



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

6th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 10

Friday, June 3, 2022

Pages 420 – 459

Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Tony Akoak, MLA

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Gjoa Haven)

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(Quttiktuq)

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Development and Transportation; Minister of
Energy*

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(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Karen Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, June 3, 2022**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickers, Hon. David Joanasié, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>>House commenced at 9:00

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak) (interpretation): Good morning. Before we proceed, can you say the opening prayer, please, Ms. Quassa.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning, Inuit and my colleagues. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeagok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 039 – 6(2):
Minister Vandal Visit to Iqaluit**

Hon. P.J. Akeagok (interpretation): Good morning, my colleagues, Nunavummiut, and my constituents in Iqaluit-Niaqunngu.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Minister of

Northern Affairs, the Hon. Dan Vandal's recent visit here to Iqaluit.

On April 12 and 13 I had the opportunity to meet with Minister Vandal as he travelled to Iqaluit to discuss Budget 2022 investments here into Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, during his Iqaluit visit, Minister Vandal and I toured one of the recently constructed Government of Nunavut social housing units. The unit was an accessible home made to accommodate an individual with mobility issues, such as an elder. That unit is one of over 100 newly constructed homes in Nunavut, built in partnership with the federal government.

Following the tour, we attended a media availability which included the President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Ms. Kotierk, as well as His Worship Mr. Bell, the Mayor of Iqaluit. That event was an affirmation that we need to work across all levels of government and in partnership with Inuit organizations to achieve our mandate of building 1,000 homes in Nunavut.

During this visit, Minister Vandal affirmed his commitment to continue to work with Nunavut to address our housing shortfalls by assisting us in identifying other opportunities for collaboration.

Mr. Speaker, I am eager to continue to have the dialogue with our counterparts in the federal government, Inuit organizations, and municipalities to minimize Nunavut's housing gap. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister for Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 040 – 6(2):
National Award for Agguttinni
Park Project**

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate our team at Nunavut Parks and Special Places and contractors, NVision Insight Group and Laird Associates, for their work on the Agguttinni Park Project.

The park project was recently awarded the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects' National Award and the Jury's Award of Excellence.

Mr. Speaker, the society received 57 submissions and after choosing 15 category winners, Agguttinni was awarded the top prize. The Jury's Award of Excellence is given annually to the one project that best demonstrates the society's vision of advancing the art, science, and practice of landscape architecture.

Another Nunavut project was also honoured by the society. Congratulations go out to the City of Iqaluit and George Harris Collaborative, who earned a National Award for the 2020-2030 Iqaluit Recreation Master Plan.

(interpretation) The awards will be presented during a virtual ceremony Wednesday, June 8. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Minister's Statement 041 – 6(2):
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Program at the Qikiqtani General
Hospital**

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there is a significant demand for gynecology services in Nunavut and a need to support patients in the obstetrics program for high-risk deliveries. The Department of Health is committed to providing reliable, high-quality medical and surgical services closer to home and this includes obstetrics and gynecology.

By August 2022, the Department of Health will be implementing a full obstetrics and gynecology service at the Qikiqtani General Hospital in Iqaluit. The Department of Health has already hired one full-time obstetrics and gynecology specialist and will fill the second position through employing three regular relief doctors to provide services to Nunavummiut.

This gynecology and obstetrics program will facilitate multiple surgical services and assessments to be performed in Iqaluit, expanding the level of care as well as aiding in continuity of care. This program will also alleviate wait times and reduce the need for patients to travel south to access these services.

Uqaqtitsijii, this program will allow for hysterectomies, prolapse surgeries, bladder surgeries, late-term abortions, certain types of gynecological cancer surgeries, including the screening and treatment of cervical cancer, all at the Qikiqtani General Hospital. Obstetrics

will support maternity care that includes performing complicated caesarean sections and deliveries that require specialist intervention. Follow-up appointments for these procedures will also be held in territory, limiting time away from family, interruptions in home life as well as employment.

Uqaqtitsijii, implementing a full obstetrics and gynecology service in-territory is another step towards building and strengthening our health care systems in Nunavut. This program will aid the Department of Health's commitment to protect a woman's right to sexual and reproductive health. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Minister's Statement 042 – 6(2):
Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program –
Graduate Success**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate the most recent graduate of the Department of Human Resources' Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program.

Sivuliqtiksat is an on-the-job internship program designed to increase Inuit representation in leadership, management and specialist-level positions across the Government of Nunavut. The program aims to provide

professional development opportunities to Inuit employees while supporting departments and public bodies to meet their Inuit employment targets.

Since the program's inception, 39 interns have successfully graduated the program, including our most recent graduate, Eva Noah. Ms. Noah started her internship position as Superintendent of Schools in the Kivalliq region with the Department of Education in September 2018 and graduated in September 2021 under the guidance of Bill Cooper. I want to thank Bill for giving his time and support to Ms. Noah, which exemplifies the value of the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of this House to join me in congratulating Ms. Noah for achieving this important career milestone. I thank her for her dedication to public service and wish her continued success as Superintendent of Schools in the Kivalliq region. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

**Minister's Statement 043 – 6(2):
Carving Program at Aqqigiarvik
Resumes**

Hon. Craig Simailak: Good morning, colleagues, and to the people of Baker Lake, good morning as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the good news that, after many interruptions due to the COVID-19 lockdowns, the carving program for clients of the Aqqigiarvik Correctional Healing

Facility is once again up and running. This program gives artists who are incarcerated the chance to begin their healing journey on a productive path. This allows them to practise their creative carving skills and share their work through sales to the public.

Mr. Speaker, the carving program for minimum-security clients started in 2015. Carvers receive stone from the facility and are provided all the tools they need to create their art. Carvers are then permitted to sell their work to the public once a week. 80 percent of the carving sale proceeds go to the artist and their families; 20 percent goes to the client trust fund, which is used to purchase more stone and carving tools.

Carving sales are held every Friday at the main entrance of the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility from 1:30 p.m. to four o'clock p.m. I encourage the public to visit the carving sale to support the clients and purchase some beautiful artwork.

Mr. Speaker, we look forward to continuing this programs that help our clients to build their skills, support themselves and their families, and prepare them to re-enter their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 061 – 6(2): Clyde River Economic Development Initiatives

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Good morning, my fellow residents of Nunavut, as well as my constituents in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq.

I rise today to express my pride in the hard work and dedication of the economic development officer in Clyde River. From April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, the proposals and grants through the work that he did through Arctic Co-ops and different bodies in town, there were five projects approved through proposals totalling \$257,000. I thank you very much, Billy Palluq, the economic development officer.

He is also the secretary-treasurer for a volunteer group. I will announce the people he has worked with: their chairperson, Vera Kalluk, vice-chairperson, Loreena Palluq, and board member Niomi Illauq. They work together on a volunteer basis for many countless hours. I thank them for that.

I am proud of you and the work that you do for the local food bank. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. I have no more names. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. P.J. Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to recognize our incredible Senator who is joining us here in the House, Dennis Patterson. (interpretation) Please feel welcome. (interpretation ends) I am honoured that you have come here. You really have a distinguished career, sitting in these very rooms, making very big decisions for us, and as such, I want to thank you for the incredible service you provided many Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you for being here in the House.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for his recognition of our Senator, and he beat me to the punch.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honour of mine to recognize my very own constituent, Mr. Dennis Patterson, as he resides just around the corner from me up in the Plateau, and I would like to thank him for representing me all of us and all Nunavummiut in the Senate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. We're at oral questions.

