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Official Report

DAY 1

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Tony Akoak, MLA

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)

*Minister of Environment; Minister of Justice;
Minister responsible for Labour*

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

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

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

*Premier; Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible
for Immigration; Minister responsible for
Indigenous Affairs; Minister responsible for the
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Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)

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Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic
College*

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the
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Minister of Human Resources;
Minister responsible for the Workers'
Safety and Compensation
Commission*

Hon. Joanna Quassa
(Aggu)

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

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

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*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
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Hon. David Joanasic
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Solomon Malliki
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 22, 2022**

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Quassa. Welcome, everyone. As this is our last day of the sitting, I thank you.

(interpretation ends) Item 2. Opening Address. Mr. Clerk, will you please ascertain if the Commissioner is prepared to enter the Chamber to deliver the opening address.

Item 2: Opening Address

Commissioner Eva Qamaniq Aariak
(interpretation): Members, please be seated. Good afternoon. I will try to read slowly.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, Nunavut was created by Inuit unwilling to accept the status quo, visionaries who saw opportunity when others despaired, trailblazers who managed to achieve agreement when the cards were unfairly stacked.

Nunavut was created by Inuit who wanted to protect and promote their way of life, language, and heritage, visionaries who achieved a unique and historic agreement that secured Inuit rights and benefits.

Perseverance, courage, resilience, and hope define our people. As we embark on devolution, the next chapter in our territory, we must rely on these strengths to work towards a common good and a better Nunavut for our children. This is who we are; this is how we prevail.

>>*Applause*

Towards Living with COVID-19

I will now be speaking about living with COVID-19.

Congratulations to each of you for inspiring the trust of Nunavummiut. As new and returning Members of the Legislative Assembly you stand as the living legacy of our territory's founders. As they shaped our past, you shape our future.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation ends) Every decade has its historic landmarks, moments when the world unites to face uncertainty.

In the past month we have heard the drums of war with the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. These threats of aggression lurk at our arctic borders. We sympathize with Ukraine and send our support.

Over the past two years, we have endured the daunting reality of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have lived while social distancing from loved ones, we have worked remotely from home, and we have greeted each other through masks. We mourn our losses and triumph in our recoveries.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly, you were elected a month before our territory was hit with a new wave of infections and the Omicron variant which spread through our communities at an unprecedented rate.

What COVID-19 highlighted in Nunavut was not only the equity gap of our housing, health care, and elder care systems, but our resolve when united in a common cause.

>> *Applause*

We have seen our health care providers and front-line workers rise as everyday heroes.

>> *Applause*

We commend their courage.

We have seen our communities unite to support elders and families in need. We rally in their resilience.

(interpretation) We saw our government in partnership with Nunavut's Inuit organizations meet the needs of our

people through public outreach, vaccination clinics, emergency COVID-19 initiatives, and access to isolation kits. We salute their service.

Together we weathered the storm of this uncertain pandemic and now we see the parting of the clouds in the horizon.

Together For a Common Cause

I will now be speaking about working together for a common cause.

The vision of Nunavut has always been rooted in the Inuit societal values of *Piliriqatigiinni*/*Ikajuqtigiinni*, working together for a common cause.

The government's mandate titled *Katujjiluta* is about a commitment to work in unity to manifest the courageous dream.

The *Katujjiluta* mandate is unique. It is the first one developed through a historic dialogue between all Members of the Legislative Assembly, the leadership of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and Nunavut's three regional Inuit organizations.

In the spirit of *Tunnganarniq*, or "fostering good spirits by being open, welcoming and inclusive," this mandate is a testament to our consensus governance model and our joint commitment towards the betterment of Nunavut.

Aging with Dignity in Nunavut

Elders are the living memory of our territory, preservers of language, holders of knowledge, and receptors of traditions. They are our guiding light

when at crossroads, providing insights from our past to lead us into our future.

We have heard the urgent calls from Nunavummiut to act on elder care in our territory so our parents and grandparents can age in dignity close to community and family. We will bring them home.

>>Applause

The Government of Nunavut will:

- Expedite the construction of regional long-term care facilities with capabilities to meet the needs of Nunavummiut with complex care requirements.
- Expand and/or renovate existing continuing care facilities.
- Provide culturally and linguistically relevant training for staff working in continuing care facilities.
- Accelerate the development of housing units for elders and seniors.

>>Applause

Expanding the Housing Continuum

I will now be speaking about expanding the housing continuum.

From iglavigaq to modern houses, our homes are our havens, providing shelter in troubled times, warmth from the elements. This is where we raise our children. This is how we create community.

Access to permanent, safe, reliable housing determines our quality of life; it impacts educational outcomes and graduation rates, access to employment, and health and well-being outcomes,

including suicide rates and intimate partner abuse.

For far too many in our communities, stable and affordable housing is out of reach. Nunavummiut continue to grapple with an acute housing crisis compounded by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and tuberculosis crisis.

We will build homes in every Nunavut community.

>>Applause

The Government of Nunavut will:

- Develop at least 1,000 housing units of all types

>>Applause

- Reduced homelessness
- Create more family violence shelters, youth shelters, and transitional housing
- Assist more Nunavummiut in renting or purchasing their own homes

>>Applause

- Increase employment of Inuit in local housing construction and maintenance
- Develop enduring partnerships with Inuit organizations, the private sector, and other levels of government to expand the housing continuum

Enabling Health and Healing

This past fall during the leadership forum, as you will recall, our youth marched up to these doors to ask for a

solution to the mental health crisis in Nunavut. We are moved by their resolve.

Young Nunavummiut continue to shoulder the burdens of the past: intergenerational trauma, the legacy of residential schools, forced relocation, and other colonial policies and practices imposed on Inuit. We need to act on urgent mental health supports to help our youth achieve as leaders of tomorrow.

>>Applause

Through Qanuqtuurniq, being innovative and resourceful, we will tackle the mental health crisis in our territory.

The Government of Nunavut will:

- Implement trauma-informed practices in health care and education
- Support models of wellness and well-being that are grounded in Inuit identity
- Expand education and training programs that provide Nunavummiut with the necessary qualifications for professional and paraprofessional work in health care, mental health, and addictions treatment
- Expand opportunities, training, and formal recognition for Inuit to provide culturally and linguistically relevant mental health and well-being programs and services
- Engage more elders and other community members as advisors and local counsellors
- Promote and provide long-term core funding for community-led programs and services
- Reinvest in suicide prevention and postvention programs with our partners, with an emphasis on those

that address root causes, such as child sexual abuse, trauma, bullying, and discrimination

- Reinvigorate health and mental health promotions programs

>>Applause

Reinvesting in Education

(interpretation ends) Teaching and learning are core values for Inuit - Pilimmaksarniq/Pijariuqsarniq, development of skills through observation, mentoring, practise, and effort.

What we model in our teachings for our children in the foundation years determine who they become as adults. We will invest in early learning and child care programs.

