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Official Report

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Monday, November 7, 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)

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Development and Transportation; Minister of
Energy*

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(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Karen Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

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

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Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible
for Immigration; Minister responsible for the
Indigenous Affairs; Minister responsible for the
Utility Rates Review Council*

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(Rankin Inlet South)

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responsible for the Nunavut Housing
Corporation*

Hon. Joanna Quassa
(Aggu)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;
Minister of Languages; Minister
responsible for Seniors*

Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Education; Minister
responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

*Minister of Health; Minister responsible
for Suicide Prevention*

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield
Inlet)

Solomon Malliki
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*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of
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*Minister of Family Services; Minister
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of Human Resources;*

*Minister responsible for the Status of
Women; Minister responsible for the
Workers' Safety and Compensation
Commission*

Hon. Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

*Minister of Justice; Minister
responsible for Labour; Minister
responsible for the Qulliq Energy
Corporation*

Hon. David Joanasic
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, November 7, 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. Joeli Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 10:00*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning to all Nunavummiut. Welcome to those who are watching the proceedings.

(interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 117 – 6(2): Joint Ask to Prime Minister for Housing Funds**

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my fellow MLAs and the visitors in the gallery, as

well as Nunavummiut who are listening to the proceedings.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about my recent visit with the Prime Minister of Canada.

I was joined for the bilateral meeting by the president and vice-president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. We spoke about the urgent need to close Nunavut's housing gap. Addressing Nunavut's housing gap is key to bolstering Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic. Strong, resilient communities are supported by reliable social infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, at our last meeting, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau asked me to show that our government was working in unison with Inuit organizations on a plan for housing. Mr. Speaker, at that meeting, together we told the Prime Minister: our housing strategies align.

The Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated provided the Prime Minister's Office with a letter, a joint ask of \$500 million to be considered by the upcoming federal budget. This money would be split between our government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to allow for distinctions-based funding.

Mr. Speaker, housing is the number one priority of our government's *Katujjiluta* mandate. Homes play a direct role in the social determinants of health. Closing the housing gap will support education and mental health. It will reduce rates of addiction, domestic violence, as well as suicide.

Mr. Speaker, people are asking for action, and my government is willing to see a deficit to meet this urgent need. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is ready to build homes now.

Mr. Speaker, in Parliament, the Prime Minister told our Nunavut MP Lori Idlout: the federal government will show up for housing. After our recent meeting in Ottawa, I am optimistic to see that Canada's support will translate from words to roofs over people's heads. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 118 – 6(2):
Masters Certificate Project
Management**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut and my fellow MLAs and visitors in the gallery.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to providing training to develop and support our public servants and meet our Article 23 obligations in the *Nunavut Agreement*. Strengthening our Inuit employees' skills, knowledge, and abilities builds capacity from within and leads to improved delivery of government programs and services to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that in 2021-22 the Department of Human Resources supported three cohorts of a master's certificate in

project management. The program supports career development and aims to increase Inuit employment in project management and other senior level positions. This enables the development and delivery of professionally managed projects and programs consistent with Inuit beliefs, customs, values, and language.

The program consists of nine modules taken over a period of six months. It is designed to build strong project managers and program leaders and to help prepare participants to acquire the globally recognized Project Management Professional designation. This designation is quickly becoming an industry standard in project management.

The first cohort of this program was funded through Article 23 implementation funds from the 2015 Settlement Agreement. This Inuit-only cohort had 18 Inuit graduates from across Nunavut. The second and third cohorts of the program were open to all employees and funded by the Government of Nunavut. There were 45 graduates. In total, 63 participants from across Nunavut have completed the master's certificate in project management.

Mr. Speaker, the master's certificate in project management reflects our government's commitment to increasing Inuit employment in management positions. Inuit leadership is vital in designing and shaping projects and programs for the territory that reflect Inuit societal values and that incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 119 – 6(2):
Inuktit Language Training**

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues, Nunavummiut, and in particular the people of Igloodik are in my thoughts as they have lost a loved one over the weekend.

Mr. Speaker, today is International Inuit Day, and I am pleased the Department of Culture and Heritage is committed to promoting the use of Inuktit in government workplaces and increasing Inuktit language proficiency among staff in positions where Inuktit language skills are required.

Mr. Speaker, this government's priority in relation to our mandate is to strengthen our Inuit language. My department, through Piliriqatigiinniq, is working with our language partners to expand the range of language learning opportunities and performance incentives for Government of Nunavut employees.