Mr. Lightstone: Oh.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Question 095 – 6(2): Enforcement of the Traffic Safety Act**

Mr. Lightstone: My apologies, Mr. Speaker. I was a bit distracted and that is actually related to my questions today. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and they're regarding the enforcement of recently passed amendments to the *Traffic Safety Act*.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, Nunavut's *Traffic Safety Act* was significantly amended in the year 2017.

Mr. Speaker, one of the important provisions in the legislation is section 239.1, which deals with the issue of "distracted driving."

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, this section prohibits the use of hand-held electronic devices while operating a vehicle. To put it more plainly, do not text while driving.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Iqaluit issued a public service announcement earlier this month concerning what it describes as "frequent contraventions" of the rules of the road, including the issue of distracted driving.

I would like to ask if the minister can describe how his department works with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and municipal by-law officials to enforce this provision of the *Traffic Safety Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our direct involvement with the RCMP on traffic is minimal, but once we pass any of our laws, they get trained as part of their ongoing duties on traffic, any kind of traffic, whether it's federal or territorial, that they would enforce.

In terms of working directly with the City of Iqaluit and the by-law, when this Act was passed, I had meetings with the mayor and the by-law division in terms of how we can improve it, and through those meetings, we had to amend our regulations to ensure that the city is able to do what they can when it comes to the traffic regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response and amending the regulations to allow municipal enforcement on these specific matters.

Mr. Speaker, I am very confident that the minister will completely agree with me when I say that impaired driving is completely unacceptable under any circumstances. Impaired driving also includes driving while under the influence of cannabis or other drugs.

As the minister will recall, the Government of Canada announced \$964,000 over five years to Nunavut to support law enforcement by training and equipping them with standardized field

sobriety testing and drug recognition expert evaluation to detect and deter drug-impaired drivers as well as enforcing new driving offences.

Mr. Speaker, this funding was also intended to be used to develop standardized data collection and reporting practices that would be used to analyze trends, identifying gaps, and providing an accurate picture of drug-impaired driving in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, for my next question, I would like to ask the minister to describe how his department has been involved in this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We haven't been directly involved in this under Economic Development and Transportation; however, the Department of Justice has been under public safety. Any kind of training that is required for law enforcement tends to go through that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I appreciate the minister's response and will giving a heads up to the Minister of Justice that I would like to follow up on that issue at another time.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, section 328.1 of the legislation requires the minister to prepare and table an annual report in the Legislative

Assembly concerning such important matters as traffic safety in Nunavut. This section of the legislation came into force in the year 2020.

I would like to ask the minister to confirm when the first annual report under the *Traffic Safety Act* will be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My intentions are to table this document, if it's ready, by the fall session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Question 096 – 6(2): Marine Tourism

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day to the people of Pond Inlet, Iqaluit, and all of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and they concern the issue of marine tourism.

Mr. Speaker, summer is almost here.

As the minister is aware, the federal government imposed a temporary ban on cruise ships entering Canadian waters in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This ban was in place for the 2020 and 2021 seasons. It is my understanding that this ban has been lifted, and cruise

ships will be coming back into Canadian waters this summer.

Mr. Speaker, beautiful Pond Inlet is a popular destination for cruise ships.

Can the minister confirm that federal regulations require all passengers and crews on cruise ships entering Canadian waters to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cruise ship passengers and crew will need to be fully vaccinated, following the federal laws. To answer my colleague's question, I can say yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, his department is responsible for administering the *Marine Tourism Regulations* made under the authority of the territorial *Tourism Act*.

I have received concerns from constituents regarding a number of issues related to cruise ship practices in the waters near Pond Inlet, including disturbances of wildlife and sailing too close to shore.

Can the minister clarify how his department brings community concerns to the attention of cruise ship operators

and enforces the provisions of the *Marine Tourism Regulations*? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could respond to this in two streams; one is through our regulations. We highlight certain areas that we don't want any cruise ships or any types of ships. We define that and put it in our regulations and also communicate that to any of the cruise ship operators that are operating out of our waters. We do that.

For any community concerns, our staff have been at either meetings or have written letters asking hamlets and HTOs in terms of which areas they're concerned about and for their reasons. When they provide that, we provide that to the cruise ship operators and request that they do not go to certain areas. A majority of the time we get that respect, but there are reports that activities do take place and when they do, we report that through our federal agencies that are supposed to enforce protecting our waters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry to keep calling you Chairman.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, Pond Inlet is looking forward to the completion of the community's new marine infrastructure.

Can the minister confirm the extent to which its design will be able to accommodate cruise ships docking at this facility? Thank you, *Uqaqtittijii*.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think the cruise ships will be docking right at the dock, but they will be able to use their zodiacs and whatever transportation that they use to get into beautiful Pond Inlet's land. That's one of the major factors that it was built for, to help assist in terms of tourism, along with community use. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Uqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Question 097 – 6(2): Solid Waste Management

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Brings back the feeling of being the first time since it is morning, as I have had the shakes from time to time all morning.

>>*Laughter*

Now, I wanted to hear more about the communities as I understand most of the members now when it comes to statements about my two constituency communities, as my question will be directed to the (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services (interpretation) and they both relate to the community infrastructure, mainly the solid and metal waste component of waste management, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I want to follow up today on some issues that we discussed last week during the minister's appearance before the Committee of the Whole.

During his appearance, the minister indicated that his department is working to "ensure the needs of municipalities will be met in supporting the role of the Department of Environment in developing a Nunavut-specific waste management strategy."

Can the minister confirm when the communities of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River will be visited to obtain updated information on the status of their solid waste sites and hazardous waste management practices? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question regarding solid waste management. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut and the federal government have approved funding for those purposes and we're always trying to develop things for solid waste dumps because they need to be run through a proper planning process and to have adequate funding for them.

With regard to the question, I need to check for an update on how this and I will have to get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank the minister for that response. (interpretation ends) During the minister's recent appearance before the Committee of the Whole, members were informed that his department is considering such initiatives as the "Introduction of small-scale incinerators into communities."

Will the minister commit to considering undertaking a pilot project in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq to evaluate the use of this technology? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on solid waste facilities, my department continues working with municipalities in trying to move forward with solid waste facilities, either with upgrades or new facilities.

In terms of a pilot project for Clyde River and/or Qikiqtarjuaq, we will have to consider that, but I can't make a commitment if that will be proceeding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to touch up on the community hamlets, especially Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River, which I represent.

Sometimes those communities are seen as not doing what they should be doing. There is the metal dump and the regular

dump. There is not enough space and we do need help from the government to make sure that we dispose of garbage and metal properly.

Again, what I have experienced, (interpretation ends) that I am sure that the communities of Kinngait and Kimmirut experienced some challenges that are faced by Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq. Our landfills are overflowing with old vehicles, appliances, and other metals.

During the minister's recent appearance before the Committee of the Whole, members were also informed that his department is considering such initiatives as "Backhauling materials that can be recycled elsewhere."

Will the minister commit to considering undertaking a pilot project, again I say that, in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq to remove old vehicles and similar items from the community? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I agree with the Member for Uqqummiut. Again, we were able to see the sites when we went to visit the community.

Mr. Speaker, Community and Government Services are looking at the landfill sites and the old vehicles. They all have to be properly disposed of as we are concerned about the environment.

We are working with the Department of Environment to make sure that it is safe at the community level. At this time I

can't say that we will start that in those communities, but we will make sure that a pilot project goes on in one of the Nunavut communities. I'll make sure to keep the member informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 098 – 6(2): Update on Recalled Devices

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are directed to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, on March 17 earlier this year, I brought up the issue of the June 24, 2021, Phillips brand CPAP and bi-level PAP devices that are manufactured before April 26, 2021 had been recalled.

