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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

*Speaker*

**Hon. Tony Akoak**

**Hon. David Akeegok**  
(Quttiktuq)  
*Minister of Economic Development  
and Transportation; Minister of  
Justice; Minister responsible for  
Labour*

**Hon. P.J. Akeegok**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and  
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister  
responsible for Immigration;  
Minister responsible for Indigenous  
Affairs; Minister responsible for the  
Qulliq Energy Corporation*

**Bobby Anavilok**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Janet Brewster**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

**Hon. Pamela Gross**  
(Cambridge Bay)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of  
Culture and Heritage; Minister of  
Education; Minister of Languages;  
Minister responsible for Seniors*

**George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the  
Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. David Joanasie**  
(South Baffin)  
*Government House Leader;  
Minister of Community and  
Government Services; Minister  
responsible for the Utility Rates  
Review Council*

**Joelie Kaernerik**  
(Amittuq)

**Mary Killiktee**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**  
(Rankin Inlet South)  
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the  
Financial Management Board;  
Minister responsible for the  
Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Adam Lightstone**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

**Hon. John Main**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)  
*Minister of Health; Minister  
responsible for Suicide Prevention*

**Solomon Malliki**  
(Aivilik)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
Whole*

(Gjoa Haven)

*Officers*

Clerk

John Quirke

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Family Services; Minister  
responsible for Homelessness; Minister of  
Human Resources;  
Minister responsible for the Status of  
Women; Minister responsible for the  
Workers' Safety and Compensation  
Commission*

**Karen Nutarak**  
(Tununiq)

**Daniel Qavvik**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Hon. Joanna Quassa**  
(Aggu)  
*Minister of Energy; Minister of  
Environment; Minister responsible for  
Nunavut Arctic College*

**Inagayuk Quqqiaq**  
(Netsilik)

**Alexander Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1
Speaker's Statement .....	1
Money Message.....	2
Ministers' Statements .....	2
Members' Statements .....	8
Returns to Oral Questions .....	19
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	20
Oral Questions.....	21
Returns to Written Questions .....	46
Responses to Petitions.....	46
Tabling of Documents.....	47
Notices of Motions .....	49
Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills .....	49
Orders of the Day .....	50

**A.**

**Daily References**

Wednesday, May 24, 2023 ..... 1

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

214 – 6(2): Premier Visits Sanirajak and Kugluktuk (Akeegok, P) ..... 2

215 – 6(2): RED Project (Nakashuk) ..... 4

216 – 6(2): 2022-23 Youth Ambassador Program (Joanasie) ..... 4

217 – 6(2): Flu Vaccine Reminder (Main) ..... 5

218 – 6(2): Full-day Kindergarten Pilot Project (Gross) ..... 6

219 – 6(2): Flexible Workplace Policy (Nakashuk) ..... 7

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

273 – 6(2): The Use of Health Information (Brewster) ..... 8

274 – 6(2): Condolences to Family Members (Anavilok) ..... 9

275 – 6(2): Medical Escort Policy (Killiktee) ..... 10

276 – 6(2): Successful Search and Rescue in Arviat (Savikataaq) ..... 11

277 – 6(2): Appreciation for Oncology Team Visit to Pond Inlet (Nutarak) ..... 11

278 – 6(2): Federal Funding for Shelters (Qavvik) ..... 12

279 – 6(2): Modernizing the Workplace (Lightstone) ..... 13

280 – 6(2): Tuberculosis Outbreak in Naujaat (Malliki) ..... 16

281 – 6(2): Happy Anniversary to Uncle (Quqqiaq) ..... 17

282 – 6(2): 2023 Nunavut Quest (Akeegok, D) ..... 18

283 – 6(2): Water Emergency in Kinngait (Joanasie) ..... 18

**D.**

**Returns to Oral Questions**

Return to Oral Question 359 – 6(2): Community Wellness Funding (Clerk) ..... 19

Return to Oral Question 395 – 6(2): Registering for Organ and Tissue Donation (Clerk) ..... 19

**E.**

**Oral Questions**

420 – 6(2): Mining Sector (Kaernek)..... 21

421 – 6(2): Kivalliq Intercommunity Road (Simailak) ..... 23

422 – 6(2): Nunavut 3000 Housing Strategy (Quqqiaq) ..... 25

423 – 6(2): Impact of Rankin Inlet Beer and Wine Store (Sammurtok) ..... 26

424 – 6(2): Naujaat Airport Terminal Building (Malliki) ..... 28

425 – 6(2): Municipal Governance (Brewster)..... 30

426 – 6(2): Funding Local Housing Organizations (Hickes) ..... 32

427 – 6(2): Kugluktuk Airport Terminal Building (Anavilok) ..... 33

428 – 6(2): Medical Escort Policy (Killiktee) ..... 34

429 – 6(2): Issues with Snowmobile Fuel Filters (Savikataaq)..... 37

430 – 6(2): Airline Regulation (Nutarak)..... 39

431 – 6(2): Community Infrastructure (Qavvik) ..... 41

432 – 6(2): Four-Day Workweek (Lightstone)..... 43

**F.**

**Returns to Written Questions**

Return to Written Question 002 – 6(2): Remote Work (Clerk)..... 46

Return to Written Question 003 – 6(2): Arctic Energy Fund (Clerk)..... 46

Return to Written Question 004 – 6(2): Annual Fuel Purchases, Bulk Fuel Storage Capacity, and  
Annual Resupply Operations (Clerk)..... 46

## **G.**

### **Responses to Petitions**

Response to Petition 002 – 6(2): New Community Hall for Naujaat (Clerk) .....	46
Response to Petition 003 – 6(2): Advocate for Our Air Travel Rights and Demand Better Services (Clerk).....	46
Response to Petition 004 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut Office Location (Clerk).....	46

## **H.**

### **Tabling of Documents**

124 – 6(2): 2022-23 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut (Speaker).....	47
125 – 6(2): 2021-22 Annual Report – Nunavut Status of Women Council (Nakashuk).....	47
126 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut Response to the Report on the Review of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut (Akeeagok, P) .....	47
127 – 6(2): Nunavut Victim Services 2021-22 Annual Report (Akeeagok, D) .....	47
128 – 6(2): 2022 Annual Report of the Workers’ Advisor Office (Nakashuk).....	48
129 – 6(2): Correspondence to Nunavut’s Senator and Member of Parliament Concerning New Terms and Conditions respecting Merger between Canadian North and First Air (Nutarak)	48
130 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Human Resources - Follow-up from Committee of the Whole’s Review of the Department of Human Resources’ 2023-24 Main Estimates and 2023-26 Business Plan (Savikataaq).....	48
131 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Education - Follow-up from Committee of the Whole’s Review of the Department of Education’s 2023-24 Main Estimates and 2023-26 Business Plan (Savikataaq).....	48

132 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Community and Government Services - Follow-up from Committee of the Whole’s Review of the Department of Community and Government Services’ 2023-24 Main Estimates and 2023-26 Business Plan (Hickes) ..... 49

**I.**

**Motions**

017 – 6(2): Appointment of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut – Notice (Savikataaq) ..... 49

**J.**

**Bills**

Bill 22 – An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act – Notice ..... 49

Bill 23 – Nursing Professions Act – Notice ..... 49

Bill 24 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2023-2024 –  
Notice..... 50

Bill 25 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2023-2024 – Notice..... 50

**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Wednesday, May 24, 2023**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaernerck, 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. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 13:29*

>>*No audio*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Welcome to the House, my colleagues. It's good to see you all back.

(interpretation) Also to Nunavummiut who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, welcome.

**Speaker's Statement**

(interpretation ends) Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I am pleased to welcome members back to the House for our spring sitting.

I also extend a very warm welcome to elders and Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings on radio, television and Internet livestream.

Last week, I had the honour of welcoming Commissioner of Nunavut Eva Aariak to my constituency of Gjoa Haven. The Commissioner travelled to Gjoa Haven to present a number of my constituents with awards for their achievements, accomplishments, and contributions.

I would first like to pay tribute to Miriam Aglukkaq, who was recognized for her many years of contributions to our community...

>>*Applause*

...region and territory as a knowledge-keeper and well-respected elder.

Donald Kogvikk was recognized for his many years of community service.



Seven residents received awards for bravery: Simon Hiqiniq Sr., Emma Paulooise, Jimmy Paulooise Sr., Justin Porter, Ben Putuguq, Ikey Putuguq, and John Qirqqut.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating my constituents.

>>*Applause*

While she was in Gjoa Haven, Commissioner Aariak and I reflected on the passing of our late Queen and the recent Coronation of our new King.

I am also pleased to take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Katie Weaver to the House.

>>*Applause*

Ms. Weaver joins us from the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories and will be serving at the table during the spring sitting. Please join me in welcoming her.

>>*Applause*

Before we proceed with the orders of the day, it is my duty to advise the House that I have received the following message from Her Honour the Commissioner of Nunavut.

### **Money Message**

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the spring 2023 sitting of the Second Session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 24, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2023-2024*; and
- Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2023-2024*.

Sincerely, Eva Aariak, Commissioner of Nunavut.

Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Paulooise Akeegok.

### **Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

#### **Minister's Statement 214 – 6(2): Premier Visits Sanirajak and Kugluktuk**

**Hon. P.J. Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to my colleagues. It's great to see everyone back in the House. To Nunavummiut who are listening to the proceedings and visitors in the gallery, please feel warmly welcome.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in April I had the privilege of accepting invitations from two members to visit their communities. I am so grateful to members Amittuq MLA Joelle Kaernek as well as Kugluktuk MLA Mr. Anavilok for sharing their home communities with me.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there are few things more important for a politician to do than to meet with and listen to their electorate. There is no replacement for in-person connections.

In both Sanirajak and Kugluktuk, I met with the housing associations, district education authorities, and the hamlet councils. I visited students in their schools, where I was impressed by their food programs as well as their school spirit. I met over lunch with community leaders chosen by their Members of the Legislative Assembly and constituents. I spoke with everyone from search and rescue volunteers to Inuit organization representatives, health centre staff, and elders such as Alice Hitkoak Ayalik and Nagleena Inuksuk.

Mr. Speaker, in Sanirajak, I visited the North Warning System and met with Joan Inuksuk, who is an administrator and one of nine Inuit employed by the Nasittuq Corporation at the radar camp.

In Kugluktuk, I crowned Nattiq Frolics Queens Genevieve and Macila Nivingalok, and I learned how to wave the starting flag for the Frolic races, which I might contest was a bit scary to do.

In my role as Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, I was proud to visit Kugluktuk's power plant and see how dedicated site staff Sheldon Klengenberg and Bill McWilliam are to running the aging infrastructure that we are working to replace.

Mr. Speaker, as I visit communities throughout the territory, many residents have told me they feel forgotten or far away from government. Because of this, I want Nunavummiut to know we are working to keep our territory connected despite the distance and resource challenges we face. This is why I have committed to reviewing decentralization.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to be inspired by the efforts community members make to advocate to me and the government for better services. On every trip, I meet people who are proud of their homes and who want to create the transformational change that *Katujjiluta* is founded upon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of the Status of Women, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Minister's Statement 215 – 6(2): RED Project**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues, and I say “good day” to Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is vitally important that Nunavut have initiatives to honour and learn about the realities of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in our country.

On May 5 the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council held an event in Iqaluit for the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Community members took to the streets and marched, shouting, “No more stolen sisters,” united in the need for action and commemoration.

Mr. Speaker, that same day, Qullit launched RED – Remember, Educate, Dedicate. RED is a yearlong initiative to allow Nunavut’s artistic community to show their expression of pain, grief, hope, and action around missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. This will lead to a combination of commissioned and contest-winning art to be showcased in a variety of ways next year. I’m excited to work with Qullit on this project and give an outlet for our shock, hurt, and healing.

Mr. Speaker, more details and contest guidelines will be announced in the next few weeks as Qullit reaches out to artists and asks for submissions. My hope is that this initiative will provide a safe space for creativity and empowerment, and to allow communities to remember and act against violence. I look forward to sharing and enjoying this project with you all in the next year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers’ Statements. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

**Minister's Statement 216 – 6(2): 2022-23 Youth Ambassador Program**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my colleagues and Nunavummiut who are in the gallery and those who are following the proceedings.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate the 12 individual youth who have successfully completed the 2022-23 Team Nunavut Youth Ambassador Program.

Congratulations to the following youth ambassadors who completed program and I’ll list them off here:

- Sheila Schaubroeck from Arviat
- Rachel Tagoona-Tapatai from Baker Lake
- Sienna Aitaok from Cambridge Bay
- Kevin Kimmaliardiuk, Gavin Kreelak, and Qajaaq Ittinuar from Chesterfield Inlet
- Mark Eetuk and Cady Shimout from Coral Harbour
- Stephanie Wandou from Iqaluit
- (interpretation) I also congratulate Kinngait residents Andy Sagiaktuk, Manu Ashoona, and Katsua Saila.

Mr. Speaker, the Team Nunavut Youth Ambassador Program is an integral component of my department's Major Games Program and provides youth the opportunity to develop leadership and life skills, contribute to their communities, and volunteer at special events. This past year, the youth ambassadors had the chance to volunteer at the 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, to successfully complete this program, youth are required to complete a series of in-person and online training modules through Rec North. In addition, youth must complete and deliver a community engagement project. This year, we saw the youth organize several initiatives in their communities, including an Inuit Games program, a volleyball tournament, an arts program, and a baking competition.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate this group of youth and I look forward to their future accomplishments and contributions to our communities and territory.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 217 – 6(2): Flu Vaccine Reminder**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and Nunavummiut who are watching the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind all Nunavummiut that respiratory viruses, including Influenza A and Influenza B, are on the rise across Nunavut.

Flu season is not over and with other respiratory viruses circulating in our communities, the risk for multiple infections occurring at once can increase the severity, hospitalization, and death from disease.

The best way to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community is by staying up to date on your vaccinations. The flu vaccine can be given at any time during the flu season. Unlike other vaccines that give lifetime immunity, the flu vaccine must be taken annually.

Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are still available at all health centres and public health units. It is safe to get both vaccinations during the same appointment as COVID-19 and the flu have similar symptoms and can increase the severity of each other.

Following these steps can help stop the spread of influenza, COVID-19, and other respiratory illnesses; (interpretation ends) here are the instructions, the steps that we are to follow, Mr. Speaker:

- Stay home when you feel sick.
- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve.
- Wash your hands often.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Throw used tissues in the trash right away.
- Keeping distance from others when out and about.
- Don't smoke indoors or around others, especially babies.
- Get vaccinated.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut can call their local health centre or public health unit to make an appointment today for your vaccination. We all have a role to play in protecting our communities against respiratory disease. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister for Education, Ms. Gross.

**Minister's Statement 218 – 6(2): Full-day Kindergarten Pilot Project**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back to all of our colleagues here with us and welcome to everyone who is here in the House with us. I would like to say "good afternoon" to those in Cambridge Bay and those across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited to inform my colleagues today about the start of the Department of Education's full-day kindergarten pilot project. The pilot project will begin this fall and will offer full-day kindergarten to students in five communities across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the communities that will be piloting the full-day kindergarten program are Apex, Chesterfield Inlet, Kimmirut, Kugluktuk, and Whale Cove. These communities were selected for the pilot project based on the type of renovations that would be needed to ensure the school has adequate and appropriate classroom space, as well as to ensure a balanced participation of schools from each region.

Mr. Speaker, we have created a working group to guide and shape the allocation of additional instructional time based on the current kindergarten curriculum. This working group is developing a comprehensive guide to ensure our educators are supported in the shift to full-day kindergarten and that our youngest students can benefit fully from the opportunity.

We will be measuring the success of the pilot project based on feedback from school leaders, educators, and parents or guardians. In the longer term, we will also be looking at the impact of the full-day kindergarten pilot program on Inuktitut language acquisition and the early years of language learning.

Mr. Speaker, full-day kindergarten will also help address concerns about the availability of child care space for school-aged children across the territory.

Based on the results of the pilot project, the department will begin a phased rollout of full-day kindergarten across the territory. Full-day kindergarten is an important step in our government's *Katujjiluta* mandate commitment to reinvesting in education, and I look forward to updating the members on the progress of this pilot project and the potential expansion of the program to support the success of our early learners. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Minister's Statement 219 – 6(2): Flexible Workplace Policy**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to my colleagues that the Department of Human Resources has finalized its Flexible Workplace Policy.

The policy provides options to support decentralization efforts and offers employees more flexibility to work from anywhere in the territory inside a Government of Nunavut office.

>>Applause

Further work is required before the Department of Human Resources implements the policy on Sept. 1, 2023. My officials are having discussions with unions, must update Human Resources Manual directives, identify Government of Nunavut office space vacancies, and consider staff housing availability. Staffing manuals, guidelines, and other materials may also require updates to ensure clarity and consistency in application.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the Flexible Workplace Policy will assist the Department of Human Resources to fill many of our outstanding vacancies. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

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

#### **Member's Statement 273 – 6(2): The Use of Health Information**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back, everyone. Welcome, Ms. Weaver, and especially welcome back to our esteemed Clerk, Mr. John Quirke.

