NUNAVUT HANSARD

UNEDITED TRANCRIPT

OCTOBER 26, 2026

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker
Hon. David Joanasie

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok
(Iqaluit Manirajak)
Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Iqaluit-Niaqqunnguu)
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 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)

Jason Iqaluq
(Hudson Bay)

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Hon. Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)
Minister of Comm unity Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation; Minister responsible for Mines; Minister responsible for Trade

Hon. Annie Tattuinee
(Rankin Inlet South)
Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

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(Quttiktuq)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
October 26, 2026

Members Present:

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok, Hon. David Akeeagok, Ms. Hanna Angootealuk, Mr. Edward Attagutaluk, Hon. Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. Jason Iqaluq, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Jamie Kablutsiak, Mr. Gordon Kautuk, Hon. Brian Koonoo, Mr. Simon Kuliktana, Hon. Cecile Nelvana Lyal, Mr. Johnny Mike, Mr. Fred Pedersen, Mr. David Porter, Hon. Craig Simailak, Mr. Steven Taqtu, Hon. Annie Tattuinee

>> *House Commenced at 13:32.*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akeeagok, I ask that you lead us in prayer.

>>*Prayer*.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, and good afternoon members, people of Nunavut and visitors in the gallery. Please welcome to our proceeding. Item number 2, Ministers' Statements. Government House Leader, Mr. Akeeagok

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 98-7(2): Minister Absent from the House

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise members that the Hon. John Main will be absent from the House today to attend the First Nations-First Ministers' meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Minister's Statement 99-7(2): Minister's Youth Action Team

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share an exciting and meaningful investment into the future of the territory: the launch of the Minister's Youth Action Team. This pilot program is designed to invest directly in Nunavut's young people, offering them a practical learning, mentorship, and cultural and land-based experience. It meets young people at a formative

time in their lives, helping them discover their potential and abilities while guiding them towards new and exciting pathways.

This initiative is more than traditional programming. It changes how the government listens. Built on a principle of true reciprocity, participating youth will receive compensation, safe support, and the opportunity to provide structured advice on the policies and decisions that affect them.

This engagement is grounded in community strengths and shared experiences, and wellness and safety, ensuring youth are heard and respected without ever having to disclose trauma.

The Minister's Youth Action Team is an 18-month pilot program that will help us carefully test this model as we consider the possibility of a territorial youth initiative. By tracking participation, skill-building, career pathways, and cultural relevance, we will gather clear evidence of what works best for our youth.

Bringing this exciting program to life is a valuable investment and a commitment to our communities, as our young people are our greatest strength and our brightest future.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to welcoming the first members of the Minister's Youth Action Team and seeing where their skills, hard work, and determination will lead them. Details on how to apply will be available soon.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Mr. Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 100-7(2): Pangniq High School Opening

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 16th, I had the opportunity to attend the grand opening of our territory's newest school; Pangniq High School in Taloyoak.

It was an honour to celebrate the new school with the community, including my colleagues Premier Main, Deputy Premier Hickes, Minister Healey- Akearok, Minister Tattuinee, and Minister Lyall the Honourable Member from Netsilik, and the Taloyoak District Education Authority, the deputy mayor and council members, and school staff and students.

Mr. Speaker, the new school has a capacity for 198 students, 25 staff and a daycare space that can hold 25 children and staff. With a large gym, a stage, and state of the art smart technology in all classrooms, the school will serve not just the students and staff, but the whole community.

Mr. Speaker, construction began on the new school back in fall of 2023, and I am pleased to share that there was approximately 55% Inuit labour used in the construction project.

The design of the school, including the blue and green colours and the name, meaning bull caribou, were chosen with extensive input and consultation from the community.

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful for the years of work that went into its design and construction, and we are hopeful that this new school will have a positive impact on students and the community for many years to come.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Minister's Statement 101-7(2): Second Annual Article 23 Conference; Strong Foundations, Strong Future

Hon. Annie Tattuinee (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the second annual Article 23 Conference, hosted by the Government of Nunavut in Iqaluit from October 6 to 8.

I was pleased to deliver the opening remarks and welcome approximately 91 participants in person and 31 virtual participants. The conference brought together our partners from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Canada, along with educators, program leaders and others working to advance Inuit employment.

The theme was *Strong Foundations, Strong Futures.* It reflects a simple truth: building a representative public service begins well before someone applies for a government job. People need opportunities to learn, develop skills where they can grow and see paths toward a rewarding career.

Mr. Speaker, Article 23 of the Nunavut Agreement calls for Inuit representation across occupations and at every level of the public service. It is about more than employment targets. It is about ensuring Inuit knowledge, talents and leadership help shape the government that serves Nunavummiut.

Over three days, participants explored student recruitment, retention, opportunities in the trades, and the practical supports needed to move from education and training to employment. A message heard throughout the conference was that opportunities must be accessible and lead to lasting careers.

Mr. Speaker, I was encouraged by the enthusiasm and commitment of those who came together. The number of participants in this conference shows how many people across Nunavut want to contribute to this important work.

As Minister of Human Resources, thank you to our partners, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Government of Canada, our presenters and everyone who shared their knowledge and ideas. The discussions that took place will guide our continued efforts to help more Inuit enter, grow and lead within the public service.

Mr. Speaker, our goal is a future where Inuit see themselves reflected not only in today's workforce, but in tomorrow's leaders.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 102-7(2): Announcement of the 2026 Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier and Noah Paniyuk Scholarship Winners

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

Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to highlight the exceptional talent and determination of Qulliq Energy Corporation's 2026 recipients of the Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship and the Noah Paniyuk Scholarship.

This year's Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship winners exemplify leadership, perseverance, and the ability to excel in multiple areas. In the engineering category, Lana Lindell of Rankin Inlet is pursuing a Bachelor of Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. Ms. Lindell is working toward becoming a professional engineer with plans to return to Nunavut to address community housing and infrastructure challenges.

In the general post-secondary category, Alayna Ningeongan of Rankin Inlet is well on her way to completing a Master of Governance and Entrepreneurship in Northern and Indigenous Areas through the University of Saskatchewan and the Arctic University of

Norway. Her studies focus on sport and recreation governance, and she aspires to earn a doctorate and teach at the future Inuit Nunangat University.

Equally inspiring are the recipients of the Noah Paniyuk Scholarship. Haily Arnaqjuaq of Sanirajak is recognized for her exceptional academic persistence and work ethic. After completing Lakehead University's pre-trades program, she has been accepted into civil engineering and aims to support sustainable community infrastructure outside Nunavut's regional centres.

From Iqaluit, Aaron Lewis is pursuing environmental technology at Nunavut Arctic College. An active environmental leader, Inuksuk High School Green Club advocate, and Parks Canada Award recipient, Aaron aspires to contribute directly to territorial devolution and sustainable resource development.

Qulliq Energy Corporation is proud to invest in these students, whose dedication and achievements make them role models for the next generation of Nunavummiut. Congratulations to all.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): We congratulate them all. Item number 3, Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Kuliktana.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 114-7(2): Pay Tribute to Ernie Burnhardt

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise in the House to pay tribute to the late Mr. Ernie Bernhardt.

Mr. Bernhardt was a respected leader, mentor, advocate for our youth, and his passion for Inuit games. Throughout his career and life, he worked hard to ensure that Inuit traditions were passed on to our younger generations, recognizing the importance of identity, culture and resilience. His commitment to recreation and cultural initiatives did not go unnoticed.

Mr. Bernhardt was also deeply involved in community politics, serving as counsellor and mayor for Kugluktuk, and elected to the NWT Legislative Assembly representing the Kitikmeot region in 1991. His work reflected strong commitment to public service, community well-being and the people of Kitikmeot region he served.

He was also known for his hands-on approach with youth, actively coaching and mentoring them through traditional Inuit games, and helping to keep this practice alive in communities across the north.

His contributions included serving as coordinator for the Northern Games Association in Inuvik and also the Kitikmeot region.

He also took part supporting cultural programming at the 1976 Montreal Summer Olympics and 1978 Commonwealth Games, and coordinating the first Inuit Circumpolar Games in Kugluktuk in 2003.

Mr. Bernhardt dedicated his life serving the northern communities and strengthening Inuit culture. I had the privilege of knowing him personally and witness firsthand his commitment to the North and the people.

On behalf of all the members of the Legislative Assembly and the territory, I extend my sincere condolences to his wife, Beatrice Bernhardt, and his children, and to many communities he served. His contribution will be remembered with respect and gratitude, and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations. So, I ask the House to celebrate his life with me.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): I thank you. And we're being mindful of the community members and his family. Member's statement. Pangnirtung MLA Mr. Mike.

Member's Statement 115-7(2): Nunavut Land Use Plan

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be talking about what is not new while we are under Members' Statements.

On October 2, I raised a question on the Nunavut Land Use Planning, and here in the Hansard it seems to give responses concerning Nunavut Land Use Plan by NPC and the recommendations being rejected.

Mr. Speaker, it may have a negative impact, and there seems to be a spirit of not following the Land Claims Agreement. Although direction is given quite clearly and the agreement being protected constitutionally upon the Premier coming back, I will raise the questions and I will outline them at this time.

Agreement article 11.5.6 have passed and the Land Use Plan was submitted with recommendations but rejected. 11.5.6 in the article on A states whether you approve the plan or, under B, return it back to NPC. It doesn't say rejection. It doesn't spell rejection. Take it back to NPC and make any amendments and clearly do so in written form addressed to Canadian government, Nunavut government and NTI.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my statements.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is asking unanimous consent to conclude his statements. Any nays? Hearing none. Mr. Mike, continue.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues.

With this being under negotiation before land claims is in our hearts, naturally Inuit approve the Land Claims Agreement. In the plan, this past spring, I did ask a question where the government position is and what course of action they will still take on 11.2.1 Inuit approved, the government approved, and it talks about a very important issue and I state it here:

B, 11.2.1B clearly states the importance of these, and protected and advanced what is already in place and what will be in place on lands and Inuit lands. This was never there under the government papers, and the response was limited.

You will want to give a full response. It will have to -- only by that route will this be approved. So these are the questions I will be asking the Premier once he returns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Gjoa Haven
MLA -- Cambridge Bay MLA, Mr. Pedersen.

Member’s Statement 116-7(2): Update on the Air Services in Cambridge Bay

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you to all and to residents of Cambridge Bay that are watching on TV or live streaming over the internet.

Today I'll be looking for an update from the Minister of Transportation regarding air services at the Cambridge Bay airport. We all know that our airports are the only way in and out of our communities and for this reason we need to have the best in services, lighting and landing systems.

Extending and paving the runway is an important initiative that the municipality is pursuing and the community wants to see it realized sooner rather than later.

We need to ensure that this project is part of Cambridge Bay being selected as an operational node for the military. This way most of the capital funding will come from the federal government and not from the limited resources of this government.

By paving the runway, our community would see a reduction of 20 percent in freight costs. That's an instant savings of 20 percent to all residents on goods that are flown in.

This statement was made by an air cargo service provider at the recent House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs hearing that was held in Ottawa late in September.

I'll be looking forward to hearing what the Minister has to update us regarding this topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (No interpretation).

Member's Statement 117-7(2): Agnico Eagle Youth Initiative

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I received a letter from Pujjuut Kusugak, who is the director of Nunavut Affairs for Agnico Eagle Mines Limited which can benefit students:

> "I am reaching out to share information Agnico Eagle's new Generations Rising Indigenous Scholarship and Mentorship Program, an initiative designed to support Indigenous students in pursuing post-secondary education while providing access to mentorship opportunities from professionals across our organization. Through this program, eligible Indigenous students may receive financial support for their studies, along with guidance and mentorship to help them achieve their commitment and career goals. The program reflects Agnico Eagle's commitment to supporting Indigenous education, capacity building and the next generation of leaders within the communities where we operate. We believe this opportunity may be of interest to students, families and community members within your network. We would greatly appreciate your support in helping us share information about the program through your communication channels, whether through newsletters, social media, community bulletin boards, websites or direct outreach."

