



**Nunavut Canada**

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**DAY 101**

**Monday, October 26, 2020**

**Pages 6424 – 6482**

**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable Paul Quassa, MLA**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Aggu)

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(Amittuq)

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(Tununiq)

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(Uqqummiut)

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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(Arviat South)  
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Energy; Minister of Environment;  
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Minister responsible for Indigenous  
Affairs; Minister responsible for the  
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(Cambridge Bay)  
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Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq  
Energy Corporation*

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(Baker Lake)

**Calvin Pedersen**  
(Kugluktuk)

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*Government House Leader; Minister  
of Family Services; Minister  
responsible for Homelessness; Minister  
responsible for the Status of Women*

**Hon. David Joanasiq**  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, October 26, 2020**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasié, Mr. Joëlie Kaernerck, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Calvin Pedersen, Mr. David Qamaniq, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak.

>> *House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Paul Quassa)  
(interpretation): Good day. Let us pray.

>> *Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): I hope you had a good weekend and we are grateful to be back in the House, as well as to Nunavummiut who are following the proceedings, welcome to your House and Legislative Assembly.

Continuing on. Ministers' Statements.  
Minister of Education, Mr. Joanasié.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 486 – 5(2):**  
**Financial Assistance for Nunavut**  
**Students Basic Grant Increase**

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker, as well as Nunavummiut and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the cost of post-secondary education is on

the rise, leaving Nunavut students to face increases on tuition fees, books, and other course materials.

To help relieve some of these financial increases, I am pleased to announce that the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program, also known as FANS, has increased the cap for the basic grant by \$3,000 per year. This means that students eligible for the basic grant will have the cost of their tuition, fees, and books covered up to a maximum of \$9,885 per year.

Mr. Speaker, this increase to the basic grant was made available to eligible students attending post-secondary institutions starting this past September. These additional funds will provide more support for students, reducing their financial stress so that they can focus on their studies, and thereby increase retention and program completion.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the hard work of my colleague, Minister Sheutiapik, as well as the deputy minister and the team at the Department of Family Services for securing this funding prior to the transfer of Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students to my department.

Mr. Speaker, the goal of Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students is to ensure Nunavummiut are well supported when pursuing post-secondary education. Reducing some of our students' expenses is one way my department can help lower the financial barriers that may hinder some Nunavummiut from pursuing further education. It is my hope that this increase in financial support will have a positive impact on the lives of students

and their families as well as the future of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 487 – 5(2):  
Importance of Updating Wait-list  
Applications**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say "good day" to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation would like to remind Nunavummiut seeking public housing that out-of-date applications may lower their position on public housing wait-lists. This territory is in a housing crisis and it is vitally important that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's limited units be fairly assigned. Local housing organizations make their determinations based on the most up-to-date information available from their wait-lists. The Nunavut Housing Corporation advises applicants to renew and update their applications every six months. If their living situations change, they should contact their local housing organization immediately.

Factors considered by the local housing organizations include whether an applicant is without shelter, living in overcrowded conditions, or has lost their employment. Community-specific realities may also impact wait-lists. A change in one of these factors could profoundly impact the way the

application is evaluated. It is a good idea for applicants to get familiar with the wait-list factors considered by their local housing organizations. Applicants who have questions or concerns about their applications are strongly encouraged to approach their local housing organization.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my legislative colleagues to remind their constituents to update their applications. The Nunavut Housing Corporation constantly reviews wait-lists and uses this information to evaluate housing needs and to determine where new homes are most needed as we plan future construction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

**Minister's Statement 488 – 5(2):  
Naming the Qikiqtani  
Correctional Healing Facility**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon to my colleagues, those in Iqaluktuuttiaq and those who are watching today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a happy announcement. Today I can tell you that the Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Facility has a new name. The name of the facility going forward will be the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility. This name was determined in consultation with the same elders whose advice helped design this new facility, and with input and review of the Tuttarviit Committee. The Tuttarviit

Committee consists of members from each government department and who assist in Inuit societal values initiatives to ensure that our Inuit societal values are reflected in operations.

Aaqqigiarvik, which means a place for help to make progress in life, while we have heard concerns raised about calling correctional facilities “healing facilities,” through our work with inmates and in addressing the root causes and trauma that led to their offending, we understand that this is our mission, and we strive to help inmates find their way to a better path in life.

Through on-the-land programs, counselling, life skill lessons, training, and education, we hope to help inmates in our custody work towards a better life, one where they do not engage in behaviours that lead to criminality.

The new facility will build on lessons learned from the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility, to build a model of corrections focused on healing and addressing root causes of crime. We feel the name we have chosen is the appropriate name to reflect this purpose. I thank the elders and Tuttarviit members for assisting us in this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Minister’s Statement 489 – 5(2):  
Nunavut Literacy Council, Youth  
on the Land Projects**

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

(interpretation ends) Before I start, I would like to say “happy belated birthday” to our dean of the House. Happy belated birthday.

>>Applause

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the Department of Family Services supports ongoing programs and partnerships serving the needs of youth.

To improve the employability to youth, Career Development and Income Assistance are working together to redirect 18-year-old applicants for income assistance to first seek education and training opportunities through career development officers.

As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic disruption, the Department of Family Services’ Career Development Division partnered with Iilitaqsinig to offer special youth-focused land-based skills and literacy programs in:

- Cambridge Bay – six youth for four weeks
- Rankin Inlet – 24 participants (six youth per week)
- Iqaluit – 14 participants (seven youth per week)

Mr. Speaker, the main goal of the program was to develop the traditional and modern skills of harvesting, fileting, smoking and drying fish within our youth participants. Embedding literacy and building self-esteem and confidence in our youth is a key component in the program, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic, where the lives of our youth have been drastically affected.

This initiative is an extension of our



ongoing support to Iilitaqsinig to provide skills-based literacy programs. Through these projects we are supporting Nunavummiut in their effort to increase the literacy and essential skill levels in the desired language and culture, to facilitate a better quality of life through lifelong learning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, followed by the Member for Uqqummiut. Member Pedersen.

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

#### **Member's Statement 723 – 5(2): Tribute to Essential Workers**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everybody. To all in isolation, hang in there.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to essential frontline workers in Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, the COVID-19 global pandemic has put incredible stress on our country, our territory, and our communities.

Mr. Speaker, our many essential frontline workers deserve our appreciation and gratitude. Although we are living in a global pandemic, there are many services in both the public and private sectors that we simply cannot do without as a society.

Mr. Speaker, our health care workers,

correctional officers, law enforcement personnel, supply chain workers, and people who ensure our safety in such areas as aviation have put themselves at greater risk and I want to assure them that their contributions are valued and appreciated.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the House that I have heard concerns from a number of constituents regarding the way in which the government has been managing essential workers during the pandemic. At the appropriate time I will have questions for the appropriate minister on this subject.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to Nunavut's essential frontline workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut followed by Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. Keyootak.

#### **Member's Statement 724 – 5(2): Services for Unilingual Inuktitut Speakers**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to voice a concern expressed by several communities. In our own communities, most representatives practise consultations by holding public meetings to determine local concerns prior to attending our sessions. We sometimes get concerns submitted.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of the biggest

concerns held by constituents, especially the unilingual Inuit who are only capable of understanding Inuktitut, and many have complained that Inuktitut isn't a priority at all. More than several people have voiced concerns about the fact that Inuktitut is treated as a secondary language here in Nunavut.

Although it is recognized as an official language, Inuktitut is one of three official languages of Nunavut and although both the written and spoken forms are officially recognized, you hardly ever see examples of proper Inuktitut even in our communities as that is one of the biggest complaints.

Perhaps to use examples, the cashing ATMs and offices have nothing in Inuktitut, only in English or in French, and here I refer to ATM cash receipts that people use to withdraw cash from the Northern and the Co-op and they need assistance to do basic banking, either their grandchild or one of their children.

The elders use others to withdraw monies, and many Inuit have major concerns about that. If an elder wants to withdraw cash from an ATM, but none of their relatives are available, they sometimes ask the nearest person for assistance since they cannot read English. This is causing a lot of problems for some people.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Languages about why this government is not making Inuktitut a priority in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, followed by Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove. Member Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, but I did not have a member's statement at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): I think my notes are writing themselves. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove.

**Member's Statement 725 – 5(2):  
Hidden Homelessness Survey**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, to my constituents in Arviat, I am aware that you are undergoing extreme difficulties at this time, which is unfortunate. I love those affected and I empathize with them.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I stand to speak about the recently released Nunavut hidden homelessness survey. First of all, I would like to applaud the Department of Family Services for leading this work and along with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and for including my home community of Arviat in this survey.

Mr. Speaker, reading the report as somebody who's in my own life I have been very privileged, I have never dealt with homelessness, I have never dealt with food insecurity myself, and I have never had to live in a household that is violent, and I think that's why surveys like this are so valuable because they can tell a story to people who need to understand, such as myself, the challenges that people who are

experiencing homelessness are going through.

Mr. Speaker, this report is very important. It paints a disturbing picture of interconnected issues of overcrowding, lack of housing, poverty, food security, addictions, violence, and unfortunately we know that these issues that are affecting whole families, including children. It paints a picture of hopelessness.

I wanted to read one particular excerpt from the report and it is regarding public housing waiting lists and this is from page 29 of the report. It said, “There were a number of respondents who indicated that they felt there was no reason to add their names to the public housing waiting list, as there was a common belief that the selection process of who should receive a unit or a house was unfair. Others felt it would be impossible to get the top of the waitlist due the process of selection, the priority selection process and the length of the waiting list.”

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, at this time I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I don't want to dwell on the most disturbing parts of the report. I would like to underline the need to create hope

for our constituents and for people who are undergoing or experiencing homelessness. The report mentions things like shelters, it mentions things like transitional housing, and it mentions things like respite spaces, which are kind of multi-purpose spaces used to help people who have different needs.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be posing some questions to the Minister of Family Services and I hope to hear some hopeful messaging from him that will send a message to our many constituents who are dealing with these issues, including hidden homelessness, that the future will be brighter than the present. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, followed by Member for Gjoa Haven. Member Qirngnuq.

**Member's Statement 726 – 5(2):  
Kugaaruk High School Graduates**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow residents of Netsilik, as well as my colleagues and the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate this year's graduates from Kugaaruk's Arviligruaq Ilinniarnik School.

Mr. Speaker, this year's graduates completed their studies in June of this year and the ceremony to mark their accomplishment was held earlier this month. Although social distancing guidelines did not allow for a large

ceremony, the entire community was very proud of the graduates.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that this year has been very difficult for everyone. I want to express my appreciation to the teachers, parents, and other members of the school community for their support of our students, and I want to express my admiration to the students for their perseverance.

This year's graduates are:

- Ryan Krejunark
- Barnaby Alakannuark
- Cecilia Akkak Nasalik
- Nelson Nirlungayuk

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating this year's Kugaaruk graduates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, followed by the Member for Tununiq. Member Akoak.

**Member's Statement 727 – 5(2):  
Addressing Homelessness**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the community of Gjoa Haven and my family watching.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to speak about the report that was done. I rise today to address some of the findings in the government's recently tabled *Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey* report.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have raised

this issue a number of times in this House and this report serves to highlight many of my concerns.

Mr. Speaker, the homelessness survey took place in Gjoa Haven in May and June 2018 and in a number of other communities earlier that year.

Mr. Speaker, while just over half of those surveyed were between the ages of 25 and 54, the oldest respondent was from Gjoa Haven at the age of 86.

Mr. Speaker, over 60 percent of those surveyed had been homeless for over half a year and many had been homeless for over 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, this report indicates that over 100 Gjoa Haven residents suffer from hidden homelessness, with the majority going from house to house to house to find a place to sleep. Over a third of all surveyed homes in Gjoa Haven provided shelter to over seven people, the highest percentage of overcrowding of all the communities involved in the survey.