>>Applause

I can't see him from where I'm sitting right now, but I'm very happy to see him back.

Mr. Speaker, as members know, I lost my son.

I lost my son. I lost my son who I lovingly referred to as my cousin; he was my *tiguaq*, Jayko Wilson Craig Lyall Ritchie, to suicide on March 13, on the last day before our sitting last ended. I would like to again thank my colleagues and our communities for the outpouring of support that followed our loss.

Mr. Speaker, although Jayko may not always have been proud of the choices that he made, his legacy is that he was always introspective and always wanted to do better. Despite the adversity that he faced, he continually focused on being a caring person, caring to family and everyone in his life. He could always be counted on to uplift the spirits of everyone around him.

Mr. Speaker, like many of us, he made big mistakes that may have felt insurmountable in the moments and years as he grew into adulthood and he sometimes very publicly owned up to those mistakes, focusing on what he cared about, uplifting targets of abuse, especially women, though for a time, he so bravely admitted that he was part of the problem.

Jayko leaves behind his beautiful daughter, Alexandra, and countless family members, including the many foster families who welcomed him into their homes and lives over the years.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the families and the public servants who did their very best for him, importantly, we also remember and appreciate the mentors and coaches that served as his role models. We are grateful for all of his hunting buddies, friends, and teammates that gave him a sense of family, accomplishment, and belonging over the years. From childhood friends and hockey teams to soccer and ball teams into his adult life, every single one of you helped Jayko to survive and thrive for as long as he did.

Mr. Speaker, I am acutely aware that not every citizen has the opportunity to so publicly acknowledge those that we have lost to suicide. I want to assure every grieving family and community that I stand here with you, promising that I will continue to do whatever is in my power to support those left behind and to work with our leadership to take decisive action to prevent our families and communities from suffering further loss.

Mr. Speaker, in the meantime, as we consider Jayko's legacy and that of so many others, we as a community, as Nunavummiut, must give ourselves the grace and self-love to know that we are all doing the best that we can. We work to support those members of society that need a hand up and extra support in growing as old as we can in order to live productive and, with the grace of God, longer and happier lives, not just for ourselves but for the good of our communities, for all of our relations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

#### **Member's Statement 274 – 6(2): Condolences to Family Members**

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues for returning to the House, which is great.

The first item I wish to speak to is that my daughter sews parkas, specifically Mother Hubbard parkas. I want to clearly delineate that Inuit from Kugluktuk have experienced losses in the past month of five Inuit, which has devastated the families; however, they are dealing with these losses.

It is impossible to stop death, and difficult for families who experience these losses. (interpretation ends) I just wanted to send my condolences to the people of Kugluktuk who have lost family members, five family members over the span of a month, and I just want to send them my condolences and to be strong and move on. It's hard when you lose family members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Condolences to the families.

Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.



**Member's Statement 275 – 6(2): Medical Escort Policy**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to this matter, but prior to my statement, I would like to voice my empathy with my colleague and I understand the feeling, and like all our colleagues have experienced loss and I too have lost a child. We all feel the sense of loss; however, our only option is to move forward, even though it is quite painful at times.

A good day to all Nunavummiut, and I welcome the people along with my constituents in Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River, and the visitors here, and I thank my colleagues here as well and it is good to see you all.

I rise today to talk about this issue, which I will continue to speak to, raise questions on it, however, the gist of the matter revolves around our unilingual elders, the real Inuit who do not speak or understand any English, and they are the reason for this diatribe. We hear about them on occasion here in Nunavut, and this also applies to the services provided by the Department of Health. In advocating for unilingual Inuit, I speak of the services provided, and it can become really stressful obviously.

Elders are very patient, and they rarely complain so we are not hearing about the difficulties they face, due to this reticence to voice their issues, and our elders don't understand the language, and neither their western ways.

Due to this issue, I want to urge everyone to advocate on their behalf and voice their concerns, and we need to loudly speak about the issues they face, and I too will speak on their behalf. We came into being because of their hard work, our parents, our grandparents, and indeed our great-grandparents and ancestors. This has to remain a core of our cultural strength, and to keep this history alive, and to have common understanding of the issues.

In the past, everyone understood each other as they all lived the same way, Mr. Speaker. Hence my speaking to this matter, and I will be voicing my concerns and raise questions on the best way to deal with elderly patients who have to face medical travel sometimes alone, and especially when no interpreters are available to provide assistance.

They need to be given adequate services, as this is why I rise today. I feel for them and feel compassion as well, our fellow Nunavut residents, who are in these situations. I also have a parent who is unilingual Inuktitut-speaking person.

Therefore, I will be asking questions to the Minister of Health on that issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Member's Statement 276 – 6(2): Successful Search and Rescue in Arviat**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Arviat, who are and will be watching the televised proceedings of this House.

Firstly, I congratulate the Arviat residents who partook in the cod and sculpin fishing derby, and I share the happiness of the winners as there were several huge fish caught, especially the lake trout and sculpin.

The main reason I rise today, is to speak about a search and rescue operation in Arviat, so that people here will be aware. A fairly lengthy search operation commenced in early May, when an elder didn't return on his scheduled return, and the searchers conducted a large search operation. I also wish to thank the emergency management crew, as they found a search aircraft, along with a helicopter to conduct the search, and this was quite beneficial to the search.

The hamlet council was also quite involved, as they provided meals and supplies as part of their assistance to the SAR group, so I voice my thanks to the hamlet personnel. Also, to the search party members, both the active searchers and the coordinating group looking after the search, as it can be very difficult in searching for a missing person, and when the search become extended, it really affects the whole group as hope starts to dim, and I am very happy the elder was found.

We were on the verge of giving up but they continued to search for the person, as the snow cover melted and tracking the person's direction became difficult. They first found the qamutik, with no person around it. Due to the lack of snow cover near Arviat, the land seems to swallow up people and it gets really hard to spot them via air. The people also couldn't use the skidoos anymore, due to the snowmelt, however, the person was found, and the whole community celebrated the successful search.

I too personally was very gratified, since the elder is a friend and we often hunt together, this elder who was the subject of the search. So, to every person involved in this operation, I express my appreciation and I am extremely happy this man was found, in good health albeit quite hungry as he didn't eat for nine days while he was lost out in the tundra. I would like to thank all of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

**Member's Statement 277 – 6(2): Appreciation for Oncology Team Visit to Pond Inlet**

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my colleagues, the people of Pond Inlet, and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my thanks and appreciation for the very first oncology team to visit Pond Inlet earlier this month.

Mr. Speaker, from May 6 to May 10, Oncologist Dr. Gad Perry, Oncology Radiologist Dr. Marc Gaudet, and their Patient Support Specialist, Kelly, were in Pond Inlet to see patients, communicate about cancer issues, and provide training sessions for our local health professionals.

Mr. Speaker, I first met Dr. Perry when I worked with the Pirurvik Preschool program and we travelled to Ottawa to visit the Glebe Montessori School headed by Dr. Perry's partner. I was fortunate to meet Dr. Perry again when he travelled to Pond Inlet with the Students on Ice program.

Mr. Speaker, on a recent trip to Iqaluit, Dr. Perry met with me and my colleague from Uqqummiut and we had an interesting discussion on possible approaches to getting more Nunavummiut screened for such diseases as cancer and diagnosed as early as possible, before the illness reaches an advanced stage.

I invited Dr. Perry to come to Pond Inlet and I am very pleased that he decided to visit the community with the oncology team.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy that more services are coming up north and are being provided in the High Arctic communities. It is very good to see more training being provided to our local health care workers at the community level and in the context of their everyday work.

On behalf of the community of Pond Inlet, I want to share my appreciation for this service and look forward to many more such visits in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

### **Member's Statement 278 – 6(2): Federal Funding for Shelters**

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, visitors in the gallery, and to the people of Nunavut. It's a pleasure to be back to the capital city of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the federal government's recent announcement regarding funding to construct and support over 170 new shelters and transitional housing units in 21 communities across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to note that one of the communities where a new shelter will be built is my hometown of Sanikiluaq, Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I think we can all agree that those who have faced domestic violence need a safe and stable environment in which to heal and recover from trauma. Having a shelter within the community means that those who most need it will not have to travel out of the community to be safe.

Mr. Speaker, I note that the company which has been awarded the contract to build the shelter, Arctic Fresh Projects, was also instrumental in providing additional airline service to the community of Sanikiluaq during the pandemic. I think they like us, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, on May 5, there were actions across this country in honour of missing and murdered indigenous women. Investments in such facilities as shelters and transitional homes gives hope to the many who are escaping gender-based violence.

May the 5th is also known as “Red Dress Day.” I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Pauktuutit’s “Red Amautiit Project,” which recognizes this initiative from an Inuit perspective. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Members’ Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

**Member’s Statement 279 – 6(2): Modernizing the Workplace**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my constituents in Iqaluit and colleagues in the House as well as Nunavummiut watching our proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the importance of modernizing the workplace in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that the Government of Nunavut needs to stop fearing change and embrace greater workplace flexibility.

Mr. Speaker, my statement today will focus on two issues related to modernizing the workplace: the move towards a four-day workweek and the adoption of flexible workplace models that incorporate remote and hybrid work practices.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, a number of my colleagues have recently joined me in urging the government to end the outdated practice of changing the clock twice a year. As we have pointed out on many occasions, this is an antiquated practice that was introduced generations ago to address the needs of a different place and time.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to policies and practices in our current workplaces, we're at risk of falling into the same trap of clinging to outdated and unsuitable models of work that are no longer appropriate to our circumstances and which do nothing to address our significant challenges in the area of workplace recruitment and retention.

Mr. Speaker, there is an increasing body of evidence to support the move towards a four-day workweek. A number of economists, labour market specialists, and social scientists support the concept that reducing the number of hours that people spend in the workplace will actually increase their productivity. I recognize that this may sound contradictory, but there is ample evidence to support the argument.

The 40-hour, five-day workweek that most of us take for granted is actually less than a hundred years old. However, the model is outdated and based on a male-dominated workforce paradigm that had a partner to take care of the home and other obligations.

Mr. Speaker, my statement is a bit longer than my usual and I do have a couple of key areas which I would like to highlight. I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please continue, Mr. Lightstone.

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

Mr. Speaker, support continues to grow in North America for the concept of a four-day workweek and not only among the exhausted, overwhelmed employees who could use another day off to rest. Once considered a little more than a thought experiment, business leaders are now viewing reduced work hours as inevitability in the coming years and the trend will only intensify as the employment rates remain historically low and companies compete for skilled workers.

Mr. Speaker, for decades, dual-income households and single parents have struggled to maintain their work-life balance, which has been contributing to increased burnout, stress, depression, and anxiety, with declining mental and physical health, all of which are serious issues here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, when parents are participating in the workplace with full-time employment, life is a constant rush. At the end of the day, parents are lucky if they get to spend a few hours of quality time with their children. Mr. Speaker, it is the children who suffer the most when society's work expectations do not allow for an appropriate work-life balance.

Mr. Speaker, people who study work for a living are beginning to ask why we work so much when it is proven that productivity declines after working a certain period.

Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of the pandemic, an increasing number of jurisdictions around the world have adopted a four-day workweek, either as pilot projects or on a

permanent basis. Reports from these jurisdictions have shown successful results indicating that implementation of a four-day workweek is beneficial in a number of ways, including greater gender equity and job productivity, lower energy consumption, increased workplace morale, and improved mental and physical health for workers. In addition, employers are experiencing benefits of lower turnover and greater applicant pools.

Where it has been implemented, the four-day workweek has been shown to benefit employers, employees, clients, and most importantly, society as a whole. Some may argue that there are certain employment categories within the Government of Nunavut that would not be compatible with the four-day workweek, such as frontline staff, including health care professionals.

Mr. Speaker, I argue that those frontline workers are the professions that are currently suffering from some of the highest rates of stress, fatigue, burnout, and turnover. These are the types of positions which our society is so dependent on and which would benefit the most from introducing such a change.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut continues to struggle with efforts to increase Inuit employment, reduce high vacancy rates, adapt to an aging workforce, and compete effectively with employers across the country for skilled labour.

Mr. Speaker, the government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that over 2,000 positions are vacant, which represents a vacancy rate of almost 40 percent. This marks a new high or low, depending on how you look at it, in Nunavut and is at a level which is unparalleled in other Canadian jurisdictions.

Our high vacancy rate has significant negative impacts on employees and the quality of service provided to Nunavummiut. High vacancies require employees to often do the work of more than one person, exacerbating the work-life struggle and burnout.

While struggling to address high vacancy rates, Nunavut is attempting to recruit employees in an increasingly competitive labour market where the demand is so high that extraordinary measures beyond simple financial compensation must be taken to attract and retain talent. Our government must be more employee-oriented in order to enhance services to Nunavummiut.

I believe that moving towards a four-day workweek and adapting remote and hybrid models of work will show that we are serious of being an employer of choice and will attract more professionals to Nunavut and increase the retention rate amongst our public servants.

Mr. Speaker, furthermore, a four-day workweek would improve the quality of life for Nunavut residents. An extra day off would give employees more time to spend with their families and participate in community activities and most importantly, strengthen the cultural connections and create greater sense of community.

Mr. Speaker, the number of entities in the private and non-profit sectors in Nunavut that are moving towards a four-day workweek is increasing. For example, it is my understanding that the Iilitaqsiq Society has engaged in an independent external evaluator to review the results of its current four-day workweek pilot project, and I strongly encourage the society to share these results with the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, one of the outcomes of the recent national public service strike is that the federal government explicitly acknowledges and recognizes that hybrid and remote work is here to stay and that it should be welcomed.

The Treasury Board of Canada's common hybrid work model for the federal public service indicates in part "Prior to the pandemic, most public servants worked almost exclusively from federal offices and worksites.

Alternative work arrangements were rare and normally reserved for temporary, exceptional circumstances.

COVID-19 that we could work differently, and we are neither returning to a traditional model nor continuing with one imposed on us by the pandemic. With the opportunity to reimagine our work, the Government of Canada has chosen a hybrid model."

Nunavut cannot risk being left behind in the past when our competitors are looking to the future. I strongly encourage the government to move decisively in the direction that I have described. I will have a number of questions on these topics during the current spring sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The statement is a bit too long, but you got your point across. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

### **Member's Statement 280 – 6(2): Tuberculosis Outbreak in Naujaat**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day wishes to my colleagues, and my constituents in Coral Harbour and Naujaat.

Mr. Speaker, just last week, the Department of Health's minister and his staff went to Naujaat to speak to the tuberculosis outbreak that was occurring in the community of Naujaat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, tuberculosis has been in the north for a long time. Many of us have lost family members to this disease and to the sad legacy of patients being taken away for treatment and never coming home again. While we can only hope that this disease will soon be eliminated, it is good to know that nowadays it can generally be treated in our home communities.

Mr. Speaker, Naujaat is the third community to be recently identified as experiencing a tuberculosis outbreak. It would not be surprising if other communities also have cases of tuberculosis and I call upon this government to be vigilant.

Mr. Speaker, hearing the news of tuberculosis outbreak in our community can be a little scary, but the support of our health care is manageable. As with any communicable disease, we can all do our parts to prevent it spreading if we have such symptoms as feeling tired, no appetite, cough that won't go away, a fever, or night sweats, then we should make an appointment at our health centre. If there is a diagnosis of positive tuberculosis then it is important to follow your treatment and take the medicines.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the health centre staff all across Nunavut face many challenges and having tuberculosis outbreak in communities puts additional pressure on health care staff. On behalf of my community, Naujaat, I extend my appreciation to our community health care staff for their hard work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statement. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Member's Statement 281 – 6(2): Happy Anniversary to Uncle**

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is privilege to rise today, May 24, 2023, as it's daddy's girl's birthday today and not only that; she is here with me today. Her name is Charmaine Inukpaaluk.

*>>Applause*

Happy birthday, my girl. It's a privilege to be here to acknowledge my girl's birthday and don't wake me up if it's a dream, please.

Mr. Speaker, for yesterday, May 23, 2023, it was Mr. Eetoolook and Mrs. Eetoolook's 54th wedding anniversary, so it's a privilege to acknowledge to say happy 54th wedding anniversary to Mr. Eetoolook and Mrs. Eetoolook for yesterday. (interpretation) I imagine you had a wondrous day, and I wish that to my paternal uncle. I hope you had a wonderful day, my uncle. I love and thank you very much as I want to emulate your political career, as I am now standing here representing our constituency and I am quite happy to do that. Please don't wake me up if I'm dreaming, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeegok.



**Member's Statement 282 – 6(2): 2023 Nunavut Quest**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prior to commencing my statement, I wish to belatedly wish happy birthday to my wife, who celebrated her birthday yesterday, and she had a wonderful birthday party, and I thank the friends who provided gifts to her. It is always a happy occasion when celebrating a relative's birthday.

