

NUNAVUT HANSARD

UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

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Beauchesne's 6th edition, citation 55

Corrections:

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CLERK**

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak

(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeagok

(Quttiktuq)

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour

Hon. P.J. Akeagok

(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs

Bobby Anavilok

(Kugluktuk)

Janet Brewster

(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross

(Cambridge Bay)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Education; 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

Hon. Joellie Kaernerck

(Amittuq)

Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

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

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)

Hon. Daniel Qavvik

(Hudson Bay)

Minister of Environment; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Joanna Quassa

(Aggu)

Inagayuk Quqqiaq

(Netsilik)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, October 19, 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 Joanasi, Hon. Joeline Kaerner, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Hon. Daniel Qavvik, Ms. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtoq, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak): Hello, Inuit. (interpretation) Before we begin, Ms. Quassa, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good day, Inuit. Thank you, Ms. Quassa, for saying the opening prayer. Welcome to those who are watching the proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, as well as visitors in the gallery. Welcome as well to my fellow MLAs. I am thankful that we have made it back to the House.

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 fall sitting.

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

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our two newest members of the Executive Council.

In August of this year, I had the honour of welcoming the Premier of Nunavut to my constituency and community of Gjoa Haven. We had the opportunity to inspect the site where a number of much-needed new housing units are planned to be constructed.

We also had the opportunity to meet with the municipality to discuss much-needed infrastructure investments in the community, including the need for a proper morgue facility.

I want to thank the mayor, council and staff for all of their hard work in preparation for the visit.

The Premier's visit also included time at our continuing care and health centre, and I am proud to pay tribute to the dedicated staff of both facilities. Thank you very much to the staff for looking after our community.

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 fall 2023 sitting of the Second Session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 31, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025*;
- Bill 32, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2022-2023*; and
- Bill 33, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2023-2024*.

Eva Aariak, Commissioner of Nunavut.

We will now proceed with the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 262 – 6(2): Nunavut and Ontario Sign MOU

Hon. P.J. Akeegok (interpretation): Good afternoon. Thank you, my fellow MLAs. It's great to be back in the House again. Mr. Speaker, I will be making a statement about my visit in the coming days, (interpretation ends) but Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share that I am now a proud owner of a Toronto Maple Leafs jersey gifted to me by the Hon. Premier of Ontario, my good friend, Doug Ford.

While I won't comment on my sports loyalties here today, Mr. Speaker, I can say that I am thrilled to share that during my visit to Toronto on August 3, Premier Ford and I signed a memorandum of understanding between our respective jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, through this agreement, Nunavut and Ontario have now a platform to explore areas like health care, transportation, infrastructure, training, as well as indigenous relations. Mr. Speaker, Nunavut and Ontario have a long history as partners, and I want to thank Premier Ford for his strong support of our territory.

Through this mutually beneficial relationship, Nunavut provides economic opportunities to Ontario in exchange for goods and services not available in Canada's North, and for

many Nunavummiut, Ontario is a primary travel hub. Whether it's to access post-secondary education, obtain specialized health care, or for shopping and tourism, thousands of Nunavummiut head to our neighbouring province each year.

A cooperation and implementation committee will be established to advance our joint priorities outlined in this understanding. Mr. Speaker, partnership is a priority of the *Katujjiluta* mandate, and I truly believe that Ontario can be a key player in Canada's nation-building efforts right here in the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 263 – 6(2): Family Services Strategic Plan

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I'm very glad that we're back together again.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I have said before, the Department of Family Services fully accepts the contents of the Auditor General's reports. The department clearly understands this is a crisis and is deeply committed to making the changes that need to be made. Our solutions and action plans focus on safeguarding Nunavut's children and youth.

I rise today to update the House on the progress made by the Department of Family Services in developing the strategic plan as a key part of our response to the Auditor General. This includes initiatives like hiring, training, onboarding, and providing wraparound staff supports. We are exploring professional education opportunities, employment incentives, partnerships, and other innovative approaches. The project involves close collaboration with territorial and regional staff in Family Services and other government departments. By gathering diverse perspectives, we are crafting sustainable and effective solutions to the child welfare challenges faced in Nunavut. This initiative sets up clear responsibilities with detailed plans of action for leaders and staff. We're bringing in a quality assurance process, better standards, and chances for staff to grow. The plan also includes a way to carefully assess how well we're helping our clients. I hope to table the strategic plan in this House in the coming months.

Mr. Speaker, the systemic deficiencies highlighted in the Auditor General's report have led to negative outcomes for the children and families we serve. I am sorry for the very personal impact this has had on vulnerable Nunavummiut. As Minister of Family Services, I am committed to ensuring that history is not repeated.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Department of Family Services, I apologize to those children and their families. I assure Nunavummiut that my department is taking immediate and sustainable steps to address the Auditor General's report and to ensure the

best interests of children in our care are at the forefront of our response. (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 264 – 6(2): Municipal Elections

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut municipalities are scheduled to hold municipal elections for mayor and council positions on October 23, 2023. The nomination period was held in all communities from September 18 to 22. For candidates who are elected as either mayor or councillor, the term in office will be for a four-year term.

Mr. Speaker, serving on municipal council and making decisions on behalf of the community is a major commitment. Elected officials on municipal councils come from various backgrounds and walks of life. One common theme amongst them is the care and passion they have for their community.

Mr. Speaker, municipal councils spend many hours meeting throughout the year, meeting with a variety of stakeholders from in and outside the community and making decisions on behalf of the community, and providing leadership.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in the essence of *Pijitsirniq*, by serving and providing for family and the community, and *Aajiiqatigiingniq*, decision-making through discussion and consensus, municipal councils play a major role in Nunavut communities. Of special note is the number of women who have put their name forward to serve as mayor and/or councillor and provide a leadership role in their community. This is gratifying to see the commitment they are making on behalf of their community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to salute all of the community members who have put their names forward to serve on municipal council. I would also like to thank all of the outgoing mayors and councillors for serving in this past term. Your work and commitment have not gone unnoticed. My department will continue to provide ongoing support to Nunavut municipalities so they are well versed in their role as municipal elected officials in their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good luck to the candidates.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 265 – 6(2): National Community Health Representative Day

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Mr. Speaker, we recently marked National Community Health Representative Day on September 14. I would like to share a few words about the indispensable role our community health representatives, as we call them for short, CHRs, play across Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Community health representatives are focused on sharing important health information to help others lead healthy and happy lives. We strive to ensure community health representatives have access to whatever resources they need for community health programs. The resources can vary; sometimes it is brochures, sometimes it is videos, sometimes it's a bit different. For example, CHRs use pig lungs to demonstrate the harmful impacts of tobacco use.

Community health representatives fill a special role: they are educators, advisors, and trusted community members. Their work is a vital part of our health system in Nunavut. Within the challenging landscape of a post-pandemic world, the role of community health representatives has become more critical than ever.

Looking at the Nunavut health system, we simply couldn't do our work without them. Many community health representatives spend time assisting with administrative tasks at health centres, while others are supporting work on tuberculosis outbreaks in communities, such as Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, and Nauyasat.

Every year, we offer territorial or regional training sessions that cover broad health topics. I look forward to seeing everyone again at the session scheduled for February 2024 in Iqaluit.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage Nunavummiut to support our community health representatives in their home communities. If these important staff can succeed in their roles across the territory, it moves us all forward, towards more awareness, more trust, and better health outcomes for us all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 266 – 6(2): ELCC Ministers' FPT Meeting July 2023

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. In July of this year, my department and I were honoured to welcome federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for early learning and child care to Iqaluit. More than 50 delegates from across the country gathered in our capital to discuss important themes centred on early learning and child care in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, as host jurisdiction, we took advantage of the opportunity to showcase the development of Nunavut's Strategic Action Plan for Inclusion and Equity, a first of its kind for Nunavut, a plan that I will soon share with our colleagues in this House.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to share some of Nunavut's achievements while highlighting firsthand the unique challenges we face, specifically around the infrastructure development necessary for creating more licensed child care spaces across our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I was grateful for the opportunity to present to our federal counterpart, the Hon. Karina Gould, in her previous role as Minister of Families, Children and Social Development to show her the opportunities available to enhance the child care sector through federal early learning and child care funding.

As part of the event, Nunavut and the federal government co-hosted a cultural evening with country food, traditional knowledge keepers, and local performers. We also showed delegates some of our newest and oldest licensed child care centres in Iqaluit to highlight the importance of culturally relevant early learning and child care programs connected with our language and natural environment.

Mr. Speaker, gathering in Nunavut was important because it allowed our partners to experience some heartfelt Nunavut hospitality, while building and enhancing relationships that support our continued advocacy for expanding on opportunities available to the children and youth of our territory. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 267 – 6(2): Remote Work Policy

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the labour market in the last few years has changed drastically. Today's labour market is tight with a limited supply of talent, particularly employees in highly skilled occupations. The pandemic also changed the concept of the workplace with a shift to remote or hybrid work arrangements for many employers and employees, including those in the public sector.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is competing, often unsuccessfully, with other regions in Canada to recruit new employees to fill critical vacancies. This has resulted in an increase in the use of contracted service providers, which results in increased costs, limited outcomes, and decreased employee morale. To address this, the Department of Human Resources is introducing an interim Remote Hiring Policy.

Mr. Speaker, the Remote Hiring Policy is aimed at providing government departments and public bodies with a temporary recruitment tool to hire a limited number of highly specialized, professional positions. Eligibility criteria needs to be met before a position can be filled remotely and such employees would only be offered term employment. Accountability [measures] will be in place to ensure this temporary practice allows government to meet operational requirements and supports employee productivity and wellness.

Mr. Speaker, exploring remote work options for Nunavut's public service is complex and challenging, given the need to balance competing priorities and interests. We must act with new policies and practices to respond to labour market realities. It is through *Qanuqtuurniq* that we can sustain effective government operations and build resilience in the public service. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 268 – 6(2): Nunavut and Kivalliq Trade Shows

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to update my colleagues on two important events: the Nunavut Trade Show and the Kivalliq Trade Show.

(interpretation ends) The Nunavut Trade Show took place in Iqaluit from September 19 to 21 with a theme of "Celebrating Resilience," showcasing the growth and recovery of Nunavut's economy post-pandemic. This year's event saw approximately 400 registered delegates, 104 exhibitors, and 17 artists' booths from across the territory.

The 2023 Kivalliq Trade Show took place in Rankin Inlet from September 25 to 27. The theme this year was "Celebrating Women in Business." It was my pleasure to see that all key components of the trade show were moderated by women leaders, including the keynote speaker Nikki Komaksiutiksak. Ms. Komaksiutiksak is Pauktuutit's 2023 Woman of the Year and the Executive Director of Tunngasugit Inc., a frontline service organization that helps Inuit transition to life in the city.

The Kivalliq Trade Show was a great success, with 240 registered delegates, 51 exhibitors, 23 visual artists, 5 performing artists, and 10 participants in the Kivalliq Entrepreneurship Program.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Premier and my colleagues that attended both trade shows in support of Nunavut's economy and local businesses across Nunavut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, trade shows offer important opportunities for business owners, government officials, and community members to come together, learn about opportunities for economic growth, and showcase the strong entrepreneurial spirit found across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 356 – 6(2): Successful Bowhead Hunt in Igloolik

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the people of Igloolik. They held a bowhead whale hunt in August and the whale they harvested was 47 feet long. The harvesters were comprised of young people. I am quite pleased that they are interested in learning how to harvest large animals such as bowhead whales.

Furthermore, this past summer, there were young women and men who caught their first beluga whale. I would like to congratulate the people of Igloolik who harvested their first animal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 357 – 6(2): Minister's Apology to Clients of Family Services

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had planned to rise today to talk about the importance of seasonal flu shots and COVID booster shots.

However, Mr. Speaker, in light of the Hon. Margaret Nakashuk's, Minister of Family Services, apology to those who are impacted by the crisis in foster care that we have been reviewing so closely in the past few months, I want to take this opportunity to thank Minister Nakashuk for that apology.

I know that there are many Nunavummiut who will be impacted by those words and what we know is that healing begins with apologies and taking responsibility, so thank you very much for your apology, Minister Nakashuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 358 – 6(2): Upcoming Dance Competition in Pond Inlet

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's great to be back in session. I empathize with Janet and I thank Margaret as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the residents of Pond Inlet that there will be a dance competition in the community in April with the arrival of the dog team racers and the participants of the hockey tournament. I would like to recognize the hard-working individuals in our community for organizing the dance competition, Elijah and Sophie Nashook. They have been raising funds for the awards and families do fundraising on the weekend for the events that will be held in April. I am proud of Elijah and Sophie and families, as this dance competition is beneficial to the community.

