is introduced, we will try and follow that and it will have more directions inside.

The first part is done. We won't make many changes for the next one. We want to make sure that they are being followed within the government and make sure that we are following the government's policies as well and making sure that we are serving the communities properly.

There are three parts to it. The recommendations, we will try and follow them for the next Iviqtippalliajut framework thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for your response.

(interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2027-2028 fiscal year is to digitize documents, learning materials, audio recordings, and videos related to Inuit culture collect by Inuit Tunngavingit Division. Where will Inuit Tunngavingit Division source these materials from?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Yes, we're trying to publish the digitized Inuit Tunngavingit collections on the department website and carry out a communications campaign to promote the Inuit Tunngavingit collections. It is supposed to be completed by 2028-2029 fiscal year. Thank you, Chair.

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

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2029 is to begin internal consultations on Iviqtippalliajut framework. To what extent will the new framework differ from the old framework? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. (interpretation) This is still in planning stage. An evaluation review will take place, will be completed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Information published by the department indicated that Tuttarviit is an interdepartmental group consisting of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit coordinators who work for each Government of Nunavut department.

Information published by the department also indicates that several department seats are currently vacant. What is the expected timeline to fill these vacancies? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Through you, I would like to request my Deputy Minister Teresa Hughes to answer that question. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Hughes** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The staff is not working for us, but they are employees from each government department. They don't have an implementation group or do not have any Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit coordinators.

They do invite others, other coordinators, who, when they don't have someone to coordinate on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, they will invite policy advisors and/or a consultant. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hughes. Mr. Qammaniq.

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you (interpretation ends) The department's approved 2025-2026 Business Plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2025 is to continue to lead and coordinate the engagement of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Tutturviit in the Government of Nunavut's policy and legislative development process. What is the status of this priority? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Yes, I understand that my assistant deputy minister answered that earlier, but I'll let her answer that question again, through you, if that's possible. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Hughes** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this moment the government has established their directives, and put a policy together when Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Tutturviit meet, and where they might fit in by way of policy manuals. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hughes. Mr. Qammaniq, any other questions? Go ahead.

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you. I didn't realize. I was asking questions earlier. (interpretation ends) The department's approved 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its priorities during 2025 was to host an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit conference in Kivalliq region. Can you provide an update on the status of this work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qammaniq. Minister Koonoo, that might have been answered. I believe that was the one that has been moved here to Iqaluit now, in December 2026. That is when that will happen, Mr. Qammaniq. Thank you. Any other questions? Mr. Qammaniq.

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did mention earlier, I tend to ask what was asked earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

(interpretation ends) Your department's approved 2025-2026 Business Plan indicates that one of its priorities 2025 was to launch a self-based online Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit training course for all public servants. What is the status of this work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. Thank you. I would like to request my Assistant Deputy Minister Jeannie Arreak-Kullualik to answer that question. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Arreak-Kullualik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit online training course can be viewed online, and it focuses, just a brief what happens in government, and when it's ready a meeting take place with elders who are knowledgeable keepers are invited.

And this past February the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit course was being provided, and it was translated in English. We remain Inuit. And Saa Pitseola (ph) is our employee who was working on this.

Government employees are able to sign in, whether they prefer to take the course. And we have a training calendar where individuals may take, and I believe there are three or four training courses each year provided for public servants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Arreak-Kullualik. Mr. Qammaniq, any other questions? Thank you. Next on my list is Mr. Mike.

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question, or should I say for elders and youth facilities, that's under one of the priorities that requested budget, and it is included in the estimates. And what is application-based for elders and youth, I would assume for the facilities where they may be hosting events.

It mentions an amount of \$200,000, and later \$600,000 that will provide additional support in communities, I guess, for assisting the communities for the elders and youth.

Could you clarify a little further? You seem to have two phases here, because in total you're looking at about \$800,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Chair. I thank the member for the question. Elders and youth grants and contribution program is altogether 600,000. Thank you, Chair.

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

**Mr. Mike (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The funds of \$600,000 that can be used for activities for various activities, I assume, or a capital item. What is this specifically for, the \$600,000 figure? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. This is for any areas: they want to purchase computers, furniture, any item. That is what the funds are for that the elders and youth committees may utilize. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Koonoo. I don't have any other names right now. Do members agree with Department of Culture and Heritage total operations and maintenance of \$11,338,000?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go to page F-3. Do members agree with the Culture and Heritage 2026-2027 Main Estimates, total operations and maintenance of \$34,550,000?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree we have concluded with the Department of Culture and Heritage?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Any closing comments, Minister Koonoo?

**Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation):** Thank you, Chair. (interpretation) Thank you, my colleagues, for the many questions you had, and reflecting your priority on Inuktitut with the Culture and Heritage, that is due to you. It's very obvious. This is very important for

Nunavummiut and very beneficial to speak Inuktitut, and not giving up on our language is very important, and something that we continually strives for.

And our staff, we may be lacking in staff, but they do diligent work with a lot of work they have to go through. And again, the Inuit Heritage Centre, the importance to have one is in work as yet, and hopefully in the near future will have it housed and many of the artifacts we have are in place, like Ottawa and Winnipeg, and we need to repatriate them. Hopefully in the near future this will be realized. Thank you for the questions you were able to raise, and the support that you gave.

The need to have Inuktitut in our future is always very heart, very dear to us. Again, thank you for continued support of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

>>Applause

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials. We will now take a 10-minute break before we start our review of the proposed 2026-2027 Main Estimates of the Department of Justice. Thank you.

>>*Committee adjourned at 16:37 and resumed at 16:51*

**Chairman:** Thank you everyone for coming back. I would like Minister Hickes, do you have officials you would like to have appear before the committee?

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the committee would indulge me, yes, please.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

For the record, Minister Hickes, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chair and committee members. I am appearing before the Committee of the Whole today to present the Department of Justice's 2026-2027 main estimates and business plan.

Today, I am joined by the department's Deputy Minister, Christine Ellsworth, and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Safety, Andrew Blackadar.

Mr. Chairman and members, we are seeking approval of \$182,814,000 for operations and maintenance in the 2026-2027 fiscal year, which represents an increase of \$8,899,000, or 5 per cent, from the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

The requested expenditure includes the following adjustments:

- An increase of \$6.4 million is requested to provide additional operational support to the Nunavut Royal Canadian Mounted Police through the Territorial Police Services Agreement. This includes:
  - A three-year, \$1.15 million annual investment to strengthen enforcement against drug trafficking, illegal alcohol sales, and violent and complex crimes;
  - \$5 million for cost increases due to inflation and Royal Canadian Mounted Police salary increases; and
  - \$275,000 for one Aircraft Maintenance Engineer for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police air services.
- Mr. Chairman and Members, the department requests an additional \$525,000 under grants and contributions for the Inuusivut Annirnaqtut Nunavut Suicide Prevention Action Plan to support the following:
  - \$325,000 for Traumatic Brain Injury Program assessments for victims and survivors of Intimate Partner Violence;
  - \$150,000 for Nunavut Association of Municipalities to distribute secure firearm lock boxes; and
  - \$50,000 for community-based firearm safety and certification train-the-trainer courses.
- Lastly, Mr. Chair, the department requests an increase of \$1.9 million for salary increases following the new collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union. This increase includes \$83,000 for the creation of a new Firearm Safety Coordinator position.

Chairperson, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to answer questions from committee members. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Porter:** Thank you, Chair. 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 Justice. The department's proposed 2026-2027 operations and maintenance budget is \$182,814,000. This represents a 5.1 per cent increase from the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The total number of positions in the department is increasing from 476 to 477 PYs, person-years. This change is accounted for by one additional position in the department's Community Justice Division.

The standing committee notes that the department currently has a number of outstanding statutory tabling requirements under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, *Legal Profession Act*, *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*, *Victims of Crime Act*, *Human Rights Act* and the *Legal Services Act*. The standing committee recognizes that a number of these reports are prepared by arm's-length entities, and encourages the department to work closely with them to ensure that they are complying with statutory requirements.

The department's proposed 2026-2027 main estimates include \$950,000 for the operations of the Office of the Chief Coroner. Members note that the department has issued a number of callouts to recruit coroners for all communities in Nunavut. Members raised a number of questions regarding how this office fills its vacancies. The standing committee notes that new amendments to the *Coroners Act* came into effect on August 31, 2024. Members note that one of the amendments includes a new requirement for the tabling of the Office of the Chief Coroner's annual reports. Members of the Legislative Assembly look forward to the opportunity to review the office's important work.