The 2023 Pangaggujiniq dog team race finished very successfully, without any incidents. There were twelve participants who started from Igloolik going up to Arctic Bay over a period of nine days. It was great to see and I was able to visit the community of Arctic Bay as the race was being completed, and it was quite exciting at the end. Many communities participated in the celebration, which is always pleasurable and I thank everyone who visited Arctic Bay.

The 400-kilometre dog team race was the length this year, and this year the dog team racers was a little different, unlike past years we were able to see live the time run and the distance run by each team, in our homes. It was a little different seeing the times and distances for each participant in that regard, however, as we are seeing new technologies in these events, as they get older.

I would like to thank the Qikiqtani Inuit Association for providing a large amount of funding towards this event to keep the practice of traditional Inuit dog teams in the north. The organizers were very successful in organizing the event. Another difference in this race was that a non-Inuk participated. He wanted to experience this and he didn't want any prize winnings. He travelled far, taking his dog team from Iqaluit to Igloolik, and then all the way up to Arctic Bay. When he was returning, his dogs were less numerous, as people liked his dogs and he gave some of them away. It was great to see that and I thank him. He had the shortest hours overall in the race. Arctic Bay resident Kunuk Oyukuluk, known as David in English, won the race and his parents were also participants.

In 2024 the race will start from Arctic Bay towards Pond Inlet and I look forward to that event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

**Member's Statement 283 – 6(2): Water Emergency in Kinngait**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Kimmirut and Kinngait.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to an issue experienced in Kinngait, as we had water supply problems in the previous week.

Mr. Speaker, the water reservoir in Kinngait, actually the place where they draw the potable water from had problems with the power lines as the heat trace would not work and they were unable to draw any water, so this became an emergency matter causing a local crisis.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the community had to make decisions with the hamlet services being in the forefront in the community affecting many residents. Nonetheless, I wish to thank them all and the mayor in particular, Jimmy Manning, and all the hamlet staff for responding very well to the emergency.

Mr. Speaker, however, we also had Nunavut government officials arrive into the community from the Department of Community and Government Services, along with Qulliq Corporation repair workers. They quickly did an assessment and identified what repairs were needed, and this process worked out rather well, and to date, we were informed that the community is no longer under a state of emergency, as it has been lifted.

With that, I again thank the fact that the community residents were able to order and received water bottles and every community building was provided with these water bottles, as part of the water services.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Kinngait was very patient and for the quick response to their needs, I wish to express my thanks as they are part of my constituency, however, it would be good to know if this will remain running, but water conservation is probably a good idea now, and to ensure a good water supply in our future, although the emergency is lifted, I want to thank everybody who was involved in this emergency who ensured that it was resolved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Ms. Weaver.

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

##### **Return to Oral Question 359 – 6(2): Community Wellness Funding**

##### **Return to Oral Question 395 – 6(2): Registering for Organ and Tissue Donation**

**Ms. Weaver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the Returns to Oral Questions 359 – 6(2) and 395 – 6(2), both of which were asked during the winter 2023 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to welcome a number of members of employees of the Iqaluit Housing Authority into our gallery today. I would like to introduce each of them.

Ken Braun, Ken was born and raised in Iqaluit and has been employed by the Iqaluit Housing Authority since 2022 as a trades helper. He has a partner and three children. Welcome, Ken.

Tracy Curley was born and raised in Nunavut. She has been employed with the Iqaluit Housing Authority since 2022 as a tenant relations officer. She lives with her partner and three children. Welcome, Tracy.

Kenny Enuaraq, Kenny was born and raised in Nunavut and has lived in Iqaluit for over 20 years, much like me. Kenny is in his second year apprenticing to be a plumber. He supports three children. Thank you, Kenny.

My friend, Pauloosie Gordon, Paul Gordon has lived for 38 years in Iqaluit. He has two young children, four in total, and Paul has been at the Iqaluit Housing Authority for the last five years as a trades helper. Welcome, Paul.

Joanasie Kilabuk, Joanasie has been with the Iqaluit Housing Authority for almost a year, working as a housing maintainer, and was born and raised in Iqaluit. He has one child.

Nicky Nauyuk, Nicky has worked for the Iqaluit Housing Authority for the past 16 years and he's a plumber. He was born and raised in Iqaluit and he has two young children. Welcome, Nicky.

Pierre Kanayuk, Pierre was born and raised in Iqaluit and he has been with the Iqaluit Housing Authority for the last 13 years and works as a housing maintainer and carpenter. During the walkout and now strike, like me, Pierre has recently suffered a personal loss with the death of one of his children. Welcome, Pierre.

I welcome all of you to your House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to recognize once again the birthday girl, daddy's girl, Charmaine. She is named after my dad, Inukpaaluk. Stand up, *panik*. She is ten years old today, Mr. Speaker, and also my wife just left and my Caylon, "Devon Drey," apparently needed to get out of the House, Mr. Speaker, so he's going

back to the hotel. Other than that, I want my colleagues to welcome my girl. It's her birthday today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**An Hon. Member:** Happy birthday.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Happy birthday and welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that this little girl has an awesome birthday, the daughter of our colleague, and please feel warmly welcomed to your House, along with all of the visitors in the gallery and I thank you for being here today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to especially recognize two individuals. Firstly, my employee whom I view as the biggest helper, and who I am especially grateful to for agreeing to be my constituency assistant in my riding of Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, my assistant Becky Mike. Please welcome her to the Assembly.

>>*Applause*

Also, secondly, the Vice-president of Nunavut Tunngavik...

>>*Laughter*

Since he also lives in my riding of Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, I especially wish to acknowledge Mr. Paul Irgaut, welcome to your House here.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

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

#### **Question 420 – 6(2): Mining Sector**

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good day. Welcome to the Assembly, people of Amittuq.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the minister responsible for the mining sector in regard to the Baffinland Iron Mine Corporation.

As the minister is aware, the Nunavut Impact Review Board is currently reviewing Baffinland's "Sustaining Operations" proposal for the Mary River mine.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the mayors of Sanirajak and Igloolik for making submissions to the board, as well as the chairs of the Igloolik and Sanirajak hunters and trappers organizations.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of formal submissions from elected leaders in my constituency have expressed support for the proposal. As the minister is aware again, the mine provides employment for a significant number of residents of Sanirajak and Igloolik.

For the record, what is the Government of Nunavut's position concerning Baffinland's proposal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Government of Nunavut, we submitted our position paper to the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Impact Review Board (interpretation) that if this project will proceed, then they need to include certain criteria, however, we must also follow the approval process through NIRB, so we are waiting for their response, but we have provided support to the project and this position hasn't changed yet, in terms of our support to have this project move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation for voicing the government's position to support the Baffinland proposal due to the employment opportunities offered to the residents of Sanirajak and Igloolik, along with supporting our youth.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in its submission to the Nunavut Impact Review Board concerning Baffinland's "Sustaining Operations" proposal, the Government of Nunavut indicated that it continues to "emphasize the...positive impact that financial security from the Mary River project has on its Nunavut employees, their families and communities." Mr. Speaker, I thank our government for acknowledging this important fact.

Now, Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify what the consequences will be if the Nunavut Impact review Board rejects Baffinland's "Sustaining Operations" proposal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the Nunavut Gross Domestic Product, it's going to have a significant impact as the mines that are operating right now do hold a lot of that and so it would have a significant impact, but I can't determine whether it's going to close or not. It's before the Nunavut Impact Review Board and I give full trust on the process in order for them to make determinations or recommendations to the federal minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernerk.

**Mr. Kaernerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do believe and I agree with the minister that it would have a significant impact in regard to employment opportunities with my riding, looking for jobs.

Mr. Speaker, when the three premiers met last week in Inuvik, the official announcement from this meeting addressed the issue of critical minerals, stating that the three premiers “encourage the federal government to work in collaboration with territorial and indigenous governments to improve regulatory and assessment efficiency in the North.”

Now, Mr. Speaker, Mary River iron ore is a vital component to the production of green steel.

Now, can the minister indicate what specific “improvements to regulatory and assessment efficiency in the North” are being recommended by the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There’s a lot of work that goes around in terms of improving our regulatory process. This work is ongoing and it’s something that we always provide input into. I think that a lot of the work that we need to do is to finalize the Nunavut Land Use Plan so that we can have certainty within our territory in terms of what can and cannot be developed. I think there is that factor.

With our current Nunavut Impact Review Board, that process has been going and has been tested and tried and has been proven to be a very valuable tool that’s being used in Nunavut. I would encourage whatever proponent that is coming to go through that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

#### **Question 421 – 6(2): Kivalliq Intercommunity Road**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to all and good afternoon to my constituents in Baker Lake. I hope you have a wonderful day.

Mr. Speaker, today my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister is very much aware, I have been a strong and vocal supporter of the Kivalliq Intercommunity Road initiative, as this road could become an option for youth to have quick mini tournaments.

As the minister is aware, his department awarded a \$1.6 million contract to Nunami Stantec to undertake a detailed “analysis and assessment of the proposed corridor to confirm sustainability and viability.”

During our recent winter sitting, the minister announced that community consultations would be starting in the “coming weeks.” Can the minister provide an update today on the consultation process and schedule? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don’t know the exact reasons on what’s the delay on this, but with our consultants, they have now scheduled for September in-person community visits for all five communities and other organizations and businesses to participate and share their perspectives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. As the minister will recall, he recently participated in a high-level meeting at the United States embassy in Ottawa concerning the Grays Bay Road and Port project. I am confident that someday, one of my colleagues from the Kitikmeot region will be asking detailed questions concerning this important initiative.

Mr. Speaker, the three northern premiers met last week in Inuvik. The official announcement from this meeting addressed the issue of “infrastructure and corridors.”

Can the minister indicate what discussions he has had with his federal counterparts concerning funding for the Kivalliq Intercommunity Road? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In May, as cabinet ministers, we all went down to Ottawa and had meetings with our federal counterparts. When I met with every one of my counterparts, I raised the Kivalliq Intercommunity Road as a potential connection to the communities and would change the scope of our airline reliance. Also, I thank Minister Alghabra for providing the funds towards the study and I’m looking forward to the results, which would then translate into seeing where we can go from here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, information published by his department concerning its Kivalliq Intercommunity Road Study addresses the role of the Kivalliq Inuit Association. Can the minister update the House on what discussions

he has had with the Kivalliq Inuit Association's leadership concerning this project?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Mr. Speaker, I have regular discussions when I meet the President for the Kivalliq Inuit Association, Kono, and provide updates on the very important projects that are taking place in the Kivalliq, and I plan to continue that dialogue throughout the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 422 – 6(2): Nunavut 3000 Housing Strategy**

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I have spoken on many occasions during sittings of the Legislative Assembly about the urgent need for more housing in the communities of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Nunavut 3000 Housing Strategy's goal of constructing up to 100 new public housing units, affordable housing units, and market housing units in Kugaaruk and Taloyoak over the next few years.

Mr. Speaker, last month, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced plans to start construction later this year on 20 new public housing units in Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify if the Nunavut Housing Corporation's plan is to construct one large 20-unit multiplex in the community or a number of smaller units?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from my colleague. They will be multi-units, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your answer. Mr. Speaker, as I noted earlier, the Nunavut 3000 Housing Strategy indicates that up to 35 new public housing units, affordable housing units, and market housing units are planned to be constructed in Kugaaruk during the life of the plan.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm when the first units are scheduled to begin construction in Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If things go well, we would be looking at doing that probably in the next building season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last month's announcement by the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that 20 new units will begin construction in the Kitikmeot community of Gjoa Haven later this year.

Mr. Speaker, as a Kitikmeot MLA, I'm happy to ask: can the minister clarify if the Nunavut Housing Corporation's plan is to construct one large 20-unit multiplex in the community or a number of smaller units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Multiplexes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

#### **Question 423 – 6(2): Impact of Rankin Inlet Beer and Wine Store**

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

As the minister is aware, the Municipal Council of Rankin Inlet recently met to discuss concerns regarding the impact that the opening of the beer and wine store has had on the community.

It is my understanding that the minister was in attendance at the meeting, and I thank him for taking the time to meet with Mayor Towtongie and the council to hear their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, it is also my understanding that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police presented some very concerning figures at the meeting regarding the impact that the opening of the beer and wine store has had on crime rates and public safety in Rankin Inlet.

My question for the minister is very simple: has the opening of the beer and wine store had a positive impact on the community or a negative impact on the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify a couple of points made by my colleague, I did not participate in the hamlet meeting the day where the RCMP officers and the hamlet council did have a meeting, but I will say that the following day, I had a special meeting with the hamlet council regarding the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Nunavut 3000 with the municipal council. In that meeting, I had brought to the attention of the hamlet council that I am more than happy to meet with the hamlet council with senior staff to discuss the alcohol and liquor store in Rankin Inlet, the positive and negative impacts it has had on the community, and see what steps we can do with the community moving forward, Mr. Speaker.

The question of if it's positive or negative, it depends who you talk to, Mr. Speaker. Our goal, though, at the end of the day is to work with the hamlet council to ensure that the concerns around alcohol abuse in the community of Rankin Inlet specific to my colleague's question is one that I will be meeting with the hamlet council with our staff to ensure that proper steps are taken to deal with some of the alcohol concerns in the community that arise because the store is now there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for answering the question and clarifying the question I had regarding the meeting.

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly representing the community of Chesterfield Inlet, I am concerned about the impact that the opening of the beer and wine store has had on other Kivalliq communities.

Can the minister describe how the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission is evaluating the impact of the Rankin Inlet Beer and Wine Store on neighbouring Kivalliq communities in relation to such measures as crime rates and increased pressure on social service agencies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The beer and wine store is open to people from Nunavut who are able to legally purchase alcohol products from the facility. Whether they take it to another community and that, that's beyond the responsibility of the alcohol store in Rankin Inlet or in Iqaluit for that matter, but it's something that I would be more than happy to discuss within our department to see what kind of program that could be put in place.

I see the real concerns in our community. I live in Rankin Inlet and I see the impacts that these alcohol facilities have. I think it's one that people who voted for it may have second thoughts and that, but in saying that, it's not one that we take lightly and it's one that we will tackle with both hands and see how we can improve the alcohol services and use in our communities. It takes a whole community to deal with something like that. Alcohol

reduction and harm reduction is one that should be community-driven, and I look forward to having those discussions, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, his department's current business plan indicates that his department will be holding public consultations during the current 2023-24 fiscal year concerning its review of the *Liquor Act*, which governs the operations of the beer and wine stores in both Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit.

Can the minister provide an update today on the schedule for when public consultation meetings will be held in Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When such list is available in terms of what communities will be consulted and on what issues, I will be more than happy to share it with this House, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 424 – 6(2): Naujaat Airport Terminal Building**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the community of Naujaat is in urgent need of a new airport terminal building.

As the minister will recall, a number of unsuccessful tenders were issued in recent years for the construction of new airport terminal buildings in Naujaat, Chesterfield Inlet, and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that this tender was recently awarded to a company to perform this work. The tender was awarded on March 22, 2023.

Can the minister confirm the timeline for when construction will begin on Naujaat's new airport terminal building? *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, was quite pleased and I thank each and every one of the members who approved this proposed project and now this project can now recommence. It will restart this summer, and we

anticipate that the construction materials will arrive towards that, and the contractors will be shipping them shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response. (interpretation ends) Federal funding for the Naujaat Airport Terminal Building project is being partially provided through the National Trade Corridors Fund.

During the Senate of Canada's sitting of October 27, 2022, the federal Minister of Transport publicly stated that his department had invited proponents to provide supplementary submissions to cover cost increases due to inflation and other factors.

Can the minister confirm how much additional funding was provided by the federal government? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last month I met with the Minister of Transport Canada, who holds the funds for the National Trade Corridors Fund, and asked for clarification on how that process should be. At the departmental level, we provided as much information as possible for the six projects that are over and above the 75-25 split and asked them how that process should go. I have asked him specifically, if I were to write a letter, would that be sufficient and he agreed to that.

We are compiling all the letters that my department officials have been provided to the department to bring it to the ministerial level because I need your support too in terms of making sure that the federal government's obligations on the 75-25 split continues. I thank you for raising this in the House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I fully support the ministers writing a letter to the federal minister.

*Uqaqtittijii*, the department's request for tender for the construction of Naujaat's new airport terminal building indicated that the minimum Inuit labour requirement for the project is 35 percent. Can the minister clarify how this amount was determined? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before any tender comes out, working with Community and Government Services' procurement and the NNI Secretariat from EDT, they determine what kinds of projects are being built within the communities and how much of the labour force is around in the communities and they come up with that

percentage. It fluctuates in terms of how many projects are taking place and how many Inuit are in the community. There's a calculation that's done through the tendering process which, when you see tenders, they come in different percentages and that's what determines how we put the minimum. We're not asking for that to be "the one." If there are way more Inuit, we're very pleased to see that and that's something that we strive for. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 425 – 6(2): Municipal Governance**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I thank the members for their caring today. I appreciate it very much.