I also would like to welcome Nunavummiut and my colleagues to this event. Perhaps you can start practising your skills and buy a pair of dancing shoes so that you can take part in the dance competition.

>>*Laughter*

That's what I wanted to state and further, I welcome the residents of my community when they come to Iqaluit to visit the House, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 359 – 6(2): Public Safety

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome back all of my colleagues, those joining us in the Assembly, as well as those watching the proceedings today.

I would also like to congratulate the Member for Cambridge Bay on the new arrival in her home, and if my experience is any guide, the minister is currently experiencing the joys of sleep deprivation and I wish you both the best of luck in that.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of public safety in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, there is a growing concern in the city about the state of public safety in the community. Mr. Speaker, during the summer months my office received numerous calls and concerns from constituents regarding the deteriorating public safety situation, especially in the area near the beer and wine store.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard a number of disturbing accounts from vulnerable constituents who are afraid to walk in this area of the city because they simply don't feel safe in the presence of so many obviously intoxicated individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I have also heard a number of disturbing accounts from residents about incidents that they witnessed involving intoxicated individuals at other public facilities, including the aquatic centre. These are places where families gather and these are places which are supposed to be safe and feel safe.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission for his quick action on my concerns and providing heightened security presence at the beer and wine store. I will be following up on this issue during our fall sitting.

Mr. Speaker, as I have previously noted on a number of occasions, it is apparent to anyone with eyes that the problem of public intoxication in this community has grown significantly worse in recent years and it is apparent that we need a strategy to both improve public safety and address the complex treatment needs of those who are suffering from mental health and addiction.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the Minister of Justice for acting on my request to have senior officers from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police meet with Iqaluit MLAs regarding initiatives to enhance public safety in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I am nearly complete in my statement. I seek unanimous consent to conclude. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

This is a complex issue involving many stakeholders and I will have questions for the minister later today at the appropriate time on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude today by paying tribute to the community's first responders who do so much. As an elected MLA, I am committed to using my voice in this House to ensure that we as a legislature and government are fulfilling our fundamental responsibility to protect our communities and Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Member's Statement 360 – 6(2): Elder Care Placements

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise an issue being brought forward by families of elders who are receiving care out of the territory.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, elders who need advanced levels of care must leave Nunavut to be placed in facilities such as the Embassy West facility in Ottawa. It is very unfortunate that we cannot yet provide that level of care here in our home territory.

Mr. Speaker, if you live in this region, taking a trip to visit a family member in Ottawa's Embassy West is relatively straightforward, but for families in the western regions of Nunavut, it is a very long way to go with many stops in between.

The concerns raised by the families are not criticisms of the care being provided to the elderly family members. They would just like them to be closer to home so that visiting them could be easier.

Mr. Speaker, our neighbours in the Northwest Territories have long been welcoming medical patients from the Kitikmeot region. It would make so much sense if elders from the Kitikmeot could receive long-term care in Yellowknife. It would also cost significantly less for family members to visit them. Likewise, Edmonton, or even Winnipeg would be more accessible locations for family members from the Kitikmeot region.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon our government to fully explore opportunities to place our elders who cannot receive the level of care they need in Nunavut in locations that are geographically closer to their families. It would mean so much to their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will have questions for the minister on this topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Member's Statement 361 – 6(2): Safe Fall Hunting

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome. I'm glad to be back here with you all.

(interpretation) I want to remind the hunters of Baker Lake who will be hunting by ATV or by boat that this time of year the weather changes very quickly and it gets windy. Bring extra food, clothing, and SPOT or GPS devices, and ensure you inform people of where you are going, who is in the hunting party, and for how many days. Also, when you are out on the land, I envy you while you're out there.

Ensure you are always aware of the grizzly bears and wolves and make it home safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

Member's Statement 362 – 6(2): Introducing Cambridge Bay's Newest Constituent

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Now that we are back and ready to start our fall session, it is my honour to introduce this House to one of Iqalukuttiaq's newest constituents.

On September 11, Mr. Speaker, I gave birth to my daughter, Qimnik Simone Auriq Uamiquun Unna. I know she is familiar with this House, Mr. Speaker. She has been here the last two session with us, but she probably finds everyone's voice very soothing and calming.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our Clerk and his team for the support that I received through this work-life journey. I sincerely thank our Premier for allowing me for the month off to rest and recover and bond with my daughter.

I also want to express sincere appreciation to my colleagues who covered for me during my time off. I would like to thank Minister Joanase, Minister Kusugak, and the Member for Aggu for covering on my behalf, who were graciously there to help advance important files in my portfolios.

I would remiss, Mr. Speaker, if I didn't also thank each and every one of you of my colleagues for being there for me and I want to give a special "thank you" to my former political advisor, Melissa Irwin, for her continued and committed work over the past two years. I wish her and Mark all the best with their move back home and her new career in film.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to welcome back Nick Pashkoski, who now fills the role of my political advisor, and of course, my continued gratitude to my executive secretary, Annie Akoak and constituency assistant, Nancy Angulalik, for their hard work and support. Mr. Speaker, Devon and I have a immense gratitude for the medical staff between Cambridge Bay, Iqaluit, and Ottawa. I'm so appreciative of their work. They really took great care of Qimnik and I. I would like to pay a special thanks to Dr. Simon and Dr. Carson and the delivery team for their work they did on the very special day that I will always look back on.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank the midwives, nurses, obstetric technicians, physicians, receptionists, medical travel team, and the entire Department of Health. (interpretation) I thank you very much.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please continue, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: As I wrap up, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my family, friends, my parents, and my mom, Suzie, who is here, getting special bonding time with her *irngutaq*, and really supporting Devon and I. *Quana*.

I would also like to thank all the babies, *anaanattiangit* for naming Kimmik after loved ones. We will continue to remember them through her name, but last but not least, I would like to say a thank you to my partner, Devon, for his never-ending love and support, and to all my constituents of Cambridge Bay. I miss you all, and appreciate your support, and look forward to reconnecting at home and introducing you to Kimmik. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 363 – 6(2): Recent Ministerial Visit to Kinngait

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome, and your daughter as well, and your mom. Welcome to the House. I want to honour the cabinet that had a meeting visit in Cape Dorset. It was a good meeting in Cape Dorset, and we felt very welcomed. Thank you, to the people of Cape Dorset.

In terms of going and visiting communities, as ministers, this is seen by the community as a large event. We had a feast with the community of Cape Dorset as well, thank you, for the cooks and those that provided the food. The mayor wasn't there, but they were able to provide us with comments from Cape Dorset, I thank him as well, and thank you, to the hamlet council.

In conclusion, I also want to thank my fellow members. If, at any time, you want to go to Cape Dorset, you're welcome. Maybe, perhaps, we'll meet you on the dance floor at Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Have a good day.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I will go first.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

I would like to recognize a former speaker of this Legislative Assembly, who we all know. It was nice to see him again, Mr. Rumbolt.

>>Applause

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the great board members of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and in order of appearance, Mr. Speaker, we have our Chair, Mr. John Apt, Mr. Peter Tapatai, who is an Order of Nunavut recipient.

>>Applause

Former speaker, and former colleague twice, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

>>Applause

And last, and but not the least, Mr. Patrick Tagoona.

>>Applause

We also have two very hard working senior members of our staff, Mr. Eiryn Devereaux, who is no stranger to this House, President and CEO of Nunavut Housing Corporation.

>>Applause

And also, no stranger to this House, Mr. Juanie Pudluk, Associate President. Welcome to the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are guests in the House from the high arctic I would like to welcome: Jeremy Tungraluk, who works with finance at the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and he is the Chair of Kakivak Association; Debbie Tungraluk, who is a student learning at the NTEP program; her daughter, Irene Tatty Tungraluk, welcome to the House; and former member, Allan Rumbolt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I know I just spoke about them, but I just wanted to introduce and welcome my panik, Kimnik Uniq, my partner Devon Uniq, and my mom, Susie Fletcher. I know some people are just tuning in at home, so hello to everybody that is tuning in and thank you for having the newest member here at the table. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Hon. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome all the visitors in the House. Though Mr. Rumbolt has been recognized twice, I too, want to recognize him as a long-time member of this House. (interpretation ends) I remember coming in as a new rookie MLA and Allan was the Dean of the last Assembly because he was the most experienced, and I remember he was chairing many meetings and he was always a steady hand at the Chair. I think it has something to do with being a Toronto Maple Leafs fan, much like you, Mr. Speaker; just that strong leadership, that long-term vision towards a Stanley Cup someday.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Rumbolt was also chairing, I believe, a leadership forum where we might have almost elected the wrong Paul by accident. That came to mind, but (interpretation) welcome to the House. I'm glad to see you here in the House as a former member and former Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: I would like to recognize Margaret Niego. She was wife to my late uncle, Joe Niego. She has been living in the north quite a while; Baker Lake for a long time, Yellowknife, and here in Iqaluit as well. Growing up, she fed me some lunches and suppers and always opened her home to me. Thank you very much, Margaret for all of those years. Please welcome her to the House.

I would also like to recognize and welcome Peter Tapatai. As Mr. Kusugak mentioned, he was recipient of the Order of Nunavut, he is the owner of the Peter's Expediting Limited. He is a long-time advocate for culture and for the private sector in Baker Lake, and it was mentioned, he is a member of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

I would also like to recognize and welcome Allan Rumbolt. When I first became an MLA as well, he guided me through some evening chats with advice and his wealth of knowledge was always welcoming for me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There being none. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 518 – 6(2): Elder Care Placements

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Government of Nunavut is working hard to increase the number of long-term care beds in Nunavut.

However, until there are enough beds and the necessary levels of care available in Nunavut, some elders will continue to be placed outside of the territory.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update on how many elders are currently receiving long-term care outside of the territory, and in what facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, to the member for asking that question. Under the *Katujjiluta* mandate, we are supposed to take good care of our elders, called aging with dignity, and we're supposed to create services for them in Nunavut. We also have to look to see if we can make more room available outside of Nunavut.

In regard to the member's question, right now, in Ottawa, at the place called Embassy West, the elder facility, there are 65 elders that are housed there, and one of them is in a place called Everbrite. Those are the elders that are outside of Nunavut. There are 66 elders in total taken care of outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, to the minister for the response. (interpretation ends) As I indicated in my member's statement, families in the western region of Nunavut have to travel a very long way to visit the elder loved ones in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe what considerations have been given to accessing long-term care for elders from the Kitikmeot region in such out of the territory locations as Yellowknife or Edmonton? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, to the member for asking that question. Yes, we have heard that, and I have spoken to their families on my own, and I have exchanged letters with them, and the complaints, the fact that Ottawa is very far from the Kitikmeot region, and also from the Kivalliq region. I have heard the concern, and I understand it.

However, maybe it creates hardship for all of the family members, even if they live in the Baffin region, if they live in Nunavut, and we're trying to create spaces for them in Nunavut so we can take care of them in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, so, previously, back in 2017, the government had issued a request for proposals for long-term care services across Canada, and specifically within a 50-kilometre radius of Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Montreal and Yellowknife.

At the time, Mr. Speaker, there was very little response to that request for proposals, and Embassy West Senior Living in Ottawa was the only provider that met the criteria. *Uqaqtitsijii*, there is more I can add, but I don't want to go on too long on this response. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure the minister and all of my colleagues will agree that being able to see our loved ones when they are ill or frail is important for everyone's well-being, making it easier for family visits to happen would benefit everyone involved.

Mr. Speaker, would the minister agree to meeting with his counterparts from the Northwest Territories and Alberta and make arrangements for elders from the Kitikmeot region to be placed in long-term care facilities in Yellowknife or Alberta? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can agree to be involved to the extent that I'm needed to be. However, I think arrangements such as this, I made reference to a previous request for proposals. Generally, a minister does not get involved when it comes to procurement and so we are exploring options. We recognize that quite a lot of time has passed since 2017.

We recognize the requests that are being made by family members and representatives such as the hon. member. We are considering all options in terms of potential relationships to provide safe and appropriate long-term care closer to home, including for those in the Kitikmeot region. I don't have a lot of detail to share, but we are exploring our options in that regard. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 519 – 6(2): Liquor Regulation

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

As the minister will recall, I asked him a number of questions during our recent spring sitting concerning the regulation of alcohol in Rankin Inlet.