The department's proposed 2026-2027 main estimates include \$75,813,000 for the operations of the Law Enforcement Branch. Information contained in the department's proposed business plan indicates that there are 159 Royal Canadian Mounted Police positions located in communities across Nunavut. One of the department's priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "implement measures to improve the accuracy, timeliness, and interagency sharing of intelligence to disrupt organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and standardize reporting on these measures, conducting bi-annual quality reviews, and providing an annual report to the minister of justice." The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of this work and the tabling of this annual report in the House.

Members note that on November 20, 2024, the Government of Canada announced that it would be investing \$4 million in Nunavut through the Guns and Gangs Violence Action Fund. The funding will "support efforts by community organizations and law enforcement to combat gun violence and keep Nunavut communities safe." During the minister's recent appearance, members asked a number of questions regarding specific actions that the department and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are undertaking to achieve the priority of reducing firearm-related incidents in the territory.

The department's *5-Year Nunavut Crime Prevention Strategy* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 14, 2017, and expired in 2022. The standing committee notes that the department's approved 2025-2026 Business Plan indicated that one of its priorities for the 2025-2026 fiscal year was to "work in partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to create and implement a crime prevention strategy." Members received a status update on this important work and look forward to the tabling of a new crime prevention strategy.

On November 8, 2022, the federal Minister of Public Safety and the territorial ministers of justice released a joint statement regarding the expansion of the First Nation and Inuit Policing Program into Nunavut. The standing committee notes that the government's proposed 2026-2027 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "engage with community consultative groups and other partners to develop individual community workplans within First Nations and Inuit policing program communities to coordinate and support the delivery of culturally tailored programming and education initiatives to address family and intimate partner violence." Members asked a number of questions on the status of this program in Nunavut including how many policing positions have been funded through this program. Members look forward to receiving further updates on this important initiative.

The department's proposed 2026-2027 main estimates include \$4,673,000 for the Community Corrections Division. Community Corrections officers provide "supervision, support and programming to adults and youth offenders on probation or under conditional sentences." Members raised a number of concerns regarding the operations of this division, including the extent to which it is able to fulfill its mandate in communities that do not have resident community corrections officers or where the positions are vacant.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2026-2027 main estimates and 2026-2030 Business Plan of the Department of Justice. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Porter. Do members have any questions 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 E-4. We will now review the Department of Justice Directorate Branch. Do members have any questions? Mr. Taqtu.

**Mr. Taqtu:** Thank you, Chair. Your department's draft 2026-2027 Main Estimates indicates that the budget for the Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Safety and Assistant Deputy Minister of Courts and Justice Division will decrease by \$166,000, from \$1.667 million in 2025-2026 fiscal year to \$1.5 million in the 2026-2027 fiscal year. This decrease of 9.9 per cent, how was the amount of this decrease determined? Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Hickee.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was an associate deputy minister position that was relocated to another department, so it was removed from the Department of Justice. Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Taqtu, go ahead.

**Mr. Taqtu:** Thank you, Chair. Thank you for the answer. Your department's draft 2026-2027 Main Estimates indicates that the budget for the Corporate Services Division will increase by \$616,000 from 19.668 million in 2025-2026 million to 20.284 million in the 2026-2027 fiscal year. This is an increase of 3.1 per cent. How was the amount of this increase determined? Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure where the 0.1 came in, but through the Nunavut Employees Union there was a 3 per cent increase that was negotiated, so that's where the increase came from. Maybe it was a rounding. I'm not sure where the 0.1 came from, but the 3 per cent was from the Nunavut Employees Union collective bargaining agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Taqtu.

**Mr. Taqtu:** Thank you, Chair. Your department currently has a number of outstanding statutory tabling requirements under the *Human Rights Act* and the *Legal Services Act*. What accounts for the day in the preparation and tabling of these annual reports? Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And for the human rights lateness on the tabling of reports, there's outstanding capacity issues that we've been addressing. I can assure members in that regard I have been putting more pressure to get those reports provided to me sooner rather than later.

With the Legal Services Board, as I'm sure members are aware, there was a fire at their office a few years back, which made it a little bit more difficult to get some of the data and some of the information together.

So they are working on it. In fact, 2023-2024 tabling I'm expected to table in the coming days, before the end of this sitting. With that organization as well in correspondence and discussions I've had with their board, I have been putting significant pressure on them to get caught up in their tabling requirements.