Mr. Speaker, due to overcrowding, over a hundred individuals in Gjoa Haven have to sleep in places that are not even designated as a bedroom, some in areas outside of the house, and when combined with food insecurity, Gjoa Haven had the highest percentage of individuals living in these conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement.

Are there any nays? There are no nays.  
Please proceed, Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
Thank you to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, the report discusses the critical need for respite places where people can go for short periods of time to escape the stresses created by overcrowding and homelessness. Respite spaces could include daytime, evening or overnight drop-in spaces; land-based healing retreats; quiet spaces to rest; or places to do daily activities like preparing food, laundry, using the phone or Internet or socializing. Mr. Speaker, Gjoa Haven has no such respite places whatsoever, none.

Mr. Speaker, the report concludes with the following statement, and this is in the government's own words:

“Let us work together to create a strong, coordinated housing continuum and continuum of supports to ensure that Nunavummiut have access to a range of affordable and suitable housing options where they can thrive.”

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be asking the minister about the steps this government will be taking to provide that continuum of supports.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 728 – 5(2): What I Remember, What I Know: A Book By Larry Audlaluk**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to acknowledge this individual today, as he just recently released a book written in English entitled *What I Remember, What I Know*.

I recognize Larry Audlaluk, C.M., as he compiled his book which is now available relating how Inuit were relocated from Northern Quebec up to the High Arctic. He was two years old when they landed up in the High Arctic, and he relayed how hurtful it was as well as happy times, which he wrote about.

I am quite happy that he was able to complete his work, and this book is now available for sale, and I was able to buy a copy at the Marketplace here. I was out to buy other items, but I saw it on sale, so I bought it for my perusal, and I am actually anticipating the reading of the book.

Larry Audlaluk is a member of the Order of Canada. With that being the case, it showcases how relocation affected Inuit and how hurtful it was to life and what needs to be undertaken to resolve the issues.

I wish to thank Larry Audlaluk for writing this book, which is now available all over the world and it will help to display the lifestyles they led in that era. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, followed by the Member for South Baffin. Member Qamaniq.

**Member's Statement 729 – 5(2):  
Support for Tourism Sector  
during COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow residents of Pond Inlet, my colleagues, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our territory's tourism sector.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as you know, there are many Inuit who earn their living as outfitters and guides for sports hunters and other tourists. There are also many Inuit who work in hotels and other businesses that cater to travellers.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, as you know, our beautiful landscape, diverse range of wildlife, rich culture and welcoming people make Nunavut a wonderful destination for visitors.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the tourism sector across the country.

Here in Nunavut, restrictions on travel into the territory have been absolutely necessary to protect public health and prevent the spread of COVID-19 into our communities. However, these restrictions have essentially shut down the tourism sector of our economy.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, although we cannot predict the future with certainty, it does appear clear that it may take years for the airline and cruise ship industries to recover, and this will hurt

our local outfitters, guides, hotels, and other businesses.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will have questions for the appropriate minister on this important issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Member Joanasie.

**Member's Statement 730 – 5(2): Wise  
Woman Award in Kimmirut**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also send my regards to the residents of South Baffin.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today recognize the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council. Every year they select a wise woman and this summer the woman who was recognized is from Kimmirut. Everyone knows her; she's an elder, Jeannie Padluq.

Mr. Speaker, Jeannie Padluq was born in Kimmirut and grew up there. She has helped the people of Kimmirut and other people a great deal. If you visited Kimmirut, you will see her and she welcomes everyone. She is very friendly and also very funny too. She really promotes the Inuit culture and traditions, either locally or through actually doing things.

Jeannie has been recognized as this year's wise woman and I thank the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council for this and for presenting her with an award. Jeannie has helped her fellow people in Kimmirut and other places tremendously, and I would like to

thank her for doing this all her life.

Mr. Speaker, through CBC television, a film crew went to go and videotape her at her home. In September they went and filmed and they also showcased the beautiful landscape of Kimmirut. They went and followed her around, doing things like berry-picking.

She is a very busy and a very deserving recipient of this recognition, so we are proud of her and we give you a big smile, Jeannie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We are proud of her as Nunavummiut. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Member Simailak.

#### **Member's Statement 731 – 5(2): Dust Suppression**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues and everyone back home in Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, Baker Lake is a very beautiful community and is often referred to as a very clean community within Nunavut, which I take great pride in, especially when I hear it from other people from outside of Baker Lake. A special thanks and kudos to the people who take great pride in trying to keep our community clean.

In the summer the only drawback, aside from the billions and billions of mosquitos that are in Baker Lake, is that it gets very dusty. The people are not even able to keep their windows open for very long, as a lot of the dust starts to flow into their homes and workplaces.

This issue can be quite troublesome, especially for those that may have asthma or other breathing-related issues and are unable to keep their windows open.

That being said, at the appropriate time I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services in hopes of getting some answers and perhaps some direction on what the community or the municipal government or this government can do with this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Let's proceed to Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. No. 5. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. We still don't allow visitors. We will recognize visitors once they're allowed back in the gallery. Continuing on. No. 6. Oral Questions. Thank you. The first one will be the Member for Amittuq, followed by the Member for Tununiq/Pond Inlet. Member Kaernek.

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

##### **Question 1013 – 5(2): Issues with Medical Boarding Home**

**Mr. Kaernek** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my fellow residents of Amittuq and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Health in regard to the Tammaativvik Boarding Home.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard from many Nunavummiut that the Tammaativvik Boarding Home is not being run

properly. My first question to the minister is: using our fellow Nunavummiut in the Kivalliq as an example, does the Department of Health know how many people from the Kivalliq region have gone to the Baffin region during the coronavirus pandemic? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure we do, but I obviously wouldn't have a caseload count with me available today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I just stated now, we are hearing about unpleasant situations, such as people not being made to feel welcome, although they should be feeling as if they were at home. We also hear of areas that are unsuitable for sleeping spaces being used, while certain patients are being asked to fast or denied food.

I would like to ask the minister: since you are the Minister of Health, can you personally investigate these continual complaints about medical travel policies under the Department of Health and is it possible to have accountability from the administration of the Tammaativvik Boarding Home when all we hear about are the constant complaints, especially when the facility is full, and they are treated inhospitably? Can you fix these problems in your role as the Minister of

Health? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our staff does meet regularly with the management of the Tammaativvik Boarding Home and will continue to bring forward concerns that are raised. I will take the opportunity again to tell everyone listening and everyone out there, all of our members here, that there is a process to bring forward issues or concerns or complaints or compliments to the Office of Patient Relations. They are very good at helping advocate and help people navigate through the system on addressing individual concerns.

I know there was some just recently as dealing with one of our colleagues here assisting some of their constituents through the Tammaativvik Boarding Home. The Office of Patient Relations was very critical in making sure that they go the care and reception that they deserve, but I'll continue to highlight to my officials on how important it is to make sure that it is a welcoming place for all Nunavummiut. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As an elder and to be treated like that, it would be very confusing for that person and not being welcomed, it would be very intimidating.

I would like the minister to commit himself to meet face to face with



administration and management of Tammaativvik, with your deputy minister and your staff. I would like you to look into this as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very complicated sometimes when a minister meets with a contractor on the concerns that can come out of that. I will speak to my officials again and bring forward the concerns and we will personally follow along with how those discussions go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq/Pond Inlet, followed by the Member for Hudson Bay. Member Qamaniq.

**Question 1014 – 5(2): Support for Tourism Sector during COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll ask my question in English. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, both the minister and I represent constituencies where outfitting and sport hunting are important parts of the local economy.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the tourism sector across the country.

Here in Nunavut, restrictions on travel into the territory have been absolutely necessary to protect public health and prevent the spread of COVID-19 into our communities. However, these restrictions have essentially shut down the tourism sector of our economy.

During our recent September sitting, the minister informed the Legislative Assembly that his department had approved approximately \$280,000 in emergency assistance to small businesses. Can the minister clarify how many applications have been approved for assistance to outfitters, guides, and other small businesses in the tourism sector? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree that tourism has been hugely impacted on this and for the foreseeable future.

As for the Small Business Support Program, I didn't break it down by specifics in terms of whether it's for tourism or for others, but we have received a total of 62 applicants that we have approved as of the end of August for this relief fund out of the 95 applications that we received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation provides annual core funding to Travel

Nunavut, which used to be known as Nunavut Tourism. Can the minister describe how his department is working with Travel Nunavut to support our territory's outfitters and guides during this very difficult time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is very timely and I would like to thank the member for questioning this. As of early last week, Tourism Nunavut was having their annual general meeting and I was fortunate to open that meeting. In that I indicated that I'm looking forward to some of the solutions that they want us to bring, but it's going to take a whole partnership in terms of how to address this, especially on the tourism and outfitting side, where we anticipate that it is going to be a long-term recovery for that particular sector. I'm looking forward to Travel Nunavut in returning on the outcome of their meetings and moving forward. We need to work together very closely and I remain committed to working very closely within all our sectors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is well aware, almost every community in Nunavut has a Co-op hotel. These hotels employ significant number of local residents and are essential parts of our local economy.

Earlier this month our territory's Senator raised the issue of federal support for northern hotels, and I thank him for doing so. Can the minister indicate what discussions he has had with the federal Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as the pandemic hit Canada, the federal minister for tourism, who is also the minister for CanNor, had a weekly meeting with the federal, provincial and territorial meetings, which I took meetings on a weekly basis, and it has now morphed to every two weeks. We continue those dialogues. We share information amongst jurisdictions and our federal minister continues to advocate and promote in terms of what assistance is needed as this pandemic is here.

It's an ongoing dialogue that we have all across Canada and especially with this sector, we have taken it very seriously as federal, territorial and provincial ministers that we continue to have these unprecedented meetings that we take every two weeks. Every two weeks we have these meetings and share best practices and also, if there are any announcements within other jurisdictions, we see if that can apply here. Those are the very things that we continue to keep ourselves very busy to try to help this sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, followed by the Member for Gjoa Haven. Member Rumbolt.

**Question 1015 – 5(2): Fire Prevention and Response**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will recall, he tabled the 2018 Annual Report of the Office of the Fire Marshal during last month's sitting of the Legislative Assembly. This report contained important information regarding fire prevention and response activities, including safety inspections and fire service training courses.

Can the minister clarify what impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on his department's ability to conduct inspections and training in different communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for giving me notice of the question.

Mr. Speaker, the pandemic has had, I think it's fair to say, a minimal impact on the ability to deliver courses. Although we want to deliver more, we were able to deliver courses that included 126 firefighters across Nunavut, over 20 different courses. Of

those 20 courses, there were 12 of them that were specifically for pan-Nunavut courses where participants came from across Nunavut and participated in fire suppression and different kinds of courses. They were held throughout many different communities in Nunavut, and then there were eight courses that were done specifically in communities that were done in training with the firefighters within that community.

We were able to go through that training with 126 firefighters and I think that's a pretty fair number to have done during the time of COVID restrictions. I would like to add that during this time, they were done under COVID precautions. They were wearing rubber gloves and masks and keeping the proper distance from each other. It was trying, but I believe it was a successful training year, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your first supplementary question, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to hear that despite COVID-19, these programs can still continue in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the fire marshal's most recent annual report indicates that "As funding becomes available, community fire trucks will be replaced prior to the fire truck reaching the...replacement date of 20 years." When I raised the issue of Sanikiluaq's fire truck during our winter sitting, the minister confirmed that it is scheduled to be replaced in the year 2022. Can the minister indicate if his department's current budget is adequate to meeting its schedule for fire truck replacements and can he confirm

which communities are receiving new fire trucks during the current 2020-21 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the funding we have for fire truck replacement is adequate and we look forward to delivering a new fire truck into the community of Sanikiluaq and when they get that new equipment, it includes training to be able to operate the new equipment, which is all to Canadian firefighting specs.