If anyone wants more information, you can contact pujutt.kusuvac@agnicoeagle.com.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I do have a name, but a reminder to everyone the Amittuq MLA Qammaniq have not arrived yet. Tomorrow afternoon, if the flight is not delayed, he will be sitting here. Members' Statements. Netsilik MLA, Ms. Lyall.

Member's Statement 118-7(2): Pangniq School Opening in Taloyoak

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I was proud to be home in Taloyoak for the Pangniq High School's grand opening. So many students, school staff and community members came together to celebrate this important milestone, and a world of possibilities it brings to our youth in Taloyoak.

I was pleased to join Premier Main and several colleagues from this House for the celebration, and I thank Minister Akeeagok for the invitation for us to share in this special day.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize our District Education Authority and the former Netsilik MLAs for their advocacy in helping the school become a reality.

My thanks also go out to the Department of Education staff who worked to bring this project to completion, and the community members and hamlet counselors who shared their ideas and helped shape its design. Their contributions helped create a school that reflects our community and our student needs.

Mr. Speaker, this school gives our students more space to learn and build skills, while also staying connected to our culture.

The modern home economics and shop spaces offer opportunities to learn about traditional food preparation and tool making, alongside skills for work and future careers.

With support from families and our community, these experiences will help students follow a path that they choose after completing high school.

I also want to thank the teachers, administrators and staff at Pangniq and Netsilik School for the care and encouragement they give our students everyday.

Mr. Speaker, it was a proud day for Taloyoak. Our students' ideas, talents and voices matter, and I look forward to seeing what they accomplish in their new school.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the community and wishing our students every success. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: (No interpretation).

Member's Statement 119-7(2): Remembering Louise Maliki

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Often women are forgotten when they pass away. I would like to remember my friend Louise Malliki from Naujaat, Repulse Bay. I just heard it recently and I didn't want to announce it too early.

She's a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, and cared for her in-law for a very long time.

She became a very good friend of mine when we went to play games in Naujaat in the late '70s, early '80s for Inuit summer games. I will always remember her and I think of her family, Solomon, Paul, Jessie and all her children. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): We send our condolences to the family. I know they will be missing a big part of their family, but through compassion they can remain up.

Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Member's Statement 120-7(2): Celebration of Life for Joanasie Eegeesiak

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

Over the past several months, our community has been through a great deal. We faced tragedies that have touched many families, and we've said good-bye to cherished community members, Elders, parents, friends and neighbours who gave so much to the people around them. Including this afternoon, Iqalummiut are gathering in a celebration of life for one of my old school friends and co-workers. My thoughts are with the family and with everyone attending today.

In the wake of these losses, their absence is felt in our homes, our workplaces and across our community. To every family who is grieving, please know you're not alone.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage everyone to check in on a neighbour and let people know they're not forgotten. Small acts of kindness matter more than we often realize, and together they are how a community heals.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Koonoo.

Member's Statement 121-7(2): Flooding in Pond Inlet

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon people of Pond Inlet.

I would like to inform people that last month in the middle of September we had a lot of rain, and because of all the rain, all the rivers were overflowing and the bridges, most of the bridges were destroyed.

I would like to thank the hamlet who did a lot of good work, and they were able to fix everything in a day -- well, after two days. And other bridge at Qiallukkanit and Akuani were also destroyed and are not useable, and then after two days they were fixed. So I would like to thank the hamlet for doing a very good job.

As the climate changes, these things are going to become more or happen more and more, so it's important to have good planning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Mr. Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 122-7(2): Hunters and Trappers in Iqaluit

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On October 17, the Hunters and Trappers Organization had their annual general meeting, and it was a huge turnout, and I was very happy that they all spoke Inuktitut. All the questioners and board members all spoke Inuktitut, and there was no English spoken during the whole general meeting, and I really liked that.

They did all sorts of things and reported on all the things that they do. The Iqaluit Hunters and Trappers Organization doesn't just sit around; they do a lot of things.

And also there was some good news about polar bears and a new boat 28-feet long is going to be coming in on the next sealift for the HTO, and it will help the community, the whole community, and it's going to be called *Tasiujaq*.

And in Apex, they're starting to do some planning on marine infrastructure for Apex, so I would like to thank Italoo for his non-stop speaking about all the things that we need to know to keep safe, and I'm really glad that the port will be worked on.

And the HTO is even able to access different funding, and also for their shrimp and halibut fisheries. And they explain about all the different things that they do.

And this year it was great that we were able to eat cooked caribou meat, and it seems like that hasn't happened in a very long time in the Baffin, especially in Iqaluit. We were able to eat some caribou. And we were told that 33 caribou have been harvested today and they still have 1,500 to go.

And the chairman, Jimmy Akavak, was reelected to be chairman, and Dino Tikavik (ph) and Jeetaloo Kakee back on the board.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 123-7(2): Fall Hunting Safety (Simailak)

Hon. Craig Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon all, and to the people of Baker Lake, good afternoon.

Just a quick message to my constituents back home in Baker Lake. It's fall season, as we all know, and all the caribou are migrating again. It's a wonderful time to be out there on the land hunting and providing food for family and friends and the community members.

But please remember, tell someone where you are headed, how long you will be gone for, and if possible, please sign out a spot device. Qamani'tuaq Search and Rescue has a number of spot devices that were given to them to borrow by hunters just to help track you down. If you get lost or stranded you can press the button and ask for assistance. Bring extra clothes, extra caribou skin just to lay on if you get stranded, or a tarp. Please always err on the side of caution. Please get back home safely. Just a quick reminder to my constituents.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That's a good reminder. Members' Statements. I have no more names. We will proceed to agenda item number 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Brewster.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 131-7(2): Health Infrastructure and Facilities (Brewster)

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide a response to a question I received on October 22, 2026, regarding the Ottawa Boarding Home.

On September 24, 2026, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure issued a cancellation notice related to the Request for Proposal for the operations of the Ottawa Boarding Home. I am unable to share details regarding the cancellation notice due to the confidential nature of ongoing contract negotiation discussions.

The Department of Health and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure are working to republish another request for proposal with amended parameters.

The Department of Health currently has a contract with Larga Baffin for the provision of boarding home services in Ottawa, which remains in effect until March 31, 2028.

At this time, there is no anticipated disruption to services or risk to clients travelling to Ottawa for medical appointments.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Craig Simailak: I would like to recognize a number of people that are in the House this afternoon. They are the board members for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation.

They were holding professional development sessions here in Iqaluit for the first two days, and then followed by a couple days of separate board of directors' meetings for their prospective boards.

When I say mention your name, if you can please stand up. From the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation: Tracy Wallace.

>>*Applause*.

Bill Williams.

>>*Applause*.

Russell Akeeagok.

>>*Applause*.

Lynn Mike.

>>*Applause*.

And Peter Ma, the chief executive officer.

>>*Applause*.

And from the Nunavut Development Corporation, Igan Hainnu.

>>*Applause*.

Darlene Hokanak, Sakiasie Sowdlooapik, Methusalah Kunuk. Chief Executive Officer, Kyle Tattuinie.

>>*Applause*.

and Abraham Saboleh, Chief Financial Officer.

These two boards do a number of work trying to help with economic development for businesses in Nunavut, and we appreciate all the work they do on behalf of Nunavummiut. Please help me welcome them all back to their House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Please feel welcome in the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member from Kugluktuk, Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today I would like to recognize a couple of constituents from Kugluktuk, Darlene Okonoak (ph) and Russell Akeeagok for their contributions that they are making for our

community and for our territory. But also I would like to recognize a former Kugluktuk resident who resides now in Iqaluit, Bill Williams. Welcome to your house.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Mike: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize many people, but I won't say all your names. I apologize.

I would like to recognize people from my community, Sakiasie Sowdlooapik, and my niece, Lynn Mike.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please welcome. All Nunavummiut are welcome to come to our sessions. Even during non-session days, you're welcome to visit here.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok: I rise to recognize today one of my constituents, Mr. Peter Ma, who is no stranger to this House, having previously served in Deputy Minister positions and executive leadership roles. We're grateful that he's continuing to serve as the CEO of Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, and I'm happy to see other Iqalummiut here. Welcome to your House. And to all our guests, welcome to your House.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors. Member for Rankin South, Ms. Tattuinee.

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

I haven't seen that person for a long time. I'm really happy to see my son, Kyle Tattuine. I know we live together in Rankin Inlet, but we hardly ever see each other in Iqaluit, and I would like to recognize him and say thank you to him because he always supports me. I'm happy that you're here. Please feel welcome to the Nunavut Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's great when our family comes here and from all the way from Kugluktuk. I'm really glad that person is in the House. My nephew, Russell Akeeagok, I would like to welcome him, and our Elder and our preacher or minister and good friend, Methusalah Kunuk is here too. I'm very glad to see him here and glad to see all of the people here, and I would like to welcome all of them.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, Mr. Akeeagok and Mr. Akeeagok to the Legislative Assembly. We recognize you.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluktuuttiaq, Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today I would like to recognize my son, Aaron Pedersen. Welcome to the House. He's here in Iqaluit having meetings in his new role as COO of Igluvut Corporation, so I'm very proud of that, and he just started that new job. So, welcome to your house, Aaron.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Pedersen II.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Kautuk.

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

I too would like to recognize Igan Hainnu. Welcome. She's from my community. She's always there to support our fellow people in our community, and I'm very happy about that.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome, Ms. Hainnu, to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Item number 6, Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Kuliktana.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 49-7(2): Seasonal Time Changes

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Justice and the concern issue of seasonal time change in Nunavut.

As the Minister will be aware, the Iqaluit city council will be meeting tomorrow evening.

Information published by the city indicates that one of the council's agenda items is correspondence that the Minister recently sent on the issue of seasonal time change.

Can the Minister confirm that his letter was also sent to the mayors of all Kitikmeot communities, and will he commit to formally tabling a copy of his letter in the House before the end of our Fall Sitting so that all members of the Legislative Assembly can be familiar with its contents?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, that letter correspondence was sent to all mayors and senior administrative officers for all the communities across the territory.

With regards to tabling the letter, Mr. Speaker, I can provide a copy to the Committee, to the Regular Members' Caucus, and if they have any further questions, they can approach me on it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response.

As we all know, Nunavut is the largest territory in the country and represents 1/5th of Canada's land mass, with a total of three different time zones.

I do recognize that there are complexities in employment in the move away from seasonal time change.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister's recent correspondence indicates that, “while aligning our time zone for key southern hubs is a priority, it is equally important that we do so in a way that minimizes disruptions and technical problems.”

Can the Minister confirm what feedback the government has received from the airlines concerning the implementation of this decision?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the only communication I recall reading recently directly from the airlines was to recognize the need to do this in a coordinated fashion, where we can't be working piecemeal or ad hoc. We want to make sure that we're establishing a clean, I guess experience.

We want to make sure that as we recognize that we won't be changing the clocks going forward; I don't anticipate getting much pushback on that from any of the early indications from any of the feedback I've been getting.

I think most of us want to discontinue that use of changing the clocks every spring and every fall, so just to make sure that we do it in a way that provides as seamless as possible across all three regions.

One of the challenging factors, I'm sure as the member can recognize, is some of our neighbouring jurisdictions has announced their changes; other jurisdictions have not made announcements that they're going to be recognizing the standard daylight savings time, so it adds some level of complexity. And as the member mentioned, with three different time zones, it adds even an additional layer of complexity. So I hope that answers the members question. Thank you.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Minister's recent correspondence also indicates that “We emphasize the need of our governments to take a coordinated approach and caution against independent steps related to time change locally.”