When we look at annual reports, it's not something we put on a shelf to collect dust. That information helps you guys, and helps us make sure that the accountability is there. And if we're dealing with outdated information, it doesn't help anybody. So I do appreciate the committee's patience, but I also appreciate the pressure you're putting on me to get those statutory requirement tablings done. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Do members have any other questions for the Directorate Branch? Mr. Kautuk.

**Mr. Kautuk:** Thank you, Chair. On March 19, 2026 the Ikajuqtigiikta mandate was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Your department's draft 2026-2030 indicates that one of your department's responsibility to support the mandate commitments is to support community-based programs and initiatives to prevent crime and improve community safety and security. What specific action has your department undertaken to achieve this objective? Thank you, Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kautuk. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate the question. I think there has been a significant amount of activity prior to, but also we're looking at expanding different programs as well, too.

We're rolling up a new Royal Canadian Mounted Police Inuit Cultural Competency Program that's upcoming in this fiscal year. And then also to strengthen the community policing activities, making sure that we're talking to people from the communities.

We can't work in a one size fits all. All of our communities have different, unique factors with crime prevention and policing activities. We want to make sure that we're continuing to disrupt drug trafficking, especially organized.

I'm not sure if members noticed, but about a month and a half ago with the RCMP, Royal Canadian Mounted Police here, I did a press showing where we had a bunch of drugs and cash and weapons on a display in a media event, just to highlight to people that drug trafficking is not welcome in our territory.

Continuing development, working with our First Nations Inuit policing partners to try and enhance as much as we can on community and policing work plans.

Looking at expanding the Restorative Justice Program, I know I spoke briefly on that on question period earlier last week on trying to divert people from incarceration, also looking at and continuing to evaluate Restorative Justice Program as well.

There was a call-out for justice committee members that I highlighted a couple of weeks ago now, and I would encourage all members when they go back home to look at residents or their communities that may fit into their profiles, as there will be continued calls out for those positions.

And expanding, again, the same therapeutic justice program to this region, to the Qikiqtaaluk region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Go ahead, Mr. Kautuk.

**Mr. Kautuk:** Thank you, Chairman. Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its objectives for the Directorate Division is to support recruitment and development of Inuit in positions throughout the department.

To date what specific action has your department undertaken to achieve this objective? Thank you, Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kautuk. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we work with our Human Resource Inuit Employment Plan, we're looking, actually, I was speaking to somebody just on Saturday that's involved with pre-deployment training for work for correction works. That is a program going on in town here right now.

But to be specific, there's pre-deployment training for correctional case workers. We're looking at identifying people and providing training prior to them working in facilities versus trying to play catch-up.

We want to make sure that we're giving our employees the tools to be able to do their job before they get in, so they have training to support them in their actual work day-to-day efforts, looking at on the job training and mentorship, other employees into the case worker role, senior case workers, and hopefully down the road into supervisors.

When we're looking at mapping out entry level positions for people and identifying potential. How often, we all know people that have started off at entry level positions and have showed the leadership, that they're capable of taken on much more responsibility and providing those training opportunities and providing the support to our employees so that they can advance through the ranks and go as high as they want to go.

I think it's very important that we don't just provide positions. We need to provide the training to prepare people to work in those positions, so that they feel supported and address capacity, and you can have less turnover as well.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that answers the member's question.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Kautuk, any more questions? No? Anyone else with questions on the Directorate Branch? Mr. Attagutluk.

**Mr. Attagutluk:** Thank you, Chairman. A number of amendments to the *Nunavut Coroner's Act* came into effect on August 31, 2024. One of the amendments to the act included requiring the Office of the Chief Coroner to produce an annual report, and for its tabling in the House. When do you anticipate the most recent annual report will be tabled in the House? Thank you, Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Following the amendments in 2024, the first annual report covering the 2025 calendar year is due to me this month, actually. Just the timing is opportune for the member to raise this up.

I do realize that, and one of the reasons I was supportive of this legislation to make that a statutory requirement, where before it was a voluntary annual report, and I know there has been significant turnover, especially of the chief coroner's role.

I am hoping that having this statutorily required will be able to, not put more pressure on, but put more emphasis on the importance of maintaining the information and the data, to be able to support not just the coroners across the territory, even just the chief coroner, but to support the Legislative Assembly here in the direction that you're giving me, the financial support through approving budgets, to be able to provide more resources to our coroners. It's a challenging position in all of our communities, and as you know, when we're dealing with especially within small communities, it's a very challenging position when you know everybody.