Currently there are four different Inuktit language courses being offered to Government of Nunavut employees through the Pirurvik Centre. These courses include a three-hour kick-start program, beginner levels for non-Inuktit speakers, and an Inuit-specific course aimed at building a strong foundation of essential Inuktit language skills.

Mr. Speaker, all the early offerings of the courses have filled up, and many of the later offerings are filling up quickly. We strongly encourage all Government of Nunavut employees to take advantage of these courses.

Mr. Speaker, the response has been overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to more course offerings in 2023. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 120 – 6(2):
Katittuq Nunavut Fibre Project**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, members and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this summer the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the System Supply for the Katittuq Undersea Fibre Optic Cable Project was issued with a closing date of September 16, 2022. The scope of the work includes the design, manufacture, installation, and commissioning of the undersea fibre optic system to link Iqaluit and Milton, Newfoundland and Labrador. The proposals are complex and highly technical, and evaluation of the proposals is a multi-step process currently in progress. This project is jointly funded with \$151.2 million coming from the Government of Canada and \$50.4 million from the Government of Nunavut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, in addition to this project, an RFP was issued this

summer and has closed for the Architectural and Engineering Design of the Cable Landing Station in Iqaluit. The cable landing station is a building in which the undersea fibre optic cable will terminate and in which specialized equipment related to the system will be housed. The proposal evaluation for this architectural and engineering assignment has been done and the work will be awarded within the coming months.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there is currently a request for proposals out for the engagement of a consultant related to community and indigenous consultation for this project for both Nunavut and Newfoundland and Labrador, which will close soon. Letters of Introduction have been sent by my department to key stakeholders in Nunavut to continue with this important undertaking.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this link is one step closer to providing faster, more reliable, and more affordable access to the Internet for all Nunavummiut and I look forward seeing the benefits to government services, education, and health care in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

**Minister's Statement 121 – 6(2):
College Academic Heads**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to Iqaluktuutsiarmit, Nunavummiut, and

our colleagues and guests in the House this morning.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say happy International Inuit Day. On this special day, I am pleased to announce that Nunavut Arctic College has welcomed new leadership to oversee its academic programs.

Nunia Anoe joined the college as Dean, Communities and Learning in August 2022. Ms. Anoe joins the college with extensive experience in teaching in the K to 12 system, curriculum and resource development, and in working with elders and community members in supporting education in Nunavut. It is through her work and work ethics that she shows her unwavering belief and commitment that Inuit experience can inform and inspire how we learn, teach, and train.

Albert Netser joined the college as Dean, Trades and Technology, in October of this year. Mr. Netser joined the college in as an Intern Chair for Construction Trades and is drawing on his skill, knowledge, and passion to provide further support and leadership for the college.

Jackie Price joined the college as vice-president in July 2022. Ms. Price initially joined the college in 2019 as Director of Policy and Strategic Planning. In her role she works directly with the deans of the college to ensure the college operationally is working towards the mission, vision, and values of Nunavut Arctic College.

These members join Rebecca Mearns, President of Nunavut Arctic College, Fiona Buchan-Corey, Dean of the College's Health and Wellness, and

Peesee Pitsiulak, Dean for Education, Inuit and University Studies.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that with the addition of these new term members, the college's academic leadership is all Inuit. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Minister's Statement 122 – 6(2): QEC Ratifies New Collective Agreement

Hon. Craig Simailak: Good morning, Mr. Speaker, and thank you. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with exciting news that the Qulliq Energy Corporation's new collective agreement was ratified on September 29, 2022. Covering 160 unionized employees and including a pay increase of approximately 9 percent over four years, the new contract represents fairer benefits for Nunavummiut who work tirelessly to deliver a critical service to our territory.

I would like to acknowledge the diligent efforts of the Nunavut Employees Union and the Qulliq Energy Corporation, who successfully reached an agreement after only three rounds of bargaining. The collaborative discussions focused on achieving a four-year deal for the corporation's employees that includes several enhancements to provisions of leave, pay, and many more operational benefits. It was agreed that these terms are integral for building on the Qulliq Energy Corporation's commitment to delivering a safe, welcoming and fair work environment.

I look forward to the official signing ceremony as an opportunity to highlight and honour the union's advocacy for their members and the hard work of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's workforce. On behalf of the corporation, I would like to say a special thank you again to everyone involved in the negotiations and to the Qulliq Energy Corporation's dedicated staff who are committed to providing a safe and reliable power supply across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 146 – 6(2): Safe Travels on Ne Ice

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, the people of Kugluktuk and Nunavummiut, along with the mayors who are in the visitors' gallery who I recognize.