In July of this year, the Municipal Council of Rankin Inlet passed a formal motion calling on the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission to reduce the daily purchase limits at the Rankin Inlet Beer and Wine Store and to reduce the number of hours that the store is open to the public.

Mr. Speaker, in September of this year, the government announced a reduction in the purchase limits, and I applaud the minister for acting on the community's concerns.

Can the minister clarify when the Rankin Inlet Beer and Wine Store's opening hours will be reduced on a permanent basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Hamlet Council of Rankin Inlet resolution was given to me this summer and as soon as we got it, we started doing something about it right away.

We want to make changes right away, such as reducing the amount of alcohol can be purchased, but we have to follow the law and we can only make amendments following proper procedure. For example, in Rankin Inlet, they could buy 24 cans per day and we had to change that and it became 12 cans per day when we were still working on it. That's currently how it will be operated, but we have not worked to reduce the operating hours yet.

However, we will be looking to see if the hours of operation will improve the situation and we will have to look to see the pros and cons of it opening or closing sooner. Once we get that information, the hours of operation can be reduced, but we have to review it first. I can't say it will happen right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many constituents in Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet have told me that the government needs to take immediate action to address the problem of individuals ordering and importing large quantities of high alcohol spirits. This is an issue that has been identified as contributing to the bootlegging problem.

As the minister is aware, his department's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "implement changes related to the sale of liquor import permits, including new territorial daily limits." Can the minister confirm when these changes will be made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am so pleased that the Member for Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet is bringing up this very important issue. One of the biggest issues around alcohol abuse is the illegal sale or bootlegging of alcohol. Right now, the legislation doesn't prohibit any of us in Nunavut to be ordering a significant amount of alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, our team has been travelling across Nunavut and working on a consultation process with the stakeholders. That process is continuing. Mr. Speaker, I look forward, in the fiscal year 2024-25, to be introducing some changes to the *Liquor Act* that would deal with issues, such as being able to order an endless amount of liquor and maybe limiting that so that it has a direct impact on bootlegging in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our recent spring sitting, I asked questions about the how the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission helps Nunavummiut make informed choices about the use of alcohol.

As the minister is aware, the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction has published new "*Guidance on Alcohol and Health*," which the organization indicates is intended to replace Canada's "*Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines*."

Can the minister confirm when the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission's harm reduction publications will reflect the new guidelines? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have also been enquiring to try to nail the timelines in terms of when those guidelines and allowable or preferred allowable consumption rates on alcohol will be released in all of the official languages in Nunavut. As soon as I get that information, I will be more than happy to table the documents and share with this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 520 – 6(2): Public Safety

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice and they concern the issue of public safety.

As I noted in my member's statement, there is growing concern in the city of Iqaluit about the state of public safety in the community. I again want to express my appreciation to the Minister of Justice for acting on my request to have senior officers of the RCMP meet with Iqaluit MLAs regarding initiatives in this area.

As I have previously noted, it is apparent to anyone with eyes that the problem of public intoxication in this community has grown significantly worse in recent years, and it is apparent that we need a strategy to both improve public safety and address the complex treatment needs of those that are suffering from mental health and addictions.

I would like to ask: Can the minister update the House today on how his department is working on this issue through the shared directional statement with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's "V" division?

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very complex issue that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have been trying to combat with help from other agencies in terms of trying to make sure that public safety is paramount.

They do have resources here for public safety and something for which I applaud the RCMP, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, for protecting our community, and protecting Iqaluit, in particular.

Through that, a lot of work and resources have been put into this and our V division is very responsive if there are requests for additional protection requests. I continue to applaud our members for continuing to protect our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the minister, and I do truly appreciate the important role that the RCMP plays in providing and ensuring safety of those in need.

Mr. Speaker, it was identified that this is a very complex issue with many Iqalungmiut needing complex treatment needs, especially those suffering from mental health and addiction, but I didn't quite get a response to that specific question. I will follow up on that another time.

As the minister will be aware, the Iqaluit City Council unanimously passed a motion at its recent meeting of September 12, concerning the urgent need to reduce the flow of alcohol

and hard drugs into this community. I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to deputy-mayor Shepherd and councillor Smith for moving and seconding this motion. I would also like to thank all of the leaders at city council for their strong support.

Mr. Speaker, the motion called on a number of stakeholders to take action in their respective areas of jurisdiction. A specific issue that I will focus on today is the need to enhance security screening to reduce the amount of alcohol and hard drugs that are entering Nunavut by air and impacting Iqaluit's public safety.

I would like to ask: Can the Minister of Justice indicate what discussions he has had with his counterpart, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation on this specific issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am having very lively discussions with the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation when it comes to the airline side.

One of tools that we can use are those x-ray machines that are in our southern airports to reduce a lot of that coming into the territory. That is a federal agency that oversees that, and it is something about which I am having discussions.

As justice minister, too, I have written to Canada Post. We had a very successful pilot project before for northern Quebec and Baffin Island for a 90-day trial. I have asked those responsible for Canada Post to implement that for our three southern mail facilities to do exactly that. If they need resources, I'm willing to provide resources as a government to help resource those. It's been proven that we can stop alcohol and hard drugs through that process.

I'm very happy that the member is asking for this because it is one that I'm trying very hard to see if those tools that are available can be used to help this bootlegging and drugs that are entering our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. I am very happy to hear that there is lively discussions occurring and I wish you and your officials luck in this endeavour.

Mr. Speaker, it also apparent that the number of private security guards working at different locations in Iqaluit has increased dramatically in recent in response to public safety concerns. In speaking with constituents, it is apparent that this is a direct response to the state of public safety and the risk of violent incidents involving mentally ill or intoxicated individuals.

Mr. Speaker, we know that this issue is not confined to Iqaluit. As we know, the government has been trying, in recent months, to award a contract for security services in health centres in over half of Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, it seems clear that private security is going to be a growth industry in Nunavut for some time to come, and it seems clear that the government is going to have to develop a more rigorous regulatory framework for the industry.

As the minister is well aware, most Canadian jurisdictions have legislation in place to clearly regulate the private security industry, including provisions to require certain levels of training and certification. Nunavut, however, does not have such legislation in place.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate, recognize and understand that this will take time to develop and introduce, but I would like to hear a clear commitment in principle today from the minister that his department will begin work in this area.

I would like to ask: Will the minister provide this House with a commitment to begin work on private security legislation and regulation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Mr. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the member just raised this right now, in this House, I am going to definitely look into it. I don't want to make a firm commitment because I just don't know how much the amount of work that's going to be needed. It's something that I'll definitely look into and have discussions with my officials and my colleagues. I just want to provide assurance that we are trying to look at all the tools that are available and what kind of tools we will need to use in order to help protect or Nunavummiut throughout the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 521 – 6(2): Caribou Management in the Kivalliq

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are the new Minister of Environment. As the minister is very much aware, the health of the caribou population in the Kivalliq is an issue of great importance to the people of my region.

In recent years, concerns have been expressed about the extent to which current harvesting levels are sustainable. Concerns have been expressed concerning the extent to which adequate co-management practices are in place with our neighbours to the south.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that a caribou summit recently took place in Rankin Inlet and that the meeting involved a number of stakeholders, including the Government of Nunavut. Can the minister describe how his department was involved in the summit and can he confirm what decisions were made at that meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment is involved with the Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board which is a co-management board consisting of Aboriginal hunters, government biologists, and wildlife managers. It is an advisory board with the mission of ensuring the long-term conservation of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herd for Aboriginal communities who wish to maintain a lifestyle that includes the use of caribou as well as all Canadians and people of other nations.

Mr. Speaker, the department continues to work with the co-management partners in terms of caribou management. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister for your response.

As the minister is aware the inter-community sale of caribou meat is an issue that requires attention. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that Kivalliq caribou are being harvested in significant numbers in order to be shipped and sold to consumers in this region of the territory.

Mr. Speaker, it has recently been reported that Calm Air has launched a new initiative to better monitor and track the shipment of caribou meat outside of the Kivalliq. I applaud the airline for doing this as we need good information upon which to make decisions concerning the issue.

Can the minister clarify the extent to which data from this initiative is being shared with his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To return back to the member's question on his first supplementary, our caribou biologist attended the meeting in Rankin Inlet.

To his question, Mr. Speaker, my department was informed by the Department of Justice that there was no ability to establish the restriction since no total allowable harvest, or basic needs level has ever been set for the herd in order for a surplus to be allocated. With that, no total allowable harvest in place, it is difficult to consider what over-harvesting there is on the limitation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I fully appreciate and understand that this is a complex issue. The harvesting of caribou is not only an economic activity; it is a core part of our existence as Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, it is my position that inter-community sale of caribou needs to be better regulated and it is my position that it is the responsibility of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporate to sit down with the Government of Nunavut and the hunters and trappers organizations to find solutions that respect Inuit rights while ensuring the long-term health of the caribou population.

Does the Minister share my position? Yes, or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, there is a section under Article 5, 5.7.30, which allows any Inuk to sell, to barter, and to trade, so when management is needed to be implemented, there is a process to go through the co-management stakeholders, and from that point it becomes a management tool to use. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 522 – 6(2): New Housing Units

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation and they concern the new housing units for Pond Inlet to deal with the housing shortage.

(interpretation ends) The Nunavut 3000 plan indicates that Pond Inlet has been identified to receive a total of 80 new units over the life of the plan. These include 25 new public housing units, 40 new affordable housing units, and 15 new market housing units.

The Nunavut 3000 plan also indicates that Pond Inlet is scheduled to receive 10 new public and/or staff housing units as part of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2023 build program. Can the minister provide a clear update today on the status of these units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The construction has to be planned as scheduled in Nunavut 3000. They will follow the plan in Pond Inlet when they construct the units. We have tabled that information. To date, the units that will be constructed did not get delayed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation announced earlier this month that federal funding under the Rapid Housing Initiative will be directed to the construction of new units in a

number of communities, including Pond Inlet. The announcement indicated that the new units will be designated for “Indigenous residents and women.”

Can the minister clarify the extent to which the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be involved in the procurement and construction process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that line of questioning from my colleague. Mr. Speaker, those programs and projects that our friend is referring to are projects run by the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and other entities. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has absolutely no involvement at this time, not to say that there would not be an invitation too probably in the future, but at this time, in terms of procurement and contracts and anything to do with those projects, the housing corporation has no involvement, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the board members and staff of the Pond Inlet Housing Association.

As the minister is well aware, housing associations are responsible for allocating new public housing units to our residents, and they function as the landlords for public housing tenants.

Can the minister clarify who will be responsible for allocating the new Rapid Housing Initiative units to applicants in Pond Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, we are not involved. Those houses are not part of the Nunavut Housing Corporation nor are they the responsibility of the Mittimatalik Housing Association. Those units that my colleague is referring to are being built by an entity outside the housing corporation and therefore, who, what, when, where, and why is best answered by that entity. I don't mean to be blunt about it, Mr. Speaker, but I'm sure my colleague understands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 523 – 6(2): Vacancies in Arviat for Environment

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Arviat. My question will be to the Minister of Environment.

I would like an update on the vacant Environment positions in Arviat and what stage of the hiring process each one is in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. To be honest, that information is not in front of me. I will commit to getting back to the member with more details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I live in Arviat and I'm attuned to what goes on in the community, the vacant positions are the regional manager, the wildlife deterrent specialist, and the environmental protection officer. I look forward to hearing the updates on what stage of the process they are in.

However, can the minister commit to myself, the House, and to Arviarmiut that these positions will be advertised in Arviat and will not be temporarily moved anywhere; that these positions will be staying in Arviat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information was right in front of me.

>>*Laughter*

Unfortunately, I cannot find it here, but as the member stated, the regional manager is vacant. For the training position, that cannot be advertised because there are no regional manager positions. That cannot be in place until a regional manager steps in. I can commit to the House and the member that these positions will be advertised; the sooner, the better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that the minister will commit to advertising them, but the other half of the thing was that these positions will be advertised in Arviat and the positions will stay in Arviat, they will not be farmed out to other communities; these positions will not be done by remote work from somewhere else; that these positions will have a person working in Arviat, and living in Arviat. I would like that commitment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are some certain degrees that we cannot fully commit to, but I will speak to my department in terms of how we can better address these vacant positions in the community of Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

Question 524 – 6(2): Kugluktuk Power Plant

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good day to the people of Kugluktuk and Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As the minister is aware, Kugluktuk's existing power plant is over 50 years old and in urgent need of replacement. In recent years, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has issued a number of unsuccessful tenders for the new power plant. Mr. Speaker, the most recent tender closed in May this year. Information published by the government indicates that it was "cancelled due to budgetary constraints."