I just want to encourage that it can be challenging, but it can also be very rewarding, making sure that issues and local concerns can be addressed as well as, if there's ongoing any need to have like a coroner's inquiry, to make sure that those are supported as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Go ahead, Mr. Attagutluk.

**Mr. Attagutluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of the department's priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to develop a draft policy to bring into force the Inuit societal values statements section of the *Legislation Act*. What are the expected timeline for the draft policy to be finalized? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickers:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While I do appreciate this initiative, I think it's very important that we recognize of department has its own unique experience. I guess when you're looking at Inuit societal values and implementing them into our day-to-day work, you look at the Corrections Division within Justice. You look at the legislation division. Different roles.

Maybe not different roles, but different viewpoints on how to implement those values and perspectives into our legislation and into our day-to-day. So it's very difficult for me to put a timeline on it.

I do recognize that's maybe not answering the member's question, but I think it's important to recognize as we develop and how implementing things, it doesn't necessarily need to be one document. There's going to be many different reports, impacts, implementation plans.

I don't want to say it's fluid, because we do need to have a framework to it. But I'm hesitant to put a firm timeline behind it, because I want to make sure that as departments implement the recognition more formally as a government than we're already doing, I think it's important that we do it right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Attagutaluk:** Thank you, Chairman. Your department's Draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of the department's priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to complete regulatory work to bring the *Police Act* into force. As of today, what is the status of this work? Thank you, Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickers:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I'm really glad the member brought this question up. I was the minister at this table bringing that *Police Act* forward, and now we're, I don't think we've met the expectation of the implementation on it, for a couple of different reasons, and I think one of them is civilian oversight investigation body. There's been some challenges and differing jurisdictional changes in other jurisdictions around the country on who we're dealing with.

But we want to make sure that there's familial components of that, of how families can be engaged in the corrections process that I think is very important to recognize, and look at enforcing sooner rather than later.

There's also the regulations that are being prepared right now. There is ongoing work, and we are, as the business plan states, we are hoping to put those in place before the end of this fiscal year, so that we can fully implement the *Police Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Any other questions from members from the Directorate Branch? Mr. Mike, go ahead.

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Minister and your officials. On December 12, 2024 your department indicated the coroners. How many applied, and how many were hired? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is a chance to answer the member's question directly. There were 25 applicants. Out of that, eight were supported and felt to meet the requirements. And there were a few community coroners that were reappointed just a couple of months ago.

Right now I'll have to get back to the member on exactly how many communities are without a coroner right now, but in my notes here, I see that the acting chief coroner has some recommendations for appointments of new recruits upcoming within the next couple of months. So maybe if the member would be patient with me and follow up with that question in the fall, I might have some further details to be able to provide the committee on how those appointments went. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I just want to ask, as of today how many community coroner positions are filled, and how many are vacant?

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately I don't have that level of detail right in front of me. I can provide that through correspondence to the committee over the summer, or as suggested, if the member wanted to follow up; you just joked about this, Mr. Mike. I appreciate that.

Sorry, I do have the information here. Right now there are currently 12 coroners across the territory, and the acting chief coroner is a full-time employee. That's in Iqaluit. And 11 community coroners based in five different communities servicing the territory.

But as I mentioned in an earlier response, the acting chief coroner has some other appointments that are upcoming within the next couple months. I just don't have an accurate number on that at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Minister. I don't know if I understood. How many are not filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in a perfect world, I guess you would say that we would have one in every community. Right now, again, we're looking through eight applicants that are currently being evaluated by the acting chief coroner and awaiting some final appointment recommendations.

Again, I don't have the exact number of person-years that are allocated to, and I'm making, I guess what I would say is that in an ideal world we would have a coroner in every community, to be able to make sure that that service is being provided. I will have to get back to the Committee on the exact number of vacancies.

And as I said, it might be worth waiting a month or two to get those final numbers so that the eight people that are currently being vetted right now, recommendations would come across my desk in that meantime. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the minister. So we will be expecting that information.

Now, all communities need to have a coroner, and when something happens only the RCMP, in our community seems to be the only group involved. We're fortunate that the RCMP has been able to help us with that. They are very important positions. And when they're not available in a community, there's not a whole lot the community can do when someone dies. So we'll be expecting more information.