>>Applause

The Government of Nunavut will:

- Invest in high-quality, affordable and inclusive early learning and child care programs
- Provide more financial, administrative, training and Inuktitut learning resources to support early learning
- Begin a phased rollout of full-day kindergarten programs
- Accelerate work on a K to 12 Inuit language curriculum and Nunavut-specific learning resources

This winter, our government secured \$66.1 million in partnership with the federal government to address Nunavut's early learning and child care needs.

The work on affordable and accessible child care in our territory has already begun.

>> *Applause*

The work on affordable and accessible child care in our territory has begun. These investments will mean \$10 per day child care in Nunavut and 238 more child care spaces across the territory.

>> *Applause*

Learning is a lifelong venture. Supporting students at all levels of learning continues to be a priority. Our children need fuel for their bodies so they can focus their minds and our students need reliable financial supports to pursue higher education.

Our government will:

- Enhance and support school meal programs with community-based partners
- Increase opportunities for pre-employment work experiences for high school and post-secondary students
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of FANS and other direct financial aid for our post-secondary learners
- Enhance indirect supports for post-secondary learners
- Prepare and implement a multi-year training strategy with Inuit organizations and other partners to enable development of Nunavut's labour force and economy
- Develop and implement a strategic plan for Inuit language training in the public service

>> *Applause*

Diversifying Our Local Economies

(interpretation) I will now be speaking about diversifying our local economies.

Our territory is growing and so are our needs for economic opportunities.

While we continue to be invested in mining and mining-related services and the creation of training and employment opportunities for Nunavummiut in resource extraction, we also look to new avenues for economic growth.

Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq, the Inuit societal value of respect and care for the land, animals, and the environment can guide us towards new possibilities in sustainable industries, renewable resources, and the blue economy.

The Government of Nunavut will:

- Refresh strategic plans for sustainable economic development and diversification in all sectors
- Increase training for employment in sectors such as mining, arts and crafts, tourism, and small business in partnership with Inuit organizations and the private sector
- Identify and promote opportunities for new local businesses and services
- Investigate the potential for alternative building technologies to be used and manufactured in Nunavut, with an emphasis on energy-efficient and climate-friendly construction
- Repatriate fisheries licences and purchase more fishing quota
- Enhance supports for harvesters

- Create an online marketplace for Nunavut arts and crafts

>>Applause

Conclusion

I will now conclude my opening address.

The leaders of Nunavut's past envisioned this territory as a place of opportunity. You must rise to realize their dream.

Members of the legislature, you will be asked to carry out the priorities identified in the *Katujjiluta* mandate.

The priorities for this Sixth Assembly are clear: work in partnership with all stakeholders, including Inuit organizations, to tackle our territory's long-standing issues such as elder care, housing, and mental health. Look for new solutions and partnerships to ensure affordable education and a diverse economy.

I am confident that you will honour the trust that has been placed in you. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 3. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 3: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 001 – 6(2): Katujjiluta Mandate Development

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope you can hear me clearly.

I think you can hear me now. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to participate in the proceedings this afternoon, although I am not physically in the House.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to table the Sixth Assembly's mandate titled *Katujjiluta*. As just mentioned in the Commissioner's address, the process that led to the development of this mandate was truly historic.

For the first time in our territory, the Government of Nunavut's mandate was developed through a dialogue with all the regular Members of the Legislative Assembly, the leadership of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, including Nunavut's three regional Inuit organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all my colleagues, especially the regular MLAs for accepting my invitation to help develop this mandate. I know the final draft is much stronger because every one of us provided their contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of this mandate, not only because of its ambitious scope, but also because it serves as a testament to our commitment to work collaboratively and cooperatively towards a better territory.

Every MLA sitting around this room helped shape this mandate. As Members of this Assembly, we sit in a circle; the room is designed to echo the structure of our consensus governance model. In this Assembly we are all part of a single whole and every one of our voices truly matters.

Mr. Speaker, this mandate is a continuation of that trajectory. *Katujjiluta* is a testament to our government's commitment to a renewed relationship based on mutual respect. This mandate provides a roadmap for joint action to achieve real change.

This collaborative mandate development process has showed us that our goals are aligned. Every one of us agreed on the key priorities for our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with all my colleagues and Nunavut's Inuit organizations to achieve the goals identified in the *Katujjiluta* mandate. I am confident that working together as a united voice will result in a stronger Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 4. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

Item 4: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 001 – 6(2): Infrastructure Investments in Smaller Communities

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues, the people of Amittuq, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my view during the winter sitting of this Assembly since I tried my best to represent my constituents' wishes, especially when debating the capital estimates, since I kept voicing the need to take into consideration the needs and opportunities available to my constituency communities.

Now, in saying that, Mr. Speaker, we were just reminded here in this House that the capital expenditures of the government need to be equitable, following my continual comments about the need to use these projects as leverage to create opportunities for our smaller non-decentralized communities.

And further, the Commissioner of Nunavut just reminded us that government expenditures related to capital projects need to be equally distributed and shared amongst our communities. I have maintained that all communities are a part of Nunavut. This territory of Nunavut doesn't just consist of three regional centres that benefit from the capital projects for Nunavut, and many smaller communities are clamouring for their share, as we too extinguished our aboriginal rights in order to get this government and territory.

When sitting here representing our communities and residents, we fight unendingly for our share of the pie, especially related to housing and housing allocations, especially when trying to provide future opportunities for our youth. We were reminded again that in our future, in order to pave the way for future leaders, then we must provide opportunities because somewhere in Nunavut, there are many accomplished, skilled and engaged youth.

We must also reinstitute our elders' wisdom in making our government decisions, especially related to collaboration and consensus decision-making, as there were many issues included in that mandate and in trying to come to agreement, it too was very difficult to get consensus.

I take this opportunity to remind the sitting government that whenever we discuss capital expenditures and plans, especially arbitrary decisions made by cabinet, that I reiterate the need to concentrate on creating more opportunities for our smaller communities. That is why I rise today.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all colleagues, and hope to see you all in the spring sitting, and I will redouble my efforts to ensure that I truly represent my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 002 – 6(2):
Working Together for All
Nunavummiut**

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank the Commissioner of Nunavut and the Hon. P.J. Akeagok, Premier of Nunavut, to my colleagues, and to the Government of Nunavut's staff for working together, and I believe in working together. I believe in a lot of great possibilities that we can achieve.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the City of Iqaluit for being so welcoming. Thank you, Iqalummiut. (interpretation) I thank you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it's going to be travel day tomorrow and home time in two days, so to my family, I'll see you in two days; to my constituents in Taloyoak, I'll see you in two days; and to my other constituents in

Kugaaruk, I'll find a time to go visit and to hear your concerns and issues.

Mr. Speaker, if I am dreaming, please don't wake me up because this is where I want to be today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

**Member's Statement 003 – 6(2):
Concerns over Health Care**

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my constituents in Coral Harbour and Naujaat, I wish you a good day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the nurses for taking good care of Nunavummiut, but there are issues that must be addressed in the health care system in Nunavut. Some people go to the health centre to seek help in figuring out what is wrong with their body.

