



## 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**  
**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

**Members Present:**

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok, Hon. David Akeeagok, Ms. Hannah Angootealuk, Mr. Edward Attagutaluk, Hon. Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasia, 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 Joanasia) (interpretation): As we proceed, Mr. Mike, open the meeting with a prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Nunavummiut, MLAs, visitors. Welcome. Orders of the Day. Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Main.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 82 – 7(2): Tabling of Devolution Legislation**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and those who are here in the visiting gallery, if I can recognize a visitor.

Mr. Speaker, later today during our sitting there will be four bills that I will present, and the bills will be tabled, and with it the Nunavut Devolution Agreement that are attached and will help guide you on the area of devolution lands, water, and resource management on April 1, 2027 that will be under Nunavut Government.

(interpretation ends) The documents being tabled are the draft *Public Lands Act*, the draft *Waters Act*, the draft *Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, and the draft *Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Act*. Together, these statutes form a core part of the legislative framework that Nunavut must have in place before devolution can take effect.

Mr. Speaker, members will hear the term “mirroring” used frequently in relation to these bills. Mirroring means that the Government of Nunavut has drafted legislation that closely reflects the federal statutes currently governing lands, waters, and resource management in Nunavut. The purpose of mirroring is to ensure continuity and stability

when authority transfers from Canada to Nunavut. Existing rules, processes, and regulatory requirements will remain substantially the same, while decision making authority will shift from the federal government to the Government of Nunavut.

This approach follows the examples for the Yukon and Northwest Territories devolution processes, and is intended to provide certainty to communities, Inuit organizations, institutions of public government, industry, and other stakeholders during the transition.

Mr. Speaker, rather than proceeding directly to First Reading, the Government has chosen to table these bills in draft form. While this practice is not common in Nunavut, it is an appropriate approach for legislation that is highly technical, complex, and of significant public interest.

These bills are foundational to Nunavut's future authority over lands and resources. They establish the legal framework that will allow Nunavut to exercise powers currently held by Canada and are therefore among the most significant pieces of legislation associated with devolution.

At the same time, because these bills are intended to mirror existing federal legislation, there is limited flexibility for substantive policy changes at this stage. The primary objective is to ensure that Nunavut has a functioning legislative framework in place on the effective date of devolution.

(interpretation) By tabling the legislation now, members of the Legislative Assembly will have an opportunity to review the full text in advance of formal introduction, become familiar with its structure and provisions, and raise any questions or concerns.

(interpretation ends) This approach also provides transparency and will allow Nunavummiut and other stakeholders to review the legislation, confirm that the government has adhered to the agreed-upon mirroring approach, and provide comments or seek clarification where needed.

Nunavummiut who wish to provide comments on the tabled legislation may do so by contacting [devolution@gov.nu.ca](mailto:devolution@gov.nu.ca).

Allowing this review period now will help support a more efficient legislative process when these bills are formally introduced during the fall 2026 and winter 2027 sittings.

Mr. Speaker, I would also note that two additional devolution related statutes, the *Petroleum Resources Act* and the *Oil and Gas Operations Act*, remain under development. These bills are also being prepared using the mirroring approach, but still require additional drafting and translation work.

The tabling of these draft statutes represents another important milestone on Nunavut's devolution journey. It demonstrates the significant progress that has been made since the signing of the Devolution Agreement in January 2024, and reflects our ongoing commitment to transparency and ensuring that Nunavut is fully prepared to assume these new responsibilities on April 1, 2027.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statement. Minister of Education, Minister Akeegok.

### **Minister's Statement 83 – 7(2): Launch of Ilinniakkannirniq Career Magazine**

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share good news: the Department of Education launched a new career magazine called Ilinniakkannirniq.

Mr. Speaker, the magazine, available both digitally and in print, and is designed to support high school students and any job seekers across Nunavut by providing accessible and practical information on different post-secondary pathways in universities or college, career options within and outside the territory, and available support resources, such as scholarships. Our goal here is to inspire our students to read, and help them make informed decisions about their education and/or entry into the workforce.

Mr. Speaker, the magazine has been distributed to all schools and households across Nunavut. This ensures broad access to its resources. I encourage all students and families to take a close look at the magazine and use it as a resource to explore post-secondary education opportunities, and better understand the labour market.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Koonoo.

### **Minister's Statement 84 – 7(2): Renaming of the Nunavut Climate Change Champion Toolkit**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, The Government of Nunavut is honoured to recognize the life and contributions of Joshua Komangapik through the renaming of the Nunavut Climate Change Champion Toolkit as the Joshua Ipeelie Komangapik Climate Change Champion Toolkit.

The toolkit is a youth-driven resource designed to empower Nunavummiut to take climate action. Whether you are a youth, elder, student, educator, community leader, or simply passionate about protecting the land, the toolkit provides practical tools and inspiration to help individuals become climate champions within their communities.

Joshua was a valued member of the Nunavut Climate Change Youth Advisory Committee, and a thoughtful voice within ongoing conversations surrounding climate change, resiliency, and the importance of Inuit knowledge and perspectives in shaping Nunavut's future. His contributions reflected a strong sense of care for community, culture, and the environment, and his presence left a meaningful impact on those who had the privilege of working alongside him.

This renaming was brought forward through the Youth Advisory Committee to honour Joshua's memory and recognize the lasting impact he had on his peers. With the support and permission of his family, the Government of Nunavut is proud to carry his name forward through a resource intended to inspire youth leadership, awareness, and action on climate change across Nunavut.

The Joshua Ipeelie Komangapik Climate Change Champion Toolkit will continue to encourage young Nunavummiut to engage in climate action in ways that reflect Inuit values, community strengths, and stewardship of the land.

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I extend my sincere gratitude to Joshua's family for allowing us to recognize his legacy in this way. His contributions will not be forgotten.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statement. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 85 – 7(2): Nunavut Arctic College 2026 Spring Graduates and Completion Celebrations**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the 2026 graduation celebrations taking place in communities across Nunavut through

Nunavut Arctic College. These celebrations are recognizing students for their dedication, perseverance, and achievement.

While many programs recognized students, I would like to highlight some of the graduations held to date:

- On March 31, Rankin Inlet recognized graduates from the Personal Support Worker Program;
- On April 14, Arviat recognized graduates from the Social Service Worker Program;
- On April 20, Cambridge Bay recognized graduates from the Culinary Arts Certificate program;
- On April 23, the Nunatta campus in Iqaluit recognized students graduating from its certificate and diploma program; and
- On June 5, graduation ceremonies were hosted in Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet. In Rankin Inlet, students were recognized from the Pre-Health and Management studies and Social Service Worker Programs; in Cambridge Bay, students were recognized from the Personal Support Worker Program, Early Childhood Education, and Office Administration.

And finally, as we sit here on our final day of the spring sitting, the Nunatta campus is hosting its final graduation ceremony of the academic year, recognizing students from the Interpreter-Translator Program, the Computer Systems Technician Program, Pre-Health, and the Bachelor of Science for Arctic Nursing.

I would also like to acknowledge this year marks the first cohort of graduates from the revised Nunavut Teacher Education program. Graduates from Cambridge Bay and in Iqaluit today are the first students being recognized. Graduates from this program completed two years of Inuit language and culture training to strengthen culturally grounded education in Nunavut classrooms and supporting decentralized long-term capacity in our education system. The College is proud to celebrate these graduates with its university partner, Memorial University.