Can the minister clarify the extent to which the bids received exceeded the corporation's available budget to build Kugluktuk's new power plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Kaernerck.

Hon. Joelle Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking the question regarding the status of Kugluktuk's power plant. It's true that the bids received by the corporation exceeded the budget and that's why they had to cancel due to budgetary constraints and it was closed in May 2023. On August 3, this was cancelled due to budgetary constraints, but they have not set a date yet. However, within this fiscal year, they will try again. That's the update I have with the QEC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I raised the issue of Kugluktuk's new power plant during the recent spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly, I noted that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is no longer undertaking a hybrid solar-diesel design for the plant.

Some federal funding for the construction of the new power plant had previously been approved through the Arctic Energy Fund. In response to my questions last spring, the previous minister indicated that some of this funding had to be returned to the federal government.

Can the new minister confirm whether or not additional federal funding may be available to ensure that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is able to successfully award a tender for this critical project? *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Kaernerck.

Hon. Joelle Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. When I first became a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I remember that the bids exceeded the

budget. I can say no to that due to budget constraints and the incorporation of solar and wind power to the scope of work. That's why I'm saying no at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you for the response. (interpretation ends) Can the minister provide a clear timeline today for when the Qulliq Energy Corporation will issue a new tender for the construction of Kugluktuk's new power plant? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Kaernerck.

Hon. Joelle Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for the questions. There is no tender at this time around. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 525 – 6(2): Funding for Pathfinder Program

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago we had some hearings in this Chamber and specifically on some language legislation where there was some information that came to light during some of the witnesses' responses, and I'm sure the minister is paying very much attention to some of the details and mentions of Nunavut Arctic College in there.

First off, I'll start with a quote from one of the witnesses from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. "When we first proposed the Pathfinder, we asked the federal government for \$89 million, over five years, to train Inuit teachers in our communities, and they agreed. It was the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Arctic College that scaled it back to \$42 million, and then they revised their estimates, and that is when we," meaning Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, "had to put in an extra \$12 million through the Nunavut Implementation Panel, and \$12 million from Makigiaqta."

Can the minister explain why Nunavut Arctic College scaled back a proposal that had, not rubber stamped, but had the potential for success? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To answer the member's question, I have not gone further in the details as to why the member is asking that question. In my position right now, I can only commit to getting back to the member with that detailed information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickers.

Mr. Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to receiving that information. At that same hearing, I had asked a question to representatives of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and again, I'll quote my own quote; "I would like to ask a question on the current status and are the outcomes at the stage where it was expected to be when this funding and agreements were announced?" At the time, the representative from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated stated "In terms of what Nunavut Arctic College and the Government of Nunavut have, we don't have that information to date. However, we are meeting next week and we plan to have a full day of dialogue about where things are at."

Can the minister update us today on what some of those expected outcomes are and what the current status of those are? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's the same question that that information is not in front of me, nor was I briefed with my department. My staff are listening right now, and we can further get back to the member on the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I look forward to receiving that information from the minister. At that same hearing, a representative from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated stated that they were about halfway through the five years of funding from the federal government on the Pathfinder program. It was stated that we need a plan to continue those classes so that in 10 years we have substantially more educators.

Mr. Speaker, we are hearing continuously of how student funding is impacting people taking programs, so I would like to get a sense from the minister of what type of plan is going to be coming forward to continue funding now that we are over halfway through that funding? What type of long-term strategy is being considered to make sure that we have a full slate of students taking our Nunavut Teacher Education Program across the territory so that we can have more successful education outcomes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The college was proud of the efforts of the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and Canadian Heritage for coming together to secure funding to support the revised Nunavut Teacher Education Program and to support the expanded delivery of this program.

Mr. Speaker, from the pots of money that was awarded to the college, totaling \$46.95 million, the funding that came from the Nunavut Implementation Planning funds are a

total of \$12.25 million, and by 2026, the remaining from the Nunavut Implementation Funding will be carried over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 526 – 6(2): Water Infrastructure

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has become a bit of a tradition for me to begin each new sitting of our House with questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services concerning the critical issue of water infrastructure in Nunavut, and today is no different.

Mr. Speaker, as the House is aware, our territory's capital city endured an unprecedented water infrastructure crisis that began in late 2021.

Following the end of the crisis, the government engaged a third-party entity to conduct a review of the situation in order to identify learnable lessons for the future.

It has recently been reported that the report has been completed and submitted to the government.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the minister will agree that this report needs to be shared with all Members of this House and made available to the public.

Can he assure me today that he will table the report today or tomorrow? 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 that question. The Iqaluit water emergency from 2021 was an extremely difficult time and it was challenging for the entire city, residents and everyone who went through that ordeal. Coming out of that, we did commission a report and I am prepared to table that said report in this House, today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to hear that, minister. Mr. Speaker, one of the most positive announcements in recent years occurred in April of 2022, when the federal, territorial and municipal-levels of government jointly announced \$214 million in funding to address Iqaluit's water infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the minister of what the Premier stated in this announcement when he indicated that "Improving Iqaluit's water infrastructure will be essential in paving the way for more homes in the city to address Nunavut's growing housing gap."

On Monday on next week, Nunavut residents will go the polls to elect their mayors and councillors.

Can the minister provide an update today on how his department has been collaborating with the city on the long-term water infrastructure project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the federal funding that was announced in April 2022, it was very good news to hear, not just for the city, but for the territory as a whole. The water infrastructure here in the city, it is planned to go through a series of major upgrades and my department... . Of course, this was a city-led initiative and a direct funding proposal came from the city, through to the feds., but my department is supporting the city throughout that major infrastructure being replaced to maximize the benefit for Iqalungmiut. It will take several years to get to the completion date, but we are supporting the city through that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was about to make a joke, but I didn't.

As the minister will recall, he tabled the Government of Nunavut's Drinking Water Strategic Framework during the recent spring sitting of the House and this important document indicates that upon approval of the drinking water strategy, work will begin on developing a detailed action plan.

The cost to fulfil the drinking water strategy will be \$610 million to rectify the infrastructure deficit with an estimated annual operational and maintenance increase to \$600,000 and to \$1.2 million for most communities.

Can the minister clarify if this figure takes into account the 2022 announcement concerning Iqaluit's water infrastructure and can he provide a clear timeline for developing the action plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the first question, there are two parts to that. Mr. Speaker, the first part, I will have to get back to the member on that whether that figure includes Iqaluit's... .

To the second part of the question, the strategic framework action plan that would be in support of the Government of Nunavut's Drinking Water Strategic Framework. The action plan is set to be developed and implemented this fiscal year, 2023-24, and I look forward to progress on that. I will keep the member's aware where things are at throughout the stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 527 – 6(2): Emergency Planning

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me a second time. My questions are for the new Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, this past summer was a time of fire and fear for our friends and neighbours in the Northwest Territories.

The evacuation of an entire capital city was an unprecedented... . We have said this word so many times and I do not know why I cannot say it today. The evacuation of an entire capital city was an unprecedented event in modern Canadian history, and I do consider myself fortunate to have been in a position to advocate for the needs of impacted Nunavummiut who were caught up in those traumatic events.

Mr. Speaker, this awful experience reinforces the need for our government to have up-to-date emergency plans in place to deal with natural disasters and other events. Although we may not have to worry about forest fires here in the capital city, I do think that we need to be prepared for a worst-case scenario where the community's power plant is destroyed in the middle of winter because we know that this has happened in other communities.

Can the minister confirm when the Qulliq Energy Corporation's emergency and disaster plan for Iqaluit was last updated, and will he commit to tabling a copy of the current plan in the House before the end of our fall sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Kaernerck.

Hon. Joelle Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for the question on the emergency situation.

I will not commit at this time, but there is an emergency plan in place, such as the member mentioned with the evacuation that happened in the Northwest Territories. Qulliq Energy Corporation has an emergency plan in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, I have deep family ties to the Kitikmeot, and I am very much aware of the importance of ensuring that our smaller and underserved communities are not ignored. This is a theme that the new minister spoke about frequently when he was on this side of the House. So I'm glad that he now has the opportunity to put his words into action.

Can the minister confirm whether or not the Qulliq Energy Corporation has up-to-date emergency and disaster plans in place for Nunavut's other 24 communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Kaernerck.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the member for the reminder of those underserved communities that I have mentioned before when I was on the other side.

Yes, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has backup with 13 communities and the Qulliq Energy Corporation is in the progress of working to update all of the communities we serve within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for those responses, minister. Although we are all looking forward to the day when all of our community's power generation needs are met by clean, green and renewable sources of energy, we must be realistic and recognize that we will likely be reliant on diesel for years to come.

Another worst-case scenario that we need to be prepared for is a situation where the community's tank farm suffers severe damage.

Can the minister indicate what discussions he has had with the Minister responsible for the Petroleum Products Division to ensure that there is an up-to-date plan in place to deal with a catastrophe that impacts our communities' fuel supplies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Kaernerck.

Hon. Joelie Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I appreciate the question from the member. At this time, I haven't had the chance to sit down the Petroleum Products Division's minister, but I certainly can follow-up on the member's question to set up a meeting with the Minister of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

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

Question 528 – 6(2): Funding for Nunavut Students

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to Minister of Education. Like my colleague from Iqaluit-Sinaa, this is a very repetitive question. I would like to talk about funding for Nunavut students.

There was some recent media coverage where it was quoted from the President of the Kivalliq Inuit Association that their numbers of student funding requests have tripled or almost tripled since 2020. Has the Department of Education seen similar funding request increases? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker and *quana* to the member for the question. The Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students is undergoing a comprehensive review at the moment and we do have a number of applications that come through for our Nunavummiut to apply for post-secondary funding. As this review is going ahead, we have various topics that we are looking into and we do know that there are a number of students that are applying.

As our territory grows and as we have more students coming to the age of graduation, we are seeing our numbers rise to about over 500 applicants per semester. Those are various applications for school within the territory, attending the Nunavut Arctic College and post-secondary in the south. I do know that those numbers have been rising and post-COVID they have been rising as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In that same recent media coverage that I referenced earlier, regional Inuit organizations have programs to support post-secondary students, and in that same article, reported that they have been denying students due to a lack of funds. It was stated that their funds that they receive come from the federal government, and then Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Is the Department of Education looking at accessing these federal funds so that they can leverage Government of Nunavut funds to make sure no student goes under served? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker and *quana* again, to the member for the question. The Department of Education does work closely with our Inuit organization counterparts in collaboration and discussions on post-secondary funding at the staff level. They are aware of initiatives within the Inuit organizations of how the department does see that students receive Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students as well as top-ups, for example, from Kakivak or the Kitikmeot Inuit Association or our Kivalliq region as well, to support the students in school. I can't stress enough how much those top-ups and extra support are very much appreciated for students.

I do want to say, Mr. Speaker, that with the comprehensive review, we are looking into ways to enhance the program and enhance specific areas with regard to supporting students' needs. With the comprehensive review, I look forward to bringing forward that

process through and hopefully enhancing support for students in post-secondary in the very near future and working to increase the funding for our students, but that has to go through the chain of command before we can speak to that.

I will say that with the federal funding that is out there, the more funding that supports the department for students is always appreciated. Right now, that funding goes to our regional Inuit associations, but if there are ways and avenues through bilateral agreements or anything that will support Government of Nunavut students, we do look forward to that, if that is a possibility. I will talk to my colleagues about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've said it and I know many of my other colleagues have said it; there should be no student underserved trying to access post-secondary education. I've been very passionate about this topic and the minister brings up the reference to the regional Inuit organization funding, and I think it's shameful that some students are approved and some students are being denied, sometimes even within the same family. These students are struggling to make sure that they can meet their education responsibilities when they are in post-secondary institutions.

Mr. Speaker, I will reference back to that media article that came out, and in it, it mentioned that the Government of Nunavut was contacted to provide a response, but wasn't able to respond by the deadline.

Can the minister respond now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker and *quana* to the member for the question. In terms of working with our Inuit organization counterparts and the funding that is available and accessing that funding, I can say that it is our hope that we can work more collaboratively in terms of supporting students' needs. With the comprehensive review we have reached out to our stakeholders, including all of the RIAs and speaking to them about challenges and successes with post-secondary funding.