Mr. Speaker, at that time I had asked the minister how many of these devices had been issued across the territory. Unfortunately, at that time he didn't have the information available. Today, I'm hoping that he has that information available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I do have a bit more information. Unfortunately, I don't have the number of these machines in Nunavut. Sleep apnoea machines are prescribed by the contracted sleep team, once they're prescribed they become an accessory and a personal item to the patient. They're not provided by the Department of Health, and nor are they

purchased through the Department of Health. The client or Non-Insured Health Benefits purchases the machine directly from the retailer. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back in March when I brought this topic up, I mentioned that the supplier has basically stated to the constituent that I was copied on the correspondence with, that they can't do anything in the meantime about this recall.

Mr. Speaker, back in March I also asked the minister how people that have this piece of equipment would be notified of this recall, as it is difficult to come across that information. To this day, I have never seen a public notice that these pieces of medical equipment have been recalled and there's some danger associated with that.

Again, I'll ask the minister: What type of oversight is the Department of Health taking to make sure that people are aware of this recall and can make sure that they look at getting the equipment replaced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. (interpretation ends) My understanding is that communicating to individuals around this recall is the responsibility of the retailer. Retailers typically have a registration option, Mr. Speaker, where clients can register their machines. In

that case, if they registered the machine they would be notified.

Health doesn't have a direct involvement in terms of notifying individuals around the recall. It's come to my attention that this recall has been in the media, the Canadian media. There's also been information published on the Health Canada website regarding this.

We are willing to support if there are individuals who are on this type of machine and would like to consult with their healthcare provider or seek support. Of course, we're open to that, in terms of providing support to Nunavummiut who have questions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the minister's responses on this. I am a little concerned that, back in March the minister stated right in *Hansard*, in terms of when they would be notified as soon as possible. If this is a serious matter that warrants immediate attention, we would do that as soon possible, With regard to notifying people that have this type of equipment.

I guess my last question to the minister: I'm a little confused, I'm considering this quite a serious matter, so I would appreciate if the Department of Health could at least put out some type of public notice that these pieces of equipment have been recalled, or there's some serious issues with them and to get some kind of a timeline on when these pieces of equipment could be replaced. As I'd mentioned back in March, these things are selling for almost \$3,000, Mr.

Speaker. Where Non-Insured Health Benefits may be picking up the bulk of that cost, like I'd mentioned back then, these pieces of equipment are available online for as little as \$700.

I think it's very important that we get some comfort in knowing when these pieces of equipment will be replaced, and a notice to people so that they don't use this equipment if it's been impacted by the issue of the recall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can certainly take those suggestions into consideration in terms of what we can do as Department of Health, if it's not putting out a news release then perhaps there's other means that we can communicate to Nunavummiut, for example through our community health representatives. That's something that I'll take under consideration.

Mr. Speaker it is, at the end of the day, a responsibility that lies with the retailer in terms of communicating to their customers. On the Phillips website, which is the brand that's been affected by this recall, they do provide some guidance to individuals in terms of steps they can take. They recommend, I believe, consulting with their health care provider in terms of whether it's wise to cease use of the machine or not. All that to say, Mr. Speaker, there is information available out there, but as the Minister of Health, I'm willing to look further into this and see if there's anything additional that we can do to support.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Question 099 – 6(2): Staff Housing Program and Initiatives

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this morning are the Minister of Human Resources. I just want to say 'Happy Friday' to everybody here, what a beautiful day. Happy Friday to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up today on some issues that I raised during the winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly in respect to housing benefits and initiatives for Government of Nunavut employees.

At that time, I noted that far too many of our government's employees are homeless or living in fragile housing situations. I suggested that one of the first steps that the government should take in order to begin addressing this situation, is to do some baseline work to determine the housing status of its workforce. Can the minister indicate how she has responded to this suggestion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for the question. (interpretation ends) I'm going to have to take that question as notice and get back to you in regard to the information. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Question taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

Question 100 – 6(2): Economic Impact of Mining Sector

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Kugluktuk, Nunavut and members.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for Mines.

As I noted in my member's statement earlier this week, it is important that our local communities and residents benefit fully from activity in the mining sector.

Last week's Budget Address announced the creation of the new "Discover, Invest and Grow Program" to encourage mineral exploration.

Can the minister clarify the extent to which mining companies will be required to meet Inuit employment and local contracting activities in order to be eligible for benefits under the new program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have that information right in front of me and I'm trying to dig it out in terms of what the criteria are for Inuit content and that. There are a number of criteria that are included under the new program and I'm very prepared to provide that level of information and also that this program should be made

available on our website, if it hasn't already been, in terms of what the criteria are for this new program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. (interpretation ends) Can the minister describe how his department monitors Inuit employment levels at mining companies operating in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have memorandums of understanding for the operating mines that are in Nunavut. We're still working on the one in the Kitikmeot with Agnico on their recent purchase in terms of getting a memorandum of understanding, but it is through those things that we monitor and also we have the socio-economic committees that do take place that have a number of partners with community level, the mining sector, stakeholders, and Inuit organizations and we go through and monitor activities such as that through those, so there are two levels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. (interpretation ends) We all know that employment at mining sites and exploration camps is generally

divided between local hired and imported workers.

Can the minister clarify the extent to which mining companies operating in Nunavut are required to inform their employees about their employment rights under such statutes as the territorial *Labour Standards Act*? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each of the mine sites do have employee information and for any kind of information that is needed for labour standards and for workers' safety, they are to be posted in worksites and that is no different with mine sites and any information.

For what my member was referring to in terms of Inuit being concerned about or being degraded, we do have the Labour Standards Board that can look into that. The mines fall under the *Labour Standards Act*, which has a board, and they could go through that and, if they're not satisfied, we also have the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal that can entertain those sorts.

There are different avenue that employees can go through and if they approach us, we're more than willing to provide all that information. A lot of that information is readily available for worksites and I would be pleased if any of the constituents contact us and we will be prepared to provide those types of information. I thank the member for raising this in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 101 – 6(2): Health Centre Replacement for Arviat

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say "good morning" to you. The days are getting noisier over there, but Mr. Speaker.

My question is for the Minister of Health.

As I know the minister is aware, the health centre in Arviat lacks enough space, is entirely inadequate to provide proper services and lacks the diagnostic rooms for each nurse or they are too small, so I would like to know when the new health centre would be built that can meet our growing needs as a community which would be more adequate for Arviat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. It does affect who require care and this is one of my concerns as a minister with the lack of space. The health centre was built in the year 2000. Back then Arviat's population was around 1,899 people and by the year 2020, a survey determined the population was 2,918, if it had not changed. For that reason, we are looking into this and consideration is being given as to whether or not the health centre in Arviat will be extended in size, but there are other responsibilities and with the budget being an obstacle at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is the problem there to have a new health centre and the minister views that the building would be extended in size, but the land in the area is quite and you have to see an increase in the size of the lot.

It is in quite a high area and it gets slippery during the winter and it is very difficult for people who are disabled. Oftentimes people who are disabled have problems trudging the snow. If the building size were to be increased, would be consideration be given to having a birthing centre included?

As I know, there are more children being born in Arviat compared to the community of Rankin Inlet. Has there been any consideration to have a birthing centre as well in Arviat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your question. Yes, as far as I understand it, they need to include this as part of planning under (interpretation ends) preplanning. (interpretation) The plan would be to have an increase in size, and we tried to include a birthing centre to be approved, but it was not approved.