Can the Minister clarify what concerns he has in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First and foremost, our technological ability to be able to meet individual communities' requests be exempt from the daylight savings time.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's very important to make sure that we do coordinate properly across the board to lessen any potential impact. And as far as direct community, the member's neighbour to his left has a community in her jurisdiction that doesn't change the clocks, and I've been at that airport in Rankin Inlet and people missing flights and trying to juggle what time zone that they are going into or coming out of.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it just adds even more credence to why we have to do this in a very precise way to make sure that we're not creating additional, potentially unforeseen burdens.

When you land in a community in a certain time zone, we notice the changes on our phone automatically. And it may seem like a very simple process, but to make sure that that's coordinated across the territory all at the same time, or at least by region depending upon how neighbouring jurisdictions do it and how we finalize our roll-out of this process, I think it's very important that it's done in a very coordinated, organized fashion. I can't emphasize that enough.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Ms. Angootealuk.

Oral Question 150-7(2): Airport Infrastructure

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

My question today is for the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure concerning the three airports in Naujaat, Coral Harbour and Rankin Inlet.

As the Minister will recall, he made a statement in the Legislative Assembly in June of this year concerning the runway at the Naujaat airport.

His statement indicated that "At present, Naujaat's 3,400 foot runway is the shortest in the Kivalliq region, which imposes real construct on the air carrier service into the community. In 2026 we will begin work on the design of a 600-foot extension to Naujaat's runway.

Can the Minister provide an update today on the status of this work? (interpretation).

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member raising this.

I think it's very important to recognize that a runway is to maintain safe and reliable use across our territories. As it was mentioned earlier, the runways and airports in our communities are our lifeline to everywhere else in the world.

Mr. Speaker, as I've stated previously and as I'll state again, the runway length in Naujaat is of concern and it's been on discussions for a number of years.

Currently we are looking at planning and design with an engineering firm to develop some detailed design and refine some of the cost estimates so that we can go forward with submitting to either different federal funding partners or recognizing internal budget allocations, opportunities as well.

We want to make sure, obviously, that it's done properly. And the length of the runway we're looking at right now, it was determined that a 4,000-foot runway would be ideal for the community. So we're going to continue on with our planning and design work and hopefully be able to come forward with a proposal package that will be supported through our funding partners.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

As the Minister will recall, the *Nunavut Airport 20-Year Capital Needs Assessment Update* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 10, 2023.

There is a need for improvement fencing at Coral Harbour airport. This is important for the safety of residents, especially children.

Can the Minister indicate if his department is planning to provide funding for improvement fencing at the Coral Harbour airport?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (No interpretation).

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have that level of detail in front of me. I know we provided proposals for a number of different air side infrastructure with regards to fencing, and just off the top of my head, Mr. Speaker, I apologize I don't recall if Coral Harbour was included in that list. But I will confirm and respond to the member outside the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

As the Minister is aware, residents of Coral Harbour, Naujaat and other Kivalliq communities often go through the Rankin Inlet airport while they are on the medical travel.

Many Kivalliq members of the Legislative Assembly have spoken about situations where medical travellers, including Elders, spend many hours in the airport while experiencing delays due to weather and other reasons.

It is important that the new airport terminal building includes design features to make life easier for Elders and medical travellers.

Can the Minister describe some of the new airport terminal buildings improvement?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who has travelled through Rankin Inlet in recent months has I'm sure appreciated the phase 1 of the terminal being completed, as I made a statement earlier today and had some of my colleagues be able to attend with me to that formal opening.

But when it opened in the third week of June, we were very excited to start progress on phase 2 I think which is a very -- just as important, if not more important, to give access to more seating, more infrastructure inside, to meet exactly what the member is talking about.

There will be space for over 200 more seats in there, with a dedicated room for Elders. I know it's a very small one that's existing in the old terminal, so we really looked at ramping that up -- no pun intended -- to really provide a more comfortable space for our Elders to relax or to wait for the next flight.

In addition to that, for the youth we're putting like a play structure inside that young children can play on to help pass the time too.

So I'm very excited about phase 2, and I know they started construction on that literally the day after, within a couple of days of the phase 1 opening. So I'm very excited to see how fast it's progressing. They have the foundation in now, and hopefully they will get it framed up in time for the season so work can continue on schedule.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 151-7(2): Airport Paving for Cambridge Bay

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My first question to the Minister regarding the Cambridge Bay Airport is, can he provide us an update on his discussions with the federal government regarding what is being included in the operational node project?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I can say yes, we have been in discussions with different representatives from the Department of National Defence on with the announcement of Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet being included with those announcements that my initial -- as we had already started work on some of the planning for a runway paving and extension project in Cambridge Bay.

As the member very rightly stated in his statement earlier today on how efficient -- how much added efficiency paving and extending that runway in Cambridge Bay will achieve, not just in cost savings to our communities and to our members, but also from a safety factor as well too of less flights having to come into the community with smaller planes. It just adds to another level of efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I wish I had an announcement to be able to make today, but I am very positively encouraged by some of the initial discussions we've had at my official level, as well as at the political level, on the desire to move that project further. So I'm very encouraged by where we are today. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Pedersen.

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

It's the most he's been able to give so far when I've been asking him questions on this since I've been elected, so thank you.

As I mentioned in my member's statement, an airline representative made a comment at a hearing in Ottawa last month. So I'm going to quote from Mikey McBryan of Buffalo Airways in response to a question on investing in airports and pavement that was asked by our member of parliament, Ms. Lori Idlout.

He replied, "Yes, it's simple. Paving the runway in Cambridge Bay would instantaneously bring the cost of living down the next day."

He also said, "Because it has a gravel strip, it really limits the types of airplanes that can land there. I'm the one who shouldn't talk about it, because we land on gravel all the time. We invested heavily in a Boeing 737 300 series. It's a more economical freighting aircraft. It can haul 10,000 pounds more and burn 25 percent less fuel. We would be flying that to Cambridge Bay twice per week."

His final remark to that question was, "If you could snap your fingers and pave Cambridge Bay, that area would have 20 percent savings instantaneously. I don't care if it's military funding, if it's private funding or if it's government funding. Pave it. It will make a difference. It will make everything better."

I agree with Mr. McBryan's response. Does the Minister agree with it as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Although I will put a disclaimer, I can't substantiate the numbers Mr. McBryan quoted, it's obvious the efficiencies that would be achieved through paving and bringing in an appropriate runway for Cambridge Bay. It's a no-brainer. Thank you.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Depending on what the operational node project includes, or maybe what it does not include, my final question to the Minister regarding this -- and I realize that at this time we don't know what will be included and what won't be -- but will he be supportive of the allocation of Government of Nunavut funds to ensure extending and paving the Cambridge Bay runway happens as a part of the operational noticed project?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The member can be rest assured I'm going to be everything I can to make sure that this project is included with funding from the Department of National Defence and other federal partners.

The more opportunities we have to create these partnerships and leverage our own dollars that we appropriate here in this House to achieve larger scale projects, I'm going to do it every opportunity I get. And Cambridge Bay, as I've mentioned to the member, is right at one of the very forefront of the top of my list.

We had already started the planning on it, so the opportune time is now to provide this proposal to the federal government. And like I mentioned earlier, I am very happy with the way the discussions are progressing, and I do hope that there will be some announcements in the coming months, if not weeks.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Following my list of names, member for Aggu, Mr. Attagutaluk.

Oral Question 152-7(2): Insurance for Municipal Infrastructure

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

I will be asking my questions (interpretation ends) today for the Minister of Community Services.

I want to revisit some issues that I raised earlier this year during our winter and spring sittings concerning fires and insurance for municipal infrastructure.

As the Minister is aware, a number of communities in Nunavut have lost important buildings due to fire in recent years.

he loss of Kipsigak Arena has been felt throughout the community of Igloolik.

Mr. Speaker, the fire occurred in February of 2025.

It is now October of 2026.

When I asked the Minister during our Spring Sitting for an update on the status of the Office of the Fire Marshall's investigation into the Kipsigak Arena fire, he indicated that it was still “doing some reviews.”

Can the Minister indicate today if the investigation has been completed?

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 the Kipsigak Arena fire that happened in Igloolik, unfortunately.

According to my latest speaking points information that I have, the Office of the Fire Marshall's investigation is ongoing, and a definitive timeline for the final report is not yet available.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplemental question, Mr. Attagutaluk.

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As the Minister is aware, his department's 2025-2030 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to “complete an actual governance and compliance review of the Nunavut community insurance program to establish a baseline for financial sustainability, risk management and overall program structure.”

As the Minister will recall, the government re-issued a Request for Proposal in December of last year for an actuarial and compliance review of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities Insurance Exchange which is commonly referred to as NAMIX.

Mr. Speaker, information published by the government indicated that the request for proposals closed at the end of January of this year.

Can the Minister provide an update today on the status of the review of the NAMIX program?

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 the review.

The department did receive the report and it's currently going through the report to review it. So it's in the review process currently.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: So they're reviewing the review. (interpretation) Mr. Attagutaluk, second and final supplementary question.

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As the Minister will recall, the Legislative Assembly approved $10 million in supplementary funding during its recent Winter Sitting for the NAMIX program.

Can the Minister indicate if any additional requests for supplementary funding will be required to keep the program operational?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Regarding anymore supplementary appropriations that may be requested, Community Services is working closely with Nunavut Association of Municipalities regarding the NAMIX program.

We're looking at what projections are coming up regarding the insurance programs, not just in Nunavut. It happens across the country what happens in other jurisdiction does have an effect on Nunavut: forest fires, floods. It's not only Pond Inlet, but it happens right across the country.

Those kind of things do have an effect with insurance right across the country. And currently we're looking at doing a study or keeping a tab on it and seeing if we need to ask for another supplementary appropriation or not.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kautuk.

Oral Question 153-7(2): Court Services in Nunavut

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

(no interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I understand and recognize that the Minister of Justice does not personally get involved with the operations of the court, legal proceedings or trials.

Mr. Speaker, a number of constituents have raised concerns with me regarding the length of time it takes for a matter to proceed to trial.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that justice cannot be rushed. However, long delays can have negative impact on offenders, victims and their families.

Can the Minister indicate how his department is working with key stakeholders such as the Public Prosecution Service of Canada and the Legal Services Board to address court backlogs and reduce the length of time individuals must wait for their cases to proceed to trial?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member bringing forward the concerns from his community members.

And, Mr. Speaker, I know the Nunavut courts does work very diligently with their scheduling of the judges. Right now we've got six resident judges with one vacant position, and approximately 50 deputy judges from across Canada in our pool.

Mr. Speaker, I know when we look at scheduling court services in the communities, there's 84 sitting days in the Kitikmeot, 146 sitting days in the Kivalliq, and 227 days are committed to in the Qikiqtaaluk.

Mr. Speaker, as some of these cases get more and more complex, we've got 15 active homicide cases, over 52 jury trials are scheduled schedules for 2026, Mr. Speaker. So when we look at the volume of increase in court cases, and with some of the bail reforms that have been introduced, we make sure that we're working very diligently with our court services operations through the Chief Justice and her office.

But in addition, I do appreciate the feedback from the member, and I'll continue to commit to seeing if I can streamline ways working with my partners working with the Nunavut courts to see if there's ways to address some of the backlog.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The approved 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates in its environment scan that, “High crime rates, particularly for violent crime, continue to play special on Nunavut court system. Criminal cases use a substantial amount of the Nunavut Court of Justice time and resources. The court also travels throughout the territory holding circuit court hearings in communities.”