My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, and they concern the issue of municipal governance.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is well aware, the territorial *Hamlets Act* and the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* are the foundational authorities for governance at the municipal level.

When I was privileged to serve as Deputy Mayor of Iqaluit, we frequently referred to the legislation and noted areas of concern, and I am confident that the minister will concur with me when I say that it is important that the legislation adapt and evolve with the times.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, municipal councils routinely go in-camera to address confidential and sensitive matters concerning labour relations and legal issues.

Although section 19.1 of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* allows council members to participate remotely in open sessions, they are prohibited from joining in-camera deliberations unless they are physically present in the room.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that although the Department of Community and Government Services has been requested to develop amendments to remove this outdated provision, perhaps even from as far back as the 1900s, as our young children like to say, referring to back in 1999, there has been no success in bringing forward a bill for consideration in this House.

Can the minister confirm when he will be introducing legislation to fix this problem?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question on local governance. Mr. Speaker, yes, the *Hamlets Act* and the *Cities, Towns and Villages*

*Act* are quite, I want to say, dated, but we have been able to work with them within the parameters that they set.

Mr. Speaker, my department has presented some other legislative priorities to date and at this time we haven't looked at when we want to introduce amendments to those Acts that the member brings up, but I think, in light of yes, we are in the 21st century now and even this Chamber, this House has adapted to allowing for remote participation, I'm sure that hamlets and municipal councils are trying to get up with the times around allowing for that to happen. We will keep this under our radar and hopefully it can be accommodated as and when needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Association of Municipalities is an important forum that brings together municipal leaders from across the territory. I pay tribute to the association's leadership and encourage it to keep in regular communication with all Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the association's annual general meetings are important occasions for elected leaders to bring forward formal motions concerning municipal legislation, governance, and other issues. However, it is not always clear how the Government of Nunavut is responding to the issues raised at these gatherings.

Will the minister commit to tabling the government's responses to the most recent motions adopted by the Nunavut Association of Municipalities before the end of our current spring sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. I will look into this and I'm pretty sure that with the mayors being elected officials and my colleagues in this House work very closely with each and every mayor in their constituencies.

I'll look into the members having a copy of the resolutions and the responses that my department has provided in that regard. We know that at the annual general meeting that was held in December, we were able to present and address the concerns that the mayors brought forward. I'll commit to bringing back some form of a copy to the members so that everyone can see what our responses are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for that commitment. I look forward to seeing what the Government of Nunavut is doing to support those very important motions.

As the minister is well aware, municipal elections will be held this fall across Nunavut. I want to take this opportunity to publicly encourage all Nunavummiut, especially women and members of other underrepresented populations, to consider serving on their community's elected municipal council. It's very important work. Though the work is not always glamorous, it is always essential.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that the Department of Community and Government Services support municipalities in providing orientation and training materials and programs to their newly elected council members.

Can the minister describe what new materials and initiatives his department is working on in advance of this year's municipal elections? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to thank all the municipal councillors and mayors that have put their names forward to date. It provides me an opportunity to also highlight around the upcoming municipal elections this fall. I wish all mayors and/or councillors seeking re-election to put their names forward and make a difference for their communities.

We work with each council periodically and as and when requested to ensure that councillors and mayors properly know their roles and responsibilities and have those processes in place to ensure that they can conduct their meetings efficiently and effectively. Mr. Speaker, we are trying to include different ways around those roles and responsibilities to enhance this support. In working with the Municipal Training Organization, for example, if there is any updated information that is relevant to our communities and hamlets, we will be sure to introduce those to hamlets as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 426 – 6(2): Funding Local Housing Organizations**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question today to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to get some clarification. What process does the Nunavut Housing Corporation use in establishing budgets and funding amounts for local housing organizations, including the impacts of rental arrears? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The details surrounding that are quite detailed and complex, so I will take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 427 – 6(2): Kugluktuk Airport Terminal Building**

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are regarding the construction of the new airport terminal building in Kugluktuk. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister is aware, the community of Kugluktuk is in urgent need of a new airport terminal building.

As the minister will recall, a number of unsuccessful tenders were issued in recent years for the construction of the new airport terminal building.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that this tender was recently awarded to a company to perform this work. The tender was awarded on April 6, 2023. I just want to thank the tenderer, Industra Construction Corporation, for taking on the contract.

Can the minister confirm the timeline for when construction will begin on Kugluktuk's new airport terminal building? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the construction has been awarded, now is the time to start the work. We are anticipating for this shipping season to have the materials start arriving to the community. I, too, am happy that we were able to successfully close the tenders for these terminals and it was a huge thanks to each of the members here for doing this, so I give thanks to everybody. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you for the response. (interpretation ends) The department's request for tenders for the new Kugluktuk Airport Terminal Building indicated that the Inuit labour requirement for this project is 40 percent. Can the minister clarify how this amount was determined? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before tender, Community and Government Services, along with our NNI Secretariat, look at the number of projects that are in the community and the amount of Inuit that are in the community and the surrounding areas and come up with a percentage in terms of the minimum that they



would like to see the contractors go. I must state that that's the minimum to be met for Inuit content.

As you mentioned, if it was 40 percent, it's significantly higher than a lot of the projects that I'm aware of, so I'm happy that there are going to be a lot of good opportunities for Kuglukturmiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Anavilok:** I thank the minister for his response. Information published by the government indicates that the award value for the contract to construct the new Kugluktuk Airport Terminal Building is \$15,881,000.

Can the minister clarify what percentage of the project is being funded by the federal government through the National Trade Corridors Fund? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate this question and something that I'm going to need help from the members is that I'm trying to convince our federal Minister of Transport that it should remain at 75 percent federal and 25 percent territorial. If we don't proceed with that, we're looking at close to 50-50, which is still significantly better than having to pay 100 percent, but I'm still working on the details with my federal colleagues and to try to ensure that what we agreed on was on a 75 percent and 25 percent split.

Work is in progress and once I get a response or whenever that response is done, I will definitely report to this House and through our capital process, as it was approved this year to proceed, you're going to see the value of numbers that our territorial government support is there and if the federal government does make a decision on this, it may change. I thank the member for questioning this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

#### **Question 428 – 6(2): Medical Escort Policy**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Continuing from my member's statement earlier, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question I have is, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a number of my constituents have been raising concerns regarding the department's medical escort policy. The department's website indicates that this policy was last updated in May 2020, which was during the pandemic.

Can the minister provide an update on when his department's medical travel policies, specifically the policy respecting medical escorts, will be reviewed and revised to reflect the current needs of Nunavummiut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking a question on that issue. Yes, this policy we are reviewing relates to those residents who must go on medical travel and it is called the (interpretation ends) Medical Travel Policy (interpretation) and we are reviewing it at this time.

We are developing this policy that our colleague spoke to and it is currently used today, however, the changes or amendments which we are aware of, which have been identified and to date, it also falls under Article 32 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, where we have to consult and collaborate with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., on this matter.

We are required to collaborate on this policy, but we will not be working directly with NTI but consulting them along with listening to residents of Nunavut to ensure that changes are made to this policy to have it run more smoothly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you as well for your response, that this policy is being reviewed now, and work is being done to ensure these changes come into practice and how best to implement these changes, and what needs revision within this policy. The policy was last updated in May 2020. It has been three years already in total. This is a critical issue.

Now, we need to strengthen this policy and ensure that it is implemented properly and to have everything in place, as the underlying reason is clear that the purpose is to service our elders in the language they comprehend, as we must not forget them. This also applies to people with mobility issues, as they also require medical escorts to assist them.

This is quite worrisome to hear of certain cases where the elders are just thrown into this abyss as they require the most care in this regard. Due to this matter, many patients in my constituency have deepening concerns especially the patients' requiring escorts, as many people are now on the blacklist, not able to be an escort due to their problems, as many families now run into that problem.

A number of parents and friends are unable to be replaced when they have to be an escort or on medical travel without an escort, and it can be stressful and burdensome, causing mental distress to the patient. This is also the case as not everyone has access to a cellphone. When you lack these conveniences many of us take for granted, those less fortunate still experience many problems.

This has been seemingly increasing, the issue or the importance of requiring responsible escorts. It seems to have gone sideways, showing the critical placement of this issue of the policy review. Therefore, (interpretation ends) can the minister explain why the Medical Travel Policy no longer permits many medical clients to have a spouse or family member travel with them as an escort when they travel out of their home community for medical care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the clarification that the member is requesting, I do not quite understand the request for clarification.

When it comes to an escort, I'll speak about how escorts are allocated in a general sense under the policy. It starts with a clinical practitioner would make a referral for an escort, a Nunavut practitioner, and then from there, if the traveller meets the criteria established under the policy, they would be granted an escort, and there is an appeals process in there. If a traveller is not granted an escort but they feel like they would benefit from one, they can submit an appeal to the department and then the department takes another look at that situation and sees whether or not an escort would be beneficial for the client.

In terms of the work of the medical travel team within the Department of Health, I want to commend them for all their hard work. Over 35,000 round-trips in 2022-23, that's a lot of bookings and flight changes and delays to manage, and I really want to commend the staff for their approach to escorts. We have been taking an increasingly compassionate approach to escorts, recognizing things like mental health, recognizing things like emotional stress that can come to medical travellers. That's something that's really, I think, beneficial for Nunavummiut and it's something that I look forward to seeing more of. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, that is good to hear. Even with that, when people have no mobility issues but who are unilingual, the assessment is on their mobility and not on their linguistic barrier, and this is what I am trying to showcase here. I am trying to include that caveat, that medical people focus on their mobility hence no escort is required, even though it becomes a linguistic barrier issue, hence this needs clarity in the policy, as too many decisions are based on health and mobility issues, and not language.

To continue, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, after listening to my constituents, I feel that the Department of Health needs to give the medical escort issue more attention. In January of this year, the Department of Health announced it would be consulting with community members, health care providers, and others on health care services across the territory. In April it was announced that this 'Territorial Client and Family Engagement Plan' was put on hold.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister assure me that when this consultation resumes, it will include a focus on the Medical Client Escort Policy and really listen to what Nunavummiut want and need when it comes to providing escorts for patients on medical travel? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can certainly commit to what the member is asking and we really want to see improvements made to the Medical Travel Policy. There might be a bit of confusion there. The consultations under the client and family engagement were a separate project that the department is working on, so the Medical Travel Policy review is continuing. The consultations are continuing as I speak, or maybe not as I speak, but it's ongoing.

Mr. Speaker, I really like that the member raised the issue of communications. That's an issue that we have identified as an area of focus during the comprehensive review of the policy. We're looking at enhanced communication tools and resources for medical travellers and escorts. We're also looking at the structure of the medical travel program. We're looking at bringing in the oral health program to the policy, as well as the home and continuing care program and mental health and addictions program.

Right now the travel pieces for those programs are outside of the Medical Travel Policy, but we're trying to make it more cohesive and easier to understand for Nunavummiut, including unilingual Nunavummiut. I thank the member for the questions and it's a very exciting area that we're looking to make a significant improvement on. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 429 – 6(2): Issues with Snowmobile Fuel Filters**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. I'll first ask the minister to just explain a bit to the House here.

Mr. Speaker, in Arviat and other Kivalliq communities, the snowmobilers have been having issues with the filter inside the fuel pump, the white filter turning black, and the snowmobile either running poorly or not running at all. When it's warm out, it's just an inconvenience that you have to change it, but in the colder months, it's a safety issue. If your snowmobile can't run and you're stranded out on the land, then that is not good.

I'll first ask the minister: is the minister aware or has been made aware of the issues with the snowmobile filters plugging up a lot more frequently and quicker than normal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, the Petroleum Products Division, which is in charge of buying and delivering fuel for all communities, we do on occasion get complaints around volumes. Naphtha, as an example, was one that was brought up in this House, but in this particular case around the fuel filter in skidoos and snowmobiles, it hasn't come up *per se*. I would imagine that it's something new around our territory, depending on how much usage our equipment gets used, but I thank the member for bringing it to our attention right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the Petroleum Products Division tests the gas when they buy it, when it gets on a ship, when it gets off the ship, when it gets in a tank. I know that they do all that, but there's something different this year. The same snowmobiles, in previous years, you may change the fuel filter and the fuel pump once a year. Mr. Speaker, there is one person from Arviat that had to change it within a few days of buying a brand-new snowmobile.

Mr. Speaker, I'm asking the minister if, through his department, the Petroleum Products Division can collect some of these filters that are all black and just find out what this black substance is that's in the filter. Is it coming from the gas? Is it coming from the gas tank? We don't know, but if the black substance was tested, then we can pinpoint whether it's a gasoline issue or another issue. I would just like to ask the minister if he is willing to collect these black filters to see what the substance is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Most certainly, the Petroleum Products Division does this sampling to test for the quality and control. I would encourage my colleagues or any other Nunavummiuq to report any of these types of issues through the Petroleum Products Division and hopefully we can identify the source.

Further to this, Mr. Speaker, we know that the fuel delivery in the last resupply season has been quite different and we're not sure if this has to do with it or not or the source of the fuel where we purchase from. I guess we will take different factors into account when we're doing this assessment, but again thanks for bringing it to our attention and I encourage Nunavummiut to report and bring in samples that can be collected for further testing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for agreeing to test what the substance is in the fuel filter, but I would like a commitment from the minister on whether there will be a public service announcement or a minister's statement so that Nunavummiut will know where they can take these bad, used filters to and the time frame of when the results would be given to Nunavummiut.

I would highly encourage the minister that the results should be made public to Nunavummiut before the next skidoo season in the fall. I know they're still using snowmobiles now. It's not as cold and it's not as critical, but we need to know what this substance was and possibly where it may have come from before the fall.

Will the minister commit to having a public service announcement or a minister's statement on where and how people can bring these samples in for testing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that suggestion. We will look at some form of communication outside of this proceeding right now through either a public service announcement or other ways of reaching Nunavummiut and specifying where they can drop off the fuel filter samples, as an example, but we will do that and collect some samples around the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 430 – 6(2): Airline Regulation**

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, I have been vocal in raising concerns about the federal government's recent decision to amend the terms and conditions respecting the 2019 merger between Canadian North and First Air.

(interpretation ends) Last month, the federal Minister of Transport announced the approval of revised terms and conditions, one of which is a provision that allows the airline to raise fares by as much as 25 percent per calendar year. It is my understanding that the changes to the terms and conditions were largely made at the request of the airline.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify the extent to which he and his department were consulted by the federal government prior to the approval of the new terms and conditions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before the federal minister made the decision, he has written a letter to me asking for my thoughts on the terms and conditions, and I was given an opportunity to provide that to the federal minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the minister's response. As the minister will recall, he received a copy of my recent correspondence to Nunavut's Senator and Member of Parliament concerning the federal decision to amend the terms and conditions respecting the operations of the merged airline.

Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of record that over a hundred million dollars in public money was provided directly to the airline during the pandemic by both the federal and territorial governments, and I continue to call on the airline to be more transparent about its financial position.

Mr. Speaker, although the revised terms and conditions require the airline to provide certain audited reports to the federal minister, the independent advisory board that was previously in place is being eliminated. This board included one representative from the Government of Nunavut.

Does the Government of Nunavut support the removal of the independent advisory board, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the terms and conditions were being drafted for the merger within the federal ministry, we provided input which we asked that there be an advisory committee and also the terms and conditions that are laid out in our medical and duty travel conditions that they at the very minimum be part of that and that's what I have been consistent in replying to the federal minister.

With all the lifting of their terms and conditions, which the federal minister has every right to do, when I met with him, he said that he had a very tough decision to make and from my conversation with the federal minister, Canadian North did put out a very sound case into why those terms and conditions are to be lifted. Do I agree with it? No, I don't agree with it. I think we need to have those terms and conditions protected for our Nunavut travellers and I communicated that both to Canadian North and to our federal minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nutarak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whether we are talking about essential services such as airline travel or essential goods such as food, monopolies behave like monopolies and the public suffer.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize and understand that it is not the role of government to start a new airline or open a grocery store. However, it can work to support a regulatory environment that encourages competition, it can ensure that infrastructure, including

paved runways, exists to support operations, and it can target incentives to encourage businesses to enter new markets.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to formally inviting Canada's other major commercial airlines to consider expanding their services to Nunavut, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any airline, whether it's a national or a small airline, is welcomed in Nunavut if they can compete. These are open skies in Canada, where any airline can come in and conduct their business if there's a business case. That one is always open.

With acknowledging that we do have a very small market, we use our government purchasing power to try to dictate terms and conditions for any airline that's going to do business in Nunavut, which is why our medical and duty travel is in place. I'm happy that those are in place because it guarantees the flights that are here.