For that reason, I will have questions to the Minister of Health on that subject. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 004 – 6(2):
Activities in Mittimatalik during
Pandemic**

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Pond Inlet, Nunavummiut, and my colleagues.

Today being our last day for our winter session, I wish to express my appreciation to my fellow Pond Inlet residents, as they have provided support and assistance during our community's isolation protocols, as well as no public gathering restrictions which caused mental stress.

Nonetheless, we also received much-needed assistance from our hamlet staff and other local organizations. The committee for a brighter future especially was critical, as the members provided local games via our local radio station to chase away boredom and restlessness caused by the restrictions.

And further, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the recreation department gave out fun isolation bags to isolating families, delivering QIA food boxes, kids' recipe and food bags, narwhal net-making, after school programs for grades 1 to 6, and when some restrictions were eased for Pond Inlet, they had public skating and other physical activities. Thank you, Theresa Dalweg and your staff for the great job.

(interpretation) I would be remiss if I didn't mention our teachers and school administrations who sought to keep our children healthy during school hours, and provide proper lessons as required by the curricula, so I would like to voice our thanks, as well as to our health centre nursing staff, who work diligently and tirelessly.

They provided local information to the community on the arbitrary restrictions imposed by the government related to COVID-19, so I would mention Diane Blatcher and Apphia Killiktee, who provided information via social media

and local radio shows to keep the residents informed, to try to keep people healthy.

And further, there are too many volunteers to name with our limited time, so I wish to only thank the Co-op, Northern store, public health workers as well as volunteers who assisted in delivering foodstuffs to the isolating families and hunters who went on the radio informing residents to pick up country food in a contactless method. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Uqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

**Member's Statement 005 – 6(2):
Recognition of All Mayors in
Nunavut**

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to voice several matters, which is the reason my statement. Firstly, I wish all fellow Nunavummiut a good day.

My reasoning for standing today is to voice my pleasure and pride in the leadership, such as our mayors in our communities here in Nunavut, as every community elects a mayor.

Mr. Chairman, our mayors have a heavy workload which they must work on, and further, they are required to deal with outsiders, even those from outside of our country of Canada. Many travellers send questions to the community leadership, either requesting assistance or support, or approval for their trips or travels into Nunavut.

Our mayors are usually the first point of contact for outside groups and people, as I have experienced it firsthand as a mayor. My point to all the mayors in Nunavut is that I am quite proud of your dedication, and I urge you to continue your advocacy as you are the voice representing your local hamlets.

I also urge everyone to provide support of our mayors throughout our communities, as they keep government from overreach and total control of our communities by their leadership and vision, as they can ensure their communities grow. This must not be forgotten, as they provide a critical contact and liaison between levels of government.

I am quite proud of all mayors who act as the leadership of each community, as their workload can be quite daunting, so we must ensure we encourage them and to work together with the local leadership. We must remember them and (interpretation ends) respect them (interpretation) for their work. That's what I wanted to say. I am proud of your leadership, and I also commend all councillors to represent their communities.

To conclude, I wish to inform the people of Clyde River, next week on March 29, on Tuesday, weather permitting, I'm planning to travel up-island and I hope I can get there. I ask the residents of Clyde River to expect my arrival, as I will be going up to visit for a while and hold some meetings with the leaders and workers. I wanted to tell them that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 006 – 6(2):
Mounties Love for Hockey**

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut, members, and the people of South Baffin.

Mr. Speaker, as you may recall, I delivered a statement in the House last year regarding an outdoor hockey rink that was initiated by a local Kinngait youth, and I am pleased to report that the local municipal arena opened its doors this winter after a few years of closure.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, with hockey back on in Kinngait, it was a timely event for the youth to receive some kind donations of hockey equipment all the way from Nanaimo, British Columbia, and I wish to recognize the people and organizations who made this donation possible, especially to Constable Josh Cook of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. Speaker, this story was covered by the Nanaimo RCMP with an article titled "Indigenous youth reap benefits of Mounties love for hockey." I would like to read an excerpt from that article which states that "On Thursday March 10, 2022 Cst. Josh Cook and his Fiancé Katie Isherwood travelled to Kinngait, Nunavut to complete a year's worth of multi-organizational team work. The task was to deliver hockey gear that had been donated by Cst. Cook's old hockey team – VIU Mariners. After presenting the Mayor of Kinngait with a plaque from Nanaimo, next up was to hand out the equipment to the kids. The result was

amazing, tons of youth flooded through the front doors of the Kinngait detachment and within around half an hour all the equipment was gone! The impact that this gear will have for the youth and the use they will get out of it is huge. They can now play Canada's game of hockey with a friend on the icy lakes and at the local rink."

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Kinngarmiut and all the youth that will benefit from this donation, I wish to appreciate and acknowledge Constable Cook, his friends, and all the supporters in between Kinngait as well as Nanaimo for making this very worthwhile donation possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 007 – 6(2):
Appreciation of Volunteers in
Cambridge Bay**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good day to Nunavummiut, colleagues, and special greetings and hello to those in Iqaluktuuttiaq.

I wanted to say a special thanks to the Cambridge Bay RCMP, Iqaluit members, Alberta RCMP, Cambridge Bay Bylaw, Department of Healthy Living, Department of Municipal Planning and Projects, Facilities Maintenance, the Mayor and Council of the community of Cambridge Bay, and of course the community members of Cambridge Bay for the cooperation this past weekend. Wishing you all a blessed day. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. P.J. Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 008 – 6(2):
Appreciation to All during
Isolation**

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for recognizing me too. I'm very thankful today. I've been asked to isolate and it's been nine days and I'd really like to thank our nurses because they've worked very hard for the past two years now, especially with what Nunavummiut have had to go through. It's a learning experience when you yourself have to go through it. I have gone through that.

I want to say "thank you." Especially in Iqaluit, there are so many people who have been calling to see if I'm okay. With all my family here, I say thank you very much because many people have come and called and asked to see how we're doing in the past nine days. It's not that long, but it's very hard on the mind.

I would like to say thank you to everyone, especially in Apex. We have been having food brought here and people have been calling, so I have been feeling a lot of gratitude. Mr. Speaker, that's what I wanted to say. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 009 – 6(2):
Adventurers Arrive in Grise Fiord**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start, I want to say something about compassion. The Attagutsiak family has lost more than one family member this week and I really wish I could be up there right now, but I have to be here.

Mr. Speaker, today there was a surprise coming in to Grise Fiord. There was some kind of a vehicle that arrived in Grise Fiord today unexpectedly from Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, it is very good to see these new things come around, and it's not something we see every day. I want to celebrate that with the people of Grise Fiord while they have those visitors in town. Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 010 – 6(2):
Appreciation of Recreation Staff in Igloolik**

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to express my gratitude to the hamlet recreation committee in Igloolik. Unlike this government, they haven't segregated residents into different groups, as they constitute one community.