I want to make a statement about the river ice which is now forming on the Kugluktuk River, and people have to be careful. My daughter informed me that some people are already using their snowmobiles across parts of the river, but some of it is still too dangerous as it tends to break-up and our children must be warned about the dangerous ice conditions when they are trying to ski around or cross the river.

Some sections do not freeze up until later in the winter, and when the weather warms up, it can also soften the ice rendering it dangerous and one should

exercise foresight on the dangers. I wanted to state my warning to my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 147 – 6(2):
Electoral Boundaries Commission**

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also thankful for the visitors; I wish to welcome you as many of you are recognizable and I wish a good morning to all Nunavummiut.

What I am rising for today is to speak to the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission mandate. I wish to begin with this statement (interpretation ends) to congratulate the members of the commission on this appointment. All of them are long-term residents of Nunavut and I am confident that they will do an excellent job.

(interpretation) I wish to encourage constituents in my riding of Uqqummiut to voice their opinions on what they think is missing, and to be provided a voice to make submissions to the commission, as this commission will be conducting meetings to listen to and consult the electorate.

I urge you to bring your submissions by notifying the members of the commission that you have questions, and that you have the opportunity to voice your thoughts and concerns to them as they are now open for submissions.

(interpretation ends) I would like to encourage the mayors and councils of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River to

consider requesting for an opportunity to appear before the commission.

Mr. Speaker, as you and my colleagues are aware, the constituency of Uqqummiut has been in place since the first Nunavut territorial election in 1999, almost a quarter of a century ago.

One of the roles of the Electoral Boundaries Commission is to consider the current boundaries and names of the constituencies, and I encourage the commission to give careful consideration to the issues of multi-community constituencies.

Uqaqtii, I understand and recognize that it is simply not impossible for every community in Nunavut to have its own Member of the Legislative Assembly. The populations of some of our communities are simply too small to allow this to happen.

Uqaqtii, it is very important for the Electoral Boundaries Commission to provide clear information to mayors, councils, and the general public so that they have a clear understanding of how constituency sizes are determined and realistic expectations of what can and cannot be done in respect to the number.

(interpretation) I apologize, as I lost track of the time. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretations): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for

allowing me to conclude my statement. I lost track of my time.

In conclusion, (interpretation ends) unrealistic expectations of what can and what cannot be done in respect to the number of constituencies in Nunavut.

Uqaqtii, as the Member of Uqqummiut, I am very proud to represent the people of both Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River.

Over the next year, I wish the Electoral Boundaries Commission undertakes this important work. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 148 – 6(2):
Renewal Policy for Energy Policy**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to bring attention to Nunavut's territorial energy policy situation and the implications it has for all Nunavummiut. Concerns have been raised by Inuit owned organizations around the opacity of the policy development process led by the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the absence of partnership and collaboration with Inuit embedded within energy policies.

Mr. Speaker, in May 2020 the Qulliq Energy Corporation requested ministerial approval of a rate proposal for renewable energy sales from commercial and institutional customers, equal to the cost of fuel that Qulliq Energy Corporation would save, or \$0.25 per kWh. Five months later, the Utility Rates Review Council

determined that rate proposal should be denied. Included in this rationale for the recommendation were comments on the pricing structure being too low and insufficient engagement with stakeholders.

Nevertheless, the minister of the day responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation at that time still approved the avoided cost of diesel rate and asked Qulliq Energy Corporation to prepare a new pricing proposal for the final Commercial and Institutional Power Producer policy submission respecting the Utility Rates Review Council's recommendations. As such, a report investigating alternative pricing structures was commissioned by the Qulliq Energy Corporation based on a request for proposal issued in February 2021. The final report was due 90 days after commencement of services. However, this report has never been publicly accessible.

Today, more than two years after the minister requested a new pricing proposal respecting the Utility Rates Review Council's recommendation; Qulliq Energy Corporation has yet to submit one with the Commercial and Institutional Power policy in full. A finalized Independent Power Producer Program is approaching our doorstep for approval fashioned on a similar pricing that, in application, has not been successful.

Mr. Speaker, my statement is lengthy but does include some important messaging and I request consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is asking unanimous consent to conclude his

statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Lightstone

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you colleagues