(interpretation ends) How many clients does the Office of the Public Trustee and Guardianship currently support? Thank you, Chair.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the question, the role of the public trustees and public guardians deal with clients that are vulnerable or have

capacity issues, to make sure that they're capable of meeting their needs through guardians or trusteeship matters. I'm not sure what other information the member might be looking for. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Your department's draft 2026-2027 Main Estimates indicate that it has a total of seven positions for the Legal Services Board.

(interpretation ends) As of today, how many positions are vacant, and where are they located? Thank you, Chair.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize and thanks for the committee's indulgence. Out of the seven person-year positions that are within the Legal Services Board, they are all currently vacant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

(interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2026-2027 Main Estimates indicates that it has a total of four positions for the Human Rights Tribunal. As of today, how many positions are filled, and how many are vacant? (interpretation) Thank you, Chair.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, apologies, I was just getting confirmation. Out of those four positions, one is filled. There was a recent direct appointment, and it was to the manager position, so that would stimulate the actions for filling the other positions.

Typically in a division we work very hard to get the manager or director position, whatever leadership is in there, so that they can participate in the hiring process for the rest of the team. And just to clarify, one other position is under casual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Next on my list is Mr. Porter.

**Mr. Porter:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to follow-up on Mr. Mike's question earlier about the seven positions for the Legal Services Board. I'm assuming that's in Gjoa Haven.

As the minister knows, we had a government office fire a few years ago, so I want to ask the minister: Will he reinstate those positions into Gjoa Haven into a new office? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Porter. Minister Hickes, go ahead.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's the intent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Porter, any other questions?

**Mr. Porter:** Thank you for the answer. I appreciate that. Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates the budget for the new Law Enforcement Branch will increase by 6.429 million from 69.348 million in the 2024-2025 fiscal year to 75.813 million in the 2026-2027 fiscal year. This is an increase of 9.2 per cent. How is the amount of this increase determined? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Porter. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And similar to my response earlier on the increased cost of the salaries, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police also recently negotiated a collective agreement, where that encompasses approximately about \$5 million of that increase.

There i's also the position of the aircraft engineer position as part of that, as well as the crime reduction strategy work that is being implemented across the territory. That's where those numbers came from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Anyone else for the Directorate Branch? Mr. Kuliktana.

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Chair. Previous correspondence from a previous Minister of Justice indicates that the Department of Justice and Office of the Chief Coroner continue to explore the possibility of establishing a committee to review deaths involving domestic and intimate partner violence in Nunavut. What specific actions has your department undertaken to establish this committee? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate the question. Mr. Chairman, the department is still working with the acting chief coroner. That being said, when you've got somebody in an acting position - how do I put this? The vision I guess

of that division is very dependent upon that individual, what they bring to the table, the experience that they bring to the table.

Although some continued discussions can happen on that, I think everyone would feel a lot more comfortable moving forward when there's a full-time chief coroner in that position. Right now I'll just describe it as a work in progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hicke. Mr. Kuliktana, go ahead.

**Mr. Kuliktana:** I think you answered my next question because you said the work was in progress. My next question was what is your expected timeline to establish domestic and intimate violence review committee, so that I think was your last comment, was my next question, but you did answer it thank you. Thank you. Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Okay, thank you. I don't think he's looking for an answer from you now, as you've already given it. Any other questions? Mr. Taqtu, go ahead.

**Mr. Taqtu:** Thank you, Chair. Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "develop a communications plan for an elder and senior abuse awareness campaign, and complete phase 1 of implementation by releasing print materials and online content." When does your department anticipate implementing phase 1 of this campaign? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Taqtu. Go ahead, Mr. Hicke.

**Hon. George Hicke:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I appreciate this line of questioning. Later this week there will be a public service announcement coming out bringing out more awareness of elder abuse, which I think coincides exactly the question the member is bringing up here right now.

We want to make sure that we're creating for opportunities for elders and more awareness, I think. Again, I know a number of departments are involved in this topic, but I think that it is –again, I just want to be careful how I word this.

I think it's such an important aspect of the respect that our elders deserve, and frankly it's just too predominant. There's too much different types of elder abuse, whether it be physical, financial, mental abuse.

As a society we claim to respect and appreciate our elders, but we don't always see that in our society. And I think having more awareness from our elders and what services are available to them I think is very important initiative to move forward it.

I can't emphasize enough on how important it is for communities and families, when you see something happening, to report it, or at the very least to approach that family and see what kind of supports or services that that would help them, and please go to the appropriate department, or the appropriate program, or contact through you, as MLAs, to help direct these families to support services that are available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Taqtu, go ahead.