The recreation committee was tasked with providing activities, and they worked hard to ensure residents were able to participate in activities while socially distancing in light of the COVID-19 virus, especially where residents could not gather in large

groups. They provided many types of activities to engage their citizenry, including traditional candy tosses while socially distancing on several roads.

They got assistance from the fire department and the police, and I want to thank them for helping the recreation committee. The committee is largely comprised of young people, so I thank them profusely for their innovative ideas to engage people from getting bored. I will stop there for now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 011 – 6(2):
Appreciation for All Who Helped
in Pangnirtung during Pandemic**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to express my gratitude publicly. I want to start with thanking everyone here during our winter sitting, and with this being our last day of the winter sitting, many Nunavummiut have undergone unprecedented realities, and especially in our home community of Pangnirtung.

I want to expressly thank the residents who took it upon themselves to provide unending support for fellow citizens isolating due to COVID-19, and when the pandemic was at its peak, nonstop work was required and where announcements were needed, many people expressed their appreciation for the support from the hamlet of Pangnirtung, the councillors, the local

radio show operators announcing the public service announcements.

Also, the people who got COVID-19 were allowed to voice their experiences and they encouraged other people in the community due to the restrictions, as they felt it was a serious matter and helped lighten mental stress inherent in dealing with a pandemic.

I would like to thank the groups working non-stop in Pangnirtung, such as the schools and the principals, teachers, the nurses, all the government offices who remained open. I thank all of them as they have made things easier. This includes all the health care workers too. There are many of us that have been affected by this hardship, so let's keep them in our minds.

I would also like to thank my husband, our children, and all the people in Iqaluit who are always welcoming towards us. My family whom I rarely see along with my grandchild, you are usually in the forefront of my mind. I hope he has a good day. Thank you and hopefully the coming sittings will proceed smoothly as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: I have no more names for members' statements. Item 5. As we are closed to the public, there is no recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Ms. Nutarak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 001 – 6(2): COVID-19 Health Guidelines

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me first apologize, as I just reiterated what I am trying to apologize for by calling you Mr. Chairman again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to apologize for my tendency to say "Mr. Chairman." Eventually I may get ingrained into saying the proper term in the future.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, on March 9 the chief medical health officer and the minister announced plans to lift Nunavut's public health emergency by April 11. It seems that a number of Nunavut residents are confused about what this will mean for public health measures and guidelines.

For the benefit of the listening public, can the minister provide a clear explanation of what changes Nunavummiut will see when the public health emergency is lifted on April 11? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for the question. I will speak in English to ensure there is no misunderstanding.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we are currently in the middle of a six-week approach that will see us lift the public health emergency on April 11. That public health emergency started back in March 2020, so by April it will be over two years of being in a state of public health emergency. It is a gradual

removing of the restrictions that we are currently in.

Assuming that the trajectory that we are on continues and that there is no spike in cases between now and the middle of April, lifting the public health emergency would mean that public health restrictions no longer apply, including the mask mandate, including mandatory isolation of those who are symptomatic. However, isolation still will be requested and recommended, like any other disease, and it will also mean changes to how Nunavut is reporting COVID-19 case counts, Mr. Speaker. Right now we are moving away from looking at case counts at a community-by-community level and focusing more on hospitalizations.

Generally speaking, lifting the public health emergency will mean that public health restrictions will no longer apply. However, caution will still be required; masks will still work. They will still be recommended in some certain circumstances. Vaccinations are still important. Isolating is still important.

I hope that is clear, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to provide a concise answer to the member. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Some Nunavut municipalities have implemented vaccine mandates. Residents are not permitted to visit municipal buildings or attend such events as municipal council meetings unless they show proof of vaccination.

Can the minister confirm whether or not municipalities will be able to continue implementing vaccine mandates once the public health emergency is no longer in effect? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The answer to the question is it depends. It depends on the municipality's bylaw that they have put in place, and if the bylaw that they have put in place is tied to the public health emergency, then yes, once the public health emergency goes away, the vaccine mandate would go away.

If the vaccine mandate is not tied to the public health emergency, my understanding is that the municipality still has the ability to restrict entry to their buildings, and the same goes for private businesses or facilities. If the operators or business owner wants to restrict entry and require a proof of vaccination, my understanding is that that will still be an option for those facilities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, some southern jurisdictions have begun to ease public health restrictions and there seems to be some confusion about ongoing requirements to wear masks, socially distance, or follow other public health guidelines.

Can the minister clearly tell this House and the listening public what specific public health guidelines this government will ask residents to follow after the health emergency is lifted on April 11? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) When the public health emergency ends in April, hopefully that will happen, we will have a clear listing available in terms of what the guidance is. We still will be recommending masking in certain circumstances, in certain workplaces; in elders facilities, for example, it would still be mandatory. Around isolation, we will still be recommending persons who are symptomatic to isolate.

There will be more nuances in terms of the requirements, less mandatory items, but we still will be relying heavily upon Nunavummiut to exercise caution, to keep themselves and their families safe, their communities safe. Mr. Speaker, just because the public health emergency goes away or the restrictions are loosened does not mean that COVID has gone away. COVID is still very much still with us, very much still a concern.

We will produce a listing of guidance for the public and I want to advise everyone to exercise caution as we go through this gradual easing of the restrictions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 002 – 6(2): Mental Health Supports

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate the Premier and cabinet on sharing their mandate with us today. I can tell you today that I'm having difficulty deciding who my questions are going to be for, and I have decided that I will pose my questions to the Minister of Education.

I'm just going to the "Enabling Health and Healing" section of the new mandate. Just to quote what was spoken this morning, "This past fall during the leadership forum, our youth marched up to these doors to ask for a solution to the mental health crisis in Nunavut. We need to act on urgent mental health supports to help our youth achieve as leaders of tomorrow."

Mr. Speaker, youth are not just our leaders of tomorrow; they are our leaders of today and we must follow them.

Can the minister tell us what specific mental health supports and wellness models will be implemented into the K to 12 curriculum based on the new mandate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question on mental health supports and our schools across the territory.

There is a range of universal and targeted mental health and well-being programming and resources available currently within our schools. Our school-based positive mental health support

services are now being rolled out in eight communities across the territory. For this year of 2021-22, schools in Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, Kinngait, Pond Inlet, Arviat, Whale Cove, Coral Harbour, and Nauyasat are seeing this program, Mr. Speaker.

The school-based positive mental health support services align with other existing education support services, such as occupational therapy, speech and language pathology, deaf and hearing support services, and physiotherapy. The department has also been developing resources and training, hosting conferences to strengthen school-based mental health programming.

The Department of Education developed an educator toolbox, including restore tool kit, which provides practical supports and guidance around how to respond to social and emotional needs of our school community. There are several mental health and related training opportunities that are available to staff, including the ASIST program, trauma-informed practice, and “Our Children, Our Responsibility.”

I will also note that the department developed the Angirrami Ilinniarniq, a website dedicated to supporting students, parents, and caregivers during the pandemic.