We will continually work towards that. We know birthing centres would be including if the size was increased. This is one of the areas recognized by Health; the community's desire for it. Perhaps due to the size of the community with the rates of births in Arviat, you would

think a birthing centre would be included if the project did proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's great. I hope this does move forward.

My next line of questioning is if we have new building or the building is extended, with the size of the population of Arviat having increased and the number of patients increasing, if the project does go ahead, we would also want to see an increase in nurses because at the moment we have transient nurses coming in and out, and also to have a physician in place in the community as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very good question. As far as I understand it, Arviat has nurses that come in for a time and varies in each community and it's based on the population. That is how we distribute our nurses. Some communities have an adequate number of nurses and some communities have transient nurses. We also look to agencies, but I cannot really speak to that at the moment.

What I can say is a new or larger health centre is something we support. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, having adequate facilities to have enough space, have a really nice working environment does really assist in our efforts to recruit and retain staff.

With regard to the Arviat health centre, if an expansion were to proceed, it is my understanding that that would assist indirectly with retaining and bringing on additional health care professionals. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 102 – 6(2): Southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear Management

Mr. Qavvik: Good morning. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues.

My questions today are for the Minister of Environment.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of the management of the southern Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation.

During our recent winter siting, the minister agreed with me when I stated that this is a complex issue involving many different jurisdictions and organizations.

When I raised this issue during our winter sitting, the minister also assured me that his department would be meeting with the Sanikiluaq hunters' and trappers' organization within the next few months to discuss management of the subpopulation.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of these discussions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a date as to when the department is planning on meeting, but that commitment is always there. For any of our management plans, whether it's for polar bears, that commitment is still there and I want to assure the member that if they haven't already visited, that they will be visiting. I just don't have the firm date in terms of when that is taking place.

As you know, in person meetings are brand new to all of us again, so we are slowly getting into that process and there is a lot to catch up on, especially on the wildlife management side because there are so many that had to be delayed or were being worked on. I cannot confirm a firm date yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On February 7, 2022, the minister personally signed a letter to the Chairperson of the Nunavut Wildlife Management in which he accepted the board's decision in respect to the polar bear harvest administration and credit calculation system.

In his letter, the minister wrote, "The Department of Environment is committed to working with co-management partners. I believe active engagement with co-management partners will address concerns of credit usage and management as well as improve public access to harvest information."

Can the minister clarify how the concerns are being addressed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In some cases there are delays in terms of getting the total allowable harvest. It is a very intense discussion happening with hunters and trappers associations and regional wildlife organizations along with the NWMB in terms of how to address the concerns with the credit system. It's something that's very complex. As members are aware, it is something that we are continually trying to get a firm position.

From the briefings with my staff, it is headed back to the NWMB for some formal decision on this. We can't keep going, not knowing whether those credits are going to them next or whether we cancel them outright. Those are the very things that are near and dear to our harvesters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that Sanikiluaq's hunters and trappers association and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board have initiated a legal action against the Government of Nunavut in respect to the issue of the polar bear harvest administration and credit calculation system. Can the minister confirm when this matter is scheduled to be heard by the court? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to courts, I do not have any control in when they would

agree to meet. I am not prepared to provide any information as to when they would be hearing this intervention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Question 103 – 6(2): Motor Vehicles Division

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the residents of Naujaat and Coral Harbour.

(interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. They concern the operation of his department's Motor Vehicles Division.

As the minister is aware, many Members of the Legislative Assembly have raised many concerns at many sittings of the House concerning issues related to driver's licence and general identification cards.

One of the concerns that I have received from my constituents in Aivilik is difficulty in obtaining an unrestricted driver's licence that allow Nunavummiut to operate a motor vehicle outside of the territory.

Can the minister describe what specific action his department is taking to improve capacity to provide this service? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These are ongoing

improvements that we are trying to do. One of the things right before the budget that will be seeking approval from you is to enhance our Motor Vehicles Division in terms of allowing for more examinations to take place. Also, there has been an ongoing effort to try to get drivers' examiners in every community. As you know, in the past it used to be the role of the RCMP, but they gave us notice that they are not doing that anymore, so we have been struggling.

There have been at least six communities that have trained municipal examiners and we want more and we are encouraging hamlets to contact our Motor Vehicles to see if they can provide names that will allow to be the driver examiners in the community and that is going to help with obtaining those types of licences for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for answering my question. (interpretation ends) Another concern that is frequently raised by my constituents relates to the delays in issuing new licences. It is my understanding that our licences include security features that require them to be produced outside of the territory. Can the minister update the House on what actions his department is taking to address this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every community is to be connected via fibre that allows for our government liaison officers to get the application through and provide online, practically direct to our regional offices. Once they have gone through it and accepted it, they send it off to our contracted company that makes the cards, Canadian Bank Note Company Ltd., and then they get sent directly.

That improvement has been taking place and it is much better and for any individual that has waited for over a year, I encourage them to go back to the government liaison officer and ask for an update in terms of their application. It seems to be working a lot better compared to previous years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that explanation. (interpretation ends) In recent years the minister's department has made efforts to provide training to residents so that they could be appointed as municipal drivers' examiners and administer driver's tests in the communities.

Can the minister indicate what actions his department is taking to increase the number of municipality drivers in Naujaat and Coral Harbour? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I get an update in terms of the scheduling for the driver examinations for 2022, for the two communities; the ones that are on my list right now, Naujaat, and we expect to be there on June 20 to 24 for that. I don't have a schedule yet for Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Question 104 – 6(2): Kitikmeot Inuit Association Resolutions

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I go on, I wanted to say that it is always an honour to see Dennis Patterson. (interpretation) Welcome.

(interpretation ends) Good morning to residents of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak. (interpretation ends) Enjoy the hunts for the baby seals.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Culture and Heritage, and they concern resolutions passed by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association at its annual general meeting in October 2021.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, my colleague representing Kugluktuk tabled the Kitikmeot Inuit Association's resolutions concerning women, elders, and youth in the House on March 15, 2022.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Kitikmeot Inuit Association for the important work that it does to represent the Inuit of our region; a job well done.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will have noted, one of the resolutions concerning elders and youth in the region include "the need for Elders and Youth camps and programs in all four seasons of the year."

Can the minister clarify what specific actions her department is taking to work with KIA in implementing this resolution? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. For Inuit elders and youth there are programs and funds available to foster and to encourage the gathering of people from the Department of Culture and Heritage and do provide communication. We also work with the different regions. We have invited them to work with us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. KIA's youth resolutions address the need for language revitalization programs and initiatives that help connect youth to elders in their community.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, this is an issue that I have raised on a number of occasions.

Can the minister describe what funding is available through her department to support such programs and can she confirm when the deadline to apply is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for requesting information for the programs we offer from the department. We have funds for language and language preservation. The closing date is January 31. If there are surplus funds left over, there is a deadline to apply in the fall to do with language and culture, preservation and revitalization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, her department's business plan indicates that one of her department's priorities for the 2023-24 fiscal year is to "plan and deliver a grants and contribution information session in the Kitikmeot region." Mr. Speaker, that's great news.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm in which community her department is considering delivering this information session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. The Department of Culture and Heritage reviews the funding proposals every year from the communities. Communities that don't request anything or don't request very often are visited and they go and explain what kinds of funding programs available. This past year, as to which

communities we will be going to, we have not identified them yet.