Mr. Speaker I know that circuit court visit the community of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq three times in 2025. Can the minister indicate if his department has considered providing additional resources that will support more frequent circuit or hearings in the smaller communities in order to reduce delays? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the two communities that the member mentioned Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq both of theme are scheduled for three circuit courts in 2026. When my officials have discussion was the Chief Justice and her office, they work out the scheduling that's available with the judges that are available that we have access to in the territory as well as judges under I guess contract I'm not exactly sure how the structure is from other jurisdictions like I mentioned earlier there are approximately 50 judges in that pool as well. Mr. Speaker, I will take the member's concerns back to my officials and just continue that dialogue with the Chief Justice and the scheduling perimeters that she has to work with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker 6789 thank you HR for your response. 2024-2021-2022 Annual Report of the Legal Services Board was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The report highlighted #340R successful delivery of the Inuit court worker program and indicated that the 13 full-time and 17 part-time Inuit could workers across the territory during the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Mr. Speaker, the department's approved 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that, "the Legal Services Board employs Inuit court workers to support access to justice at the community level with the Legal Aid applications, interpretation and assistance clients and lawyers connect during court circuit." Can the minister #K678 how many court workers are currently employed in the communities of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately I don't have a community by community break down. There are currently ten positions that are filled -- sorry, 16 positions filled with ten VAK KAESs across the territory with specific to those two communities I'll have to get back to the member with up-to-date information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Gjao Haven MLA, Mr. Porter.

Oral Question 154-7(2): Legal Services Board in the Kitikmeot Region

Mr. Porter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My questions today are for the Minister of Justice and they concern the issue of the Legal Services Board in the Kitikmeot Region.

Mr. Speaker, having previously worked with the Legal Services Board in the Kitikmeot Region, this is an issue of particular importance to me.

Mr. Speaker, during our Spring sitting earlier this year, I raised a number of questions on the issue and I would like to take this opportunity to follow up on those matters.

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister is aware, in March of 2022, a fire destroyed the Government of Nunavut leased office building which is where the Legal Services Board headquarters was located in Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, when I last raised the issue to the Minister, he indicated that “the office building in Gjoa Haven is currently being replaced, so it has been a little challenging finding office space for the Legal Services Board.”

Can the Minister provide an update today on the status of securing new office space for the Legal Service Board headquarters in Gjoa Haven?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Hickes, I think it's your day. Mr. Hickes. (interpretation ends)

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I can confirm to the member that the new office is open just recently in August, so those offices are available now.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Porter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I had the opportunity to visit the new office space in Gjao Haven before I came here; Motor Vehicles, Family Services, along with Income Support, Social Services' office space are in there. And I seen a sign with "Legal Services Board," but the office was empty.

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister will recall earlier this year during our spring sitting, he indicated, "Out of the seven person-year positions that are within the Legal Services Board, they are all currently vacant."

Mr. Speaker, I understand and recognize that recruiting and retaining staff for the Legal Service Board headquarters may represent significant challenges without a secured office space.

Can the Minister clarify what specific actions are being undertaken by his department to fill these vacancies and ensure that residents of the Kitikmeot region still have access to services and support by the Legal Services Board?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as I'm sure the member can appreciate, while that office was under construction and not being available, it was very difficult to look at actioning job applications and filling these positions.

Now that that office space is open, my officials are working with the Legal Services Board to address the vacant positions that are there, recognizing that that office space is now available.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Porter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the Legislative Assembly approved over $16.5 million in funding for the Legal Services Board as part of the Department of Justice's 2026-2027 main estimates.

Can the Minister indicate if his department has held recent discussions with the Legal Services Board to identify challenges impacting its in the Kitikmeot region, and can he clarify what recommendations or solutions have been identified his through these discussions?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, yes, it wasn't that long ago where I attended a Legal Services Board meeting where a number of concerns were raised back and forth from a Government of Nunavut standpoint, but I think more importantly, to make sure that the Legal Services Board is given the resources to be able to fulfill their mandate. I think it's very important that we recognize where efficiencies can be achieved.

Mr. Speaker, I can't go into a bunch of details. These are discussions that are, I wouldn't say immediately right in front of us, but they're ongoing. As discussions with my officials, with myself, with my office, as these discussions occur, there's different things that we work at. Some may seem very simple, and they are, to help streamline processes, but others such as funding amounts and PY's and what is under the scope of authority, those are ongoing discussions that we continuously have with the Legal Services Board, and I think it's important to recognize that the officials within my department at Justice

work very closely with the Legal Services Board to make sure that we are both able to achieve mandated objectives.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 155-7(2): Nutrition North Canada Program

Mr. Mike: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon Nunavummiut.

My question is for the Minister of Family Services concerning food security, food Nutrition North Canada program.

Last week when MLAs met here, the Minister presented to the House - or tabled in the House annual report on food security; one being that is in the report seems to have a directive that this will be an ongoing issue for Canadian government on the issue of Nutrition North.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government reported it will be announcing changes to this program during this current year.

Can the Minister perhaps describe what specific recommendations that her department has made regarding the Nutrition North Canada Program?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for this very important question.

We know many Nunavummiut face persistent, I would say persistent food insecurity, and challenges continue to increase across the country, and especially here in Nunavut. It's something we're committed to continuing to address.

On the topic of Nutrition North, our Deputy Minister attended a meeting in February on the topic with others across Canada. We also had a representative from our poverty reduction direction attend a food sovereignty gathering in the spring of this year, and then the final evaluation of that program was made public in the spring as well. And so we eagerly reviewed that.

The evaluation is moving toward a program model that relies less on subsidies potentially, and more on food sovereignty and infrastructure, food-related infrastructure initiatives.

However, we haven't yet received a clear, revised program, and we're eagerly awaiting that information from our federal colleagues.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary, Member Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response.

As the Minister is aware, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, ITK, released their own recommendations on this issue, Nutrition North Canada program funding-wise in Canada -- ITK presented these recommendations. (interpretation ends).

One of the specific recommendations contained in it's report was that a new federal program should “regulate retail food prices.”

Can the Minister describe in her department what role she sees her department having in respect to the regulation of retail food prices in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (No interpretation).

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

At this time our department is focused on our work related to the poverty reduction roundtable and revitalizing the foot security, Nunavut Food Security Coalition. Both of those initiatives are led in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. And so our direction will come from those and continues to come from those bodies and from all of the partners and stakeholders working on community-led food security initiatives.

We are aware that there has been quite a lot of feedback on the topic of the regulation of food prices that came out of many of the conversations related to the Nutrition North program's evaluation, and we continued to follow the advise of these bodies and our partners as we explore the next steps in relation to the actions we're taking on food security in Nunavut.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Minister.

Now, nutritional foods are getting more and more expensive within Nunavut, and there's no shortage of ideas on how to fix the Nutrition North Canada Program, especially within Nunavut.

These ideas range from going back to the old Food Mail program, to the government owning and operating retail grocery stores. People used to be able to order food by airline, and they would order nutritional foods; and the Food Mail program in my community, we used to be like our third store in the community. Now we only have two stores, and they just freely raise prices whenever they want to. But the Food Mail program, I want to ask if it's possible, I had an idea that it should be brought back. It seems to be the best solution to provide low cost food.(interpretation ends).

Can the Minister describe what role she sees her department having in respect to owning and operating retail grocery stores in Nunavut?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

The owning and operation of a retail grocery store is not something that's come up yet in our discussions or in the conversations had by the Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction.

The focus has been on supporting community-led food security initiatives and the support of harvester support programs, the investments in country food and locally harvested food. And so that has been the direction that's come to date from Nunavummiut.

And I'll just add that in the past year under our Ikajuqtigiikta mandate, $1.2 million has been invested in those community-led food security initiatives over 27 different projects. So we're focused on responding to that, and I'll note the Minister's comment.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Iqaluq.

Oral Question 156-7(2): Medical Transportation

Mr. Iqaluq: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My turn to ask questions. My questions today are for the Minister of Health. (interpretation ends)

One of the issues that have been raised with me by residents of Sanikiluaq is the need for improved transportation services for Elders.

(interpretation) Although Sanikiluaq is a small community, it can be difficult for Elders to get to and from medical appointments without assistance, without transportation assistance, and especially if they have mobility challenges. (interpretation ends).

Can the Minister indicate what transportation services can be provided by health centres in Nunavut communities, including Sanikiluaq?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you for your patience today. Congratulations on your first question to the Department of Health.

I'm really aware of how important it is to be able to help to move our Elders around in our communities.

The Department of Health does not provide any medical ground transportation to any members of the public to get to and from appointments. Our staff do not have class 4 licences, which is required to operate taxis or shuttles.

And in June 2023, non-insured health benefits through Indigenous Services Canada began covering ground transportation for approved medical travel, which would bring Elders to and from the airport and back home after their medical travel is completed if they are on approved medical travel.

And what we've been doing is we have been encouraging communities to start taxi services, and we have also committed and have been working with certain taxi services to bill Health directly for taxi services to medical travel, approved medical travel; for example, to the airport and back home from the airport, so that the members of the public don't have to pay out-of-pocket for those taxi trips.

So we're working with municipalities to encourage people to start taxi services to provide that sort of service.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaluq: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

As the Minister may be aware, that Municipality of Sanikiluaq acquired an ambulance a few years ago.

However, the municipality has faced challenges in getting the vehicle operational.

Can the Minister indicate if her department can work with the municipality to explore ways of operationalizing the vehicle?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Brewster.

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

As the member is aware, Health does not oversee ambulance services in the territory, and it's managed through a contracted services, and we have been working with the municipality of Sanikiluaq to manage those services.

We are able to provide help and advice in terms of where they can ensure that their vehicles are maintained well.

At this time, to my knowledge, there aren't any specific programs that help to offset the cost of maintaining these types of vehicles.

And I know that our teams are very much committed to help every community provide the best services possible, and we are always in open conversation with those communities and hope that we can help in any way.

However, we can't actually pay for the service of the vehicles or pay for the insurance of the vehicles. It's really up to the municipality to build that into their budget, their annual budgets, to ensure that they are being well-maintained and that they are ordering parts that they might need and planning for that regular maintenance. And we do the best that we can to support that.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final question, Member Iqaluq.

Mr. Iqaluq: Thank you, Minister, for your responses.

I understand and recognize that the government's plan to acquire mobility vans for Elders in a number of communities falls under the responsibility of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, the original announcement concerning this initiative specifically makes refers to health appointments.

Can the Minister indicate how her department is working with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to identify ways to expand this program to Sanikiluaq?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

As I said earlier, the Department of Health works with all partners to help to uplift any community that has a need for any kind of transportation to and from appointments and to medevacs or scheduled medical travel.

It's very difficult to say whether or not we would actually be able to have, you know, monetary commitment towards that.

However, what we do is we ensure that whenever we can, we are making note of every community's issues of concern and bringing that forward with our member colleagues. So that if there are communities that are struggling, that when we do our planning, that we can ensure that those communities that are under-served, or most in need, are high on everybody's list or knowledge about the needs for the community, and that includes Elders' vans, and we will continue to support that endeavour in any way that they can.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We're still on Oral Questions. According to my list, the next one is member for the High Arctic, Mr. Taqtu.

Oral Question 157-7(2): Food Security

Mr. Taqtu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister of Family Services.

During my recent constituency visit to Grise Fiord, the high cost of food and other essentials was an issue that was raised with me by the residents of Grise Fiord.

During last Thursday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister tabled her department's most recent annual report on poverty reduction.

The report indicated that "The Nunavut Food Security Coalition, which is co-chaired by the Department of Family Services in Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, funded nine community food security programs, including food banks, Elders' lunches, daily lunch meals, on-the-land hunting instruction, breakfast and country food boxes, cooking, meal planning and Christmas food vouchers. The coalition continues to raise awareness about food insecurity and to support new initiatives through research, advocating for changes to food programs and providing assistance to community-based programming."