For any airline that wants to come, I welcome them, but I also recognize that with our small airline market, it's much fractured. The cargo and the two major stores have their own planes. The mining companies have their own planes. For the public, we have the monopoly with Canadian North. From recent announcements from Arctic Fresh, they're trying to go into a few communities. If any airline wants to do that, I encourage them, but it's up to them. We can't dictate on this situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 431 – 6(2): Community Infrastructure**

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

As the minister is aware, the community of Sanikiluaq has suffered two major disasters in recent years that resulted in the destruction of critical infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, construction has begun on Sanikiluaq's new municipal office building, and I want to again note my appreciation for the progress made on this project.

Can the minister confirm the current timeline for the completion of the new Sanikiluaq municipal office facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Hudson Bay on his question. We're devastated with the loss of the infrastructure in Sanikiluaq which was



used for different purposes. On the new hamlet office build, the substantial completion for this project remains on schedule for next spring of 2024 and we look forward to that coming online and servicing the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the opening of the new facility.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, Sanikiluaq's old health centre burned to the ground, which resulted in the displacement of approximately ten Government of Nunavut employees.

As the minister will recall, the Premier and I recently exchanged correspondence concerning the government's response to the situation, as it is important that essential services to my constituents be fully resumed as soon as possible.

The most recent letter to me indicated that the Real Property Division of the Department of Community and Government Services has "identified several suitable alternate office locations and is diligently working to complete arrangements for alternate office spaces required." Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member on trying to keep track of new developments in this area. Mr. Speaker, as I recall, his own office was also affected in this tragic fire. Given that it's difficult to build a big office space from scratch, it can't come sooner enough. We can't build it overnight, so to speak. It takes many different processes, but we are trying to work with all the parties involved in trying to get suitable office space and things that might help in this instance.

Again, the new hamlet office does have space allotted for Government of Nunavut employees and again, I look forward to that opening and I hope to visit the community when the time comes to do the ribbon-cutting, but as for the old health centre, we are still looking at options around how that will be played out over the short and long term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The red carpet will be rolled out as you come out of Sanikiluaq.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to first responders in Sanikiluaq and across Nunavut.

As the minister is aware, a much-needed new fire truck is scheduled to arrive in the community later this year, and I again thank the minister and his department for recognizing our needs.

As the minister will recall, I raised the issue of Sanikiluaq's community fire hall during the legislative sitting of last fall.

As the minister is aware, the current facility is decades old, and I note that Sanikiluaq's integrated community sustainability plan identifies the need to renovate or replace the facility. Can the minister confirm how his department will address this need? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Along with the Member for Hudson Bay, I would like to commend all the first responders, especially the firefighters, around responding to these devastating situations. When a facility of this nature is lost, it's quite hard on the community.

I know from experiences that we're there with the community throughout this process, but around either renovations or replacement of fire halls, my department collects these integrated community sustainability plans to help us plan forward on how my department will support municipalities in their capital needs. We do have some capital funding programs of different avenues that each municipality can apply for or pursue, whether it's through my department or through federal programs.

I'll work with my colleague and try to see if there's a funding program that might fit his community's needs alongside others. We try to prioritize, of course, which community has the greatest needs among the many community infrastructure, municipal buildings, hamlet offices, fire halls, and what have you. There is so much across the territory that we would like to see and we hope to build as much as we can with the funds that we have available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 432 – 6(2): Four-Day Workweek**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of Community and Government Services, with a few seconds remaining on the clock, to allow me an opportunity to ask some questions today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also apologize for my lengthy member's statement earlier today. I felt it was very necessary to get many points across prior to raising such issues with significant societal implications.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Human Resources.

As I noted in my member's statement, the 40-hour, five-day workweek is an outdated model that society accepts as normal. This model is having negative consequences on society and in recognition, the world is beginning to move in the direction of a four-day workweek to encourage work-life balance that benefits employees, employers, and society as a whole, and I strongly believe that the Government of Nunavut also needs to modernize its practices and policies.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Human Resources' current business plan indicates that two of its priorities for the current fiscal year are to "Develop and implement a flexible/remote work policy" and to "Finalize and begin implementation of the 2024-2028 Human Resource Strategy."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask if the minister will commit to including the concept of the four-day workweek into the department's efforts to achieve these priorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. We are working on this (interpretation ends) HR strategy (interpretation) in English, and we are trying to review this to make improvements, and further, we want to find ways to correct them where possible.

Also, this other matter I referenced, about the ability to work within an office environment such as our government of Nunavut offices, specifically the (interpretation ends) Flexible Workplace Policy (interpretation) which we are developing, and we are checking our options on the improvements, especially the areas where we hear the most concerns expressed by smaller communities, and how to create new positions without moving around locally. This is the first time we are working on these improvements.

However, with respect to the question from the MLA which is now the second time on the subject of a four-day workweek, we have not included it in our planning exercises, but we can include it in the discussion stages and to determine which would be the most convenient way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize and understand that major change does not occur overnight.

As the minister is aware, Article 22.01 of the current collective agreement between the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Employees Union provides that the "standard daily hours [of work] will be seven and one-half consecutive hours, between 08:30 and 17:00, each day from Monday to Friday."

Mr. Speaker, it is clear to me that this is “legacy language” which has been inherited from previous collective agreements.

The current collective agreement expires in September 2024, a little over a year from now, and will likely last for a number of years.

I would like to ask if the minister would commit to holding discussions with the Nunavut Employees Union concerning the concept of introducing the four-day workweek into the public service prior to a new collective agreement prohibiting such a change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. This is something we can discuss further, and as I stated just previously, we are looking at where we can include this matter in our reviews.

The agreement for our employees might require us to revisit this section to determine if this can indeed be incorporated and how to implement it. We have identified the areas that may require changing, especially related to the salaries and how to improve that if looking at less hours.

This is still under development and it touches upon this other policy I introduced earlier, working in a different community called (interpretation ends) flexible workplace policy (interpretation) and this is the first time it has been initiated and we are proud of that.

We are always open to hearing of resolutions geared towards improving our workplaces, and particularly, in placing more Inuit into the public services as we continue to look to recruit more Inuit, and we want to hear about potential improvements and we can look into that down the road.

Most likely further down the future path, but we acknowledge our employee capacity issues, and we are well aware of it. Nonetheless, as I stated earlier, we can include them in our assessments and further, we usually have to work hand-in-hand with the employee union, and that would continue here as well. 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 her response. As I noted in my member’s statement, it is clear that a number of entities in Nunavut’s private and non-profit sectors are moving towards a four-day workweek.

It is my understanding that the Ilitaqsiniq Society has engaged an independent external evaluator to review the results of its current four-day workweek pilot project. I would like to ask if the minister would commit to working with the society so that our government can share in the lessons learned from this exciting initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that suggestion. (interpretation ends) I think that's a very good idea in terms of what options we can look at. I know it's not just Ilitaqsiniq; there are other employers that are starting to look at a four-day workweek or other things where some employers are giving their employees work time from 8:30 to 4:30 and paying 70 hours biweekly in some cases.

We are hearing about different ways of trying to make work a bit more effective for our employees. I think we won't stop discussing this. There are different options that we do need to take into consideration, but I think that with the Flexible Workplace Policy, I think it's a very good start. Like you mentioned, things don't change overnight, but we will certainly take that into consideration. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Ms. Weaver.

### **Item 8: Returns to Written Questions**

**Return to Written Question 002 – 6(2): Remote Work**

**Return to Written Question 003 – 6(2): Arctic Energy Fund**

**Return to Written Question 004 – 6(2): Annual Fuel Purchases, Bulk Fuel Storage Capacity, and Annual Resupply Operations**

**Ms. Weaver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the Returns to Written Questions 2 – 6(2), 3 – 6(2), and 4 – 6(2), all of which were asked during the winter 2023 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Ms. Weaver.

### **Item 11: Responses to Petitions**

**Response to Petition 002 – 6(2): New Community Hall for Naujaat**

**Response to Petition 003 – 6(2): Advocate for Our Air Travel Rights and Demand Better Services**

**Response to Petition 004 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut Office Location**

**Ms. Weaver:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the Responses to Petitions 2 – 6(2), 3 – 6(2), and 4 – 6(2), all of which were presented during the winter 2023 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

\*See Appendix for full text of Returns to Written Questions 2 – 6(2), 3 – 6(2), and 4 – 6(2) and Responses to Petitions 2 – 6(2), 3 – 6(2), and 4 – 6(2).

**Speaker:** Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. I have one.

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

#### **Tabled Document 124 – 6(2): 2022-23 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut**

I have one document to table today which is the 2022-23 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut. Thank you.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of the Status of Women, Ms. Nakashuk.

#### **Tabled Document 125 – 6(2): 2021-22 Annual Report – Nunavut Status of Women Council**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the 2021-22 Annual Report of the Nunavut Status of Women Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

#### **Tabled Document 126 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut Response to the Report on the Review of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Government of Nunavut's response to the report on the review of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

#### **Tabled Document 127 – 6(2): Nunavut Victim Services 2021-22 Annual Report**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Victim Services 2021-22 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Tabled Document 128 – 6(2): 2022 Annual Report of the Workers' Advisor Office**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the 2022 Annual Report of the Workers' Advisor Office. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

**Tabled Document 129 – 6(2): Correspondence to Nunavut's Senator and Member of Parliament Concerning New Terms and Conditions respecting Merger between Canadian North and First Air**

**Ms. Nutarak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of my recent correspondence to Nunavut's Senator and Member of Parliament concerning the new terms and conditions respecting the merger between Canadian North and First Air, which I encourage all members to review with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. I have no more names. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Tabled Document 130 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Human Resources - Follow-up from Committee of the Whole's Review of the Department of Human Resources' 2023-24 Main Estimates and 2023-26 Business Plan****Tabled Document 131 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Education - Follow-up from Committee of the Whole's Review of the Department of Education's 2023-24 Main Estimates and 2023-26 Business Plan**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have two documents to table today in my capacity as a Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, the first document is correspondence from the Minister of Education in response to questions that were asked during the winter 2023 proceedings of the Committee of the Whole.

The second document is correspondence from the Minister of Human Resources in response to questions that were asked during the winter 2023 proceedings of the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickers.

**Tabled Document 132 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Community and Government Services - Follow-up from Committee of the Whole’s Review of the Department of Community and Government Services’ 2023-24 Main Estimates and 2023-26 Business Plan**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one document to table today in my capacity as Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole.

The document is correspondence from the Minister of Community and Government Services in response to questions that were asked during the winter 2023 proceedings of the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. I have no more names for tabling of documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions**

**Motion 017 – 6(2): Appointment of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut – Notice**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, May 26, 2023, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Mr. Dustin Fredlund of Rankin Inlet be appointed as Chief Electoral Officer, effective October 19, 2023.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. I recognize the Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

**Bill 22 – An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act – Notice**

**Bill 23 – Nursing Professions Act – Notice**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Thursday, May 25, 2023, that the following bills, Bill 22, *An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act*, and Bill 23, *Nursing Professions Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. I recognize the Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.



**Bill 24 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2023-2024 – Notice****Bill 25 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2023-2024 – Notice**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, May 25, 2023, that the following bills, Bill 24, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2023-2024*, and Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2023-2024*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. There are no items in the committee. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. There is no report. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. There are none. *Orders of the Day*. Ms. Weaver.

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Ms. Weaver:** *Orders of the Day* for May 25, 2023:

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

- Bill 22
- Bill 23
- Bill 24
- Bill 25

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** This House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 25, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:09*

# Appendix – May 24, 2023



## Return to Oral Question

**Asked by:** Joe Savikataaq, MLA from Arviat South

**Asked of:** Hon. John Main, Minister of Health

**Number:** 359-6(2)

**Date:** March 6, 2023

**Subject:** *Community Wellness Funding*

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On March 6, 2023, I received a question in the Sitting of the Legislative Assembly regarding the Department of Health's (Health) Community Wellness Programs, including its funding and the policy associated with it.

In 2016, Health developed a 10-year Territorial Health Plan with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). The Territorial Health Plan is funded through the Nunavut Wellness Agreement (NWA), a Contribution Agreement for community-based health promotion and disease prevention programs in Nunavut, effective April 1, 2017, until March 31, 2027.

The Territorial Health Plan provides funding to the following five initiatives:

1. Community Wellness Programs.
2. Community Capacity Development.
3. Home and Community Care.
4. Territorial Health Promotion Initiatives.
5. Program Management of the NWA.

The total 10-year funding for the NWA was initiated at \$184,443,170. However, as of December 2022, amendments to the Contribution Agreement to cover additional programming has brought the total value of the agreement to \$242,278,165. One of those new amendments includes an additional \$44,589.84 for each community under the Community Wellness Programs for the remaining 5-years of the NWA (2022-27). The additional funding is to enhance community health and wellness programming, especially community wellness coordinator salaries and school food programming.

The funding for Community Wellness Programs encourages and supports the health and wellness of Nunavummiut through a community-determined approach. Community Wellness Programs support several community-based initiatives that aim to improve the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities. This is addressed through the provision of culturally relevant health promotion and wellness program areas such as school food programs, mental health promotion, and other programs that support the healthy development of children and families and reduce the impact of communicable and chronic diseases.

To receive funding under the Community Wellness Programs, communities must develop *Community Wellness Plans* that are a product of community consultation to ensure the plan includes community identified projects. The plan outlines the proposed programming in various health promotion areas and Health works closely with communities to support the development of their respective *Community Wellness Plans*.

All 25 communities have active multi-year *Community Wellness Plans*, which meet the unique health and wellness programming needs for each community.

The administration of the Community Wellness Program and *Community Wellness Plans* is governed by the NWA, which aligns with Health's Grants and Contributions Policy. The funding flows through Contribution Agreements with each community which adhere to the Grants and Contribution Policy. The NWA is does not trump any terms within the Grants and Contributions Policy.

Under the NWA, it states that sponsor agencies (i.e., community organizations) are eligible to submit a multi-year *Community Wellness Plan* that is between two to five years in length. Health typically utilizes five-year agreements due to the amount of work required to produce a *Community Wellness Plan*, which includes community consultation by the sponsoring agency, the review of those plans, and the fact that longer-term funding allows the agency to appropriately implement their plan.

The Contribution Agreement with each community stipulates several clauses between the GN and the sponsoring agency, including:

- Payments.
- Travel expenses.
- Accounts and reporting.
- Insurance.
- Term and termination.
- Amendment and assignment.
- General terms and conditions.

In addition to Community Wellness Programs, Health provides additional funding based on community need and call out requests. It is important to not confuse this with the funding for Community Wellness Programs, which is a fixed amount. Funding through this route is derived from alternate funding streams.



## Return to Written Question

**Asked by:** *MLA from Arviat-South, Joe Savikataaq*

**Asked of:** *Hon. Minister, Margaret Nakashuk*

**Number:** Written Question 2-6(2)

**Date:** March 14, 2023

**Subject:** Remote Work

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**Question:**

1. What is the Government of Nunavut's current policy regarding remote work?

**Response:**

The Government of Nunavut does not have a remote work policy.

To support any needs to hire remotely for highly critical positions, the Department of Human Resources is developing a Human Resource Manual Directive to establish a process for departments/public bodies to request Cabinet approval.

The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, with support from the Department of Human Resources, will lead a decentralization review in the 2023-24 fiscal year. The need for remote work in the South for "hard-to-fill", critically-needed positions – such as health care workers, social workers, and engineers, to name a few – should remain a consideration in completing the decentralization review as it will impact our ratios with communities and will have an impact on Inuit employment.

The Department of Human Resources is also developing a flexible workplace policy that would support the government's decentralization efforts and provide employees with more flexibility to work from anywhere in the territory inside a Government of Nunavut office. This policy would allow qualified Nunavummiut to remain in the community of their choice while filling a vacant role otherwise assigned to another community.

2. Under what circumstances may an indeterminate, term, or casual employee of a Government of Nunavut department, public agency, or territorial corporation whose position is located in Nunavut be eligible to work remotely outside of the territory?

**Response:**

Requests to work remotely from outside of the territory are considered in critical and exceptional circumstances and for limited periods of time.

3. What is the approval process for such requests?

**Response:**

Until a formal policy is in place, the Government of Nunavut continues to follow the process developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During COVID-19, employees who requested to work outside of their home community or outside of the territory were required to complete an application form (attached) and submit it to their supervisor. The Deputy Head of the employing department was to forward the request to the Deputy Minister of Human Resources for consideration. The final decision to approve or deny these requests was made by the Deputy Minister of Human Resources. Employees who travelled outside of their home community or outside of the territory without approval were considered absent without leave (AWOL).

To maintain operational requirements, Deputy Heads consider such requests only in critical and exceptional circumstances and for limited periods of time.

4. In circumstances where an indeterminate, term, or casual employee of a Government of Nunavut department, public agency, or territorial corporation whose position is located in Nunavut receives approval to work remotely outside of the territory for a period of time exceeding thirty (30) consecutive days, what is their eligibility for the following allowances and benefits:
- a. Nunavut Northern Allowance (within the meaning of Article 39 of the *Collective Agreement between the Nunavut Employees Union and the Minister responsible for the Public Service Act*);

**Response:**

They were not eligible for Nunavut Northern Allowance.