Mr. Speaker, in 2020 Naujaat and Gjoa Haven received new fire trucks, in 2021 Kugaaruk and Coral Harbour will be receiving new fire trucks, and in 2022 Sanikiluaq and Igloolik would be receiving fire trucks. Mr. Speaker, I don't see any reason why there would be delays in these shipments. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Previous years' annual reports of the Office of the Fire Marshal provided detailed information on how many fires occurred in each community. However, the 2018 annual report did not include community-specific information. Can the minister explain why the most recent report omitted this information and will he commit to ensuring that it is included in the 2019 report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't get anything by the regular members.

Mr. Speaker, it was an attempt to deal with it in a different light as regional numbers, but I believe the document I am tabling during this session, I hope, the next report will have them reverted back to community numbers. Mr. Speaker, I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, followed by the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak. Member Akoak.

#### **Question 1016 – 5(2): Addressing Homelessness**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Acting Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement I addressed a number of highlights from the *Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey* report, which the minister tabled on September 23, 2020. Can the minister clarify how the results of this report will be used to support initiatives to address homelessness in communities like Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This report is helping us in all aspects of trying to reach in different

funding partnerships, whether it's with the federal government, Nunavut Tunngavik, and our local communities. This survey is going beyond just being a survey; it's helping us and having this dialogue and through this House, there were two members' statements related to this and I applaud the members for continuing to raise this to this House as this is a very serious matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote from the introduction to the homelessness survey report:

“Homelessness affects every aspect of one's life: one's sense of self-worth, the ability to sustain personal relationships, to hold a job... Without housing stability and security, meeting basic needs is a daily struggle.”

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Family Services works hard towards supporting income assistance clients to access opportunities for training and employment so that they can become self-sufficient and no longer need income assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I note from the report that over 47 percent of the homeless survey respondents in Gjoa Haven were income assistance clients.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe how his department works with homeless individuals to improve their opportunities to access affordable and suitable housing options?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our income assistance workers work tirelessly in terms of not just providing income assistance but also looking for options for our clients, and I applaud those who are trying really hard where there are hardly any resources available, especially as our acting minister of housing made his minister's statement about the wait-list and the need for applications to continue. With those, they try very hard.

One of the things that it has done as part of another review is that with income support and career development being in the same department, is to try to find other options for our clients because there are training opportunities and other opportunities that might come up in order to enhance their ability to get into the workforce. Those are very fundamental things that our income assistants do to try to help our clients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The homelessness survey report also states, “The shortage of affordable, suitable and supported housing options in Nunavut makes it difficult for many individuals and families to find stable and suitable housing.”

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Iqaluit's Uqutaq Society for

opening Nunavut's first transitional housing program, which is one option on the continuum of supports to enable Nunavummiut to progress from homelessness to having a home. From respite places to transitional housing, there are many opportunities that could be considered.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to providing more options for Nunavut's homeless, and specifically in the community of Gjoa Haven, to better support these individuals in improving their circumstances? Mr. Speaker, a simple yes is fine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish there were simple answers, yeses or no's, but in all seriousness, there are solutions and as you stated, Iqaluit just did that with the transitional housing. It took a lot of sweat and tears by volunteers from Iqaluit to find these necessary funds from the federal government, from the territorial government and the Inuit organizations. It is possible.

We need champions and I look to you as one of our champions because you continue to raise this. When I just started as acting, you asked for how can communities get homeless shelters, and our department provided a guideline to help hamlets or those that are in not-for-profit societies. If they want to do something, work with our department, who have worked with all the various partnerships. It takes a lot of partnerships to get programs such as this

to happen and it takes a lot of dedication from residents.

I applaud the member for continuing to raise this and I know that through these, we can work together and get some of these much resources that we need. Instead of just saying that we don't have a house, let's try to find solutions. There are best practices that are taking place and Iqaluit's Uquutaq Society is one that a lot of our societies throughout the territory can learn and apply that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, followed by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove. Member Lightstone.

#### **Question 1017 – 5(2): Senior Fuel Subsidy Program Eligibility**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Acting Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, over the last two years regular members have put forward several requests to the Department of Family Services to amend the eligibility criteria for the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program, including most recently as last February at our most recent winter sitting.

My first question to the Minister of Family Services is: has the department begun work in looking at reviewing or amending the eligibility criteria for the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is one great program that our seniors take that in terms of the fuel subsidy and something that this department will continue to do. I cannot be specific in terms of how much review has taken place at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Moving on to my next question, last February at our winter sitting, the minister had indicated that there were a number of senior applicants who had applied for this program who were denied due to the income eligibility threshold. My next question is, we're approximately halfway through the fiscal year. I would like to ask: as of today or most recently, how many elders have been denied this subsidy due to their income? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the fiscal year 2019-2020, there were 98 seniors who applied through this and two were denied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, followed by the Member for Pangnirtung. Member Main.

### **Question 1018 – 5(2): Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to also ask my questions to the Acting Minister of Family Services.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I also have questions on the *Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey*, and first of all, I echo the comments made by my colleague from Gjoa Haven on this issue.

On page 11 of the hidden homeless survey, it mentions that "...drawing conclusions at a territory wide level should be avoided." Mr. Speaker, it is in reference to the small sample size or the way that the survey was conducted. Arviat being one of the communities, Gjoa Haven, Pond Inlet, and Clyde River were included. My first question is: given that the samples sizes were small and only four communities were specifically surveyed in terms of the hidden homelessness issue, what use is this report to the other communities in Nunavut who are not covered, including Whale Cove? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Acting Minister of Family Services, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think, for that comment, that's just stating that very small samples took place because there are 25 communities, but taking this and using this report, I think it mirrors just about every community. As MLAs representing all the communities, we all know the hidden homelessness that's taking place. I think

this survey has done its purpose in that it allows us to have conversations with our partners and with the public and in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I am reassured by that answer and that there is value to this to all communities to the survey.

The report on page 35 mentions overall association, "...overall association between food insecurity and crowding..." My next question, as it applies to individuals who are indeed hidden homeless across Nunavut, one important support for those individuals are food banks at the community level. Does the department track the activities or availabilities of food banks across Nunavut as it applies to the hidden homeless population? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Acting Minister of Family Services, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just going through the documentations that I have here, I don't think that is being tracked at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would suggest to the minister that may

be a gap to look at. I'm not necessarily suggesting that the department should take over all of the food banks in Nunavut, but just that it's an area that maybe should be tracked to identify gaps at the community level.

My last question is, the minister mentioned that the department issued a guideline. This was in their response to Mr. Akoak just now. He mentioned that the department issued a guideline to hamlets and non-profits in terms of starting up or looking for project funding.

Right now, can the minister provide the House with an approximate number of how many hamlets or non-profits have currently expressed an interest in projects to address hidden homelessness following the issuance of that guideline? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Acting Minister of Family Services, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how many hamlets or societies have expressed in terms of requesting for that guideline. As acting minister, there was one that came to my attention which we're able to provide those guidelines to the community. This is a lot of work that has been taking place, not just in terms of the homeless part; when there's food insecurity, there is a coalition and that's an ongoing dialogue that takes place on an annual basis. In there, it highlights the need to work on homelessness and the need to have food security. There are interconnections with all of this, so there is a lot of interest and a lot of work that's taking place that goes throughout our



communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, followed by the Member for Netsilik. Member Nakashuk.

**Question 1019 – 5(2): Medical Boarding Home Contracts**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Pangnirtung. I’m happy that I have finally made it here.

This afternoon I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. It was touched upon by one of my colleagues and it’s an ongoing concern regarding the operations and services at the medical boarding homes. We’ve had many concerns about the boarding homes operated under contract by a third party. It’s only operated by contract and it’s not operated by the government.

My first question to the minister is: can the minister update this House on which entities currently operate the medical boarding home for Qikiqtaaluk residents and when those contracts will expire? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The company’s name is Nova Group and the term, I believe, was recently renewed for a period of five years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The government’s procurement activity report in 2017-18 shows that \$4.2 million was paid to Larga Limited for boarding home facilities in Edmonton, and the report for 2018-19 shows that \$15.3 million was paid for boarding home services in Winnipeg.

Can the minister provide further information on the value of the contracts for providing boarding home services for Qikiqtaaluk residents and how his department ensures that the services being paid for are actually being provided according to the needs and standards specified in the contract? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Health, Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For Qikiqtaaluk residents between the Ottawa boarding home and the boarding home here in Iqaluit, our estimates are approximately \$25 million per year. Like I have stated before, our staff do meet regularly with the management staff at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home as well as the Larga in Ottawa, quarterly meetings, and then they do have teleconference calls as well too periodically to make sure that the conditions of the contract are being adhered to.

I realize that there have been some complaints that have come to light recently, but when we meet with the staff, I’ll use Tammaativvik as an example, when we meet with the staff there or when my officials meet with the staff there, they go over with the

statistics from the Office of Patients Relations and talk about the different issues that come to light. That's why I have always encouraged people to contact the Office of Patient Relations when they do have a concern with the boarding home so that that specific incident can be reported properly and tracked and make sure that the issues that are being experienced can be dealt with on not just a case-by-case but a theme basis.

Too often I have heard anecdotal complaints or heard about postings on Facebook and things like that. We don't follow those. We don't track those. In fact they're very cumbersome to try to track, but when people do bring a complaint or a compliment forward, it is tracked and it is looked at directly. That's why I continue to encourage people to use the Office of Patient Relations to bring forward issues so that we can continue to track them and mitigate them and hopefully accommodate people through their experiences. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I greatly appreciate that the minister has committed on a number of occasions to working with contractors to have these issues resolved. I understand he states that the continuing work through patient relations information is being continually worked on.

My next question is: with this new contract that was signed, again, how will these services and programs, not so

much programs, but how will these service contracts continue to improve the same kind of issues that are being brought forward in the House?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Health, Mr. Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do realize there seems to be a resurgence of issues with the Tammaativvik Boarding Home with some of the issues that have happened in the past, but I can say that with the staff that we have had working with the boarding home management, there have been some drastic improvements in the food quality, with the security of the building, and people feeling safer. There have been modifications to the building; carpet replacing. There are a couple of rooms that are for people with mobility issues to be able to go into. We do try to prioritize elders especially. There are occasions where, if a room is occupied, residents are asked to voluntarily relinquish their room for elders. We will continue to meet with the leadership within the organization.

I will say that as a department, we have put a lot of stress on the Tammaativvik Boarding Home under the COVID conditions that we have right now on trying to keep care closer to home, to try to divert a lot of the medical travel patients from the Kivalliq, as an example, and to try to reduce travel to Ottawa. We have been trying to bring up specialists more frequently to the Qikiqtani General Hospital and service here. The coordination of the logistics of that is complicated, so I can't lay all this blame, if there's blame to be laid, at the

feet of the Tammaativvik Boarding Home. The Department of Health also has a responsibility to make sure that we're scheduling things properly, that we're not overburdening the system. It's very challenging.

As the member can personally experience over the last week, it's very difficult sometimes getting in and out of communities with flight schedules, and I'm sure there were a number of residents of her community that were stuck here unexpectedly during the past week as well, which puts even further burden on the boarding homes. When people are still coming in and the people who were scheduled to leave don't leave, it continues to have a domino impact on the capacity of the facility.

Like I stated before and I will personally follow up with my staff on issues as they arise with the boarding home, but again, I can't help but to reiterate to please follow the process of lodging complaints and compliments so that we can continue to track and make sure that we're dealing with issues not just anecdotally but with fact. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, followed by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu. Member Qirngnuq.

#### **Question 1020 – 5(2): Status of Kugaaruk Health Centre**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Before I ask my question, I would like to wish a very happy birthday to my dear wife. May you have many more wonderful birthdays.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health concerning the health centre in Kugaaruk, which has been in operation for 45 years. The building is still standing and seems sound, but there are concerns regarding the interior of the building, which is aging.