Finally, it is important to note that not all program completions result in a formal certificate or diploma; programs like adult basic education are significant milestones in a student's learning journey. To those that completed these programs, please know we are proud of you.

I would like to thank my fellow ministers for attending this for a little while today. I invite all members to join me in recognizing Nunavut Arctic College's graduating class of 2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Proceeding with the *Orders of the Day*. Item number 3, Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Kuliktana.

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

#### **Member's Statement 87 – 7(2): Acknowledge Constituents**

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise in the House to acknowledge my family and the community residents of Kugluktuk.

It has been a learning curve and an enjoyable one, and I thank the residents of Kugluktuk for your unwavering support and gratitude for your confidence in me as a member in the Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

I will always advocate with you, the residents of Kugluktuk, and for the rest of our territory. I wish my community an enjoyable one, and enjoying the nature of our land and of what it provides for us over the summer.

To my colleagues, it has been a challenging but a progressive one, and I will always continue to advocate for my community and the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Taqtu, Quttiktuq riding.

#### **Member's Statement 88 – 7(2): Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay Graduates**

**Mr. Taqtu:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to celebrate graduates in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay. They are in the senior classes. They're very young but they completed their grades in Resolute Bay: Cannor Kadluk (ph) and Eunice Idlout (ph).

And also in Grise Fiord in Umingmak School, I will say their names: Ava Kownak (ph), Aaron Junior Kigutaq (ph), Jamie Christianson (ph), and Katie Kownak (ph).

And in Arctic Bay, who completed her Nunavut Arctic College: Risin Inuk (ph). I celebrate them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 89 – 7(2): Constituency Update**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to you all, and to residents of Cambridge Bay watching our proceedings. Today is the last sitting day of the spring sitting of the House.

Since my humbling election win back in October, I've tried my best to represent the views of the community during my tenure as your MLA. I have asked thoughtful questions both in this House and directly to ministers outside of this House.

For those of you that have reached out to me to represent your issues with government departments, I replied to you with updates on your questions, and I will continue to as new updates become available.

With the completion of the sitting today, we will be back again in October. However, prior to that, I will travel to Halifax for a conference in August, and we will return to the House for committee meetings in September.

As a part of those proceedings, I will chair televised committee hearings as we review the annual reports of the independent officers of this Assembly, and hear an update from the Auditor General of Canada on territorial public accounts.

I will be in and around the community for the summer season and available at my office, which is in the lobby of the Iqaluktuuttiaq Co-op. If I am not in, you can always speak with my constituency assistant, Martina Maniringak (ph), or send me an email.

I want to thank you for the support you have shown to me since becoming your MLA, and I want to let you know that I will continue to bring up the matters that are important for the growth and development of our community.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues of this House for putting their trust in me to be the Deputy Speaker; Chair of the Committee of the Whole; member of the Management and Services Board; member of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges; and Chair of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts.

I wish all members a great and safe summer season spent with your families and friends. And again, I must also thank my family for their unwavering support. Once I get home

tomorrow, we can look forward to family gatherings and camping trips. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Mike.

### **Member's Statement 90 – 7(2): Planning Questions for the Fall Sitting**

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I say good day to everybody in Nunavut and people of Pangnirtung.

Today is our last day of sitting. I know that we still have questions to ask, but it's our last day and we may not be able to ask all our questions to the ministers.

However, I want to make a reservation for the fall session, Mr. Speaker. I would like to explain, during our break during the summertime, I will give some information, something for a minister to think about for when we come back for the next sitting. But I want to explain. I used to be a minister, and I believe that person who has proceeded me, I have asked the most questions to that minister.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have no choice but to plan for the fall sitting, but I would like to give you a heads up that the Nunavut Planning Commission's Land Use Plan, it was produced by the Department of Environment in March 2026. In the guiding legislation it states that the agreement will be followed, and number 11.3.2 has to do with the Nunavut lands planning explanation to make sure that all Nunavut communities are successful. It doesn't state here, it's in the agreement, but it's very important to the Inuit, I believe, and Inuit lands in Nunavut Agreement Article 11.2.1.

**Speaker:** Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? I don't hear any. Please proceed, Mr. Mike.

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): I say oh-oh. I would to explain what the government will be doing. In terms of what the government will be doing, I would like them to look into a different direction that the government can think about and that I will be asking questions about in the fall sitting.

11.2.1(b) states that, in English, I'll read it in English:

(interpretation ends) "The primary purpose of land use planning in the Nunavut Settlement Area shall be to protect and promote the existing and future well being of those persons ordinarily resident and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area taking

into account the interest of all Canadians; special attention shall be devoted to protecting and promoting the existing and future well-being of Inuit and Inuit Owned Lands”.

(interpretation) That is not in the planning documents, so I will be asking questions about it in the fall sitting to get the government's position on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 91 – 7(2): Inukshuk High School Graduates**

**Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and *unnusakkut* to all my colleagues and to Iqalumiut watching our proceedings online today and enjoying another beautiful, sunny day here in the capital on our last day of session.

Today I rise to congratulate the grade 12 graduating class of Inukshuk High School here in Iqaluit, my old school, as they prepare to celebrate this important milestone on June 24. To each graduate: You've worked hard, overcome challenges, and reached a moment that you and your families and your teachers and your community can all be proud of. This achievement represents years of dedication and perseverance, and it opens the door to exciting new opportunities.

I also want to recognize the parents, grandparents, caregivers, siblings and families who have supported our young people every step of the way. Your encouragement, patience and belief in them have helped make this day possible.

To the school staff, principals, and educators who have guided and inspired this graduating class, thank you for the important role you have played in shaping their journey.

Whether the next step is college, university, trades training, employment, or staying close to home to continue learning and growing, know that your community believes in you. We look forward to seeing the paths you choose and the contributions you will make to Nunavut and beyond.

I'm honoured that I will be there to celebrate with you on graduation day, alongside your loved ones and to witness the beginning of this chapter. We are proud of you, we celebrate your accomplishments, and we wish you every success in the future.

And lastly, I wish all of my colleagues safe travels home tonight and tomorrow.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 92 – 7(2): Graduates in Iqaluit**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just before we came into the chamber here today, a number of my colleagues and I attended kind of a pre-ceremony for the Nunavut Arctic College here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, just the look of excitement and look of relief I think on a lot of faces was very rewarding. I think all the tears, blood, sweat and tears that goes into the graduates in the various programs that the college offers I think is very important to recognize.

Mr. Speaker, while I was at dinner last night, I saw a couple young girls who just celebrated their kindergarten graduation, Mr. Speaker. When I look at the young adults that are graduating from college and I think of those two young girls last night, that were so excited and all dressed up from their kindergarten graduation, and then in the coming weeks we will have graduations here in the city at Inuksuk High School, as one of my colleagues has already spoken of.

Mr. Speaker, I can't put it any better than my colleague put it, but just the amount of work, the amount of collaboration and support by family. Teachers especially, I can't thank our educators enough for the hard work that they do.

I believe there's nearly 60 graduates at the Inukshuk High School this year, and four graduating from École des Trois-Soleils, Mr. Speaker. As we continue to celebrate these graduating classes, I think it's important to recognize all the hard work, the community, the involvement, the support that their coaches have for the athletic programs that the schools offer. Mr. Speaker, I'm so very proud of all of our young kids, young adults that are graduating in the coming days and weeks, and just wish them all the absolute best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): We congratulate all the graduates in the schools. But education is ongoing.

Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq. I apologize. Members' Statements. We are on Members' Statements. I was a little ahead. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Koonoo.

**Member's Statement 93 – 7(2): Reflections on Spring Sitting**

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been wanting to ask questions, but I would like to send my regards to the people of Pond Inlet.

It is now spring. It's beautiful out there, and there's people out camping and hunting. Just as a reminder, and with climate change and earlier breakup, and I believe it's going to be warmer this year than usual, which creates hazards and changing conditions out there in the world.

For those, some of the VHSs don't work. Please keep in mind that it's dangerous out at the floe edge, especially with the currents, the tides and thinning ice. Have a good spring and I envy you, but we do have responsibilities.

I will keep working hard as a member of the Legislative Assembly. You can contact me any time.

Lastly, I would like to thank my colleagues for asking me very good questions, which is a learning curve for me. I'm not as anxious as I was earlier. Thank you very much for your support, my colleagues, and I want to have a close working relationship with you. And we will see you in the fall. Please be safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

**Member's Statement 94 – 7(2): Program Opening Opportunities**

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, and safe travels to you all tomorrow as you guys head home for the summer.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to quickly highlight a Inuk program that's starting up in Baker Lake this fall. It's a partnership that was born between Agnico Eagle Mines and Nunavut Arctic College.

About a year ago I had met with the Meadowbank camp manager, Eric Steinmetzer, of Agnico Eagle, and had suggested that they run some more training programs in Baker Lake. And one of the suggestions I had provided was culinary arts. And I highlighted that there's the two mines in Baker Lake, they have the mine in Rankin Inlet, and now it's public Hope Bay Mine is opening up. So Agnico has all those mine sites plus offices they will have. We also have B2Gold and Baffinland that needs cooks, culinary arts, camp cooks.

In Baker Lake, as a start, there are running a camp cook program. People that can apply are people that are at least 17 years old or older, able to pass the ABE English 120 and Math 120, a complete learner readiness form, and possess personal suitability.

The benefits of this program: They will achieve is experience, classroom training, and hands-on instruction on food safety, cooking for crowds, enter job markets and tourism, mine, construction sites, hospitality industry. Take up culinary arts leading to apprenticeship journey-person. They will also learn about kitchen safety and hygiene, how to cook things such as soups, stocks, sauces, veggies, sandwiches, poultry, country food and much more.

This is an exciting program. People of Baker Lake, please, if you're interested in this, I know it has been advertised for a while now. Deadline is tomorrow, June 12. You can go apply in person at the community learning centre, Arctic College in Baker Lake, and speak to the staff there and learn more about it.

Good luck to all those that take part in the course, and hopefully this will lead to gainful employment in one of the mines or one of the restaurants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. Akeeagok.

### **Member's Statement 95 – 7(2): Graduation Ceremonies**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, it is my little brother's birthday. Happy birthday up in Grise Fiord, Amon Akeeagok.

This is very difficult for me wanting to celebrate with everybody. With Iqaluit, a number of schools will be celebrating their graduation. I was very fortunate to go quickly to the Nunavut Nunatta campus to meet and greet some of the families, and also the graduates. The energy there was so beautiful. I'm very fortunate to be there.

The high school that I graduated with, that's happening on the 24th of June. I won't be able to make it, but I will celebrate virtually with them. I know if we needed to say all their names we would have to record it as written and report it to the speaker as read, there are so many of them. So I'm so proud of all the Iqaluit high school graduations.

And the middle school, I know my son will be one of them that will be going to high school that I went to, and it's been a very emotional one for both me and my wife, but we won't be able to be there, but we've arranged to be there virtually. And when you go to

those graduating, going on to the high school, you see that inspiration, and they're going to learn to become young adults. That's a wonderful event.

And all the elementary school graduations that will be taking place here, I wish I was going to be there, but I know parents are going to be there and they're really proud. And I wanted to share that proudness with those graduations.

Behind the scenes are the teachers and the principals that go in day in and day out. I really want to thank them for getting to where they are. Any graduation I go to, I always thank the parents for waking up their kids to get to school, and I continue to thank them. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): And thank you. Members' Statements. I believe that's it for Members' Statements. Item number 4, Return to Oral Questions. Minister for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Akeeagok.

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

##### **Return to Oral Question 69 – 7(2): Vacancies in Arviat**

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** I return to Oral Questions which was asked by a member of Arviat South, Jamie Kablutsiak, who has asked to our Hon. Gwen Healy Akearok, the Acting Minister of Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Gwen, for covering. The number is 69 – 7(2) dated June 2, 2026, and the subject was the vacancies in Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer to the question asked by MLA Kablutsiak on June 2, 2026. The question was about filling vacant positions in the member's community.

As cited by the member, the college has 23 positions in the community. Currently eight are filled. Of the 15 vacant positions:

- two positions are currently being filled through casual staffing action;
- two positions are being prepared to go out for competition, and
- the college is working to deactivate four term positions that were funded through third party funding. These are positions connected to the Pathfinder funding, which is concluding;

- one position being transferred from another community in the region. Arviat is concluding its offering of the Nunavut Teachers Education Program. This position is being moved to another community that is offering the program.
- two positions are being re-profiled to meet additional operational needs of the college; and
- the remaining four positions will go to the human resource process once the above-mentioned vacancies are filled.

Some of the external factors that impact the filling of these positions include limited staff housing, office space, and program completion.

The college continues to work within the policies and procedures of the *Human Resource Manual* and its human resource efforts. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. *Orders of the Day*. Item number 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Perhaps I'll start. My step-sister, Sarah Carrière from Cape Dorset, welcome to the gallery.

Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Healey Akearok.

**Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I also wish to recognize Sarah Carrière; she's the manager of policy at Qulliq Energy Corporation, and works extremely hard in this role and is a tremendous asset to me in my role.

I would like to acknowledge that we grew up on the same street for a significant part of our young lives, and I would like the House to welcome her. Welcome to your House, Sarah. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluktuuttiaq, Mr. Pedersen.

**Mr. Pedersen**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize Aivgak Pedersen, former MLA of Kugluktuk, currently the manager of Search and Rescue for the Government of Nunavut. Like me, now a resident of Cambridge Bay, he's moved his

family there, and probably more importantly, my nephew. So welcome back to your House.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome, Mr. Pedersen. There are two Mr. Pedersens today. I'm so pleased. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

**Hon. Janet Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Sarah and welcome her to her House. And I'm sorry that my house blocked her view in our neighbourhood.

Mr. Speaker, what I would like to do as well is to encourage people who are interested in working in policy, where there are a lot of vacancies in the Government of Nunavut, to come and speak to Sarah, if they can, about how they too can nerd out over the work that we do for Nunavummiut.

And I want to welcome you to our House and to your House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Qamani'tuaq, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** I too would like to recognize my friend, Calvin Pedersen. It's a friendship going on for six years now, when you first became Member of the Legislative Assembly, in the 5th Assembly during a by-election, and he's now working for Nunavut Emergency Management and doing a lot of wonderful work with Search and Rescue, helping to save lives right across the territory, and making some more improvements with Search and Rescue. We appreciate all the work that you've been doing, Calvin. Welcome to your House.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. Welcome. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Kuliktana.