I can also say that representatives of the Department of Education and the Department of Health meet regularly in support of ongoing collaboration. Education representatives also participate in a territorial mental health advisory council. This past PD week in February last month, the department hosted an online training conference for

the ilinniarniq inuusilirijiit, as they play a vital and important role in our school community.

There are a lot of ways where the Department of Education is working to support students’ mental health, emotional health, and physical health, and we look forward to working with the mandate to supplement the work that’s happening and work on this important area that we have, not just from our school age but throughout our whole territory. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Just before I go back to Ms. Brewster, can I ask the people asking questions and the people answering the questions to shorten their dialogue; everyone in this room has a question to ask. Thank you.

Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for taking up so much time.

Mr. Speaker, we know that often people say suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem, and suicide is not at all a solution to a temporary problem; it’s a solution to an ongoing problem that many of our youth face. What I asked is: what are we going to do differently?

Mr. Speaker, we know that the programs that have been implemented for a number of years in Nunavut are not having the desired impact. I would like to know from the minister: what are the specific trauma-informed practices that will be implemented into the curriculum? What are the new practices that we will undertake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. The Department of Education's contribution to suicide prevention is through the Inuusivut Anninaqtuq and the partners on suicide prevention programs since 2017 to this year of 2022.

During the pandemic, the Department of Education has shifted to training remotely and continues to offer this training to school staff and youth to focus on healthy relationships, bullying prevention, and safety planning and self-care.

There is also an annual conference that is held called Nipivut, a youth leadership conference for students between grade 9 and grade 12. This conference was supposed to take place in Kugluktuk this year. However, because of the situation with COVID-19, it has to be postponed.

The department continues to expand on social-emotional learning resources and incorporating these practices into Inuktut language arts curriculum. There are a number of ways that we're enhancing suicide prevention and talking about suicide prevention and teaching about suicide prevention in our schools, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. One of the things that were stated this morning is that young Nunavummiut continue to shoulder the burdens of the

past; intergenerational trauma, the legacy of residential schools, forced relocation, and other colonial policies and practices imposed on Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, my son is 16 years old. He is in grade 11. Some members may recall that we raised the issue of not having learned about residential schools when he was in grade 6 or 7, and we were assured that he would learn in grade. He has yet to learn about residential schools through the curriculum.

I'm wondering: can the minister tell us whether or not there is a move to create age appropriate education about the historical traumas that Inuit have faced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* once again to the member for the question. The Department of Education is working on curriculum development and has been for a number of years. This programming will include a number of areas to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* and our core values as Inuit, as well as teaching programs about Inuit, Nunavut and so forth so that it is appropriate material for Nunavummiut to be learning about in our schools.

I can say that this work has already started and there have been some resources made, particularly to the K to 6 grades, and resources have been made in Inuktut and in our schools with lesson plans and so forth. The plan over the next couple of decades is to keep

continuing to work on resources for Nunavummiut to learn our history of the territory and have appropriate material that pertains to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 003 – 6(2): Community Corrections

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to be able to rise and my reasoning for this is to direct my questions to the Minister of Justice. This is concerning the role of community correction officials, or in English (interpretation ends) probation officers/corrections officers, rather the part under community corrections.

(interpretation) I want to ask this question, as I want to also promote this matter as a priority, especially in the communities as the court system is a fly-in operation. When the court travels to communities, they arrive to deal with people who have been charged locally.

Now, I have read previous questions related to courts. A question was raised on June 11, 2018 by the current Speaker when he was a regular member on this side of the floor. His question, which I have read up on, relates to the actions undertaken for corrections. Further, on March 6, 2019, Ms. Angnakak, the previous MLA for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, asked about this matter on how offenders were provided support upon release and whether any corrective actions were provided while they were incarcerated.

I would like to ask this question: when the court system is travelling to smaller

communities, how does the (interpretation ends) probation or correction or community correction officer role (interpretation) get fulfilled when no local officer is employed? I have heard that nearby officers from outlying communities are tasked with this role.

What is optically awkward is when the judge is handing out conditional releases or probation conditions, as it highlights the need for local officers today. How many officers are currently hired or working in Nunavut, and how many positions are listed in the vacancy category? That is my first question for now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question and commentary, as it is heartfelt and understandable relating to people on the court docket, who find themselves in a quandary mentally.

I am glad that we have different employees for that role, and the positions are different in each area, as some employees have a supervisor while others are singularly working. It depends on the regional arrangements, so I cannot speak to all communities as each area has different ways of dealing with these roles, even though they are readily available.

What I can state is that some communities have a regional setting with several workers underneath them, while some communities have a single position. That is how it is currently, but

jobs are open in most communities. I can probably meet with the MLA to provide more details on the arrangements in her constituency or perhaps for Nunavut as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it was last week or rather on March 17 where you announced that more employees had been hired to assist the courts in their court cases to help deal with residents charged or to be incarcerated. Now, I was happy to hear that more workers were hired, as I have seen how it can change circumstances.

I now want to ask about this matter. (interpretation ends) A concern that has been raised with me, that some communities have no parole officers who live in the community.

(interpretation) You partially answered it, nonetheless, with respect to the position, I wonder if it can be devolved as I urge you to contact hamlets to see if it can be part of their employee roles, and not all qualified workers search online for positions, but they do go to the hamlet offices to see if any positions are open, and I wanted to see if that can be used to hire people.

Currently, systemic barriers seem to be placed on purpose to ensure only non-locals can apply towards these jobs, and due to that, the hamlets would be in a better position to deal with applications to assist locals capable of undertaking the work, as many locals are able, but not necessarily looking online. That is my question, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, when positions are advertised initially, we request help from the hamlets to advertise these positions, and we review the criteria to see if we can provide non-technical language within the advertisements.

We also encourage our local liaison officers to promote and advertise the positions when they are open, here I mean the people acting as (interpretation ends) government liaison officers (interpretation) in that community to always have them available for review.

Now, we generally ask for support, and would seek support from various local bodies as the positions are for that community and can be both economically and locally beneficial for our court parties who travel to do their work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for your response. Yes, this issue is extremely critical for success in this role. The optics is not good when you see non-residents performing that role, as I have previously worked in the court system in the past.

When a non-resident judge and court party arrive to a Nunavut community, they seem to view the officer as being a resident and they give out (interpretation ends) court orders (interpretation) on the conditions or requirements, such as

house arrest or cases where the social worker is no longer responsible for that role.

Due to this excising of this role from the social worker position, I believe that even the smallest communities should have people serving in that role, as it would, in my opinion, benefit the hamlet as I have experience in the court system.

Due to that, I reiterate my question: (interpretation ends) can the minister commit to reviewing the possibility of having a resident probation officer in each Nunavut community? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, community corrections officers (interpretation) are listed in all communities. The postings are open to the public. In English, these (interpretation ends) probation conditions are included in the role, and that should be a necessity and further, if you are looking for employment locally, this position can benefit you, so people should apply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

Question 004 – 6(2): Eye Team Visits to Communities

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my fellow residents of Amittuq.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health regarding the eye teams in Nunavut.