Can the minister provide an update on when his department last assessed the condition of the Kugaaruk Community Health Centre and what plans the department has to assess the building in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct; it's one of our oldest health centres in the territory that's not currently in the capital plan for renovation or replacement. It was built in 1984. Mr. Speaker, back then the population of Kugaaruk was under 300 people and now it's likely in excess of 800 people, so it's a very fast growing community with that infrastructure that was based on the population of the day.

Mr. Speaker, we do have some minor upgrades to the facility, mostly from an air exchange standpoint and some equipment upgrades, but it is in our plan right now in the '23-24 fiscal year to start the capital planning process of having a building plan and design. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister already answered my first supplementary question, so I would like to go to my last question.

Mr. Speaker, it is not clear that the Kugaaruk Health Centre building is currently up to code. Can the minister inform this House whether the current age and condition of the building will require it to be replaced or will they just continue to repair it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member. Honestly I can say at this point that we don't know until we get to that planning phase, but in all likelihood, when we look at other communities with similar aged facilities, especially with the growth in Kugaaruk. It would be very likely that at the time when we get to the planning phase, it would be a new construction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, followed by the Member for Uqqummiut. Member Angnakak.

**Question 1021 – 5(2): Support for Arts and Crafts Sector during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister is aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact

on many sectors of the economy, including the arts and crafts sector.

Mr. Speaker, the livelihoods of many of our skilled artists depend on tourists, business travellers, and other visitors to Nunavut. However, the pandemic has essentially ended all non-essential travel to the territory for the foreseeable future.

Last month the minister announced that his department had launched a \$150,000 “Nunavut Public Art Initiative” to support artists during this unprecedented and difficult time. Can the minister update the House today on the status of this initiative and will he commit to tabling a report in the Legislative Assembly at our upcoming winter sitting on which projects were supported? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member for this House is far advanced than I am in terms of trying to get this information. It's in my schedule to be part of the ministerial statement as to who is getting awarded for that wonderful initiative that we launched as part of COVID-19. I will be announcing who the winners are in this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We look forward to hearing who the successful applicants were.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is also

aware, he provides an annual letter of expectation to the Nunavut Development Corporation. Can the minister describe what specific actions the Nunavut Development Corporation and its subsidiaries have been taking to support our artists during the COVID-19 pandemic? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did table the letters of expectation last month through our finance minister, but it doesn't necessarily address the COVID-19 initiatives.

We're working very closely with the development corporations, such as the Nunavut Development Corporation. They have done a couple of wonderful things to help our artists and our seamstresses. One of them which I announced was the making of the reusable masks for the public. Also, they have been working very closely to try to buy art through the corporations. If I understand it, I forget exactly which communities they were at in terms of collecting and buying art, but I can get more information. There is that and there are ongoing initiatives, but these two were directly related as part of the impacts that it has on COVID and they recognized the impact COVID has into this sector, as the member mentioned earlier that it has been hit very hard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems when it's my turn to ask questions, the last question comes around so fast.

As the minister will recall, I asked him a number of questions last year concerning the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association's management of the \$550,000 in annual core funding that the Legislative Assembly approved through his department's main estimates. At that time the minister confirmed that the association was in deficit and that his department was working to help address the situation.

Can the minister update the House today on the status of the association's financial position and can he confirm if it is currently in compliance with the terms and conditions of its contribution agreement with his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The terms and conditions of the contribution has not been met by the association and our department has withheld money for the 2019-2020 contributions, and we are waiting for reports from the association and to date we have not received any reports related to this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions.

Member for Uqqummiut, followed by the Member for Kugluktuk. Member Keyootak.

**Question 1022 – 5(2): Inuktitut for Automated Banking Machines**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Languages.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in my member's statement, I alluded to the fact that within our communities, technology has emerged, allowing the operation of ATMs or cash machines that are at Northern and Co-op stores. At least that is how it works in my constituency and I believe it applies in every community now.

Mr. Speaker, this concern has been expressed by many of my constituents. Currently the ATMs where people withdraw cash from their accounts require that they use English with nothing available in Inuktitut in trying to complete their transactions.

Mr. Speaker, this concern is held by many constituents. Some people use their children or grandchildren's help when they get cash out of those machines, those unable to read in English, and this is a real concern by some people. This is particularly because an elder may get their money stolen when they are being assisted by another person in English, as it can also lead to fraud.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister work with the companies so that the ATMs in the communities, especially newer models that are installed in Inuit lands, should

also include recognition of Inuit and not just pretend it is installed in southern Canada? Can these ATMs have Inuktitut written alongside the English? Can the minister work closer with the companies to see what can be changed to make this happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Languages, Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Uqqummiut for asking about languages. Mr. Speaker, there are funds set aside for businesses to use that they can apply towards every year for up to \$5,000. This fund can be for banks or stores, such as the Co-ops, required to translate the documents from English into Inuktitut and they can apply for funding from the Department of Culture and Heritage.

Perhaps, to also state this first, Mr. Speaker, all Canadians have the right to service in the language of our choice based on the legislation. When businesses are not adhering to the legal requirements, residents can report to the Languages Commissioner at 975-5080 or toll-free at 1-877-836-2280. Nunavummiut can call if they have any complaints about language services, regardless of whether the complaint is about a business or any other body that may not be following language requirements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister just

clarified that a fund exists for businesses to translate business materials into Inuktitut if required, and if any business wants to incorporate the language service into their operations, they can apply for funding towards that purpose.

Can the minister clarify how the businesses in the communities or even the local stores are advised or informed of the need to offer language services and that they can apply for funding assistance? Does the department ensure every local business is provided information about this language fund where they provide services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Languages, Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank him for the question. Mr. Speaker, our Language Act was passed in 2008. However, parts of it, specifically sections 3 to 5, needed to be implemented for private businesses which was finally completed in 2017 on Nunavut Day. Ever since that time we have been trying to notify all of the businesses that they must adhere to the Language Act and the fact that money is available annually towards that.

We also try to utilize trade shows, where we use that means to notify the businesses, either about new funds or other information related to language service requirements. The funds are available, and there is always someone available to present the information, either via our department or the Languages Commissioner's office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it possible for the minister to collaborate with bodies such as the Arctic Co-operatives Limited? They also represent most of the Inuit communities we represent, and ACL is currently working on developing the materials to make available to all communities with Co-ops.

ACL is also working to ensure more Inuktitut services are available since the language is officially recognized. Can the minister commit to working closer with ACL in Winnipeg so that if they will offer banking services in the communities, such as ATMs, they could be available in Inuktitut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Languages, Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We want to work with all private businesses and are trying to consult them via the Department of Culture and Heritage. Perhaps to use this example, when businesses need to renew their annual business licences to operate their business, it may be an opening to notify them of these requirements. We are discussing that and whether we should also use (interpretation ends) the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce (interpretation) or other associations like that to inform businesses that there is funding available and the things that need to be followed and implemented under the Language Act.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Please note that... Ms. Angnakak.

**Motion 090 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move and seconded by the member from Baker Lake that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and question period has been extended by 30 minutes.

Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, followed by the Member for Baker Lake. Member Pedersen.

**Question 1023 – 5(2): Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Management of the Public Service**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues. Good afternoon, interpreters. I hope you all had a good weekend.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my member's statement, I have heard a number of concerns from constituents regarding the government's management of essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Information published by the

Department of Human Resources indicates that there are a total of 162 Government of Nunavut positions in Kugluktuk. Can the minister indicate approximately how many of these positions are considered to be providing essential services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question posed by my colleague. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that kind of information, but what I could say is that each department was tasked with identifying who they feel in their department is considered an essential worker. Because each department has different responsibilities, they would be the best to identify which of the employees are essential workers. For example, in my department, we're talking about the Department of Human Resources, we deemed 64 employees to be essential workers. That number was dealt with. In terms of his community, I don't have that number. Each one would have to be identified by the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have heard concerns and questions that requests for leave by employees are being unreasonably denied in some cases, even though trained relief workers may be available. Can the minister clarify what directives or policies have been put in place by the Department of Human Resources since the beginning of



the COVID-19 pandemic in respect to the granting of leave for essential workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Mr. Speaker, again, each department, a department head determines which employees are able to go on leave and that may differ on department and department. I personally have not heard of anybody being outright denied leave, but in terms of the COVID situation, a department may not be able to approve leave at a specific time that the employee asked for and that may be for a different number of reasons. I have personally not heard of any being outright denied. Again, it would depend on the supervisor and the responsibilities of the individuals applying for that leave. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am concerned about the risk of burnout among our essential workers. Information published by the Department of Human Resources indicates that more than half of the community's positions in the Department of Health are vacant. What specific actions is the Department of Health taking to work with the Department of Health on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government is very concerned about burnout, especially during COVID, because those essential workers are essentially needed. Mr. Speaker, that's why this government instituted four days leave and we will give you a bonus day off. That was taken advantage of over this summer, which is good to see.

Mr. Speaker, all departments, including Health and all the other departments, are challenged with filling vacant positions. For that reason, our department head at Human Resources has contacted every department head across Nunavut and has identified the vacant positions in each department. Our department will be looking to meet with each of the department heads and strategize on how best to fill those vacant positions that need to be filled and work on those issues, Mr. Speaker. It's something we take very seriously and our department is working with each individual department to tackle the issue of vacant positions in those departments, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, followed by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu. Member Simailak.

#### **Question 1024 – 5(2): Dust Suppression**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister is aware, the issue of dust suppression has been a long-standing concern in Baker Lake, which is one of many Nunavut communities that do not have the benefit of paved roads.

As the minister will recall, his department has undertaken a number of pilot projects in recent years to identify more effective methods of dust suppression.

Earlier this year the Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation announced that it was working with the Municipality of Pond Inlet, Cypher Environmental, and Nunavut Sealink and Supply to conduct an environmentally-friendly dust suppression project in the community.

Can the minister clarify the extent to which his department has been involved in this project to determine whether the technology would benefit other communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be more than happy to update my colleague on that situation. Every municipality in Nunavut has dust control issues. In fact we have undertaken to study many different types of dust suppressants across the Nunavut territory.

The dust suppressant that they're going to be trying in Pond Inlet and at Baffinland iron ore mines is actually one of the suppressants that this government has tested already. The Dustop is one dust suppressant that was tried in the

communities of Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, and Pangnirtung. Mr. Speaker, the laying down of this suppressant in order for it to work is actually time-consuming and takes a bit more work than other suppressants that we have worked with the municipalities on.