- b. Nunavut Household Allowance (within the meaning of the *Nunavut Household Allowance Policy*); and

**Response:**

If a Nunavut Household Allowance (NHA) recipient is on approved remote work from their employing department and in receipt of regular pay, they will continue to receive the NHA as long as they continue to meet the eligibility for the NHA. For example, their home remains their principal residence and is not leased or rented out during the period of remote work.

- c. Staff Housing (within the meaning of the Government of Nunavut *Staff Housing Policy*)?

**Response:**

If the employee is granted a short-term remote work arrangement, and they continue to pay rent, they will keep their staff housing.

**For Questions 5 to 9, please refer to the enclosed information worksheets for each department/public body.**



## Written Question 2-6(2) – Nunavut Arctic College

### For Questions 5 and 6:

Using the table below, list the number of employees who applied for Remote Work outside of Nunavut between April 1, 2020, and March 13, 2023, and the number of employees approved. Also, please specify Nunavut Agreement enrollment status.

Nunavut Arctic College				
Employment Category	# of Remote Work Applications Received		# of Remote Work Applications Approved	
	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit
Executive				
Senior Management				
Middle Management				
Professional		5		1
Paraprofessional				
Admin Support				
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>1</b>

### For Question 7:

Please use the table below to list all current positions within your department/corporation located outside of Nunavut. Also, indicate the position's location and precisely how they are filled (indeterminate, term, casual or by an external consultant/contractor?) or if they are vacant.

Nunavut Arctic College		
List all department/corporation positions located outside Nunavut.	Location	Vacant or Filled (please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or by external contract (non-public servant))?
70-13986 Online Course Designer/Developer	Kitchener, Ontario	Filled on term employee
70-14670 Instructor, NTEP	Pangnirtung*	Vacant
70-14396 Instructor, NTEP	Arviat*	Vacant
70-14184 Instructor, NTEP	Gjoa Haven*	Vacant
70-12192 Instructor, Office Administration Program	Rankin Inlet*	Vacant

70-01539 Instructor, Management Studies	Rankin Inlet*	Vacant
70-01538 Instructor, Management Studies	Rankin Inlet*	Vacant

\* These positions were approved by cabinet to be posted as remote work opportunities with no assigned location. Only one was filled on term.

**For Question 8:**

Page 3 of the September 30, 2022, TRPS report refers to the total filled positions across the GN. Using your department/corporation's current data, list all positions currently filled by an employee who has been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) or more consecutive days?

<b>Nunavut Arctic College</b>		
<b>List all departmental/Corporation positions that have been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) consecutive days or more.</b>	<b>Please specify - Nunavut Resident or Non-resident</b>	<b>Please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or contract (non-public servant).</b>
70-13986 Online Course Designer/Developer	Non-Resident	Filled on term employee until June 2025
70-13441 – Pathway to Adult Secondary School (PASS Instructor)	London, Ontario	Term until June 2023

**For Question 9:**

Page 3 of the September 30, 2022, TRPS report refers to the total vacancies across the Nunavut Public Service. Please list all current vacant positions in your department or corporation currently filled on a contracted basis by external consultants (non-public servants) residing within Nunavut or outside.

<b>Nunavut Arctic College</b>	
<b>List all departmental/Corporation positions currently filled on a contract basis.</b>	<b>Nunavut Resident (non-public servant) or non-Nunavut resident.</b>
Instructor, Inuit Language and Culture	Nunavut Inuk, Non-Nunavut Resident – 4 Month term

**Written Question 2-6(2) – Department/Corporation - Community and Government Services**

**For Questions 5 and 6:**

Using the table below, list the number of employees who applied for Remote Work outside of Nunavut between April 1, 2020, and March 13, 2023, and the number of employees approved. Also, please specify Nunavut Agreement enrollment status.

Community and Government Services				
Employment Category	# of Remote Work Applications Received		# of Remote Work Applications Approved	
	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit
Executive	-	-	-	-
Senior Management	-	9	-	9
Middle Management	1	19	1	18
Professional	3	40	3	38
Paraprofessional	-	15	-	15
Admin Support	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>80</b>

\*This information was collected up to Sept 2021.

\*\*CGS/GN doesn't have a policy on tracking this information.

\*\*\*There are no mechanisms in place to report outside of January 2020 to Sept 2021.

**For Question 7:**

Please use the table below to list all current positions within your department/corporation located outside of Nunavut. Also, indicate the position's location and precisely how they are filled (indeterminate, term, casual or by an external consultant/contractor?) or if they are vacant.

Community and Government Services		
List all department/corporation positions located outside Nunavut.	Location	Vacant or Filled (please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or by external contract (non-public servant))?
N/A	N/A	N/A

\*CGS HR is not aware of any CGS positions located outside of Nunavut

**For Question 8:**

Page 3 of the September 30, 2022, TRPS report refers to the total filled positions across the GN. Using your department/corporation’s current data, list all positions currently filled by an employee who has been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) or more consecutive days?

Community and Government Services		
List all departmental/Corporation positions that have been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) consecutive days or more.	Please specify - Nunavut Resident or Non-resident	Please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or contract (non-public servant).
Municipal Planning Engineer	Non-resident	Indeterminate
Community Training Officer	Resident	Casual
Contract Administration Specialist	Resident	Indeterminate
Contract Administration Specialist	Resident	Indeterminate

\*CGS HR does not have a means of determine if an employee is or isn’t working outside of Nunavut.  
 \*\*CGS HR is not aware of a GN Policy that requires tracking/reporting of this information.

**For Question 9:**

Page 3 of the September 30, 2022, TRPS report refers to the total vacancies across the Nunavut Public Service. Please list all current vacant positions in your department or corporation currently filled on a contracted basis by external consultants (non-public servants) residing within Nunavut or outside.

Community and Government Services	
List all departmental/Corporation positions currently filled on a contract basis.	Nunavut Resident (non-public servant) or non-Nunavut resident.
N/A	N/A

\*CGS HR does not have a means/policy regarding reporting on positions filled on a contract basis by external consultants. To the best of CGS HR knowledge there are currently, 2023-04-13, no contractors in a departmental position fulfilling a complete Job Description.

## Written Question 2-6(2) – CULTURE AND HERITAGE

### For Questions 5 and 6:

Using the table below, list the number of employees who applied for Remote Work outside of Nunavut between April 1, 2020, and March 13, 2023, and the number of employees approved. Also, please specify Nunavut Agreement enrollment status.

<b>CULTURE AND HERITAGE</b>				
<b>Employment Category</b>	<b># of Remote Work Applications Received</b>		<b># of Remote Work Applications Approved</b>	
	<b>Nunavut Inuit</b>	<b>Non-Inuit</b>	<b>Nunavut Inuit</b>	<b>Non-Inuit</b>
Executive	0	0	0	0
Senior Management	0	0	0	0
Middle Management	0	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0	0
Paraprofessional	0	0	0	0
Admin Support	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### For Question 7:

Please use the table below to list all current positions within your department/corporation located outside of Nunavut. Also, indicate the position's location and precisely how they are filled (indeterminate, term, casual or by an external consultant/contractor?) or if they are vacant.

<b>CULTURE AND HERITAGE</b>		
<b>List all department/corporation positions located outside Nunavut.</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Vacant or Filled (please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or by external contract (non-public servant))?</b>
08-14623 - Manager, Heritage Collections	Gatineau, Quebec	Term
08-15064 - Conservation & Museum Technician	Gatineau, Quebec	Possibly indeterminate as of Jan 1, 2023 or Apr 1, 2023, or vacant as of Dec 31, 2022. Pending decision from Dept. of HR.
08-14624 - Registrar/Assistant Curator	Gatineau, Quebec	Term
08-15212 - Conservator	Gatineau, Quebec	Casual
08-15089 - Curator, Heritage Collections	Gatineau, Quebec	Term (Vacant as of Apr 1, 2023)
Archivist	Gatineau, Quebec	No PY - Relief Employee

**For Question 8:**

Page 3 of the September 30, 2022, TRPS report refers to the total filled positions across the GN. Using your department/corporation's current data, list all positions currently filled by an employee who has been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) or more consecutive days?

<b>CULTURE AND HERITAGE</b>		
<b>List all departmental/Corporation positions that have been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) consecutive days or more.</b>	<b>Please specify - Nunavut Resident or Non-resident</b>	<b>Please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or contract (non-public servant).</b>
None		

**For Question 9:**

Page 3 of the September 30, 2022, TRPS report refers to the total vacancies across the Nunavut Public Service. Please list all current vacant positions in your department or corporation currently filled on a contracted basis by external consultants (non-public servants) residing within Nunavut or outside.

<b>CULTURE AND HERITAGE</b>	
<b>List all departmental/Corporation positions currently filled on a contract basis.</b>	<b>Nunavut Resident (non-public servant) or non-Nunavut resident.</b>
08-10716 - Geographic Information System Officer (only filling 30% of position, maintaining/entering the database system.)	Non-Nunavut resident
None	







## Written Question 2-6(2) – Department of Education

### For Questions 5 and 6:

Using the table below, list the number of employees who applied for Remote Work outside of Nunavut between April 1, 2020, and March 13, 2023, and the number of employees approved. Also, please specify Nunavut Agreement enrollment status.

<b>Education</b>				
<b>Employment Category</b>	<b># of Remote Work Applications Received</b>		<b># of Remote Work Applications Approved</b>	
	<b>Nunavut Inuit</b>	<b>Non-Inuit</b>	<b>Nunavut Inuit</b>	<b>Non-Inuit</b>
Executive	-	-	-	-
Senior Management	-	-	-	-
Middle Management	-	-	-	-
Professional*	-	1	-	-
Paraprofessional	-	-	-	-
Admin Support	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>1</b>	-	-

\*\* The Department does have an employee who is permanently working from home (within Nunavut) as the agreement established by the Department of HR as a “Last Change Agreement” would not allow him to be in any office. EDU tried finding other local offices for this individual by working with the hamlet with no success. This was before the timeline above and therefore not included in the figures above. This individual came over as part of the FANS transition back to the Department of Education from Family Services.

**For Question 7:**

Please use the table below to list all current positions within your department/corporation located outside of Nunavut. Also, indicate the position's location and precisely how they are filled (indeterminate, term, casual or by an external consultant/contractor?) or if they are vacant.

<b>Education</b>		
<b>List all department/corporation positions located outside Nunavut.</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Vacant or Filled (please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or by external contract (non-public servant))?</b>
Nil	Nil	Nil

**For Question 8:**

Page 3 of the September 30, 2022, TRPS report refers to the total filled positions across the GN. Using your department/corporation's current data, list all positions currently filled by an employee who has been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) or more consecutive days?

<b>Education</b>		
<b>List all departmental/Corporation positions that have been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) consecutive days or more.</b>	<b>Please specify - Nunavut Resident or Non-resident</b>	<b>Please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or contract (non-public servant).</b>
Nil	Nil	Nil

**For Question 9:**

Page 3 of the September 30, 2022, TRPS report refers to the total vacancies across the Nunavut Public Service. Please list all current vacant positions in your department or corporation currently filled on a contracted basis by external consultants (non-public servants) residing within Nunavut or outside.

<b>Education</b>	
<b>List all departmental/Corporation positions currently filled on a contract basis.</b>	<b>Nunavut Resident (non-public servant) or non-Nunavut resident.</b>
Territorial Manager Health and Safety	Non-Nunavut Resident
Manager of Communication	Non-Nunavut Resident
Specialist, Education Technology Database	Non-Nunavut Resident

**Written Question 2-6(2) – Department/Corporation - Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA)**

**For Questions 5 and 6:**

Using the table below, list the number of employees who applied for Remote Work outside of Nunavut between April 1, 2020, and March 13, 2023, and the number of employees approved. Also, please specify Nunavut Agreement enrollment status.

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs				
Employment Category	# of Remote Work Applications Received		# of Remote Work Applications Approved	
	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit
Executive				
Senior Management		1		1
Middle Management				
Professional	1	1	1	1
Paraprofessional				
Admin Support				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

**For Question 7:**

Please use the table below to list all current positions within your department/corporation located outside of Nunavut. Also, indicate the position’s location and precisely how they are filled (indeterminate, term, casual or by an external consultant/contractor?) or if they are vacant.

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs		
List all department/corporation positions located outside Nunavut.	Location	Vacant or Filled (please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or by external contract (non-public servant))?
Executive Services Coordinator	Ottawa	Vacant (incumbent retired in Jan)
Indigenous Affairs Advisor	Ottawa	Filled, Indeterminate
Senior Advisor Negotiations	Ottawa	Filled, Indeterminate



## Written Question 2-6(2) – Department of Environment (ENV)

### For Questions 5 and 6:

Using the table below, list the number of employees who applied for Remote Work outside of Nunavut between April 1, 2020, and March 13, 2023, and the number of employees approved. Also, please specify Nunavut Agreement enrollment status.

Department of Environment				
Employment Category	# of Remote Work Applications Received		# of Remote Work Applications Approved	
	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit
Executive				
Senior Management				
Middle Management		1 informally		
Professional		1 as per Extract# 05-21-584(7872)  5 informally		1 as per Extract# 05-21-584(7872)
Paraprofessional				
Admin Support				
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

### For Question 7:

Please use the table below to list all current positions within your department/corporation located outside of Nunavut. Also, indicate the position's location and precisely how they are filled (indeterminate, term, casual or by an external consultant/contractor?) or if they are vacant.

Department of Environment		
List all department/corporation positions located outside Nunavut.	Location	Vacant or Filled (please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or by external contract (non-public servant))?
13-03424 Wildlife Biologist II Polar Bears	Igloolik	Term until 2023-October 31
NOTE: ENV received Cabinet approval for this position to be working remotely for a period of 1 year.		

**For Question 8:**

Page 3 of the September 30, 2022, TRPS report refers to the total filled positions across the GN. Using your department/corporation's current data, list all positions currently filled by an employee who has been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) or more consecutive days?

<b>Department of Environment</b>		
<b>List all departmental/Corporation positions that have been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) consecutive days or more.</b>	<b>Please specify - Nunavut Resident or Non-resident</b>	<b>Please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or contract (non-public servant).</b>
13-03424 Wildlife Biologist II Polar Bears	Non-resident Located in AB	Term until 2023-October 31
NOTE: ENV received Cabinet approval for this position to be working remotely for a period of 1 year.		

**For Question 9:**

Page 3 of the September 30, 2022, TRPS report refers to the total vacancies across the Nunavut Public Service. Please list all current vacant positions in your department or corporation currently filled on a contracted basis by external consultants (non-public servants) residing within Nunavut or outside.

<b>Department of Environment</b>	
<b>List all departmental/Corporation positions currently filled on a contract basis.</b>	<b>Nunavut Resident (non-public servant) or non-Nunavut resident.</b>
13-10425 Project Manager Land Use Planning	Non Nunavut resident

**Written Question 2-6(2) – Department/Corporation – Family Services**

**For Questions 5 and 6:**

Using the table below, list the number of employees who applied for Remote Work outside of Nunavut between April 1, 2020, and March 13, 2023, and the number of employees approved. Also, please specify Nunavut Agreement enrollment status.

Family Services				
Employment Category	# of Remote Work Applications Received		# of Remote Work Applications Approved	
	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit
Executive				
Senior Management		2		1 less than 2 mos
Middle Management	1			
Professional		2		1 less than 2 mos
Paraprofessional				
Admin Support	1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>2 less than 2 mos</b>

**For Question 7:**

Please use the table below to list all current positions within your department/corporation located outside of Nunavut. Also, indicate the position’s location and precisely how they are filled (indeterminate, term, casual or by an external consultant/contractor?) or if they are vacant.

Family Services		
List all department/corporation positions located outside Nunavut.	Location	Vacant or Filled (please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or by external contract (non-public servant))?
Client Liaison Officer	Ottawa	Indeterminate
Client Liaison Officer	Ottawa	Indeterminate
Client Liaison Officer	Winnipeg	CSA
Client Liaison Officer	Edmonton	Indeterminate
Client Liaison Officer	Edmonton	CSA













**Written Question 2-6(2) – Department of Human Resources**

**For Questions 5 and 6:**

Using the table below, list the number of employees who applied for Remote Work outside of Nunavut between April 1, 2020, and March 13, 2023, and the number of employees approved. Also, please specify Nunavut Agreement enrollment status.

Department of Human Resources				
Employment Category	# of Remote Work Applications Received		# of Remote Work Applications Approved	
	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit
Executive	0	0	0	0
Senior Management	0	0	0	0
Middle Management	0	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	1	0
Paraprofessional	0	0	0	0
Admin Support	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

- A new hire with a LOO start date with approved housing in Iqaluit. Due to water crisis, the candidate could not move from P Inlet and thus remote work was approved until housing was available.

**For Question 7:**

Please use the table below to list all current positions within your department/corporation located outside of Nunavut. Also, indicate the position’s location and precisely how they are filled (indeterminate, term, casual or by an external consultant/contractor?) or if they are vacant.