However, for communities that have never made any or made just a few proposals, they will be visited. I can say that in the Kivalliq, Naujaat will be visited in the year...sometimes they try to go to the communities every two year to go and tell the people about what programs are available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 105 – 6(2): Air Chartered Fuel Resupply Costs

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second line of questioning today is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, there was some recent media coverage and a couple of questions in the House recently on the issue of having to use air resupply for diesel fuel in Arviat. If I recall correctly from the latest media coverage on it, it said that as many as 50 charters were to be used.

My first question today is: has there been a cost final or a cost estimate of what that resupply is costing the Petroleum Products Division? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are proceeding with airlifting 50 charters to Arviat and this is as a result of the tank farm being too

small to meet the needs of the community, but construction on a new tank farm in Arviat should be proceeding next summer, 2023.

In terms of the airlifting that has happened in May, it cost the Petroleum Products Division approximately \$450,000 to airlift 400,000 litres from Rankin Inlet and there are also ancillary services related to the airlift estimated at about \$80,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that information from the minister. My next question, I think, is more of just a clarification of a response that was provided, just so that there is no confusion out there. In the response to the question as far as the price impact, if there's going to be a price impact, the minister stated, "If that's the case for Arviat, I hope that will be the case. I can't say for now whether or not prices will increase in Arviat."

I just wanted to clarify that the revolving fund and fuel prices get established on a territorially-wide basis, not a community-by-community, other than Iqaluit gets to pay the market prices of what our contractors will pay. I just wanted to give the minister an opportunity to clarify the revolving fund and how pricing structures are calculated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question and for me to provide an opportunity to

clarify my response. Yes, we do have a territory-wide pricing structure outside of Iqaluit and that is the way it has been for as long as I can recall. Any price increases will be across the territory, not just Arviat. The price increases are not community by community but are territory-wide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for clarifying for those listening. What my last question on this topic, Mr. Speaker, is there have recently been some coverage in Clyde River as well some capacity challenges or that was more of maybe that was more of a fuel type that was available.

My final question is how many other communities are at or near their capacity for fuel storage? As the capital planning process proceeds we can keep aware of that as legislators. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Petroleum Products Division provides the needs of the communities and monitors the consumption in past years and forecasts what it will need for the next year.

As of this point I cannot specify which communities will either need larger fuel capacity increases or if they are at the threshold, but we will continue to monitor these levels and what the trends are. That informs our capital planning process for tank farms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Question 106 – 6(2): Iqaluit Marine Infrastructure

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to stand to recognize a very important guest...I'm just kidding.

>>*Laughter*

I must apologize for my earlier instant. My mind was enthralled with my distracted driving questions.

Mr. Speaker, my questions on this very beautiful day are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, again.

Mr. Speaker, the sun is shining and the ice is melting. The bay will soon be open and another sealift and boating season will be upon us.

As one of the Iqaluit MLAs, I am looking forward to the completion of work on our community's new marine infrastructure. I would like to ask if the minister can provide a timeline of the completion of construction and subsequent grand opening of the port?

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll knock on wood in hopes of getting it done by the end of the fall season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully we will be able to squeeze in some of our final sealift vessels into the new port in the fall.

Mr. Speaker, information produced by the minister's department indicates that it's been working to develop an operations plans inception report to refine the estimates of annual operations and maintenance costs for the new marine facilities in both Iqaluit and Pond Inlet. It is my understanding that this work is intended to consider everything from power costs to other operational expenses.

I would like to ask if the minister can clarify how much progress has been made on this work and will he commit to sharing the report with the Members of the Legislative Assembly representing the two communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We currently have an engineering consultant preparing the operational plans and what is needed for the two facilities. That work is ongoing. Once I know the plan and the work or what our government accepts in terms of going moving forward, I would be happy to provide any details that are taking place.

These are new facilities and we are going to need to figure out what we will be doing. Before the Committee of the Whole, I will be elaborate more with my experts here because we are asking for

additional money for this particular section. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his responses and I look forward to following up later on in the sitting during the minister's appearance before the Committee of the Whole.

As the minister is aware, although the Iqaluit International Airport is a piece of public infrastructure, day-to-day operations are managed by a private entity, Nunavut Airport Services.

I would like to ask the minister if he can clarify what management model is being developed for the operations of Iqaluit's new airport. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is part of the operational plan that is being developed. I cannot say which way it's at right now at the current time. Once I have made those decisions I will be happy to provide an update to this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Arviat-South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 107 – 6(2): Bollards for Arviat

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends). Mr. Speaker, I would like the minister to

stand back up, the Minister of Economic Development and [Transportation]. Today is Friday and today is his day.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, can the minister give the House an update on the 70-tonne bollards that the funding was approved for approximately two years ago. I live there and up to today they are not there. They have not been built yet. Can we have an update? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a rare occasion that I try and deflect questions to another department. The bollard project was part of the application that our government put in for the Oceans Protection Plan, I believe.

Once those were approved we gave them to the rightful authority, which was Petroleum Products Division who requested those through our department and the delegations to the Petroleum Products Division for them to action those bollards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Community and Government Services if he can give us an update on the 70-tonne bollards that have not been built in two years in Arviat. These are for the fuel tanker to tie up to when it's refuelling in Arviat. Arviat has a lot of

wind and a 70-tonne bollard is desperately needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Maybe you can ask the minister the next time around. Thank you.

Oral Questions. I have no more names. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Question 108 – 6(2): Update on Sakku School

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

I would like an update in regard to Coral Harbour's Sakku School renovations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Education, Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. In regard to Sakku School, our department is currently working with the community and we are working to have discussions with the community in regard to the renovation and expansion of the school. I can provide more of an update at a later time. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister and I look forward to that update. I was in Coral Harbour this spring and they haven't been kept up to date about the status of the renovation and the expansion of the school. When

are you going to be visiting the community of Coral Harbour? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. I believe, from memory, that our department has gone to Sakku School recently over the past couple of months to visit with the community and I can tell you that we are happy to go and work with the communities when we do have the chance now to be travelling again. I look forward to the work that's going to go ahead and just so our colleague is aware, the tendering for the construction of the Sakku School project will commence this fall, 2022, and construction in 2023. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister. There is an increasing cost with the supply chains and once the tender goes out, would they just cancel the construction of the school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I think there were some translation issues. I didn't quite catch the member's question, if he can rephrase his question once again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Malliki, can you ask your question again? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With everything becoming more expensive, would you cancel this project if it goes over budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* for re-asking the question. We have to wait for the tenders to come through before we make that determination. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Item 10: Replies to Budget Address

Reply to Budget Address 001 – 6(2): Mr. Daniel Qavvik

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll do my absolute best to try to address the Budget Address. It's my first political experience and I would like to gain more experience in that area.

First of all, when our colleague from Rankin Inlet South noted that he encountered a young boy during his campaign, it was very moving.

I would like to make a note that the new two positions that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

is proposing to create that, in a sense, will expedite the consultations with elders, families, and communities across the territory and we look forward to hearing when those two positions will be up and running in our government employment areas.

Also, our government is in the direction of expediting the “construction of regional long-term care facilities that will be able to meet the complex care needs of Nunavummiut” and is in the direction of expanding and renovating existing facilities.

Mr. Speaker, there is one critical community that is in desperate need of repair or renovations, that is in the community of Baker Lake, and I hope that our current government, during our term, will look into ways to renovate that building as soon as they can.

Mr. Speaker, there are three other communities that do have some type of elder care buildings in their communities. Within our Nunavut there are three regional centres, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Iqaluit, that do have elder care facilities. There are other 18 Nunavut communities that are desperate or that do want some type of a building or facility that can accommodate their elders, as every Nunavut community has an elder in their community.