With that comprehensive review coming forward and with the recommendations, there are specific recommendations and support that we do hope to enhance. With that, Mr. Speaker, I can say that we will have a piece in there to talk about that support and ways that we can enhance that. I look forward to giving that information to, not just our member, but to all Nunavummiut in the future that we do want to see increased support for post-secondary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 529 – 6(2): Filling Environment Vacancies in Arviat

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends). I would like to revisit questioning the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, the minister stated that he has to get back to his staff because he can't commit to whether these positions would stay in Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister, these positions have been in Arviat since Nunavut, other than one, and if the minister can't commit to advertising these positions in Arviat, there seems to be a want to move these positions out of Arviat.

I will ask the minister again: will the minister commit to having these positions, the environment vacant positions, advertised in Arviat so that a person will be hired to do the job in Arviat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All three positions mentioned are not specialist positions and therefore will not be filled remotely. I believe they are on the housing waiting list prior to advertising, but as a department, we will have to confirm status of these competitions at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to nitpick, but the minister stated these will not be done remotely. Can I just get a commitment, a simple commitment, that these jobs are going to stay in Arviat; the vacant environment positions will be staying in Arviat? I am glad that they will not be done remotely, but can the minister commit and assure the House here, and Arviarmiut, that these positions will be in Arviat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In all honesty, that authority of removing positions from a community, I have no certain degree whether they could be advertised elsewhere and within the community, but I cannot fully commit right now. I will get back to the member with more detailed information at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The minister is the minister of the department. The minister will decide where a position is advertised. It is the minister's duty and responsibility; it is not another minister. It is the responsibility of the department's minister whether there are recommendations to move a job out of a community or to keep in the community. That role and responsibility is on the minister.

I am not sure if the minister is running the department, or if someone else is, but I will try one last time: will the minister commit to make sure that these vacant Environment positions in Arviat, and I will name them; the regional manager, wildlife deterrent specialist, and environmental protection officers, will stay in Arviat and a person will be hired to do this job in Arviat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been a minister for one month; that is nearly 30 days now. I'm in the learning stages, and I am committed to learning my role as a minister.

The trainee is dependent on the trainer, so the Department of Environment needs a regional manager, and once there is a regional manager, the trainee can be hired. That is the process. 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. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to Written Question 005 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut Funding Proposals Submitted to the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling a Return to Written Question 5 – 6(2), which was asked during the spring 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. Item 12. Reports of Standing Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 156 – 6(2): Conservation Economies in Nunavut - Aviqtuuq Case Study

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know I have raised the issue of the Niqihaqut Country Food processing facility and the proposed Aviqtuuq conservation area in Taloyoak a number of times in the House.

I wish to table today the *Conservation Economies in Nunavut: Aviqtuuq Case Study*. The document outlines the benefits of a conservation economy in Taloyoak. I encourage all members to review the document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

*See Appendix for full text of Return to Written Question 5 – 6(2).

**Tabled Document 157 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Justice
Concerning a Clare’s Law for Nunavut**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, I have been a strong and consistent advocate in Nunavut to introduce its own version of Clare’s Law. A number of Canadian jurisdictions have recently passed their own version of the statute, which is a tool that is designed to address the issue of intimate partner violence by allowing law enforcement to disclose an offender’s criminal history in this area.

I am very pleased to table a copy of correspondence on this issue that was signed by the Minister of Justice in response to Iqaluit City Council’s recent call for our government to introduce a similar law for the territory. Mr. Speaker, I will begin seeking a clear commitment from the responsible minister during the fall sitting to move forward and make real progress on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 158 – 6(2): Exchange of Correspondence with the Minister of
Finance Concerning Alcohol Education Committees**

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I am pleased to table a copy of my recent exchange of correspondence with the Minister of Finance concerning the important issue of support to alcohol education committees. I encourage all members to review the document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

**Tabled Document 159 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Health in
Response to Oral Question 436 – 6(2)****Tabled Document 160 – 6(2): Exchange of Correspondence with the Minister of
Justice Concerning Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence Review Committees**

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table today. Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, I asked a number of questions in the House during our recent spring sitting concerning the issue of public reporting of health data.

I am happy to table today a copy of the Minister of Health’s recent correspondence to me on this issue. The minister’s letter contains important information that will be of interest to all Members of the House, and I encourage all members to review it with care.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a copy of my recent exchange of correspondence with the Minister of Justice concerning the establishment of Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence Review Committees.

I will have questions for the minister on this important issue during our fall sitting and I encourage all members to review the document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Tabled Document 161 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Mayor of Iqaluit Concerning Seasonal Time Changes

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, I have been one of a number of Members of this Legislative Assembly who have been vocal about the need to end the outdated practice of seasonal time changes.

I am very pleased to table a copy of correspondence on this issue signed by the Mayor of Iqaluit on behalf of the entire city council, which has unanimously joined us on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I will again be seeking a clear commitment from the responsible minister on this issue during the fall sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Tabled Document 162 – 6(2): Exchange of Correspondence with the Minister of Finance and the Information and Privacy Commissioner Concerning Disclosure of Tax Information

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of my recent exchange of correspondence with the Minister of Finance and the Information and Privacy Commissioner concerning the issue of disclosure of tax information.

I will have questions for the minister on this issue during our fall sitting and I encourage all members to review the document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Tabled Document 163 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut's Katujjiluta Mandate Mid-term Report on the Highlights of Achievements, August 20, 2023

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Government of Nunavut's Katujjiluta Mandate Mid-term Report on the Highlights of Achievements, dated August 20, 2023. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 164 – 6(2): Emergency Measures Review 2021 Water Contamination Incident in Iqaluit, May 17, 2023

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table today the Emergency Measures Review 2021 Water Contamination Incident in Iqaluit, dated May 17, 2023. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Mr. Savikataaq.

Tabled Document 165 – 6(2): Submissions to the Standing Committee on Legislation Concerning Review of the Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to table the thickest document of everyone.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to table a consolidated set of written submissions received by the standing committee concerning its review of the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

On behalf of the standing committee, I thank all of the submitters for their contributions, which I encourage all members to review with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. I have five documents to table today.

Tabled Document 166 – 6(2): Declaration of Assent for Bills 13, 22, 24, and 25

Tabled Document 167 – 6(2): Report of the 2023 Electoral Boundaries Commission

Tabled Document 168 – 6(2): Correspondence from Mayor of Chesterfield Inlet to Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission

Tabled Document 169 – 6(2): Correspondence to the Speaker from Chairperson of the 2023 Electoral Boundaries Commission

Tabled Document 170 – 6(2): 2022-23 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth

The first document is the Commissioner of Nunavut's Declaration of Assent for Bills 13, 22, 24, and 25.

The second document is the Report of the 2023 Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission.

The third document is a copy of correspondence to the Speaker from the Chairperson of the 2023 Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission dated August 10, 2023.

The fourth document is a copy of correspondence to the Chairperson of the 2023 Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission from the Mayor of Chesterfield Inlet dated July 13, 2023.

The fifth document is the 2022-23 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth. Thank you.

Members, we have been having a long afternoon already. We will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:45 and resumed at 16:10

Speaker: Welcome back, everyone. Notices of Motions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 022 – 6(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days – Notice

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 23, 2023, I will be moving the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member of South Baffin, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the present sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

At the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Notices of Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Motion 023 – 6(2): Appointment of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut – Notice

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 23, 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 Ms. Katherine Peterson, K.C., be reappointed as Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut, effective October 23, 2023.

At the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Notices of Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Motion 024 – 6(2): Legislative Assembly Appointments and Revocations – Notice

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 23, 2023, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, that members be appointed to the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

Speaker: Notices of Motions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Motion 025 – 6(2): Extension of the Review of the Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act – Notice

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Monday, October 23, 2023, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, second by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that the period of time for the standing committee to review the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* be extended.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 26 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – Notice

Bill 28 – Opioid Damages and Health Care Cost Recovery Act – Notice

Bill 29 – An Act to Amend the Engineers and Geoscientists Act – Notice

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 20, 2023, that the following three bills will be read for the first time:

- Bill 26, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*;
- Bill 28, *Opioid Damages and Health Care Cost Recovery Act*; and
- Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Engineers and Geoscientists Act*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Bill 27 – An Act to Repeal the Area Development Act – Notice

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 20, 2023, that Bill 27, *An Act to Repeal the Area Development Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Bill 30 – An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act – Notice

Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025 – Notice

Bill 32 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2022-2023 – Notice

Bill 33 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2023-2024 – Notice

Bill 34 – Write-off of Assets Act, 2022-2023 – Notice

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 20, 2023, that the following five bills will be read for the first time:

- Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act*;
- Bill 31, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025*;
- Bill 32, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2022-2023*;
- Bill 33, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2023-2024*; and finally, Mr. Speaker,
- Bill 34, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2022-2023*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Bill 35 – An Act Respecting the Constituencies of Nunavut – Notice

Bill 36 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act – Notice

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Friday, October 20, 2023, I will move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 35, *An Act Respecting the Constituencies of Nunavut*, and Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act and the Plebiscites Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 16. Motions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement. Mr. Sammurtok, please proceed.

Motion 022 – 6(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the present sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with her motion today. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement. Ms. Brewster, please proceed.

Motion 023 – 6(2): Appointment of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 24 of the *Integrity Act* provides that the Integrity Commissioner is appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly to hold office for a term of five years during good behaviour;

AND WHEREAS the appointment of the present incumbent expires on October 23, 2023;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to recommend an appointment to this position;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Ms. Katherine Peterson, K.C., be reappointed as Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut, effective October 23, 2023.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>>*Applause*

Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement. Mr. Hickes, please proceed.

Motion 024 – 6(2): Legislative Assembly Appointments and Revocations

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly may establish such committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make appointments and revocations;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, that members be appointed to the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Joanna Quassa, Member for Aggu, be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, and the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Craig Simailak, Member for Baker Lake, be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development, and an alternate member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Adam Arreak Lightstone, Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Karen Nutarak, Member for Tununiq, be appointed a member of the Striking Committee;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the appointments of Joeline Kaermerk as a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, and the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development be revoked;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the appointments of Daniel Qavvik as a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development, the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges, the Striking Committee, and an alternate member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness be revoked.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement. Mr. Savikataaq, please proceed.

Motion 025 – 6(2): Extension of the Review of the Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 37 of the *Official Languages Act* and section 43 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* require the Legislative Assembly or a committee of the Legislative Assembly to review, on a periodic basis, the provisions and operations of the statutes;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly, by way of motion adopted at its sitting of November 7, 2022, referred this responsibility to the Standing Committee on Legislation;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee issued a public invitation for submissions earlier this year;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee recently held televised hearings at which a number of witnesses appeared;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee is presently giving careful consideration to the submissions that it has received;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that the period of time for the standing committee to review the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* be extended;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the standing committee report its findings and recommendations to the House on or before the last sitting day of the winter 2024 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation and the mover of the motion, I am pleased to take this opportunity to speak greatly in support of the motion before the House today.

Mr. Speaker, on November 7, 2022 this Assembly unanimously adopted a motion to refer the review of the Nunavut *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* to the Standing Committee on Legislation. The standing committee subsequently initiated its review and issued a public call for submissions, as well as invitations to a number of key stakeholders for their input.

Mr. Speaker, at the request of a number of outside entities, the deadline for submissions on the review of Nunavut's language legislation was extended. The committee was pleased to receive a number of written submissions as well as a few amended submissions received past the extended deadline. Members of the standing committee appreciate the level of thought and effort that was put into these submissions.

Mr. Speaker, in September, just a few weeks ago, we held close to a full week of televised hearings with Nunavut's key language stakeholders who presented their submissions to the committee. While the hearings were focused on the legislation under review, they also highlighted a number of issues facing Nunavut's language groups, language rights, and the role of languages in our society.

Mr. Speaker, this review should not be rushed. The standing committee needs adequate time to give full and comprehensive consideration to the submissions received and testimony heard concerning the status and the implementation of Nunavut's language laws.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the standing committee will be ready to submit its report to the House on the review of Nunavut's language legislation during our upcoming winter sitting.

I ask all members to support this motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the motion. The motion is in order. All in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the one-day notice required to allow for the first reading of Bill 31, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The minister is seeking consent to allow for the first reading of Bill 31 today. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is consent. Please proceed, Mr. Kusugak.

Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025 – First Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 31, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025 – Second Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 31, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 31 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 31 with Mr. Hickes in the Chair.

I ask members to remain in their desks so that we can immediately proceed to the Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Hickes): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following item to deal with: Bill 31. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence the review of the 2024-25 capital appropriation, commencing with the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 31?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. I do have witnesses that I would like to appear before you with me.