Can the Minister highlight some of the food security initiatives that the coalition is currently undertaking that will benefit the residents of High Arctic communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay and Arctic Bay?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Family Services, Minister Healy Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok: I thank the member for the question.

As I highlighted earlier, we do remain very concerned about the high cost of food and its impact on families, and we know that there are other factors involved.

We know that the barriers to accessing food disproportionately impact Elders and low income households, and we're mindful of this knowledge when we're looking at our food security programs and initiatives.

And, Mr. Speaker, to answer the member's question, some of the actions that we're currently working on, one, as I mentioned, is that our Food Security Initiatives program has distributed $1.2 million in food security initiatives across the territory so far this year.

We know the demand exceeds that of the budget that we have. So we know there's a need. And so part of this is both providing specific program funds, as the member mentioned, like food banks or emergency hampers.

Some of the funds also go to core programming to help community food organizations expand what they're doing and shifting from just emergency relief to sustained program delivery.

We're also continuing to review and renew the Nunavut Food Security Action Plan, and we continue to participate in conversations with our federal colleagues around food policy, food sovereignty and related initiatives.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The annual report that the Minister tabled last week contains information regarding income assistance rates.

Grise Fiord is categorized as Zone 4 community.

I will join my colleague from Gjoa Haven in encouraging the department to review the monthly assistance rates.

Mr. Speaker, in January of this year, the Government of Canada announced the creation of a new Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit.

I welcome programs like this, but I am concerned that the income thresholds do not reflect any reality of cost in the country's most isolated and remote communities.

Can the Minister indicate what feedback her department has provided to the federal government concerning this program?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Healey Akearok.

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

With regard to the Groceries and Essentials Benefit, we are aware that it does not adequately meet the needs of Nunavummiut, and our officials and team continue to discuss this with our colleagues at various tables.

That benefit doesn't necessarily account for our realities in the north and Nunavut, and we continue to work to advocate for the realities of our community members.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In August of this year, the Government of Nunavut issued a Public Service Announcement concerning the federal Competition Bureau's examination of Canada's food supply chain.

Information published by the Competition Bureau indicated that, "The Competition Bureau is examining how the food supply chain operates to identify how greater competition can help improve outcomes for Canadians at the grocery store. Food prices have risen sharply in recent years, putting pressure on Canadian's budgets. Many factors, including a rapidly changing global economy, have played a role. However, the level of competition in the food supply chain can also play an important part in keeping prices in check."

Can the Minister describe what input the Government of Nunavut provided the federal Competition Bureau on this subject?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

The challenges related to the food supply chain the member mentioned have been highlighted at other discussions, and in the evaluation of the Nutrition North program as well. So I thank the member for raising that, as that continues to be an area of ongoing work and discussion.

In terms of the input into the examination by the Competition Bureau, I don't have that information at my fingertips, but I'm happy to return to the member with any information we can provide on that. (interpretation).

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Oral Question 158-7(2): Activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation

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

As the Minister will recall, I spoke last week in the Legislative Assembly about the recent grand opening of the new Sakku innovative solutions modular housing factory in Arviat I was proud to have had the opportunity to participate in this important event. Mr. Speaker, information published by the company indicates that when the factory reaches full capacity it is expected to build 40 housing units per year. Mr. Speaker this is an exciting development for the Arviat community and all of the territory of Nunavut. Can the minister indicate what commitments the Nunavut Housing Corporation has made for modular units from the factory to construct new public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Responsible for Housing Corporation, Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: I thank the member for the question.

We were very excited to be able to attend the opening of the Sakku Innovative Building Solution's factory in Arviat.

Many of our colleagues here were in attendance, and I think it really highlights the importance of having manufacturing in these types of facilities here in Nunavut.

Because we are a public government and are responsible for public funds, a lot of emphasis goes into the contracting, any contracting that we do, and even at the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Our senior officials at NHC have had conversations with managers and senior staff over at S.I.B.S. and all those conversations are ongoing on future collaborations between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Sakku Innovative Building Solutions.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the goals of this initiative is to provide training and certification opportunities for Inuit to pursue careers as skilled carpenters, electricians, plumbers, and mechanics.

Can the Minister describe how the Nunavut Housing Corporation is working with Sakku Innovative Solutions and Nunavut Arctic College's trades training centre in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Lyall.

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

We do recognize that we do need a lot more skilled professionals, specifically in construction here in Nunavut where a lot of our professionals in construction are not from within the territory. So, it's really exciting to see training development operating within Nunavut.

And it's our understanding that at the facility in Arviat, a lot of that training will be happening around plumbing, electrical in an enclosed environment. So they're able to do that 12 months a year, where currently a lot of the time during the winter our construction shuts down because it's too cold.

To my knowledge I'm not sure if Sakku Innovative Building Solutions is currently working with the Nunavut Arctic College or the trade school on the development of a program.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As the Minister will recall, the Legislative Assembly approved capital funding to begin the construction of six new public housing units and six new staff housing units in Arviat during the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Can the Minister provide an update today on the status of these housing units?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

The six public housing units and six staff housing units would be in a 12-unit multiplex. That contract has been awarded and the material packages have arrived in Arviat.

And I do commit to continuously updating all members on the development of contracting within their communities and the progress toward the completion of construction and to have that on a regular basis, like what I sent the members earlier this year.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Oral Questions. Moving on to our *Orders of the Day*. Item number 7, Written Questions. Item number 8, Returns to Written Questions. Item number 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Member for Arviat South, Member Kablutsiak.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 1-7(2) – Arviat Search and Rescue

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

In total for Arviatmiut, this was signed by 166 people. It's in regards to a request to reconsider by the Minister of Justice Department. It's in regards to in the community of Arviat Search and Rescue.

In August 2024 it's in regards to that issue. The petition is in regards to that issue, and it also get reconsideration and would like to provide support to Arviatmmuit, and they would also like to reconsider to (indiscernible) to do search on this petition was signed. So I table that to the Legislative Assembly, or to the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Petitions. Item 11, Response to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13, Tabling of Documents.

First one I recognize, Minister responsible for Status of Women, Minister Healey Akearok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 57-7(2): Report of the 44th Annual Meeting of Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for Status of Women

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

I'm pleased to table the report of the 44th Annual Meeting of the Federal, Provincial, Territorial Ministers Responsible For the Status of Women.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Tabling of documents. I recognize the Workers' Compensation Commissioner responsible for that, Minister Tattuinee.

Tabled Document 58-7(2): 2023 Annual Reports of the Workers' Advisor Office for Northwest Territories and Nunavut

Tabled Document 59-7(2): 2024 Annual Reports of the Workers' Advisor Office for Northwest Territories and Nunavut

Tabled Document 60-7(2): 2025 Annual Reports of the Workers' Advisor Office for Northwest Territories and Nunavut

Hon. Annie Tattuinee: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the three reports: The 2023, 2024 and 2025 Annual Reports of the Workers Advisor Office of Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Tabling of Documents. Minister for Family Services, Minister Healey Akearok.

Tabled Document 61-7(2): Report of the Annual meeting of the Provincial-Territorial Form of Labour Market Ministers

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm pleased to table the Report of the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Territorial Forum of Labour Market Ministers.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

Tabled Document 62-7(2): Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Pangnirtung Detachment September 2026 Monthly Report

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of the September 2026 monthly report that was produced by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Pangnirtung detachment.

I would like to thank the members for their hard work, and I encourage all members to review the document with care.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Moving on. Item number 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. Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 14 – An Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act – Second Reading

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Netsilik, that Bill 14, *An Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act,* be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill amends the *Medical Profession Act* to update the membership composition of the Board of Inquiry, to set out term limits for members of the board inquiry, to establish hearing panels and to modernize language.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All in favour? Question being called. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 14, *An Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act*, is referred to the Committee on legislation.

Second reading of Bills. Minister of Education, Mr. Akeeagok.

Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act– Second Reading

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, that Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill, *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act*, to increase a loan limit.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. Question being called. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 15 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item number 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole, Bill 10, with Mr. Pedersen in the chair.

Before we proceed to Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House breaks at 15:37 and Committee commences at 16:00

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

Mr. Pedersen (Pedersen): Good afternoon all, and welcome back. I call the committee meeting to order.

In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with, Bill 10. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Taqtu?

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Chair. The Committee wishes to commence with the continuation of Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2027-2028* and the proposed 2027-2028 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Are we in agreement we Bill with Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2027-2028*?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 10 - Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2027-2028 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Brewster, do you have any officials you would like to appear before the Committee?

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair, I do.

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 Brewster, please introduce your officials and proceed with your Opening Comments.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Chairperson and members, I'm here today to present the Department of Health's 2027-2028 Capital Estimates.

I would like to introduce the officials joining me from the Department of Health:

- On my right, Deputy Minister Megan Hunt, and
- On my left, acting Director of Corporate Services Renee Tanga.

The department is requesting $20.3 million for the 2027-2028 fiscal year. This funding will support:

- continued design work for the long-term care facility in Iqaluit;
- construction of the new community health centre in Qikiqtarjuaq;
- ongoing lifecycle projects; and
- minor capital purchases.

Chair, many of our health facilities are aging and are under increasing pressure from population growth and growing demands for health services. This affects the reliability of our facilities, increases operating and maintenance costs, and places additional pressure on the delivery of care. The investments presented today respond to some of the Department's most immediate infrastructure needs. However, considerable work remains.

Our aging facilities no longer meet the current healthcare demands. The cumulative effects of these present real impacts from service disruptions, medical travel and rising operational costs that divert funds from frontline care. This is the context within which I present our focused strategic investments and the work that remains.

Long-term care capacity continues to be a significant gap in Nunavut's health care system. The Department continues to work toward meeting the long-term care needs of Nunavummiut and providing more care within the territory.

The new 24-bed long-term care facility in Rankin Inlet is now completed and operational.

The detailed design of the 24-bed facility planned for Cambridge Bay requires additional time. The lot originally identified for the facility is no longer considered suitable because of its proximity to an existing land farm. The Departments of Health and Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut are working with the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay to identify a new site. The construction schedule will be determined once a suitable site has been confirmed and the design finalized.

For the 2027-2028 fiscal year, Health is requesting $1.9 million to support the first year of the design-build phase for the 48-bed long-term care facility in Iqaluit.

The proposed site is on Niaqunngusiariaq Road, beside the Arctic Winter Games Arena. This funding will allow the design work to move forward as we respond to the growing need for long-term care in the Qikiqtaaluk region.

Replacing aging community health centres also remains a priority. Currently, the Qikiqtarjuaq Community Health Centre is the Department's leading health-centre replacement priority.

Design work began in the 2024-2025 fiscal year and is expected to be completed in fall 2026. Construction is planned to begin in summer 2027, with substantial completion anticipated in spring 2030.

The Department is requesting $7.9 million in 2028 as the Government of Nunavut's contribution toward construction of the new facility.

Health is also requesting $8 million dollars in 2027-2028 for ongoing lifecycle capital projects. This funding is needed to maintain our hospitals and community health centres, address deferred maintenance, and manage the risks associated with aging infrastructure. Continued investment is necessary to prevent further deterioration, prevent additional pressures on service delivery and, avoid greater costs in the future appropriations.

Finally, the Department is requesting $2.5 million for minor capital purchases, including medical equipment, vehicles and other essential health care assets in our communities.

Chair, these investments will not address all the infrastructure pressures facing Nunavut's health care system. They are, however, necessary to maintain our existing facilities, support frontline health care workers and ensure Nunavummiut continue to have access to care.

I ask for the Committee's support for the Department's 2027-2028 Capital Estimates, and together we recognize these investments are critical in safeguarding our healthcare system to serve all Nunavummiut equally and safely and more importantly keeping services closer to home.