**Mr. Taqtu:** Thank you, Chair, and thank you for the response. Your department's draft 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2027-2028 fiscal year is to "complete implementation of elder and senior abuse awareness campaign by releasing all remaining materials." Other than the print materials and online content, what other materials is your department expecting to release? Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I think the way that I can answer that is it's going to depend on different departments and different programs that are coming up available.

We want to make sure that as we establish the committee that is working with the elders, and consulting, when we're working in the communities, when we're looking at providing advice or direction to departmental officials, to government officials, to ourselves, we need to listen to the people that are most impacted.

There was an elder strategy that was created in the last government that highlighted some of the concerns, but I think in a lot of ways, it doesn't go far enough, where we need to make sure that we are informed, as legislators in here, on what type of services we can provide.

So I think a lot of that work that's going to be done over this fiscal year, when we identify what type of concerns are out there, or what type of initiatives that we can help, to help mitigate some of those concerns, that will direct in the next fiscal year after this one, in what type of materials would be provided.

So I don't want to precluded or presume anything right now of what that committee will come up with. I think it's important to let it happen naturally, so we know what is needed, and then that way we can help direct resources to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Any other questions for members on Directorate Branch? Seeing none, do members agree with the Department of Justice Directorate Branch, total operations and maintenance of \$28,274,000?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go to page E-5. We'll now review the Department of Justice Law Enforcement Branch. Total operations and maintenance, \$75,813,000. Do members have any questions? Mr. Attagutaluk, do you have your hand up? Go ahead.

**Mr. Attagutaluk:** Thank you, Chairman. The current 20-year Canada-Nunavut Territorial Police Services Agreement was signed in 2012. The agreement provides for a contract management committee. How often does the committee meet? Thank you, Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Attagutaluk. Go ahead, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm being informed that it's in person and it's three times a year. I'm sure that there's other communication as needs arise. There would be dialogue back and forth with Royal Canadian Mounted Police officials and departmental staff. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Go ahead, Mr. Attagutaluk.

**Mr. Attagutaluk:** Thank you, Chairman. Thank you, Minister. Your department's five-year Nunavut Crime Prevention Strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 14, 2017. How has your department measured the effectiveness of the strategy? Thank you, Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it gets down into the operational side of things, through you, Mr. Chair, I wonder if Mr. Blackadar could respond to that member's question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, go ahead Mr. Blackadar.

**Mr. Blackadar:** Thank you so much, Mr. Chair. A crime prevention strategy is really measured by a number of different things. It's not just the actual crime, or the numbers of calls for service we get. In some cases, the more calls for service the RCMP get, the more comfortable community members are, and they are actually feeling more comfortable to call and report crime.

But we look at it from a number of parts. We look at the crime severity index across the territory. We also look at the violent crime severity index. Those are two big indicators that Statistics Canada provide the jurisdictions, probably in July of each year. And our numbers right now have been holding steady for the past 10 years.

Our number of youth, our youth crime severity index and our youth violent severity index has significant dropped in the past 10 years.

Some of the others things we have implemented, in terms of trying to reduce crime across the territory, is working with a number of partners. The minister spoke about working with Community Justice and Community Corrections to implement restorative justice program for offenders who have been released, our clients who have been released.

One of the big strategies that we're just moving forward with right now is the First Nations Inuit Policing Program, which will be culturally appropriate program to work on programming with communities, not necessarily at the direction of the police, but at the direction of a community consultative group, so their priorities will be identified through that group. And that's how we're measuring it.

Of course, going forward in the next couple of months, the RCMP will be given priorities on crime prevention. We will work with them to develop them. And they provide an annual report each year to the department in July, so we're expecting one very soon. We just don't have it yet. And that will help us identify the trend in crime and their accomplishments throughout the year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Blackadar. Go ahead, Mr. Attagutluk.

**Mr. Attagutluk:** Thank you, Chairman. Thank you, sir. In January of 2021, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police announced its partnership with the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation. This initiative was to increase the number of Inuit working within the Royal Canadian Mounted Police force.

Your predecessor indicated that none of the participants successfully completed the program. However, one participant did start working with the Iqaluit Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment.

Is your department actively considering initiating another partnership with Makigiaqta with the goal of encouraging and training Inuit to join the Royal Canadian Mounted Police? Thank you, Chair.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there are four individuals that are currently going through the introductory process, but maybe, again, to get the appropriate level of detail, if Mr. Blackadar could be allowed to respond. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. Go ahead, Mr. Blackadar.