Chairman: Thank you. Just acknowledge the Chair at the end of your statement, please, minister.

Is the committee in agreement to allow the witnesses to appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you. Minister Joanasié, can you please introduce your witnesses and please proceed with your opening comments. Thank you.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thanks again, Mr. Chairman. It's my pleasure to join you here today to review the Department of Community and Government Services' capital estimates for 2024-25 as part of the proposed five-year capital plan covering the 2025 to 2029 period.

Joining me here today with me, to my left, to your right, is Kyle Seeley, Deputy Minister, and to my right, your left, Mandy Hickey, who is the Director of Financial Services.

Mr. Chairman, for the 2024-25 fiscal year, the Department of Community and Government Services is proposing a capital appropriation of \$157,139,000. The projects and initiatives identified within this proposal fall into two broad areas and they are:

- Investing in Community Infrastructure, and
- Enhancing Service Capacity

Investing in Community Infrastructure

Mr. Chairman, as our communities grow, so does the demand on aging municipal infrastructure. As part of my department's 2024-25 capital estimates, my department is proposing the following investments into community infrastructure:

- \$86,094,000 toward 12 projects that will improve drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities in seven communities.
- \$3,185,000 toward projects managed by the Department of Community of Government Services that will replace or improve municipal assets like hamlet offices, maintenance garages, and fire trucks.
- \$29,500,000 toward capital contribution programs that provide funding directly to municipalities to initiate and manage capital improvements to municipal assets.

Combined, these initiatives represent a total proposed capital investment of \$118,779,000 toward the projects and initiatives that enhance the quality of life in Nunavut communities and advance *Katujjiluta* priorities by ensuring critical assets in communities have the capacity to accommodate development.

Mr. Chairman, access to safe drinking water is a fundamental of community life. Critical infrastructure such as water treatment and distribution systems and wastewater management facilities are built to meet the capacity needs of communities and the regulations in place at the time of their construction. As communities grow and regulations change, so do the demands on our existing, aging infrastructure. In 2024-25 the Department of Community and Government Services proposes a focus of capital funding on the assets that are the foundation of the programs and services provided to Nunavummiut by municipalities and our territorial government.

Mr. Chairman, my department's proposed 2024-25 capital appropriation includes a total of \$86,094,000 toward improvements to water and wastewater treatment and transmission infrastructure in Nunavut's communities. These improvements are required to mitigate risks to community water security and to [ensure] the critical infrastructure that services homes, businesses, and public assets in Nunavut communities have the capacity to maintain services and accommodate expansion and growth under the *Katujjiluta* mandate.

These critical infrastructure projects in seven communities constitute approximately 55 percent of my department's 2024-25 proposed capital appropriation and include:

- Design of a modern water treatment plant to replace the current pump house in Arctic Bay.
- Start construction of a new water treatment plant in Grise Fiord.
- Start construction of a new wastewater treatment facility in Kinngait.
- Construction work to complete upgrades to the water intake in Kugluktuk.
- Finalize design and begin construction of a new water treatment plant in Pond Inlet.
- Finalize design and begin construction of a mechanical wastewater treatment plant in Rankin Inlet.
- Design and construction work to replace water and sewer mains in Rankin Inlet to ensure the local system can manage flow rates and additional demands due to development.
- Continued construction of a replacement of Nuvuk Sewage Lift Station in Rankin Inlet.
- Continued construction and renewal of local water and wastewater piping systems in Rankin Inlet.
- Proceed with the design and construction of a new water treatment plant in Rankin Inlet that will produce safe drinking water for the community and with sufficient capacity to meet volume and flow rate demands of new development.
- Continue the design and begin construction of a new water treatment plant in Sanikiluaq, capable of treating community's source water to meet drinking water standards.
- Continue design and begin construction work on new/upgraded lagoon to treat wastewater in Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Chairman, members will note my department's proposed 2024-25 capital appropriation includes a series of five water and wastewater projects totalling \$40,447,000 all located in Rankin Inlet. Combined, these projects constitute over 25 percent of my department's total proposed capital appropriation request for 2024-25. These projects have been prioritized to ensure the Rankin Inlet utilidor system, owned and operated by the Government of Nunavut, continues to function consistently with sufficient capacity to meet the current and expanding needs of the community.

Mr. Chairman, in addition to water and wastewater projects, my department's 2024-25 capital appropriation proposes an additional \$3,185,000 capital investment into municipal infrastructure in the following areas:

- Construction work to upgrade the Kinngait Maintenance Garage.
- Warranty cost associated with the new hamlet office in Sanikiluaq.
- Replacement of community fire trucks in Qikiqtarjuaq and Arctic Bay as they reach the end of their lifecycle.

Mr. Chairman, beyond these projects managed on behalf of municipalities by the department, Community and Government Services is committed to building capacity within local governments. In 2024-25 Community and Government Services is proposing additional investment into programs and projects managed by municipalities in the following areas:

- \$1 million toward the Municipal Green Infrastructure Program. This program was introduced in 2019 and provides a dedicated source of funding for municipally led projects to address climate mitigation and adaptation needs in Nunavut's municipalities.
- \$8 million toward the Municipal Parking Garage Program, which we're in the second year, and for the third year of this program, it would provide municipalities with a guided model to plan, design, and ultimately construct their own parking garages. Nine communities submitted proposals for funding toward different phases of the program prior to the April 2023 proposal deadline.
- \$5.5 million toward the Mobile Equipment Funding Program which provides ongoing annual block funding to non-tax-based municipalities toward the management of their Municipal Mobile Equipment Program.
- \$9 million toward the City of Iqaluit to support infrastructure improvements in water, wastewater, roads, and general operations. Pending approval of the Assembly, this will be the first year of a five-year agreement of block funding with the city to ensure the city has capacity to enhance core infrastructure to provide municipal services.
- \$1 million toward the Granular Crushing Equipment Program to ensure each municipality has access to crushing equipment to produce granular supply to support new capital projects and operational improvements in Nunavut communities.
- \$5 million towards a new program to ensure that municipal projects, essential to the delivery of local government services, proceed through the planning and design stages without delay.

Enhancing Service Capacity

Mr. Chairman, in addition to the support provided to municipalities, the Department of Community and Government Services provides a variety of services to other Government of Nunavut departments and, ultimately, Nunavummiut. As part of my department's

2024-25 capital estimates, my department is proposing investments to ensure the department can maintain and enhance service delivery to departments, communities, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, combined, these initiatives represent a total proposed capital investment of \$38,360,000 to ensure the Department of Community and Government Services can maintain service delivery to Nunavummiut, communities, and client departments.

Mr. Chairman, in 2024-25 my department is proposing the following capital investments to support ongoing enhancements to service delivery:

- Design and construction funding toward establishing an undersea fibre link connecting Nunavut to southern Canada. A request for proposals was advertised by the department in June 2022 and closed in September 2022. The department did not receive any bids within the approved budget and is currently pursuing alternative funding sources and reviewing scope of the project.
- Approval of this funding will ensure the department can proceed with this project to enhance the delivery of critical services, including health, education, and justice, to all Nunavummiut.
- \$5 million in 2024-25 toward lifecycle replacements and equipment upgrades in the Local Area Network and Data Centres information technology and systems provide the framework that supports the work of the Government of Nunavut and services to Nunavummiut.
- \$4 million towards the Tenant Improvement Fund.
- \$8.7 million in 2024-25 toward small capital projects managed by the department or municipalities in the following areas:
 - Building and Equipment Upgrades – a total of \$2.1 million toward upgrades and repairs to Community and Government Services facilities to ensure ongoing operation and regulatory compliance.
 - Fleet Vehicles – a total of \$500,000 to purchase new or replacement vehicles used by staff to conduct maintenance checks, deliver programs, site visits, and address emergency situations.
 - Petroleum Products Small Capital – a total of \$1 million toward fuel storage and distribution upgrades managed by the Petroleum Products Division.
 - Municipal Capital Block Funding – a total of \$3 million allocated to non-tax based municipalities toward small capital projects planned and managed by the municipalities. This funding is designated for municipalities; however, it is identified within the department’s overall proposed small capital budget.

- Municipal Studies and Projects – a total of \$2.1 million to react to emerging municipal infrastructure issues, to conduct the necessary studies mandated by public health and environmental regulators, and to initiate studies to improve water and waste program delivery.
- \$3 million towards demolition and remediation of surplus buildings.

Mr. Chairman, members will recognize that the development of capital projects requires detailed research and long-term planning. As part of the Department of Community and Government Services' 2024-25 capital estimates, the department is proposing \$1.5 million toward planning Government of Nunavut capital projects.

Mr. Chairman, projects identified with the Department of Community and Government Services' capital estimates for 2024-25 demonstrate our commitment to meeting the critical infrastructure needs of Nunavut's communities and for the second consecutive year, an increased investment into projects managed by municipalities. These projects also demonstrate our ongoing commitment to enhancing the Government of Nunavut's core infrastructure to support service delivery to departments and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to present the projects proposed within the Department of Community and Government Services' 2024-25 capital estimates, and it will be my pleasure to take any questions alongside my officials here today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2024-25 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services.

The department's proposed capital budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year is \$157,139,000.

The department's proposed 2024-25 capital estimates include \$1.5 million in funding for planning studies. Members continue to encourage the minister to begin the practice of tabling, on an annual basis, detailed information concerning the status of ongoing and completed planning studies. Members also encourage the minister to begin the practice of tabling, on an annual basis, detailed information concerning the status of integrated community sustainability plans.

On March 28, 2018 the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut announced the signing of a bilateral agreement under the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. The announcement indicated that Nunavut will receive up to \$566,761,621 over the ten-year period of 2018-2028. The agreement's end date is March 31, 2028.

On August 12, 2021 the federal Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs announced that "...\$517.8 million is available for shovel-ready infrastructure projects for Inuit communities. This funding will help close the infrastructure gaps by 2030." The extent to which the Government of Nunavut is working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami to identify specific projects remains unclear.

On June 15, 2023 the chairperson of the Council of the Federation sent correspondence to the Prime Minister of Canada concerning the replacement of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The letter indicated that the position of provincial and territorial Premiers is that the federal government should provide "block infrastructure transfers."

The department's proposed 2024-25 capital estimates include funding for the government's planned fibre infrastructure project. On August 19, 2019 the federal Minister of Rural Economic Development announced that the Government of Canada is "...investing over \$151.0 million in this project under the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan."

On June 8, 2022 the department issued Request for Proposals 2022-38: Katittuq Nunavut Fibre Undersea Fibre Optic Cable System. The request for proposals closed on September 16, 2022. Information published by the government indicates that the procurement process was subsequently cancelled and that no award was made. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this work, as well as updates on the status of the government's application to the federal Universal Broadband Fund.

The department's proposed 2024-25 capital estimates include funding for a new Granular Crushing Equipment Funding Program. Members strongly support initiatives to enhance granular supply and security in Nunavut's communities.

On May 29, 2023 the Minister of Community and Government Services tabled the Government of Nunavut Drinking Water Strategic Framework in the Legislative Assembly. Members remain concerned about the frequency of boil water advisories and other water quality situations in a number of communities. The department's proposed 2024-25 capital estimates include funding for a number of water-related capital projects in a number of communities.

The department has issued a number of requests for proposals in recent years for solid waste management feasibility studies for a number of communities. On March 29, 2022 the department issued Request for Proposals 2022-18-1: Business Case for Solid Waste Facility Upgrades. The request for proposals closed on April 26, 2022. A contract to perform this work was awarded to Dillon Consulting on August 4, 2022. The request for proposals concerned the 13 communities that are included in Solid Waste Bundles 1 to 3. The department's current business plan indicates that its Community Infrastructure Division "continues to support stakeholders in the development of a solid waste strategy...[however], further progress on this project is delayed due to capacity restraints

held by partner stakeholders.” Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this work.

The department’s proposed 2024-25 capital estimates include funding for its Municipal Parking Garage Program, its Municipal Mobile Equipment Program and Municipal Green Infrastructure Program. Members continue to encourage the minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on the department’s expenditures and initiatives under these programs.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2024-25 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Just before I go on to the committee, I would just like to get clarification from the minister on the opening comments on page 7. The third bullet speaks to \$5 million towards a new program to ensure that municipal projects go through the planning and design stages without delay. I have been looking through the substantiation sheets and I don’t see anything on that budget item. I’m just wondering if maybe I’m missing something. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: If you will give me a second.