Chairperson and Members, thank you for your time. My officials and I are available to answer your questions.

Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee have Opening Comments? Please proceed, Mr. Porter.

Mr. Porter: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness on its review of the proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates of the Department of Health.

The department's proposed capital budget for the 2027-2028 fiscal year is $20.345 million. $10.5 million of this budget is allocated for the minor capital projects and ongoing lifecycle projects. The department's 2025-2026 capital estimates included $1.5 million in funding for the planning and design of a new health centre in Qikiqtarjuaq. In April of 2025, the department issued a Request for Proposals for the design and construction services for the facility. During its spring 2026 sitting, the Legislative Assembly approved $1.535 million in capital carryover funding for the project. The department's 2027-2028 capital estimates include funding for the design and construction of the new facility. Members continue to encourage the department to provide regular updates to the community on the status of the project.

During the Legislative Assembly's sitting of October 31, 2024, the Minister of Health stated that "Baker Lake is the next community health centre that Health has approved for planning … following Baker Lake, our replacement plan would see a new health centre in Kugluktuk, we would see an expansion of the existing health centre in Arviat, and we would also see a new health centre in Kugaaruk … the next one past that, at the end, is the expansion of the Rankin Inlet regional health centre." Members look forward to ongoing updates on the department's plans in this area.

During its spring 2026 sitting, the Legislative Assembly approved $16.318 million in capital carryover funding for the Aqqusariaq Addictions and Trauma Recovery Centre project. No new capital funding is being requested for the upcoming 2027-2028 fiscal year. On September 18, 2026, the department announced that the facility is "entering the final stages of construction and operational preparations." Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of the new facility and a clear timeline for its opening.

Members note that the government's announcement of December 19, 2025, concerning long-term care facilities in Nunavut indicated that the Cambridge Bay facility will be "fully funded by the federal government through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program." During its spring 2026 sitting, the Legislative Assembly approved $8.963 million in capital carryover funding for the planned new long-term care facilities in Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay. Members support the Minister in efforts to secure federal funding for the Iqaluit facility.

In June of 2026, the department issued a Request for Qualifications which indicated that it "intends to conduct a two-stage procurement process to retain a qualified architectural and engineering consultant team for the design and construction administration of the

Qikiqtaaluk Regional Seniors' Long-Term Care Facility in Iqaluit." In August of 2026, the department issued a notice which indicated that the "current Request for Qualifications for this project has been cancelled due to a change in project requirements." Members look forward to the department clarifying the extent to which the project requirements have been changed.

Community-based residential Elder care continues to be an important issue. Members continue to encourage the Minister to work with her officials to identify infrastructure options, including assisted living accommodations, to enable Elders to remain active and supported in their home communities as they age.

Recognizing that the new long-term care facilities in the three regional centres will be operated by third party contractors, Members continue to urge the Department of Health to take the appropriate steps to ensure that culturally-relevant care will be provided. Members support the government in its efforts to recruit, train and certify Nunavummiut to work as staff in long-term care facilities.

In February of 2025, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated announced that it would be "investing $15.0 million of the Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund to support the renewal of Elders' Care facilities in the territory." The announcement indicated that $5.0 million in funding would be allocated for the "renewal of the Arviat Andy Aulatjut Elders' Home." The announcement also indicated that the organization would be "contributing $500,000 for the purpose of conducting building condition assessments of the more recent Continuing Care Centres in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik, taking a proactive approach to identify items that need replacement. The funding will also be used to conduct a feasibility study on potential expansions for these facilities. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Nunavut will oversee these analyses together then jointly create a spending plan for the remaining $9.5 million." Members continue to look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this work.

The needs of medical travellers in the Kivalliq continues to be a concern. Information provided by the Minister indicates that "a Request for Proposals is currently under development to procure and provide a more traditional boarding home service within Rankin Inlet, planned to commence in April 2027." Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this work.

On March 7, 2025, the Government of Nunavut announced that the Ontario Superior Court of Justice had "approved a $32.5 billion [tobacco] settlement … these funds will strengthen health care services, with Nunavut receiving $97.0 million - $23.0 million upfront and the remainder over time." The department's 2026-2027 capital estimates included funding for the replacement and modernization of x-ray machines in community health centres. Members look forward to ongoing updates on other initiatives related to the utilization of the tobacco settlement funds.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates of the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Porter. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Seeing none.

We'll now proceed to a page-by-page review of the Capital Estimates starting on page H-3. The Health Directorate Branch, Capital Estimates 2027-2028, total Capital Expenditures $20,345,000.

We will now review the Department of Health, Directorate Branch. Do members have any questions? Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak: In February of 2025, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated announced $5.0 million in funding for the “renewal of the Arviat Andy Aulatjut Elders’ Home”.

As of today, what is the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Minister Brewster, go ahead.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the question.

I would first like to acknowledge the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for its important contribution and continued partnership in long-term and continuing care services across our territory.

That funding provided by NTI supports three important projects in Arviat, Gjoa Haven and in Igloolik, which are intended to improve and support the long-term needs of Nunavumiut, particularly our Elders.

The building condition assessments and associated cost estimates have now been completed, and the projects have been approved by the Government of Nunavut for planning from 2026-2027, and this next phase will allow us with remaining funding to explore and assess options for renovating and improving existing facilities, including the possibility of extending the buildings to better respond to current and future care needs.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Chair.

As of today, how many residents of the territory are on the waiting list for the department's existing care facilities for Elders in Arviat, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, Iqaluit, and Rankin Inlet?

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have a breakdown by community. What I can tell you is that as of October 5 -- pardon me, Mr. Chair. Just a moment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

As of right now, there are 12 individuals on the waitlist for long-term care beds in Nunavut. I don't have the breakdown by community, though, in front of me.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. Mr. Kablutsiak, anymore? No. Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Your department's five-year capital plan indicates that $13,813,000 in third party funding has been allocated for construction of the new long-term care facility in Cambridge Bay during the 2027-2028 fiscal year.

What is the status of the procurement process for this work?

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair.

The detailed design of the facility requires additional time. The lot originally identified for the facility is no longer suitable.

As I said in my Opening Comments, due to the proximity to an existing landfill site that was originally not in use when the municipality approved the original lot that was given to us.
However, in the time shortly after approving that lot, there was use of that landfill site, so -- or land farm site, so we had to pivot.

And through collaboration between the hamlet of Cambridge Bay, Transportation Infrastructure Nunavut and Health, three other sites have been identified as alternative sites.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut's preliminary site recommendation report was completed in September of 2026, and subject to the geotechnical test pit results to the assess the below-ground conditions underway at the proposed sites, Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut will finalize the site recommendation report.

And when the final site is selected, Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut will provide directions to the consultant design to resubmit the design package based on the new site. And the design work is expected to be completed by early 2027.

I know that there are many people who are very concerned about the delay. However, first and foremost, we wanted to consider the safety of the Elders and people who would be in that facility, and sometimes we can't -- you know, we don't know whether something like this is going to happen.

However, I want to say that department officials within Health, Transportation Nunavut and people at the municipality of Cambridge Bay really came together to work hard to quickly identify three alternatives, and we are working as hard and as quickly as possible to get that work underway so that we can build that facility.

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. Mr. Kuliktana, go ahead.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Minister, for the response.

In June of 2026, your department issued a Request for Qualifications which indicated that it, “intends to conduct a two-stage procurement process to retain a qualified architectural and engineering consultant team for the design and construction administration of the Qikiqtaaluk Regional Seniors' Long-Term Care Facility in Iqaluit.”

In August of 2026, your department issued a notice which indicated that the, “current Request for Qualifications for this project has been cancelled due to a change in project requirements.”

What changes have been made?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You're right, the Request for Qualification was cancelled in August of 2026 because the delivery model approach was changed since it was initiated.

It was because following further assessment of the project requirements, it was determined that proceeding through a design-build approach would better support the delivery of the facility, rather than continuing with a separate design procurement and subsequently undertaking another process for construction.

The design and construction components of the project will be advanced together under this design-build approach. And this approach will be as per Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut to reign on both project's duration and escalating cost we're seeing territory-wide while delivering major projects.

So they are trying to reign in those costs and make it -- just spend more wisely when it comes to these major projects. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Minister.

When will your department restart their procurement process? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Brewster, go ahead.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair. To put it simply, we'll start that procurement process when Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut is ready for us to do that. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. Any questions from other members? Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Chair. The substantiation sheet for the Cambridge Bay project and the Iqaluit project indicate that your department will, “work with a third party service provider to run the facility through a service contract. It will be the third party's service providers responsibility to house the employees.”.

What is the status of your department’s work to identify the service providers for both facilities? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Brewster, go ahead.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair, and I appreciate the question.

Health is well-versed and learning every time we initiate contracts with service providers.

And to put it shortly, we're not at the phase yet where we are starting that process to indicate who the service providers would be.

However, as always, Health is going back and looking at what's working currently with our service providers. And hearing from our member MLA's as well as the public about their issues and concerns, and we're learning from the Office of Patient Relations as well about how better to provide those services.

And so even though we haven't started the actual Request for Proposals or that process, we are working internally to make sure that we build the best RFP that we can that learns from people's current and past experiences in these facilities.

So my friend here is saying it's too early to start procurement. So it is too early to start procurement for operations. However, it's never too early to reconsider what we're doing now and how we can improve that. And that's our way forward is to improve services as best we can.

Thank you, Chair.

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

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Chair. What is the current estimated cost to construct a 48-bed long-term care facility in Iqaluit? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair.

I understand, and I fully appreciate that question. However, it's really important for us to keep those numbers kind of under wraps, so that when we do go to RFPs for the build, the design build, that we won't be giving anybody a heads-up or any prior knowledge to the cost, so that the bids will be more fair and hopefully more reasonable.

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Chair. What discussions has your department had with the federal government regarding the funding for construction for the Iqaluit long-term care facility?

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair.

It's a little bit early right now, and these will continue to be internal discussions. It certainly is something that we're aiming for to have that third party funding support. And at this point I can't say what the amount would be.

However, we're constantly in dialogue with our federal counterparts talking about our infrastructure needs and really pushing for support in upgrading our infrastructure and building new infrastructure. And when the time comes, we'll be more than happy to share the results of those ongoing conversations.

And of course it's not just the Department of Health that does that; it's Transportation Infrastructure Nunavut as well that helps to uplift our projects and help us to find funding.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. Mr. Taqtu, go ahead.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Chair. I just have a couple more questions.

In February of 2025, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated announced that it would be, "contributing $500,000 for the purpose of conducting building condition assessments of the more recent continuing care centres in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik, taking a proactive approach in identifying items that need replacement.

The funding will also be used to conduct a feasibility study on potential expansions for these facilities. NTI and the Government of Nunavut will oversee these analyses together, then jointly create a spending plan for the remaining $9.5 million.".

As of today, what is the status of this work?

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

As I mentioned earlier, the building assessments have been complete, and cost estimates have now been completed and a number of projects have been approved for the Government of Nunavut for planning in 2026-2027. And the next phase will allow us with remaining funding to explore and assess options for renovating and improving existing facilities, including the possibility of extending the buildings to better respond to the current and future care needs.

And we're so happy, I will say again, to have NTI as a really important partner in that work. And we're excited going forward about making some much needed improvements.

Although right now I can't say exactly what they will be, you will be hearing from us in the near future about that.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Chair.

What discussions is your department having with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut Housing Corporation regarding Elders' housing in smaller Nunavut communities?

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair. I'm actually going to ask through you, Chair, if you wouldn't mind if Deputy Hunt responds to that. Thank you, Chair. It's more operational. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and thank you to the member for the question.