Mr. Speaker, moving on to the expanding of the housing continuum, our government is ambitious and our goal in this *Katujjiluta* mandate is to “facilitate the development of at least 1,000 units of all types to the stock of affordable housing and continuum of housing options.”

Mr. Speaker, our territory is in a unique geographic location and there are many challenges. For example, there are parents with five, six, or seven children living in two- and three-bedroom housing. As a government, we need to look at all ways and to create more housing that can accommodate families with many families.

Moving on to the “Reinvesting in Education,” as the Minister of Finance noted and as we all know, “Nunavut has the youngest population in Canada, with about one-third of Nunavummiut being under the age of 15.” Our government is also ensuring that “every student in Nunavut can get to school on time every day...” Our government is proposing in this fiscal year, 2022-23, committing “\$1.4 million for more school busing across the territory.”

I would like to recommend that Education work with Community and Government Services to provide parking spaces for those newly proposed busing transportation that our government is looking into purchasing.

Mr. Speaker, I am also in favour of the “plans for a phased rollout of full full-day kindergarten programs and accelerate work on the K to 12 Inuit language curriculum and Nunavut-specific learning resources.” That can, in a sense, build our young people’s minds in education.

Moving on to Diversifying Our Local Economies, “One of our most significant initiatives in this regard relates to our plans to bring high-speed fibre optic” network to Nunavut. We are in modern times. In a sense, I feel we are behind from our nation, from Canada, to have

that service available to Nunavut. We have been hearing from the government that it is looking to working with the six Inuit organizations into connecting to a fibre link from southern Canada.

Lastly, I would like to note, “Our economic diversification efforts also include investing in Nunavut’s potential to grow the blue economy.” Mr. Speaker, all of our Nunavut communities have access to lakes and oceans. It will be important for our government to do consultations with the communities, designated Inuit organizations, and also the hunters and trappers associations and municipalities within those communities to look at ways of how we can boost our economy in Nunavut.

Those are the Budget Address that I wanted to make a note of. Thank you for allowing me to make this statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. I recognize the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Item 13: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 004 – 6(2): Bill 3, Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 3, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation, and that the

bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you and Bill 3 will be placed on the order paper for Monday, June 6.

Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1 and 2 with Mr. Savikataaq in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 10:44 and Committee resumed at 11:11*

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Savikataaq): Good morning. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 1 and Bill 2. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the 2022-23 Main Estimates of the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Are we in agreement to deal with Bill 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2022-2023 – Education – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would like to ask Minister Gross: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do have members that I would like to appear before the committee. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: For the record, Minister Gross, please introduce your officials and then proceed with your opening comments. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. To my left, we have Rebecca Hainnu, Deputy Minister of Education, and to my right, we have Ibrahim Suleiman, Director of Corporate Services. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Sorry. Moving on to my opening remarks for Committee of the Whole. *Ublaakkut*, good morning, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to appear before you and the standing committee members today to discuss the 2022-23 proposed budget of the Department of

Education for the 2022-23 fiscal year. Our department is requesting a total of \$252,280,000. This reflects an increase of \$8,686,000 from the 2021-22 main estimates.

For 2022-23, the department is requesting \$2,486,000 to continue its three-year implementation of the revised student-educator ratio, or SER. This funding will allow the department to create 25 net new positions in our schools in 2022-23. These net new positions will be made up of *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit*, or school community counsellors, secretaries, and custodians.

In 2021-22, the first year of implementation, the department added 42 student support assistant positions to schools. The Nunavut Teachers Association positions, such as principals, teachers, student support teachers, guidance counsellors, language specialists, and learning coaches, will be adjusted in the fiscal year of 2023-24.

Since the SER funding formula was approved in 2011, the department has identified three main challenges and issues with this formula. The first one is resourcing not being based on school needs. The previous SER does not take into consideration the minimum number of staff needed to operate a school and deliver a program. At times the SER was under-resourced in the smallest schools.

The second one is fluctuations in level of resourcing. The previous SER was based entirely on student enrolment. As student enrolment changes so too does the number of teaching staff in the school, which means the department must adjust its staffing figures annually. This created

challenges related to recruitment, housing, and relocating staff to address community staffing needs.

The third issue is the lack of consistency. The previous SER did not account for the allocation of certain positions, including language specialists, student support assistants, or *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit*, school community counsellors. As there was no clear formula for allocating these positions, staff allocations were more susceptible to inequity and inconsistencies across schools and education districts.

The department began reviewing the SER in 2017 to improve its support to schools. The revised formula was approved as part of the 2021-22 main estimates process.

In addition, our department has requested an additional \$1,990,000 in the fiscal year of 2022-23 to meet the increasing cost of delivering busing services in the territory. This increase is critical as the department's budget for bus services had remained at \$2,295,909 since fiscal 2014-15. Since that time the operating and maintenance costs for providing school bus services have increased by \$3,850,000, or 267 percent, from \$2,296,000 in 2014-15 to \$6,146,000 in 2020-21. Since 2020-21 the department has funded those increased costs from within. This has resulted in reduced capacity to meet other departmental objectives in past years.

Lastly, the Department of Education is also requesting \$4,210,000 to meet the funding obligations of the newly signed four-year collective agreement with the Nunavut Teachers Association. The

four-year agreement provides a total wage increase of 7 percent over four years, starting retroactively on July 1, 2021. The agreement also includes changes to leave credits, such as providing teachers with up to three days for domestic violence leave. With this new agreement, Nunavut will continue to offer salaries and benefits that are competitive, ensuring we can retain and recruit the best teachers for our communities.

Mr. Chairman, great strides have been made in our education system to expand services and supports available to our students, ensuring that resources we do have are being used to maximum effect. I thank this committee for its continued support of the Department of Education, which enables us to carry out our mandate. With sufficient resources, we will together provide the best education for our students.

I am happy to respond to questions, Mr. Chairman. *Quana, qujannamiik*, thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just before I go to the standing committee chair, I would just like to remind all members to refrain from using acronyms, and that's for the interpreters' sake. They sometimes don't know how to interpret an acronym; they don't know what it is.

Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: *Ma'na*, Mr. Chairman. As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, I am happy to make opening comments as we begin

deliberations on the proposed 2022-23 budget and business plan of the Department of Education.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's proposed 2022-23 operations and maintenance budget is just over \$252 million, which represents an increase of \$8.7 million from its 2021-22 budget. The standing committee notes that the increase in funding will address staffing issues with the addition of new positions and wage increases, as well as providing for the rise in costs of school busing services across the territory.

While the standing committee recognizes that the department is continuing to implement a revised student educator ratio, which has had an impact on the levels of resourcing provided to schools, it is not clear that staffing needs are being adequately met across the territory. Members are confident that schools will welcome the addition of such new staffing positions as school counsellors, secretaries, and custodians in 2022-23 and look forward to future announcements regarding the addition of teaching positions.

The standing committee strongly encourages the minister and her staff to continue working with Nunavut Arctic College to ensure that the Nunavut Teacher Education Program supports the training of staff to work in all levels of the school system.

Members recognize that the ladder approach within the Nunavut Teacher Education Program will allow for teaching students to receive training and certification as language specialists within two years as well as supporting new teachers to qualify with a Bachelor

of Education after four or five years. Employing additional language specialists will assist the department in meeting its legislated timelines for bilingual education.