To that extent, the communities of Rankin Inlet and Arviat have chosen not to use this suppressant anymore and have gone back to the calcium chloride treatment that is a lot more user-friendly and works just as good, if not better than this one that they are finally testing in Pond Inlet, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. As the minister is aware, the Government of Nunavut has produced and published *Environmental Guidelines for Dust Suppression on Unpaved Roads*. Although this publication is very detailed and useful, it has not been updated in over half a decade. Can the minister indicate if the Department of Community and Government Services will be working with the Department of Environment to update this important publication? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have tried a number of different suppressants and there are not many changes to that report, Mr. Speaker. If there's anything significant

that would add to that current report, then we would, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the minister, for his response. Mr. Speaker, 12 years ago the Government of Nunavut provided \$12.0 million in funding to pave the roads of Iqaluit. At that time the government announced that the project would improve health conditions in the community by reducing dust. Can the minister indicate if his department has calculated the cost of paving roads in other Nunavut communities that suffer from seasonal dust, including Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think we need to do a study to find out that with the funding we do have and the monies we do have available, how overly expensive it would be to run pavement into the communities. It takes a lot more than putting asphalt and stuff on the streets. You need to prepare them and make sure that they're draining properly. You need different grades of gravel and so on and so forth, and then the maintenance of those themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I believe what we are using right now, this dust suppressant, may not be adequate, but it is the best we have right now and we don't have any plans at this time to do a study to see if we should be putting asphalt or pavement on

the roads at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

### **Question 1025 – 5(2): Senior Appointments**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier, who is responsible for the government's Senior Personnel Secretariat. Oh, I have the wrong minister? Sorry, Mr. Speaker, can you direct me to the correct minister, please. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Yes, the question is directed to the Premier. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Let's get to my question. Last month the Premier suddenly announced the appointment of an acting president of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Can the Premier clarify the circumstances of the former president's departure and also, can he confirm the process that will be used to recruit a new president? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for the confusion. Every time I hear the word "seniors," I think of older people.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I won't talk about HR

issues here that arose from the senior personnel committee, but I will confirm that a process will be done and we will be using several methods, and one of the methods is a headhunting firm in order to get a replacement for the president of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reviewing the government's accounting structure charts that are contained in the 2021-22 capital estimates, that we're dealing with now, it appears that there are currently no fewer than half a dozen assistant deputy minister positions that are either vacant or are being filled on an acting basis. Can the Premier indicate when the government will be trying to fill these positions on a permanent basis, and can he confirm how many of the government's current assistant deputy ministers were directly appointed to their positions by the cabinet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to remind the members to try to stick to one subject when they are asking questions. That's just clarification. (interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there were a number of questions and the one that I can answer, because I don't have the information in front of me, is the vacant ADM positions. We do our best to get Inuit

into higher government positions and at times we either put someone in a mentorship role or we try to recruit Inuit to fill those roles. That's sometimes why the positions are vacant for a while. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year the Premier's department announced that the Government of Nunavut was "looking for nominations to fill a maximum of two positions on the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments." I'm going slowly so everybody can get the question. The announcement indicated that the advisory board is "responsible for providing the Prime Minister with a list of five qualified candidates for each Senate vacancy." For the record, can the Premier inform the House who has been appointed to the advisory board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information in front of me, but the board that the member is talking about is to help the federal government in narrowing down... . It's like an interview panel, I guess you would call it in terms, but I don't that information in front of me right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Question 1026 – 5(2): Polar Bear Deterrence**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to ask my question to the Minister of Environment.

This applies every fall for my constituents in Arviat North where residents feel endangered, and it applies to every community that deals with problem bears or bear management. As Arviat residents, in the fall practically on a daily basis, one hears about polar bear incidents or where bears were noted.

Sometimes the bears are right in proximity to the community and even within the community, and this can become a public safety issue very quickly. This is well known by the Department of Environment, as their staff are always on the go and they work diligently to protect locals.

To the people dealing with the polar bears in our communities, I thank you all. I also thank the conservation officers as they work in conjunction with the polar bear monitors locally to ensure safety is a priority.

(interpretation ends) My first question for the minister is: can the minister describe the department's current approach to dealing with polar bear deterrence in terms of the staff in place and the resources that they have at their disposal? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of polar bear problem control in communities, almost all of the communities in Nunavut have conservation officers right now and the method that is used is if someone sees a polar bear, they call the conservation officer or bylaw and the conservation or bylaw will deter the polar bear from the community.

In Arviat it's slightly different as the polar bear issues there are quite pronounced and there are a lot of bears there. In Arviat we have polar bear monitors that work 24 hours a day, seven days a week and they patrol the outskirts of town and if any bears are seen, they are deterred, but the conservation officers are also there during the day and if he gets any calls, then he deters any bears.

In all the Nunavut communities our number one goal is to make sure that Nunavummiut are safe and to deter bears away. If it's unsafe, then a polar bear sometimes is put down in terms of safety issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) The Department of Environment recently posted a job for a deterrent specialist to be located in Arviat. Can the minister describe how that deterrent specialist position is going to assist on dealing with problem bear issues? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct that wildlife deterrent specialist position was advertised and we are getting close to having someone hired, I believe, in Arviat. The role of this person will be to work with HTOs, work with communities, and work with hunters and trappers to make sure that we can do the most we can to deter wildlife, not just polar bears. There are grizzly bears. There are other animals that get into your cabins.

This person will be dealing with applications for wildlife damage compensation, a program that we have if anyone has any cabins and other stuff damaged by wildlife, there is a process where they can get compensated; also, wildlife prevention compensation, where you can apply and reinforce your cabin or get deterrent equipment to keep animals away from you. The bulk of this person's job will be to have deterrent programs out and make sure that we do the most we can to help Nunavummiut with wildlife problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that polar bears have a very keen sense of smell and that includes the smells permeating from the municipal dumps. We see them every single night, scavenging in the dumps right now. From what I understand, the Department of

Community and Government Services is working on setting up a new dumpsite. Can the Minister of Environment confirm if Arviat is going to be one of the communities where they would have fenced-in areas or a dumpsite that is protected from wildlife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say that if the new dump in Arviat goes according to plan, it will be safe for the workers and the residents. We will be working with the Department of Community and Government Services on how it will be rolling out in Arviat. We all know that the dumpsite attracts polar bears in the fall, so we will be working with the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

### **Question 1027 – 5(2): COVID-19 Testing**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's great to get three chances today. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, our government has spent and continues to spend millions of dollars on operating isolation hubs outside of Nunavut for many travellers coming into the territory to go through 14-day quarantine. Can the minister clearly explain why alternative options for travellers to Nunavut are not being

implemented, such as rapid testing where the results could be made available in a very short time so that individuals can be permitted to travel home sooner if they have a negative result? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're continuously looking at different options, while maybe not to eliminate the isolation hubs, but to shorten stays where possible and testing is a component of that. With the backlog of testing and with the spike in southern jurisdictions, it continues to be a challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I can answer very simply with an example. If I were to be travelling in the south right now and scheduled to come home, if I was tested today, I may have a negative test but I may have been in contact with COVID-19 in the last few days where I wouldn't be symptomatic or contagious for another five to nine days. By that time I'm in the territory, moving around the community, thinking I've had a negative test and it gives a false sense of security where it would make Nunavut very susceptible to the spread of COVID-19 under that scenario. If I were to test negative today, it doesn't mean that I won't test negative five days or more from now and be contagious and be in the territory spreading COVID-19. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I don't know enough about all the technical sides of rapid testing, but it makes me think then you mean that's where Ontario started to use more rapid testing. I mean, I'm hoping people aren't going around thinking that they're negative after rapid testing. I mean, that's quite concerning, so I really hope something else can come up.

Mr. Speaker, our neighbours in Greenland have implemented much less costly measures than us. Travellers to the area must show proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test before they travel, then they self-isolate upon arrival, and then have another test after a few days, and so if the second test is also negative, they no longer have to self-isolate.

I'm wondering if the minister can confirm whether or not his officials have considered implementing a similar protocol for travellers to Nunavut, including a comparison of the costs associated with the current quarantine in the isolation hubs versus the costs of rapid testing and self-isolation after their arrival. If they could get the rapid testing and then come and self-isolate, has the minister considered that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're taking a look at different examples from all over the world, not just in Canada but including the Greenlandic model. Mr. Speaker, the risk is too great to go down that path of just counting on the rapid testing. That is why, until there is a treatment in

conjunction with rapid testing, we're going to be living with COVID-19 for some time. We are exploring ways to minimize that impact and looking at options to shorten isolation stays, using rapid testing.

The example that I gave earlier, again, I would have to just repeat myself that if somebody tests negative now and came into the community, it gives that false sense of security and not everyone can self-isolate. The topic of discussion earlier has been a lot about homelessness and overcrowding. It would be very difficult for every member of our society to be able to self-isolate when they came home and to do so safely.

Mr. Speaker, until such time as we have a treatment for COVID-19 or additional ways to mitigate its impact on our communities, we're going to have to continue to live with COVID-19. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do acknowledge how difficult it would be with our overcrowding and that.

Mr. Speaker, I do recognize that it has taken some time for our Nunavut-based testing capabilities to come up to speed. According to the department's website, both the BioFire and the GeneXpert machines are now both set up to perform tests in our territory.

Can the minister provide an update on what support has been provided by the federal government to ensure that

Nunavut has full and adequate testing capacity for COVID-19? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll take this opportunity to sincerely and personally thank Minister Hajdu, the federal government Minister of Health, how cooperative and how supportive she has been and her team have been, and Minister Miller's office with Indigenous Services; Minister Vandal with Northern Affairs. The list goes on of our federal partners and how they have been working with all the departments, not just with the Department of Health.

Mr. Speaker, the national procurement has assisted us with PPE, with testing, the cartridges and the reagents that are used for testing. One of the challenges and the reason it did take so long to get up to speed, as the member stated, is this equipment has to be tested with positive and negative cases and I used the term in one of our press conferences where a victim of our own success is that we haven't had positive cases to be used to test this equipment and get them certified by Health Canada.

Now we have come to a process where the BioFire and the GeneXpert both here in Iqaluit and in Rankin Inlet are certified by Health Canada, using other laboratory cooperation of sending positive samples and through some of the occurrences at some of our mine sites, we have been able to certify the equipment here to make sure that we can initialize rapid testing. We are still using confirmatory testing in southern labs to



make sure. We don't want to play with fire. We don't want to play with COVID-19 in the territory. Anybody who has been tested is required to self-isolate until such time as those results come in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members will note that the time for question period has expired and we will proceed to Item 7. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation) No. 8. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. 9. Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation) No. 10. (interpretation ends) Petitions. (interpretation) No. 11. (interpretation ends) Responses to Petitions. (interpretation) No. 12. (interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) No. 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. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 51 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:51 and Committee resumed at 16:24*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, colleagues.

I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following to deal with: Bill 51. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. We wish to commence with the review of the 2021-22 capital estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 51?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 51 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2021-2022 – Community and Government Services -- Consideration in Committee**

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the officials appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. For the record, Minister Kusugak, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Joining me today to my left is Constance Hourie, Deputy Minister of Community and Government Services, and to my far right, Mr. Eiryn Devereaux, Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for Infrastructure.

I am here today to review my department's capital estimates plan for fiscal year 2021-22 as part of the proposed five-year capital estimates plan covering the 2021-26 period.

For the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Department of Community and Government Services will continue with the implementation of 12 projects with a total budget of approximately \$26.5 million.

Two new projects are the Arviat bulk fuel storage tank upgrade expansion and the Sanikiluaq hamlet office project, which are both seeking design/construction funding of \$1.5 million and \$4.5 million respectively.

The other projects being funded include those already announced. They are:

- \$4 million for the City of Iqaluit Contribution Agreement to help address core municipal infrastructure, such as water, wastewater and road maintenance.
- \$1 million for the replacement of two fire trucks, one in Coral Harbour and one in Kugaaruk.
- \$1 million for the Municipal Green Infrastructure Program, which includes projects for solar panels in arenas and community centres in Arctic Bay, Baker Lake, Igloolik, and Pangnirtung.
- \$1.2 million for arena upgrades in Arctic Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Kinngait, and Gjoa Haven. Design and tender for construction will occur in 2021-22, followed by Clyde River, Kimmirut, Kugaaruk, and Nauyasat in 2022-23.
- \$3.5 million for essential communication technology infrastructure upgrades, including the replacement of basic GN communications hardware and systems that are obsolete and cannot be upgraded. Specifically this funding is being used to connect any remaining GN buildings with municipal fibre in all 25 communities. Upon completion of this project, all GN buildings will be interconnected through fibre and prepared for connection to fibre or low Earth orbiting satellites.
- \$1.5 million for planning studies. These studies are essential to ensure that all viable options are evaluated, with reliable cost estimates before any projects proceed any further into the capital planning process.
- \$2.1 million for the South Baffin Energy Management Program. The project will help improve energy efficiency and introduce renewable energy in 45 buildings owned by the Government of Nunavut in Kimmirut, Kinngait, Igloolik, Pangnirtung, Sanirajak, and Sanikiluaq.
- \$95,000 in capital funds to match the federal government funding under the Small Communities Fund

administration. This funding supports additional project management resources under the Capital Projects and Community Infrastructure divisions within CGS.