Department of Human Resources		
List all department/corporation positions located outside Nunavut.	Location	Vacant or Filled (please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or by external contract (non-public servant))?
N/A		



**Written Question 2-6(2) – Department/Corporation: JUSTICE**

**For Questions 5 and 6:**

Using the table below, list the number of employees who applied for Remote Work outside of Nunavut between April 1, 2020, and March 13, 2023, and the number of employees approved. Also, please specify Nunavut Agreement enrollment status.

JUSTICE				
Employment Category	# of Remote Work Applications Received		# of Remote Work Applications Approved	
	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit
Executive	0	0	0	0
Senior Management	0	0	0	0
Middle Management	0	0	0	0
Professional	0	1	0	0
Paraprofessional	0	0	0	0
Admin Support	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Based on the guidance provided that remote work is at least 3 months or more working outside the office, the Department of Justice has not approved any applications for remote work outside Nunavut. We have on occasion permitted southern based work for a few weeks for urgent family or medical reasons but nothing approaching 3 months or longer. In 2022 we did receive a request for long term remote work outside the Territory which was not approved.

**For Question 7:**

Please use the table below to list all current positions within your department/corporation located outside of Nunavut. Also, indicate the position’s location and precisely how they are filled (indeterminate, term, casual or by an external consultant/contractor?) or if they are vacant.

JUSTICE		
List all department/corporation positions located outside Nunavut.	Location	Vacant or Filled (please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or by external contract (non-public servant))?
05-13467 – Inuit Liaison Officer	Ottawa	Filled indeterminate, full time, Nunavut Inuit employee.

The Inuit Liaison Officer is a Nunavut Corrections position based in Ottawa who works with inmates in southern facilities and assists with any southern transfers.

**For Question 8:**

Page 3 of the September 30, 2022, TRPS report refers to the total filled positions across the GN. Using your department/corporation’s current data, list all positions currently filled by an employee who has been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) or more consecutive days?

JUSTICE		
List all departmental/Corporation positions that have been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) consecutive days or more.	Please specify - Nunavut Resident or Non-resident	Please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or contract (non-public servant).
0		0

The Department of Justice has no staff who have been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) or more consecutive days.

**For Question 9:**

Page 3 of the September 30, 2022, TRPS report refers to the total vacancies across the Nunavut Public Service. Please list all current vacant positions in your department or corporation currently filled on a contracted basis by external consultants (non-public servants) residing within Nunavut or outside.

JUSTICE	
List all departmental/Corporation positions currently filled on a contract basis.	Nunavut Resident (non-public servant) or non-Nunavut resident.
0	0

While the Department does on occasion hire consultants and legal contractors to undertake specific work, we are not filling any PYs with non resident contractors.

The *Corrections Act* creates the position of “Chief Correctional Investigator”. This is an arms length, as and when needed, position to independently review incidents at Nunavut Corrections. In January 2023, after an RFP process, the Department hired a British Columbia based legal contractor to serve for five years as Nunavut’s Correctional Investigator. The Investigator is not a Departmental PY and is not a position in our Org Chart but it would be the closest we have to a permanent southern based contractor.



**Written Question 2-6(2) – Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC)**

**For Questions 5 and 6:**

Using the table below, list the number of employees who applied for Remote Work outside of Nunavut between April 1, 2020, and March 13, 2023, and the number of employees approved. Also, please specify Nunavut Agreement enrollment status.

Nunavut Housing Corporation				
Employment Category	# of Remote Work Applications Received		# of Remote Work Applications Approved	
	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit
Executive				
Senior Management				
Middle Management				
Professional				
Paraprofessional				1 (Relief worker - IT Analyst ended March 2023)
Admin Support				
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**For Question 7:**

Please use the table below to list all current positions within your department/corporation located outside of Nunavut. Also, indicate the position’s location and precisely how they are filled (indeterminate, term, casual or by an external consultant/contractor?) or if they are vacant.

Nunavut Housing Corporation		
List all department/corporation positions located outside Nunavut.	Location	Vacant or Filled (please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or by external contract (non-public servant))?
n/a	n/a	n/a

**For Question 8:**

Page 3 of the September 30, 2022, TRPS report refers to the total filled positions across the GN. Using your department/corporation’s current data, list all positions currently filled by an employee who has been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) or more consecutive days?

Nunavut Housing Corporation		
List all departmental/Corporation positions that have been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) consecutive days or more.	Please specify - Nunavut Resident or Non-resident	Please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or contract (non-public servant).
n/a	n/a	n/a

**For Question 9:**

Page 3 of the September 30, 2022, TRPS report refers to the total vacancies across the Nunavut Public Service. Please list all current vacant positions in your department or corporation currently filled on a contracted basis by external consultants (non-public servants) residing within Nunavut or outside.

Nunavut Housing Corporation	
List all departmental/Corporation positions currently filled on a contract basis.	Nunavut Resident (non-public servant) or non-Nunavut resident.
1. CDO Technical, Kivalliq (being staffed, contract ends 30/4/23)	- non resident
2. District Comptroller, Kitikmeot (ends August 2023, new hire May 2023)	- partial resident
3. CDO, Maintenance, Kitikmeot (end April 2023)	- partial resident
4. District Director, Qikiqtaaluk (2 <sup>nd</sup> repost closes 7/4/23)	- partial resident
5. Occupational Health & Safety, Kivalliq (unable to fill)	- partial resident
6. Legal Counsel, IQ	- non resident
7. VP/CFO, IQ (to be staffed following NHC re-align 27/4/23)	- partial resident
8. Manager, HR & OD, IQ (poster closes 21/4/23)	- partial resident
9. Sr. Communications Analyst, IQ (being staffed)	- non resident
10. IT Analyst, Rankin Inlet (unable to staff)	- non resident

**Written Question 2-6(2) – Department/Corporation - Qulliq Energy Corporation**

**For Questions 5 and 6:**

Using the table below, list the number of employees who applied for Remote Work outside of Nunavut between April 1, 2020, and March 13, 2023, and the number of employees approved. Also, please specify Nunavut Agreement enrollment status.

<b>Qulliq Energy Corporation</b>				
<b>Employment Category</b>	<b># of Remote Work Applications Received</b>		<b># of Remote Work Applications Approved</b>	
	<b>Nunavut Inuit</b>	<b>Non-Inuit</b>	<b>Nunavut Inuit</b>	<b>Non-Inuit</b>
Executive	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Senior Management	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Middle Management	n/a	1	n/a	1
Professional	n/a	3	n/a	3
Paraprofessional	n/a	1	n/a	1
Admin Support	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>5</b>

**For Question 7:**

Please use the table below to list all current positions within your department/corporation located outside of Nunavut. Also, indicate the position’s location and precisely how they are filled (indeterminate, term, casual or by an external consultant/contractor?) or if they are vacant.

<b>Qulliq Energy Corporation</b>		
<b>List all department/corporation positions located outside Nunavut.</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Vacant or Filled (please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or by external contract (non-public servant))?</b>
No positions are currently permanently located outside of Nunavut. Personal/unique circumstances have led QEC to seek approval for a few employees to work outside of territory. Approval was sought from the GN. Approval is provided for three (3) month periods, after which a review occurs and a further three (3) months is provided should circumstances warrant.		

**For Question 8:**

Page 3 of the September 30, 2022, TRPS report refers to the total filled positions across the GN. Using your department/corporation's current data, list all positions currently filled by an employee who has been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) or more consecutive days?

<b>Qulliq Energy Corporation</b>		
<b>List all departmental/Corporation positions that have been working remotely outside of Nunavut for (30) consecutive days or more.</b>	<b>Please specify - Nunavut Resident or Non-resident</b>	<b>Please specify Indeterminate, term, casual or contract (non-public servant).</b>
Information Technology Manager	Resident	Indeterminate
General Rate Application Specialist	Resident	Term
Procurement Coordinator	Non-resident	Casual
Senior Accountant	Non-resident	Indeterminate
Payroll Specialist	Non-resident	Casual

**For Question 9:**

Page 3 of the September 30, 2022, TRPS report refers to the total vacancies across the Nunavut Public Service. Please list all current vacant positions in your department or corporation currently filled on a contracted basis by external consultants (non-public servants) residing within Nunavut or outside.

<b>Qulliq Energy Corporation</b>	
<b>List all departmental/Corporation positions currently filled on a contract basis.</b>	<b>Nunavut Resident (non-public servant) or non-Nunavut resident.</b>
n/a	

Sheila

**From:** Kolola, Sheila

**Sent:** April 19, 2020 12:54 PM

**To:** Audia, Terry <[TAudia@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:TAudia@GOV.NU.CA)>; Awa, Simon <[SAwa@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:SAwa@GOV.NU.CA)>; Brown, Ruby <[RBrown@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:RBrown@GOV.NU.CA)>; Chown, Jeff <[JChown@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:JChown@GOV.NU.CA)>; Hourie, Constance <[CHourie@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:CHourie@GOV.NU.CA)>; Hughes, Teresa <[THughes@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:THughes@GOV.NU.CA)>; Kolola, Sheila <[SKolola@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:SKolola@GOV.NU.CA)>; Macisaac, Bernie <[BMaclsaac@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:BMaclsaac@GOV.NU.CA)>; MacKay, William <[WMacKay@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:WMacKay@GOV.NU.CA)>; Masson, Kimberly <[KMasson@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:KMasson@GOV.NU.CA)>; Niego, Yvonne <[YNiego@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:YNiego@GOV.NU.CA)>; Noble Jr., Jimmy <[JNobleJr@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:JNobleJr@GOV.NU.CA)>; Okpik, Kathy <[KOkpik@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:KOkpik@GOV.NU.CA)>; Onalik, Jimi <[JOnalik@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:JOnalik@GOV.NU.CA)>; Silk, Adrienne <[ASilk@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:ASilk@GOV.NU.CA)>; Suvega, Pauloosie <[PSuvega@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:PSuvega@GOV.NU.CA)>; 'Bruno Pereira' <[BPereira@QEC.NU.CA](mailto:BPereira@QEC.NU.CA)>  
**Cc:** Petru, Angela <[APetru@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:APetru@GOV.NU.CA)>; McMichael, Grant <[GMcMichael@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:GMcMichael@GOV.NU.CA)>; Wolff, Hanna <[HWolff@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:HWolff@GOV.NU.CA)>; Beauchamp, Richard <[RBeauchamp@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:RBeauchamp@GOV.NU.CA)>; Hickey, Les <[LHickey@GOV.NU.CA](mailto:LHickey@GOV.NU.CA)>  
**Subject:** ACTION: Request to Work Remotely Application

Ullukkut,

Further to my email on April 15 on behalf of the OM HR Committee, we've come up with a form to fill out in case any of your employees are requesting to work remotely after that date. Please see the memo below and the form attached.

### **Employee Requests to Work Outside of Home Community during COVID-19**

Under the GN's work from home model, all GN employees are expected to be either working in their regular workplace, working from home in their home community, or on another form of approved leave.

Requests to work remotely from outside of an employee's home community or outside of the territory will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Employees who wish to request to work outside of their home community or outside of the territory during COVID-19 must complete the attached form and submit it to their supervisor. The Deputy Head of the employing department will forward the request to the Deputy Minister of Human Resources for consideration.

The final decision to approve or deny these requests will be made by the Deputy Minister of Human Resources. Employees who travel to work outside of their home community or outside of the territory without approval will be considered absent without leave (AWOL).

The Government of Nunavut recognizes and appreciates employees' ongoing efforts to deliver government services to Nunavummiut during this unprecedented period. Qujannamiik,

Sheila Koluola

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[www.nist.gov](http://www.nist.gov)

## **Request to Work Outside of Home Community during COVID-19**

### *Instructions:*

- *All sections must be completed.*
- *All requests must go to Deputy Minister of Human Resources for final decision.*
- *This form can be forwarded via email in place of signatures.*

### **Employee Information**

Employee Name:	
Job Title:	
Department/Corporation:	
Home Community:	
Work Email:	
Phone Number:	

### **Request to Work Outside of Home Community during COVID-19**

Requested Start Date:	
Requested End Date:	

### **Reason for Request**

*Please provide the reason for this request, including specific details about why this is an exceptional circumstance.*

--

### **Supervisor Information and Recommendation**

Supervisor Name:	
Job Title:	
Recommendation:	Approve or Deny
Reason for Recommendation:	

### **Deputy Head Information and Recommendation**

Deputy Head Name:	
Recommendation:	Approve or Deny
Reason for Recommendation:	

### **Final Decision by Deputy Minister of Human Resources**

Decision:	Approve or Deny
Date of Final Decision:	









## Return to Written Question

**Asked by:** Adam Arreak Lightstone, MLA  
Iqaluit-Manirajak

**Asked of:** *Hon. David Joanasie*, Minister, Community and Government Services

**Number:** 3-6(2)

**Date:** March 14

**Subject:** *Arctic Energy Fund*

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**Question:**

1. What projects were funded in Nunavut under the Arctic Energy Fund for the following fiscal years:
  - a. 2018-2019;
  - b. 2019-2020;
  - c. 2020-2021;
  - d. 2021-2022; and
  - e. 2022-2023 (to date)?
2. What were the outcomes of each project listed in response to question #1?
3. To what extent did each project listed in response to question #1 "support the transfer, in whole or in part, from fossil fuel-based systems to renewables"?
4. What process is used to determine which projects to submit for approval under the Arctic Energy Fund?

**Response:**

1. The Arctic Energy Fund works off a claim/reimbursement type structure. The Qulliq Energy Corporation must first incur eligible project costs before a claim or a request for reimbursement can be submitted to the Government of Nunavut through the Department of Community and Government Services.

To date, based on the claims received from Qulliq Energy Corporation, the following projects received funding from the Arctic Energy Fund:

- a. 2018-2019
    - No projects received funding.
  - b. 2019-2020
    - 578001 Power Plant Infrastructure Upgrades to improve energy efficiency and reliability in Rankin Inlet, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet and Pond Inlet.
    - 578003 Power Plant Infrastructure Upgrades to improve energy efficiency and reliability in Pond Inlet, Clyde River, and Whale Cove.
    - 578004 Powerplant Replacement in Kugluktuk to Improve Energy Efficiency and Reliability - Plan and Design.
  - c. 2020-2021
    - 578001 Power Plant Infrastructure Upgrades to improve energy efficiency and reliability in Rankin Inlet, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet and Pond Inlet.
    - 578002 Renewable Solar Energy and Storage System Installation in Kugluktuk.
    - 578003 Power Plant Infrastructure Upgrades to improve energy efficiency and reliability in Pond Inlet, Clyde River, and Whale Cove.
    - 578004 Powerplant Replacement in Kugluktuk to Improve Energy Efficiency and Reliability - Plan and Design.
  - d. 2021-2022
    - 578002 Renewable Solar Energy and Storage System Installation in Kugluktuk.
    - 578003 Power Plant Infrastructure Upgrades to improve energy efficiency and reliability in Pond Inlet, Clyde River, and Whale Cove.
    - 578004 Powerplant Replacement in Kugluktuk to Improve Energy Efficiency and Reliability - Plan and Design.
  - e. 2022-2023 (To date)
    - 578002 Renewable Solar Energy and Storage System Installation in Kugluktuk **\*This project has recently been cancelled due to cost escalations.**
    - 578004 Powerplant Replacement in Kugluktuk to Improve Energy Efficiency and Reliability - Plan and Design.
2. As per the INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM Agreement, projects eligible for Arctic Energy Fund contribution funding must meet the following outcome: **More efficient and/or reliable energy.**
    - 578001 – The project will replace four unreliable and/or inadequate diesel power generator sets with more energy efficient sets that are more reliable and can maintain the energy generation requirement of the community. The energy efficiency is expected to increase from 3.61 to 3.9 kilowatts per litre of fuel.

- 578002 – The project will help mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing the amount of fossil fuels consumed by the power plant in Kugluktuk (reduction in greenhouse gas emissions). **\*This project has recently been cancelled due to cost escalations.**
  - 578003 – The project will replace three unreliable and/or inadequate diesel power generator sets with more energy efficient sets that are more reliable and can maintain the energy generation requirement of the community. The energy efficiency is expected to increase from 3.61 to 3.9 kilowatts per litre of fuel.
  - 578004 – The project will install a more energy efficient 2.6 MW diesel powered plant and rebuild the structure including internal systems, pile foundation system, and distribution system to the community grid.
3. The sole aim of the Arctic Energy Fund is to enhance energy efficiency and reliability in the north. Under this major construction initiative, the focus is ensuring Nunavut maintained a reliable and affordable source of electricity - realizing the old, outdated technologies will be replaced with new more advanced and energy efficient technologies.

Low customer densities and a harsh climate have a profound impact on Quilliq Energy Corporation's operations. The harsh climate requires a highly reliable and continuous power supply in Nunavut. This creates a large dependence on diesel generation as it is the only source of energy in Nunavut that is safe, reliable, and economical.