Currently conversations that are taking place sit within the pillars of the partnership tables. And so although there may not be any specific plans for current projects, there are discussions and work plans that are being discussed between the partners that will give us some options to consider ways to improve in advance Elders' services or care in the territory.

A main priority that Health has currently is around making sure that we are maximizing on the current facilities and the current services that we have in the territory, and making sure that there is availability of care out of territory for seniors where care is not available, whether that's housing or more medical care, in facilities that provide beyond what would be considered home-care for Elders to be more comfortable at home.

So whether that's level 1, which is more the home care, around to level 5 for those may have dementia or higher needs where the continuing and long-term care facilities can provide those supports. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Hunt. Questions from members? Mr. Kautuk, go ahead.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Chair. I don't know if it's the right time to ask this question, but I'll ask it anyway.

Your department's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimate includes $7.92 million for design and construction of the new Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre.

As of today, what is the status of the procurement process for the design and construction of the new facility?

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kautuq. Minister Brewster, go ahead.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair.

I would just like to supplement very, very briefly Deputy Hunt's response to the last question.

I just want to make it really clear that the Department of Health is not in the business of building Elder housing. We will of course provide advice when asked about the possibility of aging in place and design and that sort of thing.

We provide the services for people who are living in housing for all of Nunavummiut. Regarding the Qikiqtarjuaq Community Health Centre project, the design is expected to be completed within days, by the end of this month.

But funding approval through this session will allow Health to start the tendering process for the construction to start in summer of 2027.

The department is also working to secure third party funding, as was mentioned earlier, to advance the construction of this facility. And we're making excellent progress there, and I'm really excited about that. So, yeah, lots of progress happening.

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. Mr. Kautuk, go ahead.

Mr. Kautuk: The 2024-2025 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services included funding for a number of planning studies, including a new health centre for Baker Lake.

As of today, what is the status of this project?

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kautuk. Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair.

This project, I know the member for Baker Lake is sitting up straight listening here. The project is in the last stage of grant planning.

Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut is developing a business case to have the project approved for design in 2027-2028. To alleviate pressure on existing health services in the community of Baker Lake, the Department of Health is advancing plans to renovate the Martha Taliruq Centre to expand service capacity and compliment the services currently provided by the community health centre. And the building assessment and associated cost estimates for that facility have been completed.

Renovations are expected to proceed once funding has been secured. So there's lots of good progress to look report about Baker Lake in future.

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. Mr. Kautuk.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Minister for your response. And I think this is my final question.

During the Legislative Assembly’s sitting October 31, 2024, the Minister of Health stated that the department’s long-term capital plan includes new health centres in Kugluktuk and Kugaaruk, and expansion of the current facilities in Arviat and Rankin Inlet.

As of today, what is the timetable for these projects?

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kautuk. Minister Brewster, go ahead.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair.

I can speak to Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk and Rankin Inlet right now. The three community health centres identified as the departmental priorities in 2024, Kugaaruk has been approved to begin planning in 2027-2028.

Kugluktuk and Rankin Inlet remain priorities. The timelines have not yet been confirmed.

Departmental priorities must be considered alongside the broader capital infrastructure needs of the Government of Nunavut.

And the Department of Health will continue to advance these projects through the GN's, or the Government of Nunavut's Capital Planning process.

We have to compete with every department's needs. And I know that one of the ways that we continue to address some of the shortfalls of some of the our health centres is by investing in better medical supplies and equipment, investing in virtual care; for example, so that patients can have some access, some different access to healthcare providers.

And I know in the conversation about the medical boarding home potential in Rankin Inlet, one of the things that we're focussing on in that regard is our long-term plan for the Rankin Inlet Health Centre, so that that process can grow together as we are able to expand services in Rankin Inlet, not just for people that live in Rankin, but people who travel to Rankin for medical services, that process will happen together. I threw in a little tidbit of information that nobody asked for.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you for that, Minister Brewster. And I'll just remind members that for the Department of Health, Directorate Branch, all your questions that you have can be asked under this one, as there aren't any other branches to ask questions on. So that's for your information. Any other questions from members? Mr. Porter.

Mr. Porter: Thank you, Mr. Chair. (Audio drop-out) 18,000 capital carryover funding (audio drop-out) (indiscernible).

Hon. Janet Brewster: I think the mic is still on me. Pardon me.

Mr. Porter: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Legislative Assembly approved $16,318,000 in capital carryover funding during its Spring 2026 Sitting for the Nunavut Recovery Centre project.

As of today, what is the status of the construction of the new facility?

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Porter. Go ahead, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I just want say thank you to our technical team for always being such hard workers helping us have these meetings.

I'm really happy to say that the centre is very, very close to substantial completion, and that the executive director has been hired, that the work to staff the centre has begun.

The interim board that was struck to develop the centre is still in place and have done an incredible amount of work to get the centre started off on a good foot, where they've created a number of policies and a number of -- I can't find the word in my mind, but programs and services, outlines programs and services so that the work will be ready as quickly as possible.

The formal certificate for the completion is expected to be issued shortly. The appropriate documentation for that certificate of completion has been submitted by the contractor to Stantec and the Government of Nunavut project management for review and to issue that substantiation completion certificate.
Health and Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut are working together to finalize the transfer and prepare the facility for operations as much as we can. I think that's about it.

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. Mr. Porter, go ahead.

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

So my next question is: What is the current timeline for when the Nunavut Aqqusaraiq Centre will officially open and begin delivering programs?

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Porter. Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for the question. I think it's really important to make it clear that Health has created an arm's-length relationship with the organization so that they will be operating the services.

And so the work is being done between the executive director, the governance team and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in order to get the centre ready for operation.

I know that the plan is going to be to have day services before they open fully to have in long-term in residents' programs.

Does Deputy Hunt want to supplement the answer? Through you, Chair, I invite Deputy Hunt to supplement that response.

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and thank you to the member for the question.

So once substantial completion and that certificate is provided, the building will then go to final completion.

We will then transfer with the support of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut the lease of the building to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and their arm that are then going to operate the facility.

And so as noted, they have hired the executive director. They have an interim board. A forever board will be established as part of the operations fit-up and start-up are and will be completed.

And then as the operations start, outpatient services will be provided. And I believe there will be a ceremony coming soon for other completion of the building. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you for that, Ms. Hunt. Mr. Porter, go ahead.

Mr. Porter: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your answers.

On the issue of ongoing life cycle, your department’s proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include $8.0 million in funding for ongoing lifecycle projects. The capital project's substantiation sheet includes a detailed listing of ongoing and planned projects.

Will the $8.0 million budget be sufficient to complete all of the projects that are listed to be undertaken during the 2027-2028 fiscal year?

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Porter. Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair. And I thank the member for the question. It's a really important one, and I appreciate it.

Based on 31 projects that are currently underway within our ongoing lifecycle portfolio and the latest cost estimates for each project, we are forecasting a funding shortfall of approximately $1.4.

The projected forecast reflects the growing pressure related to our aging infrastructure, and we need to keep functional current assets, so to keep our current assets functional.

We are constantly swimming upstream trying to ensure that our assets meet the needs of Nunavummiut when it comes to providing healthcare. And so it's very concerning that we are often running into these problems where we are having funding shortfalls.

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. And when you mention a shortfall, you know, the longer it takes to get these projects started and completed, the cost will continue to go up. So getting them done quicker is better for saving money anyway, for sure. Any more questions, Mr. Porter? Go ahead.

Mr. Porter: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for the answers.

Your department’s proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include $2.5 million in funding for minor capital projects. The capital project substantiation sheet includes a listing of equipment for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. When will the listing for the 2027-2028 fiscal year be finalized?

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Go ahead, Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair.

Work is currently underway across the department to assess and prioritize small capital needs for the 2027-2028 fiscal year. We expect to finalize the list of priorities by the end of January or early February 2027, with the objective of ensuring that procurement can proceed in time to meet the 2027 sealift deadline.

The assessment process is intended to ensure that investments are aligned with operational needs and that the necessary equipment and materials can be delivered during that 2027 sealift season.

Chair, I wholeheartedly agree with you that the longer we put off improving our assets, the more expensive it becomes. And so I thank you for that.

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

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister indicated to the House that the patient phones or the phones that are listed that were going to be placed at the air terminals. That's my question.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair, and thank you for the question.

I just want to let the member know that yes, we have the direct line to the boarding home in Iqaluit, as well as the phone numbers for medical regular travel members, on-call medical travel numbers, as well as the Office of Patient Relations posted by that phone.

We don't necessarily have arrows pointing to it, but it's fairly visible in the baggage claim area. We have a phone in the Winnipeg airport, in the Yellowknife airport. To my knowledge, we do have one in the new Rankin Inlet airport. Where we do not have one is at the Ottawa airport.

However, I think most passengers who travel to Ottawa will note that often there is somebody from Larga there, the Larga shuttle bus with a sign.

We are being more diligent about ensuring that medical travellers have all of those phone numbers within their medical travel package. It's the expectation that our team has put forward.

And thank you for the question, member. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. Mr. Mike, anymore? Go ahead.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): I think I misunderstood. I thought it was those phone listings were going to be set up at the air terminal at the community in all the communities, but they're not getting the listing of telephones at the air terminals. Thank you.

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

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair.

I know that the phone numbers are listed in people's medical travel packages. I believe that there was a commitment at some point to post phone numbers, but not necessarily to put the direct lines in every airport.

We have also distributed cards at every airport that are business size that have medical travel, on-call and patient relations' numbers as well. And I suppose one of the things that we rely on are for community members to help each other, and if a medical traveller or somebody does not have a phone, hopefully they can borrow somebody's phone or even borrow the airline's phone in order to make phone calls if need be.

Our main driver to having it in the larger airports was because there's less support for people when they are travelling into the larger centres. They are not necessarily surrounded by their community once they get into the larger airports. However, they would somewhat better be surrounded by a caring community in Nunavut airports.

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. I'll allow you another question, Mr. Mike; although your questions are mostly operational in nature, not capital-related. Hopefully your next question is more capital. Go ahead, Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Yes, it was included in the capital estimates. The Minister made that statement, and then I thought right away that all the information available in all the communities.

I'm not concerned about the bigger airports. In my community of Pangnirtung, you indicated that the phone lines are available in the larger airports, and for the people listening to the proceedings, please indicate which communities are too small to be given a listing of the phones?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair.

As I said earlier, the southern communities are a little bit less likely to have community members present who can offer support to medical travellers. And so we thought it was really important to ensure that there was an opportunity for people to be able to find a direct line in order to gain some help when -- there is, as I said, the opportunity for community members to support medical travellers in communities within Nunavut, most likely because people will know their fellow community members who are travelling from their own community down and out of Nunavut, and so the support is more likely to be there.

And it's part of the reason why we provide all of the contact numbers on people's medical travel information, and again why we have taken that extra step of creating business-sized cards with contact information that people can take and flip into their pocket.

As I said earlier, it's really about mitigating risk for people who are travelling out of territory who might become confused or who might miss a shuttle, and we want to make sure that they can find that shuttle, which includes Iqaluit, which is also a larger centre where people might not be surrounded by their own community members and might need to get a little bit of extra help from our team. And so that is why Iqaluit is included in that direct line being provided.

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. I don't have any other names on my list. Mr. Kablutsiak?

Mr. Kablutsiak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On page 8, it was brought up earlier about the -- I'm from Arviat and I'm representing that community. The population is increasing rapidly.

Could you indicate why October 31, 2024 that was included -- that had included the replacement or updated health centre, Kugluktuk, Kugaaruk and Rankin Inlet, have been identified and Arviat was listed. Why is it that it was taken out of that listing, and in the coming year the Arctic University is going to be built and Arviat has to be included.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair.