My apologies, Mr. Chairman. This is a new funding request through my department and the committee does not have a copy of the substantiation sheets. I apologize but we are going to come forward with that. We are requesting \$5 million for local government priorities, and this is to support design funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you. I have a couple of questions on that, a comment I guess. When I look at the substantiation sheet, it’s got other small capital vehicle. It’s got that as design funding of government priorities of \$8.5 million. Then it’s got a planning studies line of \$1.5 million. That’s \$10 million for planning and design. I’d like to get a little more clarification in addition to when we can expect the substantiation sheet on the \$5 million we are being asked to approve in here. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did share correspondence through the Chairman as late as October 13. I recall there was a letter sent out. We will have to make sure that everyone has a copy of this. There are some details around this.

In addition to your question on planning, there are extra funds around planning for different projects, but we are trying to lay it out line by line so that it’s clear which planning funds are dedicated to what. Yes, we can seek clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, and I am sure during proceedings that it will clarify for me, but finally, when can we expect the substantiation sheet on the \$5 million request? Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have to double check. I am pretty sure it went out to everyone, but we will provide the details. If not later today, before we deal with our budget in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. We just received a copy of it. I'll now go to and general comments to the opening comments. Seeing none, we'll proceed to page J-3, Local Government Services requesting \$90,879,000. I'll give members a moment to get to that page in their capital binder. Again, Local Government Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will start off with some questions on the opening comments.

On page 6 on the top there, the second bullet, warranty costs associated with the new hamlet office in Sanikiluaq. I want an explanation on that, how that works, why there is a cost as opposed to We buy a new vehicle or new ATV and the warranty is covered by the manufacturer. If you can explain to the committee how warranty costs will be held by the government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The warranty costs are covered to allow the contractor to operate the facility, usually for a one-year period, to make sure it is running efficiently as planned and to make sure there are no deficiencies. That is the warranty phase associated costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for explaining to the committee members here.

Sticking with the opening comments, on page 7 in the top it says "\$9 million toward the City of Iqaluit to support infrastructure." Just so we'll have a clear picture of the total funding, I know that it's gone up to \$9 million, but how much does the City of Iqaluit get in grant in lieu of taxes in a yearly basis? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you. It's around the tune of \$6 million that this government pays the City for grants in lieu of tax. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that roughly \$6 million including the grant in lieu of taxes upon the new deep sea port, or is that above that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wouldn't have that level of detail. I can commit to coming back to the committee on that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the minister commit to giving us that number whether it includes the \$6 million? Can the minister elaborate on, just for the general knowledge of the committee members, how the grant in lieu of taxes are calculated and roughly how much will the new port increase the amount that is currently paid? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you. Just to clarify, the grant in lieu of tax the government pays is for the assets that are online. Any facility that we use within the City, there is a cost associated. If I can have my deputy dive into the minute details on what the member is asking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Please proceed, Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The grants in lieu of taxes program is contemplated under our operations and maintenance budget. That amount is calculated annually by the City based on the total footprint of GN assets located within the City of Iqaluit, as our only tax-based municipality.

Each of the different types of assets is taxed at different rates based on our Grants in Lieu of Property Taxes policy, which is visible online. We would be happy to share it with members. That's calculated based on the City's annual mill rate. We receive an assessment, not unlike any other property owner in the community, where our footprint and our operational footprint of GN assets operated in the City of Iqaluit go up, so does the amount of our grants in lieu of taxes.

Where new assets are coming online, that's typically calculated forward into our ongoing operations and maintenance budget, which we explored this winter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that, Mr. Seeley. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for providing that information. Staying with the it, on the opening comments on page 8, the first bullet says "Design and construction funding toward establishing an Undersea Fibre Link connecting Nunavut to southern Canada." We all know that the request for proposal was issued and it was cancelled.

On the very last sentence, it says the "The Department did not receive any bids within the approved budget and is currently pursuing alternative funding sources and reviewing

scope of the project. Can the minister explain to us, on the scope of the project, are they going to have less communities on there, or exactly what this review the scope of the project mean? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Katittuq Fibre Project, yes we absolutely had put out a request for proposals, it was not successful and we are trying to find alternative funding source to support going forward with the project as we had prepared it and then due diligence on.

There are high specifications that we got and the scope involves many aspects of laying the fibre and having landing points and how many communities are we trying to get here, but right now it is Iqaluit that is the target and so we trying to see if there are adjustments we can make within the scope of the project, how big it is and trying to find a way forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity then, for review scope of the project, is the new project going to be just fibre only for Iqaluit? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This project that we have come back here for funding has always been to link Iqaluit with Milton.

As far as we have gone with this, it is dealt to connect Iqaluit which has the biggest bandwidth use in the entire territory, so logically it makes sense to link up Iqaluit first so that is still the plan.

If there is any changes to that, of course we will come back to the House and get the members of the legislative assembly involved in this going forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it has always just been Iqaluit and you are reviewing the scope of work, can the minister explain to us how the scope of work is going to differ? Is it a smaller cable coming in, is there less information going to come through? If we can just get a clear explanation.

If Iqaluit was always the only community that was always going to be hooked up because it uses the most and I do not have a problem with that because that is true, but how is the scope of work going to change when there was only one community and there is still

going to be only one community how is that going to change the scope of work? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you. I am not going to get into how big the cable, the fibre is. It can use a certain amount of bandwidth and if we reduce the size it could be to do with that, but I think maybe if you will have my deputy because on the technical side of things, like, there are many things at play with regard to this project.

The scope of work has many specialized parts to it that we can look at adjusting. Perhaps if you will allow my deputy to elaborate, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Go ahead, Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. The process of de-scoping a project is not an unusual one where cost is a constraint. In this particular case, with the nature of the fibre line we are pretty much convinced the length is going to remain the same.

The de-scoping process would be reducing the number of components included within the tender and working separately on things, as the minister mentioned earlier. Things like landing sites, the horizontal drilling work that needs to happen, some of the commercialization work, I think that that might be an O&M, but some of the contract services involved in the capital piece, purchasing the cable versus the laying of the cable, and some of the geotechnical work that's assigned as part of the actual installation of the cable. Pieces of that can be separated out into separate RFPs. It's not an unusual process.

However, the routing of the Katittuq project remains consistent with what's contained within the project approved here in the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if the minister can give us this information or not, but what was the difference in between the budgeted amount and the tenders that came in? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can share that the approved budget we have to date is \$209,500,000. This includes \$54,500,000 through the Government of Nunavut and the remaining \$155 million is through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the minister didn't hear my other half, or I was not clear. I asked the minister; I said I don't know if he's allowed to share it, what the difference was between the budget amount he said is \$209.5 million and what the tender came in at. What was the shortfall amount? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this is still a live exercise where we are still trying to proceed with this project and if we're going to get into that, I think that would compromise our... Trying to move forward within our budgetary measures. I think it's a question that falls outside of the scope at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I find that odd, that they said they are still pursuing. There was only one submitter. So the minister is stating that they are having negotiations after cancelling the tender with the one proponent that did put a tender in? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you. Just to clarify, the tender has closed and it's been cancelled. However, we are still trying to pursue this project forward and trying to find the right vendor for it. If we are going to say publicly how much a bid came in at over, I think that's... Of course, we have to respect the market out there. I think we'll leave it at that for now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did say I don't know if the minister could share that in the beginning, so I understand that. The minister's position on this then... if there was only one submitter, and it came in over budget and with the inflation costs and all the other stuff that every tender seems to go higher and higher, what are the odds that this project will actually go ahead? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a separate application in for additional funding to try to cover for the shortfall, but in terms of my opinion on this, I think that's not what we're here for. Mr. Chairman, we are trying to proceed with this and I have my officials and they are fully committed to try to bring it forward and get Nunavut connected to fibre. Whether we see it in this life of the government or not, I think we will continue pushing forward and we hope to have fibre in Nunavut as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I believe the member asked you of your position, not your opinion. Just to clarify for the record, he is entitled to ask you for your position. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can get the minister to update the committee here on... I know they had put in another proposal to do another fibre optic funding from the south through Hudson Bay to connect the Kivalliq communities on up to Iqaluit here. If we can get an update on that project, whether they have heard back from their funding application and where that is at. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do have separate phases to try to link up different communities and the funding towards the Universal Broadband Fund through Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. There have been signals around and favourable to our proposals and we want to also try to leverage those funds as well to, again, try to link as many communities as we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand about want to link up as many communities you can, but I asked the minister for an update, like have they heard back whether their application was rejected, being reviewed, got the approval; if we can get an update. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Just before I go to Minister Joanasie, I'm going to ask all members to mute your phones; even the vibration comes through on the microphones quite loudly, to do a full mute, please. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you. As far as today, we have nothing signed. We have been getting signals around that are favourable to our application, but nothing has been formalized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll leave this just as a comment. It's good to hear that because if the fibre optic came from the south and through the Kivalliq underwater cable, we would connect a whole lot more communities on the route to get here. I'm encouraged that they're getting good signals and I hope they get a favourable response and I encourage the minister to do his darnedest to get a good, favourable response and actual signed documents saying that they will fund the project. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I currently don't have any names on my list, but if I can just get clarification. It has been brought up in the past of third party entities wanting to get into

this, to use their funds to put fibre projects forward in the territory, Inuit orgs and other private entities that have expressed interest in pursuing this.

I have asked about it a number of times and other members have asked about it, but we have never received a clear response from the government on why they're not interested in going that route and they're adamant on using Government of Nunavut funds to bring fibre into the territory through some of these challenges of procurement.

I would just like to get the minister's position on why those other alternatives are not being explored or have they been explored and discounted and, if so, why. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government of Nunavut has entered a non-disclosure agreement with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated around if there is something to pursue on fibre, but beyond that, I think we're trying to look at as many options as we can. In light of having gone out through the RFP process which hasn't been successful to date, we're trying to remain open-minded around how we might be able to do things differently. We haven't closed the door on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to start off with some very general questions. First, I would like to congratulate the Government of Nunavut on putting forward yet another record-breaking capital estimate of \$255 million in Vote 2, plus \$192 million in third party agreements under Vote 4. That's coming to \$548 million in these capital estimates. When that's coupled with the \$164 million carryover, the total capital spending for the upcoming fiscal year will be \$712 million.

I don't have any issue with approving capital estimate requests as long as they are realistic and achievable. As our construction is coming to an end and slowing down, I would like to ask: how achievable is it to actually \$700 million in one fiscal year on capital projects and would the minister be able to provide an update on how much the Government of Nunavut was able to spend in the current fiscal year's capital budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and for the question. Mr. Chairman and committee, we are trying to get quite a few projects done as well as introducing new ones. On top of that, with the amount of funding or investments that we're putting in, if you will allow me, I'll have my deputy talk about how much we have been able to spend within the fiscal year on capital because there are elements to that as well on the project management side of things that are at play, if you will allow, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess just two pieces to that question, the first one being that just the number and size and scale of the projects approved within the current capital plan are going to be directly linked to how big our carryovers are. Just the increase in the capital plan, the risk of a larger carryover every year increases as well.

The question about carryovers and what they are this year or what our cash flows are this year, we are just wrapping up the outdoor construction season for the year. The bills wouldn't have been reconciled just yet, but I can say that we have seen substantial progress on some very large-scale projects, including the long-term care centre in Rankin Inlet and the hamlet office in Sanikiluaq are two very good examples. The money is being spent to advance those projects.

As we move through the planning and design phases of the approvals, we do see that most of our carryovers are tied to construction, as the members pointed out. We will see those bills coming in later in the fiscal year, probably closer to the end of the winter session, to give us a better idea of what those carryovers are going to look like, but definitely as the projects proceed, the money is spent and that's going to drive those carryovers down. When things are built, money is spent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for those responses. Maybe that's something I'll pick up at a later date.

With the size of the capital estimates, how many different projects are included in these capital estimates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For Community and Government Services, we have, I'm going to say, close to 30 projects through different line items within. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As CGS is responsible for carrying out these capital projects, I guess I wasn't specific enough. I was curious: in total, in the entire capital estimates across the GN, how many different projects are included in these capital estimates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: My apologies, Mr. Chairman. Right now I'm putting forward my department's budget and we do have a summary sheet of our department, so every department has their summary sheets that list each project that they have on the go or

introducing. I don't know if it's my job to present that to you. Maybe I'll ask the Chair for some guidance on this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: I'll defer to Mr. Lightstone; he's the one asking the question. I think, maybe to clarify or if you're sufficient with the response, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will move on to another subject. Almost every year I have asked this question with regard to offsetting any operational and incremental costs associated with major capital projects. I would like to ask: of all these projects that are included in the capital estimates, how many have incorporated alternative energy projects in the scope of work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you. Through our department, when we're initiating a new project that's through the planning phase, there are studies done around having energy efficiency or renewable energy incorporated. It doesn't automatically mean that each project; it depends on the... Each project is looked at on a case-by-case basis, whether or not to include renewable energy. Right now I don't think I know of any that have a component built into what we're presenting now in this budget, but there are studies done, leading up to when we're trying to build a new hamlet office in Sanikiluaq, as an example, and I think Taloyoak School or another one where energy audits are conducted to see what the cost benefit would be around that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to admit, I am disappointed in the response.