- \$25,000 to complete the business case that is required by Environment and Climate Change Canada to support the expansion or replacement of the Rankin Inlet Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- \$6 million for small capital projects in the following areas:
  - \$2.8 million for building and equipment upgrades
  - \$300,000 for vehicle fleet replacement
  - \$1 million for Petroleum Products Division small capital projects
  - \$883,000 for block funding to non-tax based municipalities
  - \$1 million for minor projects in communities

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut's infrastructure needs are substantial, and the Government of Nunavut cannot meet the capital needs for our communities without meaningful federal support. From the Government of Canada, Nunavut will receive approximately \$320 million over a 10-year period from the New Building Canada Fund and \$566 million through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. These critical federal capital investment programs will be used to improve access to quality facilities, support healthy and active communities, and increase economic development.

All of the projects I have listed today demonstrate a concerted effort to meet

our Pivaallirutivut commitment to investing in infrastructure that enhances our well-being as individuals, and connecting Nunavummiut to one another and the rest of Canada.

That is my report, Mr. Chairman. I would be more than happy to answer questions of my colleagues.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. The department's proposed capital budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year is \$26,486,000. This represents a decrease of approximately 16.6 percent from its 2020-21 capital budget.

Subsequent to the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, proposed funding was added to the department's proposed 2021-22 capital estimates to address the damage to the Sanikiluaq municipal offices that occurred as a recent result of storm damage.

The department's 2019-2020 capital estimates included a significant amount of funding for the government's new Fibre Infrastructure Project. Although the department's 2020-21 and 2021-22 capital estimates do not include any funding for this project, significant amounts are projected to be spent

between the 2022-23 and 2024-25 fiscal years. During its September 2020 sitting, the Legislative Assembly approved a \$4.99 million capital carryover for the project. On August 19, 2019 the federal Minister of Rural Economic Development announced that the Government of Canada "...is investing over \$151.0 million in this project under the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan." The extent to which this project will benefit communities and residents outside of the capital remains an issue of concern to a number of members.

The department's proposed 2021-22 capital estimates include funding for a number of planning studies. Members continue to express concerns about the lack of clarity concerning the process by which the government determines which specific projects to include in its list of planning studies. The standing committee continues to encourage the minister to begin the practice of tabling, on an annual basis, detailed information concerning the status of ongoing and completed planning studies.

The Legislative Assembly approved significant capital carryovers during its September 2020 sitting for the Kivalliq and South Baffin energy management programs, which are components of the government's Nunavut Energy Management Program. The 2018 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly on Climate Change in Nunavut* indicated that "...the program uses private sector firms to conduct energy retrofits to government buildings, using future energy savings to repay the cost of the retrofits. The program set two objectives: a 20%

reduction in energy consumption and an associated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions." The department's proposed 2021-22 capital estimates include funding for its South Baffin Energy Management Program. The standing committee notes that the government issued a request for proposals for a North Baffin Energy Management Program on August 3, 2018. The standing committee continues to encourage the minister to provide ongoing updates to the Legislative Assembly on the status of these initiatives, including the timetable for their expansion to the Kitikmeot.

The department's 2019-2020 capital estimates included funding for projects included in Solid Waste Bundle 2. Its 2020-21 capital estimates included funding for projects in bundles 1 and 3. The department has issued a number of requests for proposals in recent years for solid waste management feasibility studies for the communities of Arviat, Clyde River, Gjoa Haven, Sanirajak, Igloolik, Kimmirut, Rankin Inlet, Resolute Bay, Sanikiluaq, Taloyoak, and Whale Cove. The standing committee encourages the minister to make the results of these feasibility studies publicly available at the earliest opportunity.

On March 28, 2018 the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut issued a joint news release concerning the signing of a bilateral agreement under the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. The announcement indicated that Nunavut will receive up to \$566,761,000 over the ten-year period between 2018 and 2028. On January 3, 2019 the Government of Nunavut submitted the initial version of its long-

term infrastructure plan to the Government of Canada. The standing committee encourages the minister to table a copy of the updated plan in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest practicable opportunity.

Members remain concerned about the frequency of boil water advisories and other water quality situations in a number of communities. The department's capital estimates have included funding in recent fiscal years for a significant number of projects related to water and wastewater. Recent departmental business plans have indicated that one of its priorities has been to "...initiate the development of a drinking water strategy framework." The department's 2020-23 business plan indicates that it is "...finalizing the Drinking Water Strategic Framework for distribution to all relevant stakeholders early in 2020-2021." The standing committee looks forward to monitoring progress in this area, including the work of the Territorial Water Advisory Group.

The department's proposed 2021-22 capital estimates include funding for a number of small capital projects and arena upgrades. The standing committee continues to encourage the minister to begin the practice of tabling, on an annual basis, detailed information concerning the department's actual expenditures in this area. The standing committee notes that the department's Minor Capital Block Funding Policy expired on March 31, 2018, and looks forward to the policy being updated in consultation with Nunavut's municipalities. The standing committee also looks forward to progress being made with respect to the department's Parking Garage Construction Program.

The department's 2020-21 capital estimates included \$1.0 million in funding for a new "Municipal Green Infrastructure Program." The department's proposed 2021-22 capital estimates include \$1.0 million for the program. The department's Municipal Green Infrastructure Fund Policy expires on March 31, 2024. The standing committee encourages the minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on the department's expenditures and initiatives under this program.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are there any general comments to the opening comments? If not, we will go to page J-3. Community and Government Services. Local Government Services. Total Capital Expenditures. \$24,986,000. Any questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to start by thanking the Department of Community and Government Services for stepping up and helping the community in the time in need when their municipal offices were damaged by the recent storm. I appreciate the fact that they're moving forward with new construction of a building for the community. However, in reviewing the new substantiation sheets for this project, I have a couple of questions I would like to clarify.

On page 3 of the substantiation sheets it says that the hamlet had identified two

sites and one is the Greenfield site adjacent to the new health centre facility, and I'll ask a question on that one first. It's also my understanding that the Nunavut Housing Corporation plans to build a four-plex in that vicinity as well. Have you talked to the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the municipality and being sure not to have a conflict between these two projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently looking at a couple of possible sites in Sanikiluaq and we are talking with not just the housing corporation but other departments to see where we can best place the municipal office. We will have those conversations with different departments and the municipality itself to select the best possible site for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm asking these questions because, according to the substantiation sheets, you have one of two options for a site according to this and there is no mention of other possibilities, which is why I am questioning this, which brings me to the second lot that you talked about.

In here, again on page 3, it says "...the old hamlet office, which would need to be demolished to allow for the new facility." First I was thinking it had to do with the one that was just damaged, but when I read further, it talks about the old hamlet office which was built in the

'70s. It's my understanding that this lot is already allocated to the Arctic Eider Society, with construction happening this coming year.

Again I want to stress the importance of making sure we are not conflicting with other construction when we're trying to decide a lot for this new hamlet office, if the minister could comment on that, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, when we're taking a look at lots for municipalities, we go through a list of possible locations and best-case scenarios and worst-case scenarios. I just want to assure my colleague that when this process works itself out, we will find an adequate location that is not interfering with other locations such as the eider society and so on. We will work with the municipality to ensure that we do find an adequate place for the new hamlet office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know I have asked for updates dozens of times here on the water issues in my community and I'll ask again today: are there any new developments on the water treatment plant that may sometime be built in Sanikiluaq and if you have any timelines of when this will happen? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The timelines I have shared with my colleague in terms of Sanikiluaq's water treatment and water woes, I guess, haven't changed from our last conversation. It will stay on the schedule and if anything, we will try to move it up, but resources and stuff being where they are, it will just follow that same timeline, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name on my list: Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to stick with the capital plan here. In your opening statement you mention on this \$1.5 million for planning studies. Can you elaborate on that before I have another question on that for planning studies? I would just like clarification on that before I move to my next question. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. We find that it's necessary to go on and go through some planning studies for some proposed projects that we do have. For example, some of the current studies that we will be doing in this is the Rankin Inlet major runway resurfacing, the transitional housing that would come through from Family Services, the various water infrastructure issues such as Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, water system phase 2, the Rankin Inlet wastewater infrastructure, the Sanikiluaq water treatment, Taloyoak tank farm capacity code compliance, and so on, Mr. Chairman.

That's what that money will be used for, to ensure that those projects go ahead without hiccup, hopefully. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek:** Thank you, minister, for the clarification. I raised this issue with Igloolik's water treatment plant and they have been issues with their water. It's too bad that they're not listed in the planning studies because their water runs out and when they refill it, it becomes murky water. With the hamlet, what else do they have to do in order to get that water treatment fixed with the water reservoir too? That was next question in this request, this \$1.5 million. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just outlined what the money will be spent in that. It wouldn't be spent on the issues that there may be in Igloolik, but we have been working with the Hamlet of Igloolik. When they worked on the new water treatment plant in Igloolik, we actually had an individual on payroll to work with the municipality on the water treatment plant issues. We have been cooperating and working with the Hamlet of Igloolik to try to solve the water treatment issues. I'm not aware of any latest water treatment issues there, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They have been trying to work with Community and Government Services in regard to their water. I

decided to bring that up in Committee of the Whole because we're dealing with the capital projects here. I would greatly appreciate if they can be included because you have mentioned in the House that having clean water is very essential and the best way to approach. I would just urge the department to look into that further.

Moving on to my other questions, with this still, the \$1.5 million, as you have mentioned that any further projects, so my next question would be with their municipal garage, the Igloolik municipal garage, they have been having issues with their concrete flooring and it's becoming to be a very unsafe workplace. Is that also being included in this budget? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the water issue in Igloolik, it's not on the proposed planning projects. This is for planning projects that are upcoming. It's not to deal with the current problem with their water in Igloolik. We will work with the Igloolik municipality, as we have been, to try to figure out best ways to deal with their current water issues, Mr. Chairman. We will work on that, as we have been doing, through the normal procedure.

In terms of the Igloolik garage issues, again, we will work with them and see if we can help them out through some minor capital funding and those. We need to find out exactly what's happening, what's creating it, and see if there is not a simple fix or other possibilities of dealing with the Igloolik

parking garage. Parking garages are something that we need to tackle in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me move on with my next questions in regard to search and rescue. As you know, Hall Beach is on the coast and we have been trying to get some support in regard to this. Would the department be able to support the hamlet's request when it comes to, let's say, infrastructure warehouse to have their boats stored for the winter? Would that also be with the planning studies here too? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would not be in this current planning study funding because that's already earmarked for what I have told my colleague, but what we could do is annually we meet with the municipalities and talk to each municipality about the infrastructure needs through their intercommunity sustainability plans and we work very closely with the hamlets, and the hamlet's municipality also works closely with their local interest groups, such as search and rescue and whatnot. Through that, if that's the wish of the Municipality of Sanirajak to want equipment shelter for their search and rescue equipment and other issues, if they highlight those issues through their intercommunity sustainability plan and bring those through there, we would be more than happy to work the municipality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Chairman:** Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I also thank the minister. I hope that you will work on that diligently.

(interpretation ends) Let me move back to my third question in regard to the hamlet's garage in Igloolik because I had an email in regard to that facility that Community and Government Services is not cooperating with the hamlet. The minister just mentioned that they are collaborating and being cooperative with the hamlet's request. They have been dealing with this quite a while now, not just that but with their water treatment reservoir.

That's why I have mentioned this in our Committee of the Whole meeting that I would urge the minister to work with the hamlets both in the communities in regard to their capital planning because when it comes to this capital planning, it's like Sanirajak and Igloolik are left behind, but I really applaud this because I can see Sanirajak and Igloolik there.

As a comment, I'm just urging the minister to work closely with them in regard to their capital planning. Not a question, just a comment, and also probably have a better working relationship with them. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's it.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kaerner. I think the minister wants to comment. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate my colleague's comments. I said that we're working with the municipalities. Mr. Chairman,

we do what we can with the municipality and try to put as much as we can in solving the issues within the municipality. That doesn't mean we always agree with conditions or that the municipality agrees with our suggestions and comments on dealing with some of the issues. Mr. Chairman, we will continue to strive to work with the municipality in Igloolik, as we have been, and we will continue strive in that case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Last name on my list on this page: Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If I ask questions that are on the wrong page, let me know.