Let me reiterate that the eye team has not visited my constituency in a very long time.

To put it clearly, (interpretation ends) can the minister provide an update on whether there is an eye team based in Nunavut and, if not, from which province or territory does the Department of Health currently contract eye teams from the other services? Which province or which territory does the Department of Health contract if there is nothing in place in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. If he hasn't seen a visit from the eye team, maybe he should get a pair of glasses. That's just a joke.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to eye teams, it's a very important function and we have signed two agreements. (interpretation ends) Currently Health has two contracts to provide vision services territory-wide and those contracts are with the Stanton Health Authority for ophthalmic services and the other one is with Polar Vision for optical services, and they do travel to the communities.

Mr. Speaker, the duration of the clinics in the community is based on community population and Non-Insured Health Benefits service requirements. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the reason why I'm asking these questions is because I might need to get a pair of glasses soon.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Thank you, minister, for providing an answer on that important issue because our vision is also very important when it comes to, probably, the cellphones.

Now, here's another question that I would like to know. Mr. Speaker, if the minister can tell us what standards the Department of Health has regarding the number of times a year the eye team should visit our communities and how many days should they stay to ensure that everyone who needs an appointment gets to be seen. What is the standard on their visitation to each Nunavut community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The federal government sets the Non-Insured Health Benefits program benefit levels for vision care and that's as per their national vision care framework. The standards that are set through the Non-Insured Health Benefits service requirements are at least one eye exam every year for eligible clients under 18 years of age and at least one eye exam every two years for eligible clients over 18 years of age. Those are the standards that are set and that's what is followed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that clarification. If the timeline can be expedited, it would benefit communities, which is why I brought it up, because as I said earlier, my constituency has not had an eye examination team in quite a long while.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as you all know, the minister has been asked to make a commitment to the House. For the record, can the minister commit to my constituents that the eye team will be visiting my constituents in the earliest possible opportunity? Can the minister commit on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to commit. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, as the minister, I don't set the schedule for the community eye clinics that are held and so I cannot commit. I'm sorry, I would like to, but I cannot.

I can say that I've had enquiries come to my office regarding eye clinics. I'm currently taking a close look, pardon the pun, into this issue and there may be some backlogs that have been created due to COVID. The community eye clinics are scheduled by the contractors directly with community health centres and the contractors work to provide the minimum number of service days as per the contract. As I stated earlier, the number of days depend on factors such as community size and age of the population.

Uqaqtitsijii, I will be keeping a close eye on this. I can commit that to the member. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 005 – 6(2): Seniors Handbook

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In March 2017 the Government of Nunavut put out a seniors information handbook, a consolidated handbook that lists the number of programs and services by department or Crown agency, including federal programs and community-level resources available. Before I get into my line of questioning, I would like to get confirmation: has the minister had an opportunity to go through this document? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Seniors, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, I would like to point out that I haven't had the chance to conduct a thorough review of the document, as I am still catching up with the briefing notes for each of my portfolios, especially those programs specific to elders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister responsible for Seniors, I think this is a very important tool that we can all benefit and all Nunavummiut to be able to make sure that they know where and who to go see to access some of these resources.

Mr. Speaker, like I had mentioned in the first part of my question, this handbook is now a little over five years old. Are there plans to review the content for current accuracy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Seniors, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be doing a review and it will be best if we make the required changes as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's commitment on that. I think it's very important to make sure that, especially at the community level, there are often changes in who to contact and this handbook is community by community description of resources that are available.

Mr. Speaker, I have failed to see the common access to this handbook when I visited different health centres or different health related, or even just government offices. I would just like to make sure that as the minister is doing the review on this, that she also takes the opportunity to make sure that this handbook readily available to Nunavummiut and to elders and their families.

A lot of the time, Mr. Speaker, there are often questions of what resources are available to help out parents and grandparents, and I think this is an excellent resource that could and should

be used. I'll leave that as a comment, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: That just being a comment. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Question 006 – 6(2): Supports for Elders

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, and to the Premier of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, back to back, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Seniors.

Mr. Speaker, on March 17 I was interested to hear the Minister of Health address some of the many issues affecting seniors and elders in Nunavut, and I appreciated his recognition of the Minister responsible for Seniors.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of new regular [members] like me, can the Minister responsible for Seniors provide an overview of her activities and responsibilities under this portfolio? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Seniors, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I thank you for the question, and furthermore, his recommendation on the beneficial uses for that handbook. I thank you for that question on that matter.

What I can provide at this time, is that it is disjointed since it is separated into various categories, and we are trying to amalgamate them into a singular focus

which is our plan at this time, and with the policies and rules finalized, I will be able to present them in the future.

Now, due to the separation of certain programs amongst (interpretation ends) different departments (interpretation) we have to deal with the overlapping areas and it will require some time to place the different sections under one department and to have it properly spelled out.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response, minister. Mr. Speaker, now that COVID restrictions are easing, it has been very good to see groups of individuals being able to come together once again. This is especially important for our elders. I was happy to see a recent photo of the Sanikiluaq elder's group finally meet again.

Most group activities were put on hold during the pandemic and some elders societies may be having difficulty getting started again. These gathering are important for the mental health and well-being of our elders.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to reaching out to elders societies across Nunavut to see if they need any support or assistance to resume their events and activities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Seniors, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for the question.

With the restrictions easing, I would like to notify you that the Department of Culture and Heritage has funding available to be used for elder activities. Elders groups can start applying for funds from Culture and Heritage for their group activities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary. You're done? Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

Question 007 – 6(2): Departmental Positions

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish a good day to the residents of Kugluktuk and to the Nunavut legislators here.

Since our Premier is currently not available, I want to thank him even though he cannot be present in our sitting.

Now, I would like to direct my question regarding employment opportunities for residents or Inuit which are vacant currently.

(interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

The minister is aware his department has an office in my community of Kugluktuk. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the hardworking staff in the office.

Mr. Speaker, the government's most recent employment statistics indicate that there are a total of 11 positions in the department's Kugluktuk office.

However, the majority of these positions are currently vacant. Can the minister clarify which positions are vacant? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand we have vacancies in many of our locations across Nunavut. I don't have a breakdown of particularly which positions in that community are vacant and available at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the response. (interpretation) Can the minister clarify when his department plans to begin the process of holding job competitions to fill the vacant positions? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our department is constantly looking at ways to increase our workforce. We do have a number of vacancies across our territory. Some of them have been advertised and have not been able to be filled. I will be working, in fact I am working, with the department heads to see how we could expedite the positions so that they could be filled as soon as possible, Mr. Speaker. We're having those conversations and when I begin to talk about, and get more details on the

positions in particular in Kugluktuk, I will be more than happy to share that information with my colleague, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you very much for that response. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the Nunavut Housing Corporation recently issues a tender for the construction of a new staff housing five-plex in Kugluktuk. Can the minister clarify if there is currently an adequate supply of staff housing in Kugluktuk to support his department's needs? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pretty soon we won't need to wear this by choice.