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge Calvin Pedersen, raised and born in Kugluktuk, and he has been contributing to our territory, and I look forward to his involvement and his expertise in Search and Rescue. So I feel as a territory we are in good hands, but I would like to acknowledge and wish him well in the future. Welcome to your House.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome. Welcome all the guests. And also Nunavummiut, please don't hesitate to come and visit the legislature. Even though we're not in session, you can come here and get further information. During the session it's always a pleasure to receive visitors to the precinct.

Moving on to Item number 6, Oral Questions. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Taqtu.

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

#### **Oral Question 122 – 7(2): Food Security**

**Mr. Taqtu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction.

Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of food security. As the minister is aware, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami recently released a report which contained recommendations for replacing the current federal Nutrition North Canada Program with a new approach.

Mr. Speaker, as the member of the Legislative Assembly for Quttiktuq, I represent some of Canada's most remote and isolated communities. One of the recommendations in the report stated that:

“Nutrition North Canada's retailer-based approach is ineffective and results in subsidy leakage, as retailers absorb the subsidy while selling eligible food items at inflated prices. The new federal program should instead prioritize subsidizing transportation and shipping costs, which are the primary drivers of both high food and living costs. Subsidies should be contingent on retailers demonstrating that funds are applied to freight costs.”

My question for the minister is this: What is the Government of Nunavut's position concerning this recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction, Ms. Healey Akearok.

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

As we know, food security continues to be an ongoing challenge in our communities, and our department is working on a number of initiatives to address that.

To the member's question, Minister Chartrand hosted a gathering, actually, in the spring, inviting Inuit and Indigenous organizations from across Canada to participate in a dialogue on food security and solutions, particularly related to Nutrition North, and we were able to send one of our delegates as well from the Poverty Reduction Division at Family Services, and so they were able to participate and learn more about what the Government of Canada is planning in terms of the next steps around Nutrition North.

What we were very pleased to learn is that there is a lot of alignment around what we have done for years in our Poverty Reduction Division in relation to the Makimaniq Plans that have been tabled in the House, and those plans are co-developed with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated as co-chairs of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction.

Those plans have emphasized the voices from our communities which have asked for more funding and focus on community-driven solutions, on harvester support programs, and on Inuit-led solutions for food security.

And so our plans have stated that and that message continues to come to us from our work in the communities, and so that position has been shared for quite some time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Taqtu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Another recommendation in the report states that:

“A new federal program should regulate retail food prices rather than rely solely on pass-through requirements. A direct price regulation model would be clearer, more enforceable and better aligned with affordability outcomes. Subsidy payments should require transparent pricing data, benchmark prices for staple goods, and justification for price increases based on legitimate cost pressures. The objective is to reduce arbitrary disparities across communities and shift the burden of proof to retailers.”

My question for the minister is this: What is the Government of Nunavut's position concerning this recommendation? 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 question.

What I take away from those recommendations, what we take away is the need for greater transparency in how the programs operate, and that has been a consistent piece of advocacy, and so we hear that as well.

The focus for our division has been on elevating Inuit-led food systems. So again, our priority has been to focus on some of our new actions, which are related to, for example, supporting, investigating and supporting how country food sales and trade can be supported, how we can continue to invest in our harvesting supports, and continuing to support our community organizations, which are on the front line of food insecurity as well in our territory.

So to the member's question, we do recognize the need for transparency. That message has come across loud and clear, I think, across all platforms, and we look forward to learning more about what will come in the new updated version of Nutrition North, whatever that might look like. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Taqtu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, she touched base on this, I asked her a question during our winter sitting about the Food Sovereignty Summit that was scheduled to be held in March of this year. The event took place in Ottawa and was organized by the federal department of northern affairs.

Can the minister indicate how the Government of Nunavut was involved in the event, and can she describe how her department will be involved in the future changes to the Nutrition North Canada Program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction, Minister Healey Akearok.

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

The gathering that I referenced in my first answer was in fact that Food Sovereignty Summit, and so we did have a representative from Family Services' Poverty Reduction Division there that participated and shared the discussion back with our staff, with our team.

Going forward, we continue to work collaboratively with our partners at Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, who are also engaged in those discussions. As we move forward together, we look forward to every opportunity to strengthen and uplift our families and our communities and address food insecurity in the territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 123 – 7(2): Wildlife Management in the Kitikmeot**

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues from the Baffin have been asking a number of important questions about the issue of caribou management in their region. I will give the minister a break today by asking him questions about caribou management in my region.

As the minister will be aware, his department issued a news release in September 2025 announcing the signing of updated memorandum of understanding with the Government of Northwest Territories considering the management of shared populations of caribou herds. The announcement indicated that the two governments would be working together on a number of subjects, including an “agreement to share data and information collected during monitoring activities and projects related to the caribou.”

Can the minister provide an update today on the implementation of this agreement?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) The co-management for the shared agreement is usually managed with NWMB, and also it involves management with and between the HTOs and with that shared management. I want the member to clarify that question again. I missed part of the question. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): MLA Mr. Kuliktana, repeat your question.

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I was referring to, the memorandum of understanding between the Government of Nunavut and Government of Northwest Territories, they agreed to share data and information collected during the activities and projects related to caribou.

Can the minister provide an update today on the implementation of this agreement?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, member, for your question.

The memorandum of understanding for that shared area, I think it was in 2023 that the MOU was signed, and it had been shared with the community of Kugluktuk. I think this question was asked previously in the previous sitting, and I do recall that I gave a written response on that return to oral questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, his department administers the Wolf Sample Collection Program. The department's recent news release indicates that the updated memorandum of understanding includes "an agreement to pursue the development of predator research and/or management programs on barren ground caribou ranges in collaboration with co-management partners when practical. "

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

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Member, for the question. The question seems to have two different questions in one, about wolf sampling and then about caribou. Could you clarify which question it is on, wolf sampling or on caribou management? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Member Kuliktana, can you clarify your question, please.

**Mr. Kuliktana:** This is in regard to the Wolf Sample Collection Program, and I'm regarding to the memorandum of understanding, an agreement on the barren land caribou ranges and with co-management partners when practical. I'm talking about on the memorandum of understanding in regards to the Wolf Sample Collection Program. There was an agreement that was made, and I would like to get some information on that agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that question.

Yes, the agreement has been signed, and in the spring of 2023 the Department of Environment implemented changes to the Wolf Sample Collection Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will be aware, his predecessor informed the previous Legislative Assembly that “Dolphin and Union caribou are listed as species at risk, and are currently in the process of being listed to endangered under the federal *Species At Risk Act*.”

Can the minister indicate what the new government’s position is on this issue, and can he provide an update today on the status of the uplisting process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, member for your question. I don’t have the information with me right now. I can get back to you, as the Return to Oral, it is going to be our last sitting. I could get the member a written response to that question at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Oral Question 124 – 7(2): Response to Correspondence on Tuberculosis**

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut and Pangnirtung residents, my family. My question today is for the Minister of Health.

As the minister is aware, I tabled a copy of correspondence in the Legislative Assembly to our recent winter sitting that the Municipality of Pangnirtung had written earlier this year to a number of leaders, including the federal and territorial ministers of health. Back when I asked the minister about this issue, on the first day of our recent spring sitting, the minister indicated that with respect to my question, she will be tabling her response to the municipality’s correspondence “as soon as possible.”

Perhaps can the minister today, on our last day of spring sitting, perhaps the minister can assure me that her promise to table her response to the municipality, if she can table that before the end of our sitting? Thank you, Minister.