(interpretation) Welcome, minister. (interpretation ends) First of all, I am very pleased to see the new tank farm to be built in Arviat on the capital plan and I am happy that has been brought forward. I'm very appreciative.

The minister provided regular members a letter on September 22 and it was on the topic of capital carryovers. Thank you for that letter and for detailing some of the questions or answering some of the fundamental questions that we had, and it's reassuring to know that the department has recognized that this is an issue and that you are working to reduce your capital carryovers.

On page 3, the third page of the letter, it talks about how you work with municipalities. It says, "CGS has been examining approaches to improve how we undertake stronger planning for municipal infrastructure projects and to

ensure the capital planning for municipal infrastructure projects follow the same approaches undertaken by the CGS Infrastructure Branch for all other GN capital projects.” I’m wondering what that statement means. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the comments by my colleague. Yes, I think it’s very important, as Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, that we provide the regular members with as much information as we can so that we could make informed decisions together and one of them is to work with the municipalities to work towards creating more infrastructure plans that are in line with each other.

Maybe I could have Mr. Devereaux elaborate on the details of that plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, through you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Devereaux.

**Mr. Devereaux:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. I think the comment in the letter that was referenced was a bit of an acknowledgement that when the federal government announces major capital investments in infrastructure, such as the New Building Canada Fund at approximately \$40 million and then more recently the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program at approximately \$600 million, those federal announcements happen and certainly there’s a time frame associated with them, and then the government moves forward to try to align with the program

guidelines of the federal infrastructure program.

I think the comment would be that eventually we do all the same amount of planning on a major capital project, whether it’s funded through the traditional GN capital planning process or whether it’s funded through a major investment from the federal government. We have seen and I think the members here, we have made comments over the last few years about some of our programs that have been ongoing for a couple of years; the solid waste program or others, in which case when the federal announcements come out, the government highlighted some of the projects they wanted to bring forward.

The comment here is that we have to make sure we undertake all the same due diligence before that project gets announced with a scope and a cost estimate, and we have been doing that more recently, I think, in the last year or two, is trying to align the federal-funded capital projects before we come forward and say we’re going to do the following three or four or five projects that we have completed the proper planning process. That’s what that comment references. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When it comes to the topic of integrated community sustainability plans, I’ll just call them hamlet infrastructure plans for short, a hamlet can have anything on that plan, from the largest infrastructure project, let’s say, building a railroad or something, all the way down to a new Zamboni. It can be anything in between.

Specifically on those plans, when the department receives an updated infrastructure sustainability plan, what type of review or is there a conversation that happens between the department and the municipality in terms of refining the list or changing it? For example, if there's third party funding that's going to become available for, let's say, parking garages and you want to know if a community has a need for a parking garage, it has been somehow omitted on their list, is there a back and forth or is it the municipalities on their own determine the list and hand it to you? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very good question, Mr. Chairman. The process for the sustainability plans is such that we didn't do it this year, obviously because of COVID, what we have done in previous years is to go to each municipality with our staff and when I say staff, I'm talking about engineers, deputy ministers, and people with authority and knowledge in those fields that we're looking for.

Our department will meet with the municipality and go over their plans, if it's to build a railroad or get a new Zamboni, and we will go through that list with them and they will give us their priority list. These lists are accumulated from all the municipalities and we have a committee that is there. Our senior staff are there with appropriate senior staff and members of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, some mayors are in that, and NAM staff. They will go through the list and they will

prioritize which ones should go first, second, or third and we will have input into those, and then it gets brought forward through the process, Mr. Chairman.

Now, in terms of the other projects, we are taking a look. When I said that we would like to deal with, the latest one is the municipal garages and heated facilities to store mobile equipment is one I think that should be on the priority of all municipalities in hearing the concerns brought around the table. That one I would like to see if we can't do something with that, much the same way that I remember in the Third Assembly, the minister of the day, which was me, brought forward the mobile equipment funding for all the municipalities and that really took away the need to come to the House to ask for a loader for a specific community and that put the onus on the municipality to decide.

I think this is something I would like to see our department go forward with some kind of a plan and funding that can deal with stuff like that, maybe through an application process. I hope that answers my colleague's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Yes, it does answer my question sort of, but on that parking garage issue, because we have discussed this for a number of years running now, and it's unfortunate that, from my understanding, under this proposed budget, there won't be any parking garages built and that's despite hearing, it think it was last year, that the majority

of communities are in deficit for parking garage space.

In terms of when we would see a program rolled out or targets, milestones in terms of the parking garage task, what milestones has the department set for itself in terms of trying to take a different approach at building parking garages? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would really like to see before the term of this government is up a concrete plan in terms of how we could deal with this because it is real. We have discussed in this House a number of different scenarios where we could work with the municipality to build parking garages, some of them included and we have said this in the last capital discussions, I believe, and in the winter discussions, we talked a bit about maybe using some of the municipal funding for mobile equipment or the water and sewage funding to be topped up. We've had those kinds of discussions and those discussions are continuing in our boardrooms and seeing how we could further advance this issue, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) On the concept or idea of using municipal water and sewage funds to address parking garage infrastructure issues, are there any roadblocks that are in place that would prevent that from happening? I don't know the details of the municipal water

and sewage funds. Are there changes to legislation that would be needed? Does the minister have to provide written permission? What would have to happen in order for that municipal water and sewage fund to be tapped into if the municipality chooses to do so? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Or C, all of the above. It depends on the kind of agreement we have with each municipality and the water and sewage contracts that we have with them. This is part of what we're going through, this exercise right now, is to see what kinds of rules and regulations are in place and what we need to be able to make these things happen, and figure out a mechanism or create a mechanism in order for the funding to be there for what the fund is allocated for. We're taking a look at those things as we speak, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wanted to switch gears to the Whale Cove Water Treatment Plant. I know we've had a lot of discussion on this project and there's no substantiation sheet for me to refer to because it's funded, I believe, under gas tax. The only reference I could find to the project was in the beginning of the binders provided to members and it just had "water treatment infrastructure, \$8 million."

In terms of the Whale Cove Water

Treatment Plant, will that \$8 million amount, if that is indeed the amount listed for that project, will that be sufficient based on your current estimates? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on our estimates, yes, it should be sufficient, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There are lots of other communities that have water treatment issues. To what extent will that Whale Cove project serve as a template or for other communities' needs? I know you had mentioned doing a standardized design so you wouldn't have to reinvent the wheel every time you need a new water treatment plant. To what extent will that design be applicable to other communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good question. Mr. Chairman, it would be something that we could follow on in terms of other municipalities that have the same issues with their water. If it's a coliform issue, then there's a good template to work off of and maybe we could use that as a base and add on other issues that it may have with water.

Not every community that has water

issues has the same water issues. Some of it is a salination issue. Some of it is a coliform issue and so on. In terms of the kinds of issues that will go past, if another municipality has that and other issues, it would be a very good foundation to begin work off, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Main, just before I get to you, just advising Mr. Qirngnuq, you will be next once Mr. Main's time is up. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My last question on the water treatment subject, I would hate to see a new facility in the community only to run into issues when it comes to operations. I hope I'm not jumping too far ahead, but I would like some reassurance that persons located in the community will be trained and will be certified, if needed, in order to maintain the ongoing operations of that new plant, whatever it does end up looking like. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to give my colleague assurances that our department would work with the municipality and staff in our department that are in Whale Cove to ensure that the people who have to operate the equipment that is there will be trained fully to be able to address any issues that may come out of that. We will have certified people in there that are familiar with the equipment to ensure that there is proper training and cross-training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I want to refer back to that letter of September 22, on the second page, and this goes back to the water and wastewater money, and it mentions at the bottom of page 2, it says that “We are trying to get caught up relative to the variety of federally funded capital programs announced between 2015 and 2018.” I interpret “caught up” to mean getting a lot of these projects built and handed over to the municipality or done. What’s the time period or how long is it going to take you to get “caught up” on these funding pots that have been mentioned here? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, over the last year, we have been doing a number of projects and work within our department to get caught up. Maybe through you, Mr. Chairman, my deputy can give a bit more detail into those timelines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Hourie.

**Ms. Hourie:** Thank you. I thank the member for the question. The minister is correct; we have been working on a number of these federal programs. Just for the member’s information, a lot of them have different criteria within them when they come from the federal government. A lot of them have different timelines, different end dates, different cash flows that come with. There are a number of them. I’ve got a list here of five in front of me that are federal funding programs. We are trying to work

through and more strictly, I would say, look at all of the cash flows, the types of programming, or the types of projects that are allowable within each of those funding pots.

There are, I think, some opportunities that we are going to look at in the very near future, as the minister has said, that allows the municipalities to have more autonomy with some of these things and I think, really, where we want to start pulling in more than we already do advice and recommendations from the municipalities and the members as well. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Is the department or is the government in danger of having any of that federal funding that was just mentioned, those five programs, is there any risk of that funding being clawed back if the projects aren’t built within a certain time frame? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to assure my colleagues that there is no danger of any funding been clawed back or returned, no, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wanted to ask about the tank farm project in Arviat and just wanted to confirm. Well, actually the minister gave

us another letter dated October 19 and on Item 5 it mentions the Arviat tank farm project and it mentions that Jet A-1 will be part of the project to be built. It says that the PPD is in discussion with the airlines and that it's going to change the project somewhat. I just had a question. It mentions converting a diesel tank to Jet A-1. Could I get clarification if that means that there will actually be less diesel stored in the community or just clarification on what that conversion of a diesel tank means? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it means that they will convert it and put Jet A-1 fuel in those tanks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thanks, minister. I don't need to ask any further questions on that. I think it's a bit overly technical for me. I just wanted to confirm that Jet A-1 will be part of this project. I was concerned because it wasn't listed on the substantiation sheet and the minister confirmed that in his letter, so no further questions right now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad he has no more further questions, Mr. Chairman, and the tank farm is going ahead as planned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name on

my list: Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In looking at the minister's opening comments, I am very pleased to see what type of projects you are proposing. That's what I wanted to say first of all. There is funding budgeted for different projects. On the last page it talks about a commitment in Pivaallirutivut. Mr. Chairman, in looking at the funding, they are not all geared towards Pivaallirutivut. As members, if these are going to be applied, we will be running out of questions. I'm just saying that to make you smile, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I have a question on the opening comments regarding the replacement fire trucks for Kugaaruk and Coral Harbour. Can the minister...(no audio)...

**Chairman:** Okay, we will try again. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll start over.

I am pleased to hear the minister's opening comments. On the last page it mentions a commitment in Pivaallirutivut. In looking at the funding, it will provide assistance if it is used. I'm happy about those comments by the minister.

However, moving on to another topic, I have a question on page 2 regarding the \$1 million for the fire trucks in Coral Harbour and Kugaaruk. Can the minister elaborate on what type of fire trucks those are or when they are expected to arrive or if they have arrived? Can the minister elaborate on that?