Therefore, all projects with the exception of the solar project, listed in question number one (1) focused on replacing old, outdated, unreliable diesel generating infrastructure with more reliable, energy efficient, diesel generating infrastructure.

For the Quilliq Energy Corporation to integrate renewable energy within Nunavut power systems, renewable energy has to be combined with the diesel generating power plant as a way to produce energy and reduce diesel consumption. Diesel powered energy provides guaranteed firm power at the level required by a community's power demand for any period of duration and any time of the year. However, wind and solar powered energy is more of a supplemental, intermittent power that is unpredictable, and changes based on weather and seasonal conditions. To responsibly incorporate renewable energy sources into the generation mix, Quilliq Energy Corporation must consider the financial implications. The cost of introducing renewable energy into Nunavut's communities must consider the Quilliq Energy Corporation's customers, who already pay the highest electricity rates across Canada.

The Quilliq Energy Corporation is very interested in renewable energy and secured additional funding to install a solar component to the new power plant for Kugluktuk. Unfortunately, the tender bids for the Kugluktuk hybrid plant project escalated well beyond the funding limits and Quilliq Energy Corporation could not pass these costs on to its customers. Therefore, the renewable solar project had to be cancelled.

4. These projects are required to replace aging infrastructure and to ensure Quilliq Energy Corporation is able to meet the energy needs of Nunavut's communities. Quilliq Energy Corporation identified complete power plant rebuilds and generator set replacements across the territory in communities based on condition and reliability. Selections were

prioritized to replace infrastructure in communities that were at greatest risk of unstable energy supply.



## Return to Written Question

**Asked by:** *Daniel Qavvik*

**Asked of:** *Hon. Minister David Joanasié*

**Number:** 4-6(2)

**Date:** April 24, 2023

**Subject:** *Annual Fuel Purchases, Bulk Fuel Storage Capacity and Annual Resupply Operations*

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**Question:**

1. Expressing the information in the same format as that which the Government of Nunavut provided in Return to Written Question 8-5(2), what quantities of fuel were purchased and delivered during the 2020, 2021 and 2022 calendar years?
2. Expressing the information in the same format as that which the Government of Nunavut provided in Return to Written Question 8-5(2), what is the current bulk fuel storage capacity in each Nunavut community?
3. With respect to the 2022 bulk fuel resupply, what were the scheduled dates of delivery for each Nunavut community?
4. With respect to the 2022 bulk fuel resupply, what were the actual dates of delivery for each Nunavut community?
5. With respect to the 2022 bulk fuel resupply, what specific factors accounted for early and/or late deliveries of bulk fuel in respect to each Nunavut community where delivery did not occur on the scheduled date?
6. From January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, which communities in Nunavut received fuel deliveries by airlift and in what amounts?

**Response:**

1. Please refer to *Table 1.1 Total Fuel Quantities Purchased & Delivered Annually*. Fuel purchased in Fiscal Year 2020-21, was delivered in the 2021 resupply season, fuel purchased in Fiscal Year 2021-22 was delivered in the 2022 resupply season and fuel purchased in Fiscal Year 2022-23 will be delivered in the 2023 resupply season. Note that the total fuel purchased equals the total fuel delivered.

Table 1.1 Total Fuel Quantities Purchased Annually

Table 1.1 Total Fuel Quantities Purchased & Delivered Annually				
FY Purchased	Fuel Type			
	ULSD	Jet A	Gasoline	Total
2020-21	138,599,120	50,484,825	25,505,371	214,589,316
2021-22	134,095,449	36,033,359	23,766,244	193,895,052
2022-23	139,380,000	52,765,000	25,265,000	217,410,000

2. Please refer to *Table 2.1. Fuel Tank Storage Capacities by Community* for the current bulk fuel storage capacities for each community Nunavut.

Table 2.1 Fuel Tank Storage Capacities by Community

Table 2.1 Fuel Tank Storage Capacities by Community					
Region/ Community	ULSD	Jet A	Gasoline	# of Tanks	Total
<b>Baffin</b>					
Arctic Bay	3,188,704	1,376,516	641,555	5	5,206,775
Kinngait	5,099,315	814,464	986,870	8	6,900,649
Clyde River	4,068,194	1,252,754	1,115,311	8	6,436,267
Grise Fiord	1,289,828	182,738	274,386	6	1,746,958
Sanirajak	4,629,133	1,608,470	1,235,542	5	7,473,150
Igloolik	6,223,401	2,225,469	1,381,491	6	9,830,367
Iqaluit	43,312,526	30,446,034	7,150,077	14	80,908,651
Kimmirut	2,331,285	N/A	419,778	6	2,751,069
Pangnirtung	8,155,724	1,246,370	1,909,018	6	11,311,118
Pond Inlet	6,377,907	1,967,214	950,658	9	9,295,788
Qikiqtarjuaq	4,016,298	732,899	953,013	6	5,702,216
Resolute Bay	13,663,313	12,949,287	4,049,707	19	30,662,326
	<b>102,355,628</b>	<b>54,802,215</b>	<b>21,067,406</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>178,225,334</b>
<b>Kivalliq</b>					
Arviat	4,527,927	N/A	1,345,362	6	5,873,295
Baker Lake	10,243,473	N/A	2,562,896	8	12,806,377

Chesterfield Inlet	3,271,208	N/A	573,175	3	3,844,386
Coral Harbour	3,922,814	1,997,426	1,320,637	8	7,240,885
Rankin Inlet	17,341,340	9,033,698	2,990,757	13	29,365,808
Naujaat	4,086,828	N/A	941,254	3	5,028,085
Sanikiluaq	2,974,030	1,177,760	478,592	11	4,630,393
Whale Cove	2,015,560	N/A	421,246	3	2,436,809
	<b>48,383,180</b>	<b>12,208,884</b>	<b>10,633,919</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>71,226,038</b>
<b>Kitikmeot</b>					
Cambridge Bay	12,019,470	4,001,225	2,216,728	5	18,237,428
Gjoa Haven	10,995,499	1,796,795	1,745,630	14	14,537,938
Kugaaruk	2,756,038	844,007	1,634,209	7	5,234,261
Kugluktuk	4,741,960	1,604,558	1,366,938	7	7,713,463
Taloyoak	3,549,414	1,317,525	691,842	10	5,558,791
	<b>34,062,381</b>	<b>9,564,110</b>	<b>7,655,347</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>51,281,881</b>
<b>Territorial Totals</b>	<b>184,801,189</b>	<b>76,575,209</b>	<b>39,356,672</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>300,733,253</b>
N/A - Fuel type not available in community					

3. Please refer to *Table 3.1 Delivery Schedule* for the preliminary delivery schedule for each community Nunavut.

Table 3.1 Delivery Schedule

Table 3.1 Initial Scheduled Delivery Date(s) as at June 25, 2023				
Delivery #	1	2	3	4
<b>Region/ Community</b>				
<b>Baffin</b>				
Arctic Bay	Aug 4			
Clyde River	Aug 13			
Grise Fiord	Aug 12			
Igloolik	Sept 11			
Iqaluit	July 9	Aug 27	Sept 30	Oct 20
Kimmirut	July 2			
Kinngait	July 5			
Pangnirtung	Aug 22			
Pond Inlet	July 31	Sept 12		
Qikiqtarjuaq	Sept 26			
Resolute Bay	Aug 6			
Sanikiluaq	Sept 26			
Sanirajak	Sept 13			
<b>Kivalliq</b>				
Arviat	July 5	Oct 21		



Baker Lake	July 8	July 13	July 25	
Chesterfield Inlet	July 12			
Coral Harbour	Sept 30			
Naujaat	Sept 7			
Rankin Inlet	July 3	July 7	July 15	Oct 14
Whale Cove	July 10			
<b>Kitikmeot</b>				
Cambridge Bay	Aug 31			
Kugluktuk	Sept 3			
Gjoa Haven	Sept 18			
Taloyoak	Sept 23			
Kugaaruk	Sept 12			

4. Please refer to *Table 4.1 Actual Delivery Schedule* for the preliminary delivery schedule for each community Nunavut.

Table 4.1 Actual Delivery Schedule

Table 4.1 Actual Delivery Schedule					
Delivery #	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Region/ Community</b>					
<b>Baffin</b>					
Arctic Bay	Aug 14-16				
Clyde River	Sept 6	Oct 26-28			
Grise Fiord	Sept 2-4				
Igloodik	Oct 1-5				
Iqaluit	July 13-16	Aug 28-31	Dec 1-4	Dec 7-10	
Kimmirut	July 2-3				
Kinngait	July 4-6				
Pangnirtung	Aug 9	Aug 23-26			
Pond Inlet	Aug 13	Aug 26	Oct 7		
Qikiqtarjuaq	Sept 7-8	Oct 29-30			
Resolute Bay	Aug 18-24	Sept 16-17			
Sanikiluaq	Oct 31-Nov 7				
Sanirajak	Oct 11-19				
<b>Kivalliq</b>					
Arviat	July 9-12	Nov 8-11			
Baker Lake	July 11-13	July 23-25	July 28-29		
Chesterfield Inlet	July 9-10				
Coral Harbour	Oct 8-11				
Naujaat	Aug 28-29	Sept 24-27			

Rankin Inlet	July 5-8	July 9-11	July 25-27	Nov 3-5	Nov 8-18
Whale Cove	July 8-9				
<b>Kitikmeot</b>					
Cambridge Bay	Oct 9-16				
Kugluktuk	Oct 3-7				
Gjoa Haven T/F	Sept 19-21	Oct 10			
Taloyoak	Sept 30-Oct 3				
Kugaaruk	Sept 24-26				

5. Planning each resupply season is a complex undertaking involving five separate ships. Four fuel tankers provide fuel delivery to communities while one ship provides resupply to the fuel tankers delivering to the communities as they navigate their scheduled supply route.

During each resupply season, adjustments and alterations to the scheduled deliveries are expected to be made to accommodate several factors. These factors include but are not limited to weather, increases in sales of specific fuel products leading to shortages or outages, short-term demands for fuel products stemming from discrepancies between available storage and annual fuel demands in a particular community.

A single change made to the distribution schedule impacts each subsequent scheduled delivery. Each ship is pre-loaded with a precise volume of fuel based on a combination of the most recent inventory and seasonal usage forecasting. An unplanned increase in fuel required for a community directly impacts each successive delivery adding to the scheduled offloading time, delaying a ship in arriving to the next community or requiring an earlier fuel tanker refill before continuing to the ships next destination. Another situation faced for each ship through the 2022 resupply was the need to reroute a ship to accommodate a shortage or outage in a community. Rerouting a ship to accommodate a shortage or outage result in each successive community's delivery date being pushed back or completely rescheduled.

Thus, for each delivery that was delayed, the cause was a culmination of the previous changes in that ships schedule. Each of the four delivery ships experienced:

- Weather delays causing significant delays (the greatest delay faced was six days before being able to safely connect to commence off-loading).
- Longer than usual offloading times once connected
- Accommodating changes to community-specific fuel orders. Most often increases in volumes of a particular fuel type and/or each fuel type stemming from shortages or outages.
- Re-routing of a ship to meet a greater need in a different community resulting in longer times between the fuel tanker reaching the remaining scheduled communities. Each of the changes to redirect a ship to another community was a result of one or more of the following:
  - Increases in sales from the previous year for personal and commercial usage

- Smaller than normal annual inventories from the previous year's resupply due to a reduction in the total fuel purchased in FY 2021-22
- Deficiencies in fuel storage inventory monitoring

Please refer to *Table 5.1 Number of Days Delayed/Re-Scheduling of Fuel Deliveries* for a summary of the difference, total number of days, difference between the scheduled delivery and the actual delivery in each community in Nunavut.

Table 5.1 Number of Days Delayed/Re-Scheduling of Fuel Deliveries

Table 5.1 Number of Days Delayed/Re-Scheduling of Fuel Deliveries					
Delivery #	Total # Days deviated from preliminary schedule				
	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Region/ Community</b>					
<b>Baffin</b>					
Arctic Bay	10				
Clyde River	31				
Grise Fiord	28				
Igloolik	19				
Iqaluit	4	1	61	48	
Kimmirut					
Kinngait	-1				
Pangnirtung	-13				
Pond Inlet	13	-17	N/A		
Qikiqtarjuaq	-19				
Resolute Bay	12	N/A			
Sanikiluaq	35				
Sanirajak	28				
<b>Kivalliq</b>					
Arviat	4	18			
Baker Lake	3	10	N/A		
Chesterfield Inlet	-3				
Coral Harbour	8				
Nauyasat	-8	N/A			
Rankin Inlet	2	2	10	19	N/A
Whale Cove	-2				
<b>Kitikmeot</b>					
Cambridge Bay	39				
Gjoa Haven T/F	1				
Kugaaruk	12				
Kugluktuk	0				
Taloyoak	7				

\*N/A - not originally scheduled, delivery added to the schedule

While changing a ships schedule is common practice, prior to the 2022 resupply season, standard operating procedure has not required the thorough documentation of the cause of each minor change or alteration to the schedule. Reviewing the 2022 resupply data in hindsight provides general indicators but does not provide the level of detail requested.

For the 2023 resupply season, the Petroleum Products Division will monitor and document each change or alteration to the schedule along with the reason for the change. To improve service delivery Petroleum Products Division is continuously evaluating and monitoring inventory levels in all communities, purchased 23 million additional litres of fuel from the 2022 resupply season, and is committed to increasing delivery efficiencies in the 2023 resupply season to avoid service interruptions and ensure Nunavummiut have continuous access to fuel products throughout the year.

6. There was a total of six (6) airlifts deliveries during the 2022 resupply season. Please refer to *Table 6.1 Airlift Resupply by Community* for the list of communities receiving an airlift during the resupply season and total volume of the resupply.

Table 6.1 Airlift Resupply by Community

Table 6.1 Airlift Resupply by Community		
Community	Fuel Type	Amount of Fuel (in litres)
Arctic Bay	Diesel	64,000
Arctic Bay	Gasoline	22,000
Clyde River	Gasoline	22,000
Pond Inlet	Gasoline	62,341
Arviat	Diesel	399,362
Rankin Inlet	Gasoline	40,000



## Response to Petition

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Petition tabled by Member Solomon Malliki

Date: February 24, 2023

Petition Number: **Petition 2-6(2)**

Subject: **New Community Hall for Naujaat**

The community hall in Naujaat provided a place for gathering and building connections in the community. As safe indoor community spaces, community halls are used by a wide variety of groups, non-profits and levels of government to bringing people together for a common purpose. I recognize and understand the significance the loss of the community hall in Naujaat had on the lives of its residents.

A few steps are required to move forward with the replacement of the Community Hall. The first step in replacing the infrastructure is for the Hamlet to place a claim through the insurer. The community hall in Naujaat was a municipally owned asset and as such was insured through the Nunavut Association of Municipalities Insurance Exchange (NAMIX).

Once the hamlet initiates the claim process, the Department of Community and Government Services will provide support to the municipal administration as they begin the process of replacing their community hall.

Although this will be a community driven and led initiative, the Department of Community and Government Services will continue to be a strong partner throughout the process.



## **Response to Petition**

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Petition tabled by The Hon. Tony Akoak

Date: February 27, 2023

Petition Number: 3-6(2)

Subject: Advocate for Our Travel Rights and Demand Better Service

In response to the petition tabled by the Honorable Tony Akoak on February 27, 2023, asking the Government of Nunavut to advocate on behalf of Nunavummiut for Air Travel Rights and Better Air Service, I would like to assure all Nunavummiut that we do advocate on their behalf, and that we will continue to do so.

Prior to the merger between Canadian North and First Air, the Government of Canada conducted a Public Interest Review. Our government was very engaged in that process, and provided extensive comments to the Competition Bureau and Transport Canada. We believe our input helped shape the terms and conditions around the merger.

Around the same time, we entered into a contract for Medical and Government Duty travel. In that contract, we placed a large emphasis



## Response to Petition

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Petition Tabled by Member Tony Akoak

Date: February 27, 2023

Petition Number: **Petition 4-6(2)**

Subject: **Gjoa Haven Safe and Healthy Space**

I want to recognize Petition 4-6(2) requesting the Government of Nunavut (GN) to consider alternative office space for the GN employees from Departments of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Justice, and Economic Development and Transportation. The current interim leased office space was obtained as a result of the fire which destroyed the NCC building in March 2022.

Department officials have met with each department who currently occupy the interim office building to discuss the scope of health and safety concerns referenced in the petition within the context of office space leasing needs as client departments.

While neither the Department of Health nor the Legal Services Board experienced the health and safety concerns noted in the petition, concerns raised by the Departments of Economic Development and Transportation, Justice, and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs have diminished, and the respective department representatives in attendance did not express ongoing concerns.

These findings align with an on-site assessment of the location conducted by the Department of Community and Government Services in response to concerns raised during the summer of 2022.

The Department of Community and Government Services is committed to supporting the office space needs of tenant departments, including ensuring that