Mr. Speaker, in the community of Kugluktuk currently we have 48 staff housing units in that fine community and out of those, we have one vacant unit ready to occupy and we have four other units that are in need of repairs, quite substantial repairs, so they will not be ready to occupy, but right now we have one empty unit, not counting those units that will be built in the coming building season for staff housing in that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 008 – 6(2): Concerns over Health Care

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, from time to time, constituents raise concerns with respect to the care or treatment that they received at their community health centre. As MLAs, it is often difficult to know how best to support them in having their concerns addressed.

Can the minister clearly describe what steps can be taken to address constituent concerns with health care?

(interpretation) 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. Now, when we look at the health sector, we should view it in terms of the partnership where the nurse and the patient must work in tandem as partners, and with that outlook, it must be prioritized.

The partnership depends on the two parties and if one side isn't pulling their weight, it can seem that they are not receiving proper health care, and the constituents of the MLA should first request another nurse or practitioner or go to the nurse-in-charge to convey their feelings or concerns.

Furthermore, if they feel no correction or solution is found, then they can submit their concern to the ombudsman or (interpretation ends) the Office of Patient Relations (interpretation) to

express their concern and determine whether your constituent has any suggestions to solve the issue presented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, occasionally medical patients may feel that they have not been properly assessed or diagnosed when they go to the health centre.

Can the minister tell us how a constituent can [request] a second opinion or a follow-up assessment from a different health care provider if they do not agree with the diagnosis or treatment they first receive at their community health centre? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In that case where a client is not satisfied with the diagnosis that they have been provided or the care that they have been provided, they would follow the steps that I had outlined. It would be to seek attention from another provider in the community, speak directly with the facility staff, and if that is not satisfactory, then to go the next step, which is submit a complaint to the Office of Patient Relations.

Mr. Speaker, the Office of Patient Relations handles roughly 400 enquiries a year. That has been for the last few years and one of the top areas that clients do submit concerns on is care and

treatment. The Office of Patient Relations is, I believe, very good at advocating and trying to find solutions for our clients because we do want Nunavummiut to have confidence in the health care system. We want Nunavummiut to feel that they're welcomed and that they are respected within that system. All the way from my office, all the way throughout the system, that is something that we are striving for. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that clarification. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that our health care providers work long hours and often face stressful situations. When we are tired or overwhelmed, it is more difficult to do one's job.

Will the minister commit to conducting evaluations of health care services delivered at our community health centres to determine how they can be improved? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Another request for a commitment. I can state that the department is continually evaluating our work. The Office of Patient Relations has held surveys in different areas. They have done surveys at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home. They have done surveys around community-wide screening for tuberculosis in Kinngait. It's an

interesting suggestion and it's one that I'm not going to commit to today, but I will take it under consideration and thank the member for the suggestion. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 009 – 6(2): Support to Airlines

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say “good day” to you and tomorrow, weather permitting, I will be going home, which is great.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, I was quite surprised and taken aback by what I saw and read this morning on CBC News.

Mr. Speaker, it's being reported that the minister did an interview yesterday following the Legislative Assembly's approval of the supplementary appropriations bill that he introduced to provide essential funding to the airlines.

According the report, the minister apparently stated that he “...still think[s] that the amount of money that has gone to those airlines could have been potentially utilized in a better way.” For the record, did the minister actually say that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did say quite a lot

yesterday, that is true. I can't recall every single word that I did state.

However, there were several questions that I received yesterday about a potential GN... I'm sorry. A question was asked about whether or not the GN would consider purchasing equity in the airline. Mr. Speaker, although that is not an in-depth discussion that this government has had, it is still a question that is valid.

However, to the member's question, I can't recall exactly every word that I had stated yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister may be confused. He is talking about all the questions that he received in Committee of the Whole and what he said at Committee of the Whole. This is a very straightforward question that I asked him if he actually said to the media that he thinks that those funds that the airlines got potentially utilized in a better way, but I'll go on to my next question, as the minister will not confirm or deny what he said to the media.

Mr. Speaker, I happen to believe that keeping the airlines flying during the pandemic has been a pretty important accomplishment. If this hadn't been done, we would have lost essential services that are literally life and death for our constituents.

Can the minister enlighten us as to what specific ideas he has for “better ways” to spend the funding that he asked us

MLAs to approve? We did approve that funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I go on, I would like to thank the member for the question, as well as all the attention that the members have been giving me over the last couple of weeks. I'm starting to believe that I'm the members' favourite minister, so I truly appreciate that.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned yesterday, our government has found ourselves in position where we are equally reliant on the airlines in providing those essential services to our communities as the airlines are reliant on us to provide those airline subsidies.

Mr. Speaker, a \$100 million is a substantial sum, as is the \$50 million that was returned by the airlines, in addition to the \$33 million in federal support that we received to supplement our northern airline subsidies.

Mr. Speaker, there was a considerable amount of funds that had been utilized to ensure that our essential airlines are able to maintain a level of service. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, there are almost limitless demands on our capital to meet our infrastructure deficits that that we are in.

Mr. Speaker, the question is not one that can be easily answered in a few words. Mr. Speaker, those funds could be used in countless ways. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is pattern here. In my first question he wouldn't answer, he couldn't remember what he said to the media.

Second question about specific ideas for better funding of this money that was given to the airlines, and now he is confusing it infrastructure dollars and infrastructure deficit, which I totally agree, we have an infrastructure deficit, but I am only asking about the airline money, and the airline money cannot be used for infrastructure. It was given to the airlines to help them sustain, but the minister refuses to answer that question too, so I'll try something different.

Mr. Speaker, I'm still confused about minister's sudden change of position regarding the issue of airline ownership or a stake in ownership. It was not that long ago that the minister seemed to believe that the government should take an equity ownership stake in one or more airlines. Can the minister clearly explain why he has flip-flopped on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I truly appreciate all the attention that the member is giving me.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that members have an important role in this House. That's asking questions, sharing concerns, and most importantly providing suggestions. Mr. Speaker, I

am flattered that the member continues to look back at our historical *Hansard* and continue to quote excerpts which I had stated for his inspiration of comments, questions, and concerns.

Mr. Speaker, the time to make a decision as to utilize these funds to potentially buy an equity ownership in the airline has long passed. Mr. Speaker, as of today, as we are approaching the end of the pandemic, we don't find ourselves in a position where we could substantiate such a significant capital investment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 010 – 6(2): Home Care in Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, people of Baker Lake as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I was interested in the minister's responses to questions posed by my colleague from Tununig on the issue of home care. The minister stated that the latest statistic available showed that there were 1,402 home care clients across Nunavut.

Can the minister provide an update on how often his department analyzes home care requirements in each community and determines the need for staffing, training, and other resources to provide adequate home care services across Nunavut? 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 the question. Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I'll speak English; apologies.

Home care needs are not static, looking at it community by community. Depending on clients' health issues, home and community care workers can be hired on a casual, relief, or a term basis. If it's determined that the current staffing complement in the community is not enough to meet the need, we have the ability to bring on more staff as a department.