I would like to know, hence my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two fire trucks will be replaced across Nunavut every year. Next summer we are looking at sending one to Kugaaruk and to Coral Harbour. The fire trucks are manufactured following Canadian standards and requirements. This is not the first project by the fire truck manufacturer for Nunavut. They have made fire trucks specific for the north and that includes Coral Harbour and Kugaaruk. We have had dialogue with the Kugaaruk fire department. We have asked them what kind of concepts or what they would like to see in the fire truck. Mr. Chairman, they're going to be adapted to the community of Kugaaruk. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that response. I was thinking of this reasoning when I asked the question, as we experienced it when the school burnt down. We had extreme issues that cropped up due to the intense cold during that week. Sometimes you have to try to use the fire truck in extremely cold weather where required, which is why I am asking about it. The other concern we had will now be much easier, as the new school now has firefighting hose connections and this was included in the design phase.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to move on to another subject, a secondary issue that relates to lesser impacts on our

environment, as a term now applies to energy efficiency or green energy. I wanted to ask about Arctic Bay, Baker Lake, Igloolik, and Pangnirtung getting their street lights converted to LED lights, which I believe will be completed soon. What happens next after these communities are finished? Which communities are next in line for this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funds are made available via funding applications, whereby the hamlet would fill out the application and every hamlet has received the information on the process, on the funding available, what purposes the funds are for, and how you fill out the application for funding. We anticipate more communities will fill out applications over the winter for this energy savings initiative and we will just follow the order of applications by the hamlets as to how it will be allocated. We don't have anything written down as to the particular order that communities would receive it; only that it goes through the application process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To move to a different subject, with respect to arenas and maintenance or repairs, Kugaaruk is mentioned in the list for fiscal year 2022-23. I wonder what exactly will be renovated or repaired. Will it be to redo the ice? The interior or the windows? I imagine you may not have the details, but I wanted to hear about the details if he knows them, hence my question, Mr.



Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each arena requires different repairs, as it follows the lifecycle of the materials and the maintenance work. Some require less work, while others are in much greater need as that is the usual practice. Nonetheless, I believe they would be looking at installing new equipment such as thermosiphons to ensure the permafrost remains frozen, and most arenas would also receive concrete base flooring as well as new siding and Plexiglas windows, and perhaps new netting to protect people watching, and that is how most work would be undertaken and if possible, with further funding availability, other equipment such as Zambonis or other hockey usage equipment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To move on further, I want to refer back to the opening comments on page 3 near the top as wording states that government facilities related to satellites, specifically the connections to the Internet in the communities, I imagine. I wonder, as I am thinking about Iqaluit specifically in my question and comments, would they also consider doing that for the smaller communities that also have government offices? Mr. Chairman, I would like to understand, so I am asking about it. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you for asking that question. Yes, most communities have that internally, and I believe most communities have had that completed and if not, then they should have fibre optics and I think I can safely say that most communities may have that already, and they would all be connected to the local hamlet offices.

The fibre optic wire we are discussing is very fast in terms of instantaneous connections and is much faster than satellite connections, and we have seen that in conjunction with better quality connections that it would speed up the connections. The information would flow much faster from the hamlets or government offices, and all of the communities are slated to get updated connectivity in the future. The current satellite we use is a high-altitude satellite, so it is much farther, and in the coming years, perhaps next year or later on, there will be low-orbit satellites that will be closer and quicker connections, as they will be quite low, just outside the earth's atmosphere, with many backup satellites, not like the single far satellite we use.

With many more satellites closer, the cellphone and Internet will have same speed as down south. Once the fibre optic cables are installed in the communities, information will be able to flow that much faster. That's what we're planning to do. I hope I'm understandable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's clear. With respect to the satellites in low orbit, this

will improve many satellite services, and it will allow more options later on as we get more details about the project.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to move to the opening comments on page 4, second bullet, referencing the Petroleum Products Division and although these are small capital projects, earlier my colleague for Arviat North asked about this, and it is kind of contained in that. The minister was speaking about Taloyoak and the tank farm capacity, which tends to fill quickly. Can the minister provide more details on the type of capacity? I would like to understand, hence my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. His questions related to the fuel or petroleum to be used is roughly \$1 million, as there are quite a number of products that would end up costing that amount in total. As an example, in Qikiqtarjuaq the jet fuel facility will be upgraded; in Kugluktuk the fuelling area is going to be relocated; in Coral Harbour the fuelling system structures will be prepared; in Baker Lake the pipes will be installed higher; and in Taloyoak the airport fuel system upgrade. That is what the money is slated for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I misunderstood this. I thought it was talking about tanks that ships fill up. It is for the airport fuelling station.

I don't have any other questions. I would

like to thank you for the opportunity to ask my questions. In our chairperson's opening comments on page 2, second paragraph, on solid waste bundles, Taloyoak is also on the list. Can the minister elaborate on the status of Taloyoak's solid waste site? Is it completed or is there more work to be done? I would like that information, hence my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The work is progressing overall on the solid waste sites. Currently the design is being planned for 2022. They are now working on what the solid waste sites will look like, what they will be equipped with, and how they are going to be set up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name on my list: Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, minister and your officials. I don't have too many questions. I think I have two different projects, and the first project I would like to ask questions about is the Municipal Green Infrastructure Program.

Before getting into the questions, I wanted to thank the minister for this lengthy document with all the details on the projects. This contains a lot of information, which I was grateful to see. One item that I was really glad to see was the municipal infrastructure program application guidelines. It is quite detailed, very thorough, well-thought-out. Looking at all the different items in here, it seems like you didn't

miss much. I just want to say “thank you” for that, and I was glad to see that there were four projects which were approved under this project. My first question will be: exactly how many communities had submitted applications? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not too often you sit in the House and Mr. Lightstone says he’s got a lot of information. I thank my staff for providing him with all the information, and that’s the goal. I think we’ve had many discussions in this House about my colleagues wanting information and I have made a commitment to ensure that you do get information and I hope you take advantage of it and it helps you and when it helps you, it helps us too. Right now there were four eligible proposals on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: were all applications approved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we received four eligible proposals and all four were approved. As it turned out, the funding was adequate and they all fell into the proper categories, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. My next question is on the advisory committee. It

says that it consists of members of the Climate Change Secretariat as well as CGS. I was wondering: who exactly sits on this advisory committee and is it 50-50 between the Climate Change Secretariat and CGS? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m sorry, but I don’t have that detail in terms of who is on that advisory committee and how many they are. I would be more than happy to supply that to my colleagues when I get that information, but I don’t have that information with me, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I’ll follow up with the minister at a later date on that topic.

I’m going to move on to my next question and it’s on the South Baffin Energy Management Project. I recall bringing up this project the last two years and, I believe, last year I had indicated that the scope was limited to energy retrofits, such as replacing windows and doors and whatnot. I was surprised to hear this summer where the federal minister made an announcement associated with this project in which he had stated that it includes renewable energy initiatives. I would just like to ask the minister for clarification if the renewable energy aspect of this project has always been there or if I just remembered incorrectly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry I lost his question. Could you repeat it, please, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last two years I have made comments about the scope of this project and, if I recall correctly, it didn't include renewable energy systems. I'll just move directly into the question. How many different buildings in this project will be incorporating renewable energy systems? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the question. Mr. Chairman, this will include renewable energy in this project in terms of solar domestic hot water, solar air heating, and solar equipment for this. Those will all be encompassing. It will be implemented in 45 GN-owned facilities across six communities, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, will all 45 buildings be including these systems and have they begun installation yet or is there a date in the future where these will be incorporated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if they have started installing any of this equipment at this time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name on my list: Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Welcome, minister and to your officials.

The first subject I want to talk about is on your opening statements here. You were talking about the arena upgrades for a few communities there. Did you receive any applications from any other communities? How many were declined and why? Thank you, *Iksivautalik*.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan is for our department to do arena upgrades in all the communities of Nunavut. It's not application-based, but we work with the community sustainability plans and where communities want their arenas to be upgraded quicker and following the use of the arenas in those communities, we're working on improving it in all the communities, Mr. Chairman. It's not application-based as such and nobody has been declined nor will any community be declined for arena upgrades. The goal is to upgrade all the arenas in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. It's good to hear that you guys are planning on working with all the communities and that you guys are not declining any.

Is there a timeline of when... ? Let's use Baker Lake for example. Hockey is very

popular there and the arena building is the most utilized building in Baker Lake because they've got an indoor playground, they've got the fitness room/fitness centre, and a drop-in centre for the youth there, and the community hall is in there as well, the new one.

Is there a timeline of when you guys are looking at doing upgrades for the rest of the communities that are not on this list? Is there a plan in place of any type? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just highlighted up to 2021-22, '22-23, and if you were to look at '23-24, '24-25, you would see Baker Lake and other communities that aren't on there like whatever communities are not on there, but Baker Lake is on that list. I would anticipate it being probably in the '23-24. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad it's not too far off from this year.

Moving on, the solid waste management studies are what I want to talk about next. Going back 12 years, Baker Lake has gone through significant forced growth changes and, understandably, solid waste management needs to be worked on regularly and updated and whatnot. Baker Lake is having some issues right now with their solid waste management. I think the garbage dump is what I'm talking about. Is your department looking at doing a study in all the communities to see what their needs are currently and if they're far

behind and whatnot and what their future needs will be so that we can ensure that the environment is not being damaged because of these garbage dumps? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working on solid waste plans in the House. We have been preparing them as bundles: bundle 1, bundle 2, and bundle 3, depending on priority and criteria and so forth. We're taking a look at all the solid waste disposal sites in Nunavut and categorizing them and seeing where the biggest needs are and what best way to tackle those needs and taking a holistic approach at it. We're working on all of them to try to ensure that we have solid waste sites that are following the solid waste site standards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. That's good to hear, minister.

Lastly, I want to talk about the water treatment plants. Baker Lake just again went through boil water advisory. I lost count how many that is just for this calendar year; it might be number five or maybe four. Is there any plan in place to look at alternatives for water treatment in the community of Baker Lake or other communities? Baker Lake has gone through four or five this calendar year alone. Is there a way we can look at making some improvements in Baker Lake through your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of different criteria or reasons why boil water advisories might be in place. It might be anything from a fuel spill near the water intake valves or bad count of something or contamination in the water system. There are a number of different factors that go into this.

I'm not really aware of what the issues were surrounding the Baker Lake boil water advisories. They have a huge lake there with beautiful pristine water and we would hate to see that contaminated. Our department will work with the municipality and the appropriate people with the Department of Health who do the water testing to ensure that Baker Lake water stays pristine and that we will work to minimize the need for boil water advisory. It always depends on the different circumstances in the different communities, but we will work the municipality to ensure that we minimize the boil water advisory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have a final name on my list on this page. Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

You stated earlier, if I am not mistaken, that there is some planning to do some work on the Pond Inlet water reservoir. I was looking for the information in the substantiation sheets and I could not find it. When you were talking about Pond Inlet, did you say that our water reservoir would be upgraded sometime

in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I said that about Pond Inlet's water reservoir, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): I already answered the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can ask him that question outside the House.

I know the minister mentioned Pond Inlet. When the minister was responding about Igloodik and Sanirajak, in March 2018 I don't think I was an MLA yet and the minister had indicated that there was an agreement that had been signed and it was called a bilateral agreement in English. I don't know how to say "bilateral" in Inuktitut.

The federal government's infrastructure people were going to provide funding for infrastructure planning and that announcement says that in Nunavut they would be receiving \$566,761,621 over 10 years, from 2018 to 2028.

On January 3, 2019 the Nunavut government submitted an infrastructure plan to the federal government for infrastructure funding. (interpretation ends) The copies of the long-term infrastructure plan were provided to all Members of the Legislative Assembly. Correspondence that you sent to MLAs

indicated that the Government of Nunavut is “targeting the submissions of an updated version of a long-term infrastructure plan in May 2019, after more robust engagement with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and Nunavut Inuit organizations.”

(interpretation) I wonder when you will be tabling a copy of the updated long-term infrastructure plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is hard to forecast exactly what members want tabled, so it is better to request specific information directly and we can try to accommodate those requests. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, within the minister’s departmental 2021-22 capital estimates, it does not seem to include any reference or funds for the fibre optic project, which I believe needs funding in 2021-22 in order to ensure it is funded for 2022. Can the minister respond as to why funding for this project is not included here within this funding cycle? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding process we are using identifies projects that were not previously identified, as this is the area where requests can be made for operational requirements that are above and beyond the funding

request, which is why we have not requested it here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. 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 carried. I will now rise to report progress.

I’m sorry, Mr. Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good day. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 51 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Ms. Ehaloak. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

**Speaker** (interpretation): All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. 22. *Orders of the*

Day. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets at nine o'clock tomorrow morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for 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

- Bill 51

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 27, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:04*