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

**Hon. Janet Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have the letter in front of me, and I’m happy to actually send it by e-mail to the member for his edification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister. Perhaps I wasn’t quite clear. I don’t think I got a response to my first question.

Yesterday during our sitting here, the minister tabled to the Assembly the chief public health officer's report on tuberculosis. This has been at work and I'm grateful that work has been done.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister describe how her department will be acting on the recommendation of the chief public health officer? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Janet Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut is committed to tuberculosis elimination in Nunavut by 2030. Yearly case counts of active tuberculosis have been decreasing in the past three years, so we're seeing some progress on that because of our actions as well as our partnerships. And the Department of Health and its partners are working to actively control the outbreaks in Arviat and Nauyasat through both outbreak responses and expanded screening in each community.

What we will continue to do, Mr. Speaker, is to evaluate the effectiveness of these actions and make any necessary changes to those actions in order to improve our approach.

One of the other things that we've done is we've created TB online the Government of Nunavut TB online manuals, which were funded by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and had 23 healthcare professionals complete those modules. NTI and GN's TB programs meet regularly to work towards TB elimination. And what we will always do is strive to do better and to follow the really good and well-informed advice of the chief public health officer, when it comes to tuberculosis elimination, as well as any other communicable disease that we are striving to eliminate in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister. Here the chief health officer report, along with ITK, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and I was just thinking of some actions.

My question, my next question: The minister will recall she made an announcement last October indicating that progress is being made toward "eliminating tuberculosis by the year 2030." (interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate if her department has sufficient resources to accomplish this goal? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Brewster.

**Hon. Janet Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a really important question and I appreciate it.

The tuberculosis program's budget for 2025-2026 includes \$3.5 million in Vote 1 funding, and just under \$2.9 million in Vote 4 funding. So it's a collaborative effort in order to fund this very important work.

As we move forward, we are making the best use of that funding that's possible, and if we have any gaps in funding needs, we have the capacity to ask for more if we need more. For now, we are funded to the extent that we need, related to our current plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 125 – 7(2): Sakku School**

**Ms. Angootealuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Education. First of all, we're thinking of you and your wife, Minister.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, his department has been undertaking a multi-million-dollar, multi-year renovation of Sakku School in Coral Harbour. Earlier this year, the Legislative Assembly approved funding in the department's 2026-2027 capital estimates for this important project.

Can the minister provide an update today on the timeline for the completion of the work?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Education, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you for your due diligence. The school under renovation is expected to be completed by November 2027. However, we know there are different issues that have risen, so this may be postponed until the summer 2028. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angootealuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Information provided by the minister's department indicates that the Sakku School Project includes work to "demolish the extended community learning centre and corridor link, and start using the portable classrooms as the new Nunavut Arctic College community learning centre."

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

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as education minister that oversees this project, I will have a very healthy deliberation with the minister responsible for Arctic College, and I assure the member that between those two discussions, that this is a most high priority, to make sure that there's a seamless transfer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angootealuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Concerns have been raised with me that drainage issues in the Sakku School have been causing property damage to at least one other building in the community. I will be writing a letter to the minister about this issue at the end of our spring sitting.

Will the minister commit to having his department review the concerns that I will be bringing up to his attention? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The Minister of Education, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, thank you for raising this very issue that happens. And as I stated, there's a possible delay to summer 2028. Those are one of the issues that are being highlighted. I would be happy to respond to any letter that's coming in terms of your concerns.

And with this major renovation that we are doing with the Sakku School, there are ripple effects that are taking place as it expands and takes over within the surrounding areas of the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Kautuk.

### **Oral Question 126 – 7(2): Baffin Island Caribou Management**

**Mr. Kautuk:** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues representing Aggu and Pangnirtung have been asking questions about the issue of caribou management, so I will also give it a shot today.

Mr. Speaker, information published by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board indicates that the Department of Environment has submitted recommendations for changes to the allowable total allowable harvest of Baffin Island caribou. The document indicates that:

“Based on the current population estimate, all available scientific information and Inuit Qaujimagatunqangit, the Government of Nunavut recommends that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board modify the existing Baffin Island total allowable harvest to 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 his department is recommending that the total number be increased to 6,000? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

As I keep answering this same question for the past few days, it's dependent on the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. We are just waiting for their submission that will be submitted to the Government of Nunavut. Then we will have to decide if we will be approving their recommendation, and that's when the total allowable harvest will be determined. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kautuk:** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the current regulation under the territorial *Wildlife Act* regarding the total allowable harvest and non-quota limitation for Baffin Island caribou provide that the number for 2026-2027 harvest year are 550 caribou, including up to 110 female without calves.

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

**Speaker:** Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, member, for that question.

The Department of Environment for Government of Nunavut does not have any recommendations right now. The HTOs and Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board submitted their recommendations, and I can't speak on their behalf. But once the Nunavut wildlife board makes a decision, the ultimate body that makes the decisions for the recommendations of total allowable harvest, that's when it will be decided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kautuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the government's current regulation regarding the total allowable harvest of Baffin Island caribou were published in the *Nunavut Gazette* in July 2022. The regulation indicates that:

“Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has not yet made a decision respecting the basic need level for Baffin Island caribou.”

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

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

**Hon. Brian Koonoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Member, for the question. We are currently still waiting for their final meeting. The meeting is this month, and it all depends on what they're going to submit. I wish I could say, but I can't make them hurry, and I can't make them give an answer. So we will wait for their response and their submission and recommendation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** I sense a lot of anticipation for the decision. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Kablutsiak.

### **Oral Question 127 – 7(2): Municipal Infrastructure**

**Mr. Kablutsiak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Community Services. As the minister is aware, the Legislative Assembly will be reconvening later this year for our fall sitting. The government's 2027-2028 capital estimates will be introduced and considered at that time.

Mr. Speaker, I fully recognize and understand that the government's resources are not unlimited, and that priorities need to be set.

In recent years, the government has supported Nunavut municipalities in developing their annual infrastructure plans. At one point in time, these were referred to as “integrated community sustainability plans.”

Can the minister describe what specific changes to the capital planning process are being made by the new government as it prepares to decide which projects to include for funding in the upcoming 2027-2028 capital estimates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question regarding capital plans going forward with this new government. Currently there are no new major changes coming along; we will be following our Katujjiluta mandate as our foundation. But from Community Services, we will continue to work with Nunavut Association of Municipalities from each hamlet to hear their needs and concerns for capital requirements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The John Ollie Complex in Arviat is a central gathering point for the community. Our growing community depends on the community hall being in good condition for the numerous events that are held at the facility.

In recent years, numerous structural problems and other issues have been identified at the building. The municipality has been doing its best to keep up with repairs, but its resources are stretched.

Mr. Speaker, Arviat's current infrastructure plan identifies the need for major renovations to the facility. Can the minister indicate what specific resources are available from his department to enable the municipality to undertake this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding funding programs that the department helps with hamlets for renovations and such to hamlet facilities, what the department did previously was approve from the Sustainable Service Delivery – Life Cycle Fund, they had allocated \$440,723 for foundation to the building.

There's also other funding programs where there's the Canada Strong Fund Community Stream, and there's also the Municipal Capital Block Funding that hamlets can use as long as they fill out the Integrated Community Sustainability Plans, and also help incorporate into the capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kablutsiak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Arviat's current arena was constructed decades ago and is now in need of replacement. It has served the community well, but it is time for a new facility that can be used year-round to host a variety of activities.