Uqaqtitsijii, one of the biggest issues around that is finding the staff, finding the qualified staff who will show up regularly because these are very important services to our clients. Reliability and punctuality are very important aspects of the employees that we're looking for, but to talk in a big circle, the staffing complement really is determined by the amount of need in the community and we do have mechanisms within the system to pull on or create additional capacity where we need it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that it is important to balance the requirement for staff, training, and resources with the actual level of need within any one community.

Will the minister commit to having his departmental officials visit Baker Lake and assess the current level of need for home care services in the community and allocate the necessary resources to meet that need? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) If I'm keeping track, I believe I have already committed to visit Baker Lake now and I don't want to commit to send my staff.

Mr. Speaker, in all seriousness, I don't believe that commitment on my part is needed. There are currently six home care workers or employees within home care in Baker Lake. My information shows we have one vacant position, but as I mentioned earlier, there is a way in which additional human resources are brought on stream if there is a need. I can commit to discussing the community-by-community allocation with my staff, not just for Baker Lake but for all communities, to make sure that we're keeping on top of the needs out there. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 011 – 6(2): Municipal Offices

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they concern the issue of municipal

offices in Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, Rankin Inlet's Integrated Community Infrastructure Sustainability Plan indicates that the current hamlet office was constructed in 1969 and has been in use for over half a century.

It is my understanding that the minister's department has completed a business case for the construction of a new hamlet office for Rankin Inlet. Can the minister confirm where this project stands in his department's five-year capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. The member is correct; my department completed a business case for the Rankin Inlet hamlet office in 2019, which recommended a new hamlet office based on cost comparisons. There's indication of a renovation exceeding 75 percent of the cost. In this instance, a new facility was slightly less than the cost of renovation. At this time the planning for the project is currently on hold, pending fiscal availability. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his answer. As the minister is also aware, Chesterfield Inlet's Integrated Community Infrastructure Sustainability Plan indicates that the current hamlet office was constructed in 1985 and has

been in use for almost four decades. The municipality has identified a number of serious problems with the current facility.

Can the minister confirm when his department will undertake a business case for the replacement of the Chesterfield Inlet municipal office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every community has a great list of needs in their capital requirements and we can only do so much. With that, I can't commit on when a business case would be completed for a new hamlet office for Igluligaarjuk, but we will continue to look at the capital needs of the territory as a whole and see which community has the greatest [need] and put those capital budget requests forward based on those needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize and understand that the department does not have an unlimited budget.

Can the minister confirm if the replacement of municipal infrastructure such as hamlet offices is eligible for support under the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct; we do have only a limited supply of financial resources available to us, but with that, we do try to access as many federal pots of funding that we can for infrastructure around the territory. We will see whether or not what the member's project or proposal for his constituency fits within specific federal funding, and then we can see if that can be pursued. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 012 – 6(2): Niqahaqut Project

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and they concern the Niqahaqut project.

Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement of March 8, I updated the House on the Niqahaqut project in Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, the project is in the process of developing a country food initiative that includes a monitored and sustainable harvest, a new cut-and-wrap facility, and work to generate employment opportunities in the community.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe what specific actions his department has taken to support this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the projects for country food initiatives, we work with the local HTOs along with the local wildlife office and our local economic development officers towards community economic development. We collaborate together toward this planning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will be aware, my predecessor recommended a review be undertaken for a potential partnership between the Niqihagut project and the Nunavut Development Corporation.

A commitment was made in the previous Assembly to have the Nunavut Development Corporation to consider this idea. Can the minister update the House on the status of this potential partnership? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be meeting with the Nunavut Development Corporation in the near future to explore the status of this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted in my member's statement, the project lead has confirmed that a prefabricated

building is set to arrive in Taloyoak on sealift this summer.

The building is not as large as originally anticipated and the team hopes to expand once the project is in full operation.

Can the minister confirm if there is funding available through his department to support this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are regional pots of funding available to the hamlets via applications or proposals, and we work with the hamlets for this purpose, and in some cases, locally created organizations such as food banks or community distribution services.

This can be either store bought foods or country foods distribution or in some cases, to allow for the sale of country foods. If they find that the ordered processing plant is too small upon arrival into the community, and if they note that, then they can submit that to our department.

They can also notify us as to what is required, whether it be an addition, or funding for the operation of the plant, so if it were for an addition, they would apply for funding from different program funds. There are different funds, but if it is eligible for certain programs, then we would look to see where it can be directed to.

However, if the community just applies for funding without outlining the total

amount, what the funds will be used for, building or equipment requisitions, that I cannot answer at this point, but I do know that if they write up their needs and total amounts in their proposal, then we would be able to move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period is now over. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I ask for unanimous consent to extend question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There is a nay. We will move to the next item.

Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Petitions. Item 9. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 10. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 10: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 001 – 6(2): Katujjiluta Mandate

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table *Katujjiluta*, the Sixth Assembly's mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: We're on item 11. Notices of Motions. Item 12. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 13.

Motions. Item 14. First Reading of Bills. Item 15. Second Reading of Bills. Item 16. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 16: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for May 25:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole

>>*Applause*

21. Third Reading of Bills

I would like to make special mention of our pages, Ms. Alainga and Ms. Fortier, who have been working hard for us this sitting.

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Before we adjourn, I wish to make a statement.

Please join me in acknowledging again their work.

Speaker's Statement

>>*Laughter*

I am pleased to take this opportunity to remind Nunavummiut that the deadline for nominations to the Order of Nunavut has been extended to March 31, 2022.

>>*Applause*

As members will be aware, the *Order of Nunavut Act* came into force on January 1, 2010.

I would also like to thank our interpreters for all their help.

The purpose of the order is to honour individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the cultural, social or economic well-being of Nunavut.

>>*Applause*

Without them, nobody would understand what we said.

The order is the highest honour of Nunavut.

Members, I would like to also thank my staff in front of me who did a lot of work for making the sitting happen. (interpretation) Thank you very much.

>>*Applause*

To date, a total of 19 individuals have received the Order of Nunavut for their contributions in such fields as public and community service, the arts, education, language promotion, spiritual leadership, and business development.

This includes all of my colleagues; I thank you for your hard work.

As Chair of the Order of Nunavut Advisory Council, my colleagues and I look forward to considering nominations.

(interpretation ends) Members, it is my sad duty to inform the House that we have just learned of the passing of one of our long-serving interpreters, Mr. Philip Paneak.

>>*Bellows*

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank our pages for their fine service during the winter sitting.

Philip has been interpreting our proceedings for many years, and he will be very missed by all members, officers,

and employees of the Legislative Assembly.

Please join me in a moment of silence in his honour.

>>*Moment of silence*

(interpretation) We pay our tribute to him.

You may be seated.

Colleagues, since we will all be going home, let us be thankful and I wish you safe travels. When everyone returns for the next sitting, we will again see each other. Thank you, everyone.

(interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:57*