During the last day of the spring sitting, I thought I sent a very strong and clear message about the government's and cabinet's fiduciary responsibility in ensuring the long term benefit of expending public funds. With CGS paying somewhere in the range of \$40 million a year in electricity costs, and that, I am sure is going to increase heftily with the new power rates being charged to the government, I am very disappointed that again, another year has gone by, and again, another year where there are no major capital projects that are incorporating these alternative energy aspects into the scope of the design work.

I am just very disappointed. That is all I can say.

You had mentioned that there is some sort of cost benefit analysis done in the planning studies, and last year the minister had made a commitment to provide the committee with some information on those cost benefit analyses that were conducted last year. I don't think that that information was provided to the committee.

I would like to ask the minister to commit, once again, to provide details on the projects that included a cost benefit analysis of including alternative energy into the scope during the planning and design phase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I recall, I think we shared it with the member, but we would be willing to share with the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. If I may, I would like to follow-up a little bit on Mr. Lightstone's question.

If the information has already been shared; again, I hate assuming anything, but I would like to assume that the minister may have a little bit of information further, to detail the cost benefit analysis and what goes into looking at whether to provide alternative energy sources. There are different things other than just costs that are associated with type of infrastructure addition. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Yes, thank you. Yes, just on top of that, my department does try to look at what is available there, but also keeping in mind what our fiscal capacities are.

There are many things to consider. If you will allow, maybe my deputy can provide a bit more detail, but again, we will provide the committee with some further details as to what has been circulated already. Thank you; if you will allow, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I think there are a couple of pieces to this puzzle.

The first one is the existing number of assets owned and operated by the Government of Nunavut, and the utility costs, and the carbon footprint that come with operating them.

We do have multiple programs in place; quite effective ones called the "Nunavut Energy Management Program," and what that is, is a series of retrofits to existing buildings to improve the energy efficiency and the reduced carbon footprint. There are things like: replacing florescent bulbs with LED bulbs, and things like that; replacing windows and things like that. So that is improving the energy efficiency within the existing assets.

That program; the North Baffin and the South Baffin components of that program have been and I believe that it's moving into the Kivalliq, with next steps over in the Kitikmeot to reduce our overall energy expenditures within the GN's existing assets.

Looking forward to some of the new construction projects being contemplated in the plan, those new projects are being built to a very high energy standard because of the

long-term return on investment that that does provide the government. That in itself, building more energy-efficient buildings with energy-efficient windows that maximize solar heating in the spring and reduce drafts and things like that in the winter, those are just some of the basic steps within the design to maximize energy efficiency in new construction.

As far as adding on alternative energy, solar panels or wind, onto new construction, the energy audit is considered through the planning phase and into design to make sure that the local diesel grid will sustain the operation of the asset and in addition to that, whether or not an alternative source can be incorporated into the design to reduce the overall carbon footprint of that building in the long term.

There are a couple of barriers to that in design and construction and ongoing operation of those systems in the north. Solar clearly has its seasonal limitations here in the north as well as requiring a very large footprint. In addition, those systems do have some fairly complex technical requirements that need to be addressed in integrating into a diesel grid like the one that we currently operate on here in Nunavut.

The second bit to that is regulatory. As far as alternative government producers, over a certain kilowatt limit feeding back into the QEC grid, there are challenges that we're going to need to overcome. Right now our design standards are focusing on energy improvements. We do look forward to incorporating alternative energy development technology in future designs of GN assets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just one final before I go on to Mr. Simailak, when we talk about, you had mentioned carbon offsets and as everyone is very well aware, carbon taxes have been continuously increasing year by year. Has the department ever submitted a proposal to access carbon tax revenues to help offset some of the capital costs of adding alternative energy opportunities to major infrastructure projects? Fiscal awareness has been mentioned as a factor. Well, if we can take that out of the capital costs and bring it in through other measures to help offset those costs, I'm just wondering if the department has ever considered an initiative like that. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Municipal Green Infrastructure Fund, the \$1 million that we started in 2019, is exactly that, to help offset the carbon footprint for municipally owned assets. They can apply for funds on a year-to-year basis to include solar panels or other components to reduce their costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. I realize that for municipal projects, but for major infrastructure projects that are going on by the Government of Nunavut, again, there has been quite a lack of proposals to help utilize carbon tax revenues and now we have gone to a point where we're just giving it to everybody, not based on any other criteria than you live in Nunavut. It doesn't matter how much carbon you burn; everyone gets the same amount. To me, if we can look at initiatives that will help reduce the utility costs of

the Government of Nunavut, it frees up more resources to be able to put more program delivery out. I'll leave that as a comment and I'll go on to Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and your officials.

Based on your opening comments, you mentioned \$86,094,000 towards 12 projects that will improve drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities in seven communities, I'm wondering, can you please clarify: is this to meet national standards and, if not, which ones too are not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$86,094,000 towards improving drinking water and wastewater facilities in seven communities, it's to allow standards for water treatment facilities that are set by the provincial or territorial authorities and in our case here in Nunavut, these are set through the Department of Health and the Canadian drinking water quality guidelines, which are national guidelines and adopted at the discretion of provincial and territorial regulators, so Health being the regulator of drinking water, the standards are not yet updated since before division. However, our water treatment facilities typically do meet the current Nunavut standards of regulation.

Further to that, in anticipation of the Department of Health updating Public Health Regulations to better reflect the national guidelines, almost all water treatment plants in Nunavut will require either replacement or upgrading and we are prioritizing projects based on the age and condition of the current facility and the ability to treat water effectively. A lot of work needs to go and we're trying to keep up to the standards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister mentioned the Department of Health and them working on updating the regulations and you mentioned anticipating. Does he know when that's going to happen? Is it this fiscal year or are you trying to prepare well in advance in multiple years from now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't say for certain, but we are working with Health on when those would come online for. We're preparing as though and of course, once we do upgrade or replace water treatment facilities, it's to the highest standards that we can get and they meet the guidelines for the Canadian drinking water quality that's set nationally. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It sounds like the minister is talking about two different things at the same time. He's saying that he's anticipating the Department of Health updating regulations, but it sounds like they're already following Canada's standards. Can he please clarify which one he's following? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The guidelines for the Canadian drinking water quality, they're national guidelines and so they can be adopted at the discretion of each provincial or territorial regulator. Right now, the Department of Health is the regulator and we're meeting what they have set as the standards from since before division. That was when they were last updated, so we're working with that right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on for now. Still regarding your opening comments, you mention \$9 million towards the City of Iqaluit to support infrastructure improvements in water, wastewater, roads, and general operations, but going by memory, just last year, April 2022, the federal government did announce \$214 million to go to the City of Iqaluit. The Prime Minister was actually quoted as saying that the funding will give Iqalumiut accessible clean drinking water for years to come. Does it mean that the \$214 million from the federal government is still not enough? Is that why you're asking for an addition \$5 million a year for five years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The federal announcement, the \$200 million plus for the water infrastructure, was something specific for the city on one of their pieces of infrastructure that they manage themselves. The \$9 million that we're requesting through this Assembly is a capital block funding agreement that we're proposing to increase. We've had a block funding agreement in place for four or five years, which was at a \$4 million per year basis. Now we're proposing that it be \$9 million to support the city's operations. They have authority on how to spend this budget to serve the city on their municipal services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. I do have more questions, but noticing the time, I would like to request to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and it's not subject to debate. All those in favour. Motion carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Speaker: Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hickes.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 31 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Is there a seconder? Ms. Brewster.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. There are none. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the MSB meets at 6:15 in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for October 20:

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 26
- Bill 27
- Bill 28
- Bill 29
- Bill 30
- Bill 32
- Bill 33
- Bill 34
- Bill 35
- Bill 36

18. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 31

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Friday, October 20, at 9 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:56*

Appendix – October 19, 2023



Return to Written Question

Asked by: Adam Arreak Lightstone, MLA Iqaluit-Manirajak

Asked of: The Honourable Margaret Nakashuk, Minister of Human Resources

Number: Written Question 5-6(2)

Date: June 1, 2023

Subject: Government of Nunavut Funding Proposals Submitted to the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation

Question:

1. What funding proposals were submitted to the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation by the Government of Nunavut's departments, public agencies, and territorial corporations during each of the following fiscal years:

- a. 2016-2017;
- b. 2017-2018;

- c. 2018-2019;
- d. 2019-2020;
- e. 2020-2021;
- f. 2021-2022;
- g. 2022-2023; and
- h. 2023-2024 (to date)?

2. What was the stated purpose of each funding proposal listed in response to question #1?
3. What was the amount requested in each funding proposal listed in response to question #1?
4. Which funding proposals were approved, in whole or in part, by the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation's board of directors?
5. Which funding proposals were rejected by the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation's board of directors?

Responses to 1-5

Proposal Submitted to Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation (Question 1)	Submitting Government of Nunavut Department/ Public Agency/ Territorial Corporation (Question 1)	Year Submitted (Question 1)	Stated Purpose of Funding Proposal (Question 2)	Amount Requested (Question 3)	Proposal Status: Approved or Rejected by Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation's Board of Directors (Questions 4 and 5)
Public Administration Certificate	Human Resources	2021-2022	To deliver an accredited post-secondary Public Administration Certificate to Nunavut Inuit Government of Nunavut employees, with the goal of	\$1,650,000	Withdrawn by the Government of Nunavut because Makigiaqta advised that they would only fund 30% of

			increasing the number of Inuit in management positions		program costs, following Makigiaqta's new Partnership Program Policy
Public Policy Certificate	Human Resources	2021-2022	To deliver an accredited post-secondary Public Policy Certificate to Nunavut Inuit Government of Nunavut employees, with the goal of increasing the number of Inuit in senior-level policy and similar positions	\$1,650,000	Withdrawn by the Government of Nunavut because Makigiaqta advised that they would only fund 30% of program costs, following Makigiaqta's new Partnership Program Policy
Policy Training Series	Human Resources	2021-2022	To deliver an existing, customized professional development program (focusing on policy-making in Nunavut and the role of policy in government) to a cohort of Nunavut Inuit Government of Nunavut employees, with the goal of increasing the number of Inuit in senior-level policy and similar positions	\$267,500	Withdrawn by the Government of Nunavut because Makigiaqta advised that funding is only available for proposals less than \$250,000 (under Makigiaqta's new Contribution Program Policy) or over \$1,000,000 (under Makigiaqta's new Partnership Program Policy)

Policy Program Internship	Health	2021-2022	To provide current and/or future Nunavut Inuit Government of Nunavut employees with an opportunity to gain on-the-job experience in policy positions complemented by professional development and/or formal training in policy, with the goal of increasing the number of Inuit in policy positions	\$1,702,936	Proposal placed on hold by the Government of Nunavut because Makigiaqta recommended that it be resubmitted under Makigiaqta's new Quvarriarniq Program Policy (under development at the time)
Pathfinder Program	Nunavut Arctic College	2021-2022	To expand the delivery of the Nunavut Teacher Education program to additional communities and students until the end of the 2026 academic year; to support curriculum development including the Uqariuqsatittijit Language Specialist Diploma; to enhance recruitment and retention of Inuit students through engagement and provision of wrap-around supports, with the goal of increasing the number of Inuit in teaching positions	\$12,400,000 from Makigiaqta (please note that the Pathfinder Program is also receiving approximately \$12 million in funding from the Nunavut Implementation Panel and approximately \$42 million in funding from the Government of Canada's	Approved (September 2021)

				Department of Heritage)	
Practical Nurse Program	Nunavut Arctic College	2021-2022	To expand the delivery of the Practical Nurse Program in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Iqaluit, with the goal of increasing the number of Inuit in nursing positions	\$1,707,594 from Makigiaqta (please note that the Pre-Health and Practical Nurse Program is also receiving approximately \$4 million in funding from the Nunavut Implementation Panel)	Approved (August 2022)