Members recognize that greater emphasis needs to be put on encouraging potential teaching graduates to take specialty courses which will enable them to teach students in the older age groups. Members had expressed some concerns that substitute teachers or teachers who have been hired under letters of authority are not given enough support to enable them to teach effectively. The standing committee encourages the department to work with such entities as the Nunavut Teachers Association to enhance professional development opportunities in these areas.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education has initiated a pilot project for full-time kindergarten in a number of Nunavut schools. The standing committee recognizes that this initiative will require not only physical renovations to classroom space but also additional teaching staff and resources. The committee looks forward to updates on the implementation of the full-time kindergarten pilot project and whether it will be expanding to more schools across the territory.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee has been given to understand that the department is currently working on updating regulations to support the *Education Act*. However, it was unclear what regulations have been finalized to date and which regulations have yet to be completed. Regulations establish important guidelines to meet the legislation's obligations and mandate.

Members look forward to the department completing this work in a timely manner.

The standing committee encourages the department to work closely with district education authorities to provide local programming that supports and promotes career opportunities in the trades industries. Members would appreciate receiving updated information on any pre-trades training initiatives that are currently being delivered in Nunavut schools.

The committee anticipates that the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities, which is established under the *Education Act*, will play an important role in supporting district education authorities with their roles and responsibilities and looks forward to updates on the activities of this organization and its collaboration with department staff.

Mr. Chairman, members of the standing committee have noted that funding is available from a number of sources to support and enhance the delivery of early childhood programs in Nunavut's communities. Members look forward to an update on the department's plans to review the current *Child Day Care Act* and make it more relevant to early childhood services and needs across the territory.

At the other end of the education spectrum, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education manages the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) program which supports Nunavummiut who are pursuing post-secondary studies. The standing committee has been given to

understand that the department is looking to enhance the delivery of this program through a review and replacement of the current FANS database and encourages the minister and her officials to address this issue with some urgency.

The standing committee notes that there are a number of alternative programs under the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy, delivered in collaboration with the Department of Family Services, which can provide support to adult Nunavummiut who wish to further their educational or career opportunities. Members are in support of initiatives in this area.

That concludes my opening remarks. Individual members may also have questions and comments as we proceed. *Ma'na*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do any members have general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, minister and your colleagues. It's great to see your officials here again with us. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the minister and your staff and the Department of Education as a whole and especially the school faculty that we have in all of our communities.

Your department plays a significant role in the lives of all Nunavummiut, both directly as well as indirectly. I do recognize that there has been some negative publicity over the years, but again, I truly appreciate the impact that

you and your department plays on the lives of our youth, from providing education and learning opportunities, but more importantly, providing a safe space for our children and as well as an inclusive environment in all of our schools.

Yesterday there was Pride Walk organized between several of our schools here in Iqaluit, I understand, and Cambridge Bay as well and I am honoured to see the participation amongst our youth and their involvement in the Pride Week activities. Nunavut is rapidly changing and that type of inclusivity was not as prominent when I was going through our education system. I would like to recognize the progressiveness that we have in our schools and amongst our youth and I am very proud to see that.

There will be many questions over the coming days in the committee appearance, but I'm very supportive of the department and the implementation of the new student-educator ratio, which will see not just more teachers but more counsellors and language specialists and other school faculty. That was another matter with regard to school counselling that has been raised in the past. I'm very happy to see that the Department of Education is acting upon it.

I am again grateful for the role that the Department of Education has played with the Nunavut Teachers Association and inclusion of domestic violence leave days. It's also a matter that has been raised in this Assembly in the past. As domestic violence is a matter of importance across our territory, I'm sure that it will have a dramatic impact on members of the Nunavut Teachers

Association who are currently and will be facing that type of disturbance in their lives.

In conclusion, I just want to say that there will be many tough questions coming up, but I am truly grateful for the role that you play and I am in support of your department's efforts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Any more members for general comments? I have no more names, so we will go on to proceed to the page-by-page review of the department's estimates, starting with G-4, Directorate, but before I go on and ask if there are questions, I wish to advise members that Education has nine pages that require approval, so I ask members if they can be specific and ask questions in the appropriate branch, so try to do your best to do that and for the members, if you can get to your question and make it precise so it's not confusing for the minister, and if the minister can be more precise and not so long in the minister's answer.

We will proceed by Directorate. G-4. Questions? Mr. Malliki.

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

My first question is on the opening comments regarding support staff. I'm asking if those are mandatory positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) If I can just remind members, like I just said, if we could just

go page by page. I believe support staff is later on in G-8.

Sorry about that. Like I said earlier, everything in the opening comments is in the nine branches we have to go through. Just for efficiency, if we can just stay on each branch so we're not going all over the place. If we can have questions on the first on G-4, which is Directorate. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask that question again later.

(interpretation ends) The department's business plan for 2022-26 indicates that a new Retention and Recruitment Strategy for Educators will be developed. How many new teachers currently need to be recruited and what specific new initiatives will be included in the strategy to hire the number of new teachers needed in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. This strategy was delayed due to COVID-19 and staff capacity. The department will be engaging with stakeholders, such as NTI and the CNDEA, Coalition of Nunavut DEAs, to support this work and the work on the strategy will restart in 2022-23. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister

for that clarification. (interpretation ends) One of the department's priorities for 2022-23 will be to "develop enhancements for school meal programs." Can you provide more information on what kinds of enhancements are being considered? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. Currently school food programs of some kind are offered in every school with funding from the Department of Health. Schools also work to access extra funding from outside resources, such as working with Jordan's Principle funding.

For enhancements, we are looking to see how we can support all schools to have more programs and funding for our schools to offer more, if that makes, because right now we do offer the funding through the Department of Health, but we would like to see enhanced supports to run and we're going to be looking at how we can best support our school food programs. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you, minister. This will be my last question on Directorate.

(interpretation ends) The Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities is established through the *Education Act*. How does the department work with the

coalition to ensure that it can fulfill its roles and responsibilities?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, we missed the beginning part of the question. Can Mr. Malliki please repeat? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Malliki, can you repeat your question?

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) The Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities is established through the *Education Act*. How does the department work with the coalition to ensure that it can fulfill its roles and responsibilities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Education has a memorandum of understanding, but a new memorandum of understanding will clearly outline the obligations of both the department and the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs, consistent with the provisions of the 2020 *Education Act*. This new MOU is expected to be completed this fiscal year, 2022-23. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'll go to the next name on my list. Mr. Hickey.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask a question. In the last couple of years it hasn't been part of the department's budget, it is third party funding, but I will get to my point.

A couple of years ago, the federal government provided \$5.75 million for safe schools to be provided over a two-year period in 2020 and 2021. I guess my first part of the question: are there any additional funds for the 2022 year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The funding ended in 2021-22 and there are no additional funds at this time. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. With that funding not being renewed, what types of initiatives were undertaken to use those funds and are some of those initiatives still ongoing using internal dollars from the budget that we are approving? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Right now the funding that was there was used for devices, for laptops and iPads for students and staff and health and safety supports, also temporary supports and staffing support. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan on page 102 in the 2022-23 priorities, the second bullet, it speaks of further developing and implementing the Family Engagement Initiative. First of all, on this line, maybe if the minister could just update us on the progress and on that work, and then I'll get a little deeper. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. The work of this initiative was delayed due to COVID-19 and staffing capacity. However, this initiative is intended to support a long-term approach to encourage family involvement in students in school and, among other things, to promote attendance.

A family engagement website called Apataka is under development and will include information and resources targeted to adults, children, teenagers, and educators. This website is expected to roll out during the 2022-23 school year. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. When we're talking about family engagement and parental engagement in children's education, I was a part of the Special Committee to review the Ed. Act a couple of Assemblies ago now. When we went to a different community, there were a lot of concerns raised by DEAs

and from parents themselves on how to better engage parents in their school activities. I know that as a parent here, I get regular updates from my children's teachers and there's a lot of access to engage with the teachers.