Can the minister indicate what criteria his department uses to determine whether to allocate funding in its five-year capital plan for construction of new arenas? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question regarding programs or such to get a new arena for Arviat.

The department will look at listening to the hamlet, again in partnership with Nunavut Association of Municipalities, and we can look at what other federal funding programs that may be coming available. We are always advocating for the federal government to help increase infrastructure funding for Nunavut.

Helping communities helps bring healthier lives. Keeping people busy at the arena, community hall, playing sports, and I believe some arenas have indoor playgrounds; that keeps kids busy and active and healthier. So that's what we will do.

We will also take into consideration the Hamlet of Arviat's request for a replacement arena and keep that in our logs and see what we can do to help them out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Kablutsiak. I recognize you once again.

### **Oral Question 128 – 7(2): Activities of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission**

**Mr. Kablutsiak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

Mr. Speaker, if my math is correct, I now have had the opportunity to ask questions about all of the cabinet portfolios.

>>*Laughter, Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up today on questions that my colleague from Cambridge Bay asked last week concerning amendments to the *Workers' Compensation Act*.

As the chair of our Assembly's Standing Committee on Legislation, I want to have a clear understanding of the status of this issue. As the minister is aware, amendments to the

Northwest Territories *Workers' Compensation Act* received assent in their legislature last week. These concern presumptive coverage for firefighters and first responders.

Can the minister clearly explain why a mirror bill to amend our version of the statute was not introduced in our Legislative Assembly during our current spring sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Annie Tattuinee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question being asked. We were waiting for that legislation to pass. It has been in the books for a while with the NWT, and we needed for that to move forward before it was introduced to Nunavut.

That being said, since it has been passed in the NWT, a presentation will most likely be made to cabinet at an appropriate meeting, and that the decision of the government as to whether Nunavut mirrors that bill, Northwest Territories: Bill 48, or amendments in Nunavut will follow the normal process.

In speaking with the WSCC, they are recommending the normal process be followed when they work towards a new legislation moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kablutsiak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister provide a clear timeline for when she will be introducing a bill in our Legislative Assembly to parallel the amendments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Tattuinee.

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

I expect that it will be during the time of this Legislative Assembly. I can't commit to a final date. Hopefully, it's sooner rather than later, but at this point in time I can't commit to a firm date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, she recently tabled a copy of the Workers' Safety Compensation Commission's 2026 corporate plan. The plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "review *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations*, and *Mine Health and Safety Regulations*."

Mr. Speaker, a number of Kivalliq residents work in the mines, so this is an important issue. Can the minister highlight what changes to the current regulations are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Tattuinee.

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

In terms of your second question, we're hoping to have new legislation passed by 2028. In terms of the second question, all mines in Nunavut are required to comply with the Nunavut *Mine Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations*. There is currently no plans to amend the act.

The regulations are under review, and changes to regulations and policies will be considered through the WSCC. They have their own board, so the Nunavut Mine Occupational Health and Safety Legislative Committee and stakeholders will be considered under stakeholder engagement. So that's where it sits at this point. Thank you to the member for the question, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Item number 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Return to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Premier John Main.

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

#### **Tabled Document 34 – 7(2): Devolution Legislations**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I am please to table the proposed draft legislation pertaining to devolution. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Minister of Justice, Mr. Hickey.

#### **Tabled Document 35 – 7(2): 2025 Minimum Wage Rate Annual Report**

**Tabled Document 36 – 7(2): Legal Services Board of Nunavut 2022-2023 Annual Report**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to provide a report of the 2025 *Minimum Wage Rate Annual Report* and the *Legal Services Board of Nunavut's 2022-2023 Annual Report*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

**Tabled Document 37 – 7(2): Department of Fisheries and Oceans – Greenland Halibut – Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Subarea 0**

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one document to table today, which is detailed information concerning the Greenland Halibut fishery in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Subarea 0. I encourage all members to read this document with care and I will have questions to the appropriate minister concerning the subject during our upcoming fall session.

**Tabled Document 38 – 7(2): List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements**

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. I have one document to table today, which is the *List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements*. Thank you.

Going to the *Orders of the Day*: Item 14, Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters.

And in accordance with the authority provided to me by motion number 4 – 7(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out. Before we go to Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:09 and Committee commenced at 15:35*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Fred Pedersen): Thank you. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 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 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2026-2027*, Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, and Bill 3, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Are we in agreement we first deal with Bill 2?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 2 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2026-2027 –  
Consideration in Committee**

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. 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 Main, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) To my right, your left, I have Deputy Minister Dan Young, Deputy Minister Department of Finance. And to my left, your right, Kyle Seeley, Deputy Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I appear before you today to present Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2026-27*. Through this Bill, we are seeking \$273.91 million in supplementary capital appropriations for 2026-27. This appropriation request seeks to carry over capital funding which was previously approved but not yet spent.

The term capital carryover is used to describe a funding situation when departments did not fully spend the capital funds appropriated to them in a fiscal year, but still require the authority to spend the approved funding in future years. This is necessary to complete and deliver the affected projects.

The Government of Nunavut's appropriation process requires annual approvals. Therefore, this appropriation is needed so that departments have the authority to continue to deliver these much-needed capital projects in 2026-27.

(interpretation) Mr. Chair, it is imperative to note that the Assembly has already approved these carryover projects through previous capital plans. It is also important to emphasize that we are not seeking new money for the affected projects.

(interpretation ends) The amount we are asking to be carried over is based on estimates and projections, as the final numbers will be determined once all entries have been recorded and 2025-26 public accounts and completed. At a later date, we will return to request adjustments, if necessary.

Through Bill 2 we are seeking to carryover funds for 140 projects. Internally, we consider carryover requests in two groups. The first group includes 124 projects where the government has already made financial or contractual commitments to continue. We refer to these as “FAM compliant.” This Bill seeks approval of \$255.1 million to allow the departments to continue these ongoing projects in 2026-27, and meet our commitments.

The second group includes 16 projects the Assembly has approved, but which have not yet reached the stage where there are legal commitments to proceed. We refer to these as “non-FAM compliant”. Bill 2 seeks approval of \$18.81 million to enable the departments to move these projects beyond the initial stages.

If the Assembly does not approve these appropriations, any previously approved capital funding would lapse and the we would either cancel the projects or defer working on them until appropriations are again available. However, this would be a major challenge, and a risk we should not take.

Although we are making every effort to ensure we limited the number of carryover projects, as the capital budget increases, we expect the carryover amounts to increase, too.

The committee should note that since most of our capital projects are multi year projects, we should always expect some level of carryovers for these projects, especially given our northern environment with limited construction season.