**Mr. Blackadar:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and thank you for the question. The RCMP over the last number of years have tried numerous strategies to increase its recruiting, specifically of Nunavummiut. We were successful about a year, year-and-a-half ago recruiting one individual who has come back to the territory. He's now working in Cambridge Bay.

The RCMP continue on various recruiting strategies. Some, not to make it sound like the older program was a failure, because it wasn't. The RCMP found it was a very good program for recruiting civilian employees, including two people into the operational communications centre, one who speaks Inuktitut.

We've also had other, in fact the recruiting specialist is somebody who started in that program, and couldn't complete for a number of different reasons, but is still employed with the RCMP.

So the options are always open, looking at different ways to improve. And I know that the RCMP have been working with NTI with respect to pre-employment strategies, to try and hire more Inuit, especially as regular members. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Blackadar. Any other questions from members on Law Enforcement Branch? Mr. Qammaniq.

**Mr. Qammaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Is your department actively considering to continue to encourage Inuit to work with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police? *Qujannamiik.*

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate the question. Before I defer to Mr. Blackadar through you, Mr. Chairman, I think it's important to realize, especially at the community level, when there's RCMP members that aren't continuously responding to calls that they can actually, through the First Nations Inuit policing program, as an example, there's members that can participate in more community events, to show the positive side of being a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

I've been at community events where you can tell the members have been there for a while. They're walking around shaking hands, kids are running up to them and teasing them, and they are integrated into the community. They are part of the community.

I think that's one of the critical, maybe not a specific initiative, but I think it's a specific task that, again, that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are now even reporting back to me on a regular basis of what type of community level events or festivities or that type of thing that they are participating in.

And I know I have had some feedback on a couple of community members from different communities Kugluktuk being a recent one, where there was a fantastic outreach by the members that were stationed in the community.

But through you, Mr. Chairman, if Mr. Blackadar can bring any specific initiatives that are upcoming. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hicke. Go ahead, Mr. Blackadar.

**Mr. Blackadar:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. The RCMP are using a number of different strategies to reach out directly to potential applicants who want to join the RCMP.

One of the biggest strategies, of course, is working with Ilagiitsiarniq to try and work on an Inuit Employment Plan, and to try to actually connect with a pool of different Nunavummiut candidates that would make a potential police officers.

The RCMP has also worked very closely one-on-one with people in the community, so some of our potential applicants don't have access to the Internet or the computers to write the online exam. And that poses a valid barrier for hiring a lot of Nunavummiut.

So the RCMP has gone beyond, and they have actually purchased computers, Internet sticks that they will actually put on a plane, and they would send them out to the applicant, so that they can do the exam from the comfort of their own home. There's been additional allowances for additional time to write those exams.

We've encouraged the RCMP to attend as many community events as they can, to reach out one-on-one to people who want to join RCMP as a regular member, but also, the RCMP has worked very closely with Arctic College across the territory to reach people who are doing that secondary education and trying to see if they will come to the RCMP as a career.

And I think those initiatives are working. They're breaking down the barriers. There's many years of barriers I think that have to be broken down.

The final strategy, Mr. Chair, that I will mention is through the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program. We're hoping that the community will see that these individuals, although police officers, are not going to be the same police officers that are the law enforcement. They are going to be the people that are working with the community and trying to resolve differences, build trust, and build credibility in the community to make people understand that law enforcement is actually a very interesting career, and it's a challenging career, and it's something that we would welcome many Nunavummiut to apply. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Blackadar. Recognizing the clock, what is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Taqtu.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you. There's a motion on the floor which is non-debatable. Those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. Motion is carried.

I will now rise to report progress. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses.

>>*Committee adjourned at 17:50 and House resumed at 17:51*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Be seated. Item 20, report of the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Pedersen.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee has been considering Bill 1, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): We have a motion. Do you have a seconder? Mr. Taqtu. Those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is 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) There will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges at 10 a.m. in the Nanuq boardroom, which is not currently scheduled, but we'll hold a quick meeting at 10 a.m.

(interpretation) *Orders of the Day* for June 9:

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** (interpretation) Thank you. Our sitting today is adjourned, and we will meet again tomorrow, Tuesday, June 9 at 1:30. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:54*