I know that we are -- so Arviat is still included in the top six priorities. As time goes on, sometimes communities, if there was a reassessment, sometimes a community could be bumped up on a list for replacement.

And I know certainly with the advent of the Arctic University being allocated to Arviat, that will be a factor in the future about the capacity of that health centre.

And I know that there was some work done earlier this summer to address some of the issues outside of the healthcare centre and I think a little bit of the work inside as well.

So sometimes we invest to keep health centres afloat. However, we are very much aware that the longer we put things off, the higher the cost can be. So I just want to reassure the member that Arviat is still a priority and that it is still in the top six.

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. Anymore, Mr. Kablutsiak? No. Ms. Angootealuk, go ahead.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My question, operation or capital, I'm not sure. Do you also work with community health stations, how they're doing, and lack of space, and some nurses having office space in the coffee room? Can't you look into these and review what they require? We don't even have -- I didn't get that, but as an example, can you visit more often the older health centres? I often ask that our health centre as will be visited more often.

Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair.

Our capital process is ongoing, and we take knowledge and feedback from our workers, our frontline workers on a regular basis, on a daily basis.

We have just recently completed a health infrastructure and programs needs assessment that's an internal process that informs us about what the realities are in our health centres.

For example, in Kugaaruk, they're on 24-7 fire watch. And so that is one of the reasons why it's a priority, because we know what we're spending in order to keep that building open safely.

And we certainly consider how welcoming the health centre is, not just for staff, but for community as well. And we are fully aware that our teams are asked everyday to provide programs and services out of less than ideal situations.

And so like I said, it's an ongoing process, and a great example about how Qikiqtarjuaq kind of became a major priority was because we just happened to have the right people go into community and see the reality of what that health centre looks like. And taking into account the rising number of medevacs that we have seen in that community, for example, because of the lack ability to run more preventative healthcare programming out of that building.

Those are the kind of things that we take into account when we are prioritizing builds. And certainly we welcome any invitation from any MLA to come and visit community, and appreciate feedback as well, if you share with us. That becomes part of our knowledge that helps us to make well-informed and wise decisions when it comes to capital and infrastructure.

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Angootealuk, anymore? Go ahead if you have another question.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and you as well, your team.

With regards to home boarding, that I will continue to emphasize to have in Rankin Inlet for lack of boarding home. They are en route to hospital, but sometimes there's no place in the hotel. And Siniktarvik with ten rooms, you have parasites, that you had bed bugs taken photos of. This is unsatisfactory for the patients. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair.

Pests and pest control are at the forefront of some of the work that we do. It's a very unfortunate reality when we are providing healthcare services outside of healthcare centre's and hospitals where we wouldn't necessarily have the -- we wouldn't necessarily be taking care of the building.

I can say that to my knowledge we've never received a report of bed bugs at Siniktarvik, but we would gladly take that into account if that were so.

The current arrangement at the hotel provides 3,640 bedrooms a year. So that's ten rooms, two beds in each room with an opportunity for ten -- or 36 room nights per year.

We have heard much feedback about the outtake of those rooms, including that we need to train our medical travel team to ensure that they make medical travellers aware, or that they are aware that medical travellers can request those rooms.

One of the drawbacks to those rooms, though, is that if there are rooms that are allocated to be used in days or in advance, then it can be difficult to allow travellers to use or access rooms if there's a possibility of them getting stranded in Rankin Inlet for a number of days if some of those rooms have already been booked by medical travel.

And so we're always looking for feedback about that, and always talking about how we can do that better.

Certainly we appreciate that relationship, because the hotel provides food, a place for people to eat. They provide transportation to and from the airport as well. Not all hotels can do that.

We have improved our utilization rate, but we still know that a number of those rooms have gone unused. And I have been working with our team, our operational team, to see what we can do better to ensure that people have more access to those rooms.

And then, you know, to me it feels like it's better to be stranded kind of closer to home than it is in a place like Winnipeg where somebody might be more at risk. So my goal is to always get Nunavummiut as close to home if we can't get them exactly home in one trip.

So we hear that feedback. And again, I have not heard tell of any bedbugs whatsoever.

Thank you, Chair.

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

Mr. Iqaluq: Thank you, Chair. Some long-term care facilities have Nunavummiut that are not Elders. Some have people recovering from health reasons.

Can the Department of Health supply phsyio equipment to help individuals with that that need the equipment? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Iqaluq. Minister Brewster, go ahead.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair, and I appreciate the question.

I know that it can be really difficult for people when they find themselves in a long-term care facility related to having the need to improve their health by accessing things like physiotherapy and other specialist services.

Our goal is always to have Nunavumiut at home to be able to access those services. Currently, I think Iqaluit is the only place where we have physio available in the territory, and we are always working to improve that ability. And what's really important to know is that individuals and medical care providers are the ones that know the full picture of a person's health.

Somebody might view a young person who's down and staying in a long-term care facility to access something like physiotherapy as kind of odd, but the truth is that that person is the only person along with the healthcare provider that knows the full picture.

So it might seem that somebody is down only to access physiotherapy, but you might not know about different health conditions that are precipitating the need to be in that facility. And we're always looking to provide care closer to home and to get people home as quickly as possible.

And so one of the things that we are focusing on a little bit more is virtual care that allows healthcare providers to be able to interact with Nunavummiut virtually to help them with their healthcare needs, and that's one way that we're addressing that issue. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brewster. Mr. Iqaluq, anymore? Go ahead.

Mr. Iqaluq: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for your response.

From your response, Iqaluit has the only equipment. Would it be great to also include other facilities, like Rankin and other facilities they have in Nunavut? It definitely would benefit the people who need the equipment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Iqaluq. Minister Brewster, go ahead.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair.

This is more into operational areas, so I don't want -- I may have misspoken that Iqaluit has the only actual physio centre.

I know Rankin Inlet does have some rehab facilities and workers. So what I would like to do through you, Chair, is ask Deputy Hunt to respond to that. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Go ahead, Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair, (interpretation ends) and thank for the question and to the Minister for the follow-up.

So rehabilitation services are a bit of a spectrum, and so we do have a rehab unit or rehab services at Qikiqtani General Hospital. Those services are also provided in the long-term care centre in Rankin Inlet.

Physio and rehabilitation can be delivered and provided in different ways. It can be done virtually for communities that may have equipment, whether it's in a gym or gymnasium that can be accessed. Equipment can be used in that way with support to do rehabilitation or physio activities.

Some of the equipment and supplies, and depending on which they are -- and I won't have a list for you in this here -- but under Non-Insured Health Benefits, there are some supplies and equipment that can be covered and provided to individuals when they are prescribed or requested by their healthcare professional.

So if those are provided to the department, then we can assist being able to identify if those are Non-Insured Health Benefits related eligible expenses or not.

So happy to have folks reach out so that we can help navigate those policies or those questions. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Hunt. I don't have any other names on my list. Oh, Mr. Kablutsiak, go ahead.

Mr. Kablutsiak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My colleague for Aivilik mentioned -- and I agree with her -- that the (indiscernible), a boarding home in Rankin Inlet; I agree with her. And Rankin Inlet is the hub of a region and they need to have one.

What response does your department have on this point? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair. We didn't quite hear the gist of the question over here. There was some water being delivered and papers being rustled. Sorry, Chair. Can we hear it again? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kablutsiak, could you ask your question again. Thank you.

Mr. Kablutsiak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My question, and I agree with my colleague for Aivilik, Hannah Angootealuk, as she mentioned earlier that for Keewatin residents with the need to have a boarding home is there in Rankin Inlet.

So my question is: What response do you have since this is an important issue with -- would these be one of your first priorities in the upcoming years to have to set up a boarding home? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Minister Brewster, go ahead.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the member for the question.

Providing better healthcare closer to home is 100 percent the goal at the Department of Health. And because there's been so much interest in the possibility of a medical boarding home in Rankin Inlet, the department conducted a feasibility study.

One of the things that stands out to me about that is that there was an average of four medical travellers per night I think requiring overnight accommodation.

Knowing and understanding that the provision of funding for medical travel accommodations comes through Non-Insured Health Benefits, our relationship with the federal government in administering the medical travel portion of Non-Insured Health Benefits is extremely important.

And of course we're in constant dialogue with the federal government about the administration of Non-Insured Health Benefits, and they require us to be able to prove the need in order to have that investment.

As I said earlier, the opportunity of just over 3,600 room nights available in Rankin Inlet, and the utilization rate in 2024-2025 was 12 percent of those room nights.

And in 2025-2026, the rate of utilization did go up to 24 percent. And despite that rise in use, approximately 76 percent of those room nights remained unused last year. So that's 2,700 bed nights that we paid, that the Department of Health paid for and is not getting reimbursed for because they were not used by Non-Insured Health Benefits' travellers.

So we are bearing the brunt of that cost, the Government of Nunavut, through the Department of Health. That's a significant cost for us.

And as I said earlier, one of the things that we are working really hard to do is to improve services in territory. And that means making improvements at the Rankin Inlet hospitals so that we are able to provide better and more services out of that facility.

And that means that it's on our list of projects that we want to invest in in order to make better use of healthcare closer to home. And until we are actually able to see more medical travellers in Rankin Inlet because of the improvements that the long-term plan is for the Rankin Inlet hospital, we cannot justify having a boarding home currently in Rankin Inlet.

And as I said earlier, one of the things that we are working really hard to do is to make better use of those bed nights, so that we are better serving medical travellers who are passing through Rankin Inlet, whether they need a day room. I think a lot of people forget that that's an opportunity that if somebody's there for, you know, a long period of time but not necessarily overnight, if there's a room available, they can make arrangements through medical travel to make use of one of those rooms.

And really, it's about education to the public about what's available to them, as well as education and training for medical travel staff.

We're working really hard to improve the way that medical travel is delivered in Nunavut. That is one of our number one complaints about any service provided to Nunavummiut. It might be the top complaint -- I don't want to claim that. So if somebody else can put their hand up, they can if they get more complaints.

However, the value of having the Office of Patient Relations and our continuous quality improvement programming at the hospital level is that we learn from our mistakes, and we learn from feedback that is brought to us, including the feedback that is brought by members.

I apologize for the really long response. I know this is an important issue, and I just want members to know that there has been a lot of work, thought and planning put into improving healthcare services in Rankin Inlet, and it's more of a long-term than a short-term goal.

I fully believe in my heart that it's going to happen, that some day in the very near future we will have an opportunity to have a boarding home in Rankin Inlet.

And, you know, my colleague here is reminding me that one of the things that we're doing as well is giving member colleagues presentations about medical travel, patient relations and the services that Health provides so you have a better understanding of how to help your constituents navigate the healthcare system.

Thank you very much for your attention, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. I don't think there are any other names for questions. So do members agree with the Department of Health total capital expenditures of $20,345,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree we have concluded with the Department of Health?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Any closing comments, Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Chair. I would like to of course thank my colleagues here for appearing alongside me, and our teams that deliver healthcare services, whether they be a policy or on the ground.

And of course members for your interest in the work that the Department of Health does. Thank you very much for your time today. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister.

>>Applause

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

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

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? Motion is carried, and I'll now rise to report progress. Thank you.

>>Committee concludes at 17:36; House reconvenes at 17:37.

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Item 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 your committee has been considering Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2027-2028* and would like to report progress.

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

Speaker (interpretation): To the motion. Is there a seconder? Mr. Taqtu. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Opposed. Motion carried.
Item number 21, Third Reading of Bills. Item 22, *Orders of the Day*. Clerk

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Clerk (interpretation): Meeting of the Regular Members' Caucus at 10 a.m. in the regular boardroom.

Orders of the Day for Tuesday, October 27.

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 Motions
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.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Today we stand adjourned now until tomorrow, October 27, at 1:30 p.m. We will be back in the House at that time. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 17:39*