The total capital supplementary requests are broken down as follows:

- \$72.6 million to the Department of Community Services for projects covering a range of municipal and community infrastructure projects;
- \$39.37 million to the Department of Health for various projects including: Nunavut Long Term Care Centre phase 1 in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut Long term Care Facility Phase 3 in Iqaluit, Nunavut Long Term Care facility, phase 2 in Cambridge Bay, the Nunavut Recovery Centre, Qikiqtani General Hospital Central sterilization room upgrade; and two other projects;

- \$15.25 million to the Department of Education for various projects including, the Cambridge Bay elementary school foundation and fire suppression; a new high school in Taloyoak, which I believe will be called Pangniq; Ataguttaaluk elementary school; Victor Sammurtok school renovations in Chesterfield Inlet; the Sakku school major renovation and addition project; and repairs and renovations to several schools;
- \$123.08 million to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut to continue several projects including: the Rankin Inlet air terminal building and various airport improvement and air terminal buildings in several communities; the Rankin Inlet water treatment plant upgrade; the Rankin Inlet wastewater treatment infrastructure; the Kivalliq–Baffin connector fibre project; Rankin Inlet’s utilidor system, and other projects;
- \$441,000 to Nunavut Arctic College, to continue with the Cambridge Bay residence renovations and Nunatta campus utilidor repairs projects;
- \$8.08 million to the Department of Finance for enterprise resources planning system and digital services fund;
- \$3.31 million to the Department of Family Services for the Rankin Inlet adult group home fuel tanks replacement, the not-for-profit capital fund, and Naja Isabelle Group home repairs;
- \$4.23 million to the Department of Environment for the Clyde River park development and Taloyoak wildlife office renovation;
- \$5.77 million to the Department of Justice for the Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre renovation; the court information and correction management system; a Rankin Inlet fuel tank replacement and others;
- \$150,000 to the Department of Culture and Heritage for a carpet replacement in Kugluktuk; and
- \$1.63 million to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs for small capital.

(interpretation) Mr. Chair, I am available to address questions about the supplementary appropriation or our capital process generally. However, I do encourage members to save their questions on specific projects for the responsible ministers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Main. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Seeing none, can members please go to page 4 of *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2026-2027*. Page 4, Government of Nunavut *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2026-2027*. Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, not previously authorized, total department \$1,625,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members, go to page 5, Government of Nunavut *Supplementary Appropriations (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2026-2027*, Department of Finance, not previously authorized, total department \$8,525,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members go to page 6, Department of Justice, not previously authorized. Total directorate, \$2,378,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total Court Services, \$3,237,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total Corrections, \$154,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total Department, \$5,769,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members, go to page 7. Department of Culture and Heritage, not previously authorized. Total Department, \$150,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members, go to page 9. Department of Education, not previously authorized. Total Department, \$15,248,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members, go to page 10. Department of Health, not previously authorized. Total Department, \$39,372,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members go to page 11. Department of Environment, not previously authorized. Total Department, \$4,234,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members go to page 12. Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, not previously authorized. Total Infrastructure, \$67,896,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 13, Total Transportation, \$46,471,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 14, Total Information Management, Information Technology, \$8,393,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total Petroleum Products Division, \$319,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total Department, \$123,079,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members, go to page 16. Department of Community Services, not previously authorized. Total Supporting Communities, \$43,784,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 17, Total Supporting Economies, \$28,817,000.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total Department, \$72,609,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members, go to page 18. Department of Family Services, not previously authorized. Total Department \$3,306,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go to Bill 2 in your legislation binder for clause-by-clause review of the actual bill itself.

Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2026-2027*, clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members, go to schedule on page 2, supplementary amounts appropriated for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2027. Vote 2, Capital - Total Capital, \$273,909,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total supplementary appropriation, \$273,909,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 3. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members, go back to page 1. Clause 4. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 5. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 6. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 7. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 2 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree that Bill 2 can be placed on the *Orders of the Day* for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to thank the minister and his officials. Minister Main, do you have brief closing comments?

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the members for their support, and I appreciate the detailed questioning that did take place in committee around this bill, and I thank all the dedicated staff, both Department of Finance; Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut.

These capital projects are, as mentioned in my opening comments, much needed, and I look forward to seeing them brought off the page into the real world.

I thank all the dedicated staff across all our departments who are working on capital projects. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Main. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials at the witness table.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** I would ask that members remain in their seats as we will be proceeding to the next item of business, Bill 4. Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Main, do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee?

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

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 4 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Consideration in Committee**

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

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this bill, I have Deputy Minister Daniel Young, Department of Finance; Legislative Counsel Daniel Mount, Department of Justice.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) I appear before you today to present Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, which proposes increasing the Nunavut Child Benefit payment amounts.

The Nunavut Child Benefit is a non-taxable payment made monthly to qualifying families with children under the age of 18. The basic benefit for 2025-26 is \$29.00 per month for each qualifying child.

This Bill proposes doubling the current benefit rates beginning in the 2026–27 benefit year. It would also remove the 3 per cent CPI, Consumer Price Index, floor from the annual adjustment factor, allowing benefit rates to adjust annually with inflation.

After discussion with the Department of Justice, we identified the Territorial Workers' Supplement provisions potentially violate a prohibition contained at subsection 12(1) of the *Human Rights Act* against discrimination in the provision of services based on the lawful source of income. For that reason, we are proposing to remove the Supplement from the Nunavut Child Benefit calculation.

We estimate that the additional costs associated with the Nunavut Child Benefit will be roughly \$2.3 million. If passed, the amendments would come into force on September 1, 2026, with payments applied retroactively to July 1, 2026, in alignment with the Canada Revenue Agency's administration schedule.

This concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Main. Does the chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Kablutsiak.

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** Thank you, Chair. As chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*

The standing committee recognizes the overall purpose of the Bill, which the minister described in his opening comments.

The standing committee supports the increase in benefits, and encourages the department to review the amount on an annual basis. The standing committee also encourages the Department of Finance to work closely with the Department of Family Services, the Department of Justice, and other partners on an ongoing basis to ensure that government initiatives to reduce poverty through such mechanisms as income assistance rates and minimum wage rates are undertaken on a complementary basis.

This concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Seeing none. Mr. Mike, is that a question? Go ahead.

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the minister. The Child Tax Benefit is an area I have a question.

I have no problem with the increase for families. What I am asking about is when was the last significant increase to this increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The increases that have happened in the past have been around inflationary triggers. As I mentioned in the opening comments, there's a 3 per cent floor, and once inflation exceeds 3 per cent, then that triggers an increase in the benefit based on the formula.

So to our knowledge, this is the first time that a benefit increase of this magnitude has come through an intentional budgetary allocation and legislative modification.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mike:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Minister. The request and the change to the bill increases the amount. And now with the respective benefits out there, how much increase is that? Could you describe that, Minister? Thank you.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the question. The increase at this time, if you look at \$348 is paid out annually, and based on the increase, \$696 will be the annual benefit, then.

And we're following the Canada Revenue Agency. Through that the benefit would be received monthly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you. Great. And we know they need the benefits the most. Hope they're listening.

The last question I have is concerning the Bill to amend the act: You did state in your opening address that the act will be in force on September 1, 2026; however, you mention retroactive to July 1, 2026. It doesn't start July 1, but it starts in September 1. For the benefit of the public, could you perhaps clarify a little further why that is? Thank you.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The way the bill is written, it is proposed to come into force on July 1, but as I mentioned earlier, the payments flow to Nunavut families that qualify; they flow through the Canada Revenue Agency's system. So the Department of Finance working with Canada Revenue Agency have determined that the earliest payments, the increased payments, would become part of the system is in September. So there will be a bit of a delay.

But the good news is, if the bill is approved as proposed, there will be retroactive payments. So the benefit will actually start accruing, or going towards families in July, but they won't receive that first increase until September. I hope that's clear. If I've not been clear, I can try to explain better. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Main. I don't believe there are any other general comments from members.

Please go to Bill 4 in your legislation binder for clause-by-clause review of the actual bill itself.

Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*. Please go to page 1. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 3. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 4 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree that Bill 4 can be placed on the *Orders of the Day* for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to thank the minister and his officials. Minister Main, do you have brief closing comments?

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members. Thank you for the support for this bill. We thank you. We say thank you very much.

All this work is on behalf of the children who really need help. Poverty and lack of food is a big problem, and it really affects the small children, and it affects them in a bad way. And we have understood that and we all know that. So even if we increase it by a little bit, it's going to help, and we're really happy about that. The children in Nunavut that need help is what it's about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Main. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials at the witness table.

>>*Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you, Members. We're going to take a brief break to switch out witnesses for the first bill. I would ask members to remain in your chair. Thank you.

>>*Committee adjourned at 16:07 and resumed at 16:08*

**Chairman:** I would like to ask Minister Hickee, do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee?

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

### **Bill 3 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. 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. Chairman. To my left, your right, I have Director of Legislation Thomas Ahlfors; and to my right, your left, the Director of Policy with the Department of Justice, Stephen Shaddock.

Mr. Chairman, I'm here today to discuss Bill 3, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*.

The Government of Nunavut uses miscellaneous statutes amendment legislation to correct minor errors, inconsistencies, or outdated terminology in Nunavut's statutes to clean them up and make technical improvements.

Bill 3 amends 24 statutes. This bill replaces Latin terms with plain language equivalents, making legislation more transparent and easier for the public to understand. By removing technical and archaic legal jargon, the bill enhances accessibility, making legislation easier to understand and be translated.

In addition to modernizing legal language, the Bill allows for electronically published codes and standards to be incorporated by reference. The revised wording recognizes modern practices to publish these types of documents online, rather than providing printed versions.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairman and Members, the bill addresses minor errors and technical issues discovered through standard reviews of Nunavut's statute book. By refining the wording and correcting these issues the bill enhances the clarity, accuracy, and consistency of Nunavut's laws.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Does the chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Kablutsiak.

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** Thank you, Chair. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 3, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*.

The standing committee recognizes the overall purpose of the Bill, which the minister described in his opening comments. This is a technical and non-contentious initiative.

With respect to the issue of incorporation by reference, the standing committee notes the importance of ensuring that such technical documents as codes and standards are reasonably accessible to the public. An example of such a document is the National Building Code of Canada, which has been adopted by reference in the *Building Code Regulations* made under the authority of the territorial *Building Code Act*.

This concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Seeing none, please go to Bill 3 in your legislation binder for a clause-by-clause review with the actual bill itself.

Bill 3, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*. Please go to page 1. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 5. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 8. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 9. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 10. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 11. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 12. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 13. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 14. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 15. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 16. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 17. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 18. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 19. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 20. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 21. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 22. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 23. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 24. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you, members, for the head nodding and the eyes moving, and for allowing us to agree to all of these. Do members agree to Bill 3 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree that Bill 3 can be placed on the *Orders of the Day* for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to thank the ministers and his officials. Minister Hickee, do you have brief closing comments?

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the members of the Committee of the Whole to support this. I know it seems just a minor housekeeping, but it does assist the government in maintaining our operations and make sure that we're following legislation and that our legislation is easily understandable.

You can imagine the time and effort that goes in with Mr. Ahlfors and his team to go over legislation on a repetitive basis, and to determine when and if to bring forward these minor adjustments, and I just appreciate the committee's support. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials at the witness table. 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:** There's a motion on the floor to report progress, so I'll now rise. Thank you. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Thank you.

>>*Committee adjourned at 16:16 and House resumed at 16:16*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please be seated. *Orders of the Day*. Number 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 Bills 2, 3 and 4 and would like to report that Bills 2, 3 and 4 are immediately ready for third reading.

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

**Speaker:** There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Kuliktana. To the motion, all those in favour? Opposed? Motion carried.

*Orders of the Day*. Number 21, Third Reading of Bills. I recognize the Minister of Finance, Mr. Main.

### Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

#### Bill 2 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2026 2027 – Third Reading

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2026-2027* be read for the third time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): To the motion. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion carried, and the bill is now ready for assent.

*Orders of the Day.* Number 21, Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Mr. Hickes.

#### Bill 3 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – Third Reading

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that Bill 3, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? Motion is carried. And the bill is now ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Main.

#### Bill 4 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Third Reading

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, that Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, be read for the third time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): To the motion. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried, and the bill is now ready for assent, Bill 4.

At this time, Deputy Clerk, Ms. Bens, can you check to see if the acting commissioner is ready to come into the House to do assent.

### Assent to Bills

**Commissioner Phillip:** Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be seated. As Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following bills:

Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027*;

Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2026-2027*;

Bill 3, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*; and

Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to former Commissioner Aariak for her service to our territory and people.

This will be my final remark. As summer approaches, and it is coming for sure, because there are bugs out now, we look forward to spending time on the land and water in the manner of our ancestors. We will be boating and ATVing on the land.

I would like to thank all of you. You are tireless in your work. And the premier smiles nicely and answers the questions, and we see him in a peaceful manner. And it's really good to see you all talking, because I always watch you on TV. I'm able to do that, watch television and listen to you with my ears. I thank you very much for that.

As you prepare to return to your communities and families, I wish you safe travels, and we will pray for you, and I hope you have a very good summer. And I am done. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please be seated. To the *Orders of the Day*. Before we adjourn, I wish to make a statement. Item number 22, *Orders of the Day*.

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

**Mr. Clerk** (interpretation): Thank you. *Orders of the Day* for October 22:

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's Statement**

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Clerk. Before we adjourn, I wish to make a statement. I am pleased to announce that the by-election for the constituency of Hudson Bay will be held on Monday, September 28, 2026. The appropriate notices concerning the date will be published in due course, and the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer will be publishing information in coming weeks for the benefit of residents of Sanikiluaq. We look forward to welcoming the new member to the House for our fall sitting.

Otherwise, I am pleased to take this opportunity to thank our pages for their service during the whole spring sitting. Our pages, they are always serving us, and I would like to thank them. I will recognize them by name:

First one, from Peter Pitseolak School in Kinngait: Clyde Eetuk and Catharine Pudlat. I also thank the staff from the school, Kathy Sharkey and Peter Wiggins. We thank you.

And from Inukshuk High School in Iqaluit, I would like to thank Amaija Healey Akearok, Natalie Akwok, Anabelle Akpaliak, Katya Brown, Brianna Gunu, and Kenneth Mathewsie. I also thank their guidance counsellor, Cheryl O'Keefe.

And as members are aware, the Office of the Governor General of Canada has awarded a number of King Charles III Coronation Medals to Canadians from coast to coast to coast. A number of Nunavummiut have received these awards, and we congratulate each and every one of them.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize three recipients of the Coronation Medals, who are no stranger to this House: Betty Novalinga Brewster, Ms. Mary Nashook, and Ms. Blandina Tulugarjuk. We are very proud of them.

As members know, these veteran interpreter-translators have made significant contributions to Nunavut's institutions, including the Legislative Assembly.

Please join me in congratulating them, and please join me in expressing our appreciation to all of our hard-working interpreters who ensure that Nunavummiut understand the words that we speak in this House. We are proud of them, Ms. Blandina, Ms. Nashook, and Ms. Brewster.

*>>Applause*

And as the Commissioner stated, I will support that during this summer, as you are travelling back to your communities, we hope you have a very safe travel and summer with all your families, and we will see each other in October for the sitting.

So with that, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House adjourned at 16:33*