Not everyone has that access to Internet or cellphones and things like that, so when you're looking at people who are off the communications grid, I'll put it that way, it's a lot more challenging to engage. What types of supports are anticipated to be able to make sure that you're reaching all parents or guardians of children to make sure that everyone has access to the same resources? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. Our department is currently developing a 10-year family engagement strategy that will support approaches to family involvement and family and community engagement in child or youth learning is a factor in all key education statistics, such as attendance and graduation. This 10-year family engagement strategy will support systemic and longitudinal approach in encouraging family involvement.

In terms of recruiting or helping support those who might be off the grid, those are individual tactics and I will get back to the member on some approaches that our schools have been doing as examples. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll look forward to receiving updates on that.

Also under the Directorate, there's the Stakeholder Engagement Division and it is noted that the '21-22 budget amount of \$1,781,000 includes some former budgets. In the 2022-23 budget there's a fairly substantial increase going from just under \$1.8 million to almost \$2.4 million. When we're looking at stakeholder engagement, we look at the different organizations that the department engages with, including Inuit organizations.

I'm not expecting the minister to comment on the current status of any type of legal proceedings, but it is public knowledge that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is in the process of litigation with the Department of Education.

When I look at stakeholder engagement, to me, that title itself gives a presumption that there are ongoing communications and any concerns get raised privately before it becomes a public litigation in the courts. I guess part of my question is: with this increase in budget, is there increase in staffing or is this travel? What is leading to these increases and, if the minister can maybe explain how these stakeholder engagement processes work so as to avoid public disputes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I believe there are two parts to the question and I would like to ask

the two representatives here to each answer one of each portion. First, Mr. Suleiman will answer the funding side and Deputy Minister Hainnu will answer the litigation side. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Suleiman.

Mr. Suleiman: Thank you, minister. I also thank the member for the question. When it comes to the increases in the director of stakeholder engagement, we created an additional position with internal funding, so we moved monies within our own department to fund that position. Within that stakeholder division you will find divisions that were there before, but they were separate, Communications as well as Partner Relations.

One issue that we had was when we were communicating out, our Communications and Partner Relations divisions, sometimes in messaging, weren't connected because they reported directly to the deputy minister. By combining those two divisions under Stakeholder Engagement now, we can ensure that the communication is consistent and all our stakeholders are getting it at the same time. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Hainnu.

Ms. Hainnu (interpretation): Thank you for the very good questions from the member. I'll try to give you a heartfelt response. Students in Nunavut and in the communities, people in the communities, Nunavut has a very small population, so

we have to work together and collaborations are very important to us.

Whenever we can help non-court matters, we would prefer to do it out of the courts. Whenever they are put into the court system, some of our work, it doesn't come from us. The court case right now is not only affecting the Department of Education; it is the Nunavut government that has been taken to court. Please be aware of that. People that we represent, we have you in our thoughts while the court case is happening.

I hope I responded properly to the question. I responded in Inuktitut; it's my first language. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank both witnesses for their responses. I think what I'm looking for with regard to the stakeholder engagement is a little bit more detail on how these meetings come about. Are they regularly scheduled? How do agenda items get put on the agenda? Are both parties engaging? I would just like a little bit more detail on how that engagement occurs with stakeholders. I'm sure there are varieties for different stakeholders, but if the minister could just give a little bit of a background. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. To answer a short answer, yes, the

department does work with our stakeholders.

In terms of meeting with NTI, we do have staff within the Department of Education that do have frequent meetings, every two weeks or month, depending on time availability to talk about specifically the litigation and working on ways to improve education. They set the agenda on both sides of what is going to be discussed and they're happy to be meeting and to be working to help solve the proceedings of what's happening.

In terms of the other stakeholders, we do meet with the CNDEA and also the DEAs to talk about anything that might need to be brought up in terms of issues that are coming forward within the department that we need to work on specifically within the *Education Act*.
Quana, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) If I can remind everyone here in committee to avoid acronyms, if at all possible, for the interpreters' sake. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and if I use an acronym, I apologize.

When we look at the district education authorities and the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities, does this division also work with the training involved? That has been a topic that has come up a number of times from coalition officials on where the responsibilities and are they funded adequately. In the past there have been a few discussions along those lines.

Is that the branch that coordinates the training for district education authority boards as well as works with the coalition to make sure that the training is rolled out consistently across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. Yes, the department is working, as I mentioned earlier, with the memorandum of understanding. The new memorandum of understanding will include more details regarding the district education authorities' training responsibilities of the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs and the department. That will be included in the new memorandum of understanding, as the *Education Act* requires additional monies to the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs and we will be asking for it at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. Also on page 102 of the business plan under the same heading, 2022-23, the second-last bullet speaks to "Begin implementing the recommendations of the department-wide communications review." Can the minister give some highlights of what some of those recommendations are, what are some of the priority actions that are going to be undertaken, and what are some of the anticipated outcomes of that review?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. It is anticipated that the department will begin the implementation of the recommendations of the department-wide communications approach by March 2023. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We have a motion on the floor to report progress and this motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Everybody's hungry for lunch.

>>*Laughter*

Motion unanimously approved. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table, and I will rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Your committee has been considering Bill 1 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: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Ms. Killiktee. The motion is in order. To the motion.

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Before we proceed to Item 23, I have a statement to make.

Speaker's Ruling

Thank you, members. I wish to provide the House with a ruling.

During the Legislative Assembly's sitting of June 1, 2022, the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk raised what he described as a point of order.

Given the subject matter raised by the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, where the member stated that the Premier was "misleading the House," the member's intervention should have been described as a question of privilege.

This distinction is important, as the type of analysis applied to points of order are different from the type of analysis applied to questions of privilege.

In his intervention, the Member stated that the "Premier is misleading the House."

Within the Westminster parliamentary tradition, such a statement is an accusation of contempt of the House, which is a question of privilege.

However, for such a question of privilege to proceed, a prima facie decision would have to be made that the Premier deliberately misled the House.

To proceed to that prima facie question, there would have to be clarity as to the exact nature of how the House was misled, and at least some evidence that the Premier did it intentionally.

The intervention of the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk does not provide this requisite clarity, and therefore it is impossible for even a prima facie judgment to be made on the issue.

Therefore, there is no further action that the Chair can take in respect to this matter and so it is closed.

I thank members for their attention.

Item 23. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets at half past one in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for June 6:

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 1
 - Bill 2
 - Bill 3
 - Bill 5
 - Bill 6
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before we leave for the weekend, we have been having a very tough week, and just to

remind my fellow members that we do have an obligation to look after our children, who are our future, and it is very important that we do raise them as a child so that they don't have to grow up too fast.

I just want to do a little story on my daughter, who was five years old; she is now 24. When she was five, we used to have those Christmas games in December, where we would stay up all night and go to sleep early in the morning.

During that time, the games were just about over and the school was almost starting to begin, and my wife wanted her to start getting used to getting up early in the morning because Monday was time to go back to school. She started waking her up on Friday and she said, "*Panik*, it's time to get up in the morning," and she tried getting up but kept falling asleep and she did that a few times and said, "*Panik*, time to get up," and my *panik*'s reply was, "But my eyes keep falling."

>>*Laughter*

She tried hard herself and even today, my *panik* has her own daughter who is also five and she did the same thing to her and now she's saying, "I'm just resting my eyes."

>>*Laughter*

Enjoy the weekend, everyone. We had a tough week and make sure you have a good break and come back on Monday.

This House stands adjourned until Monday, June 6, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 12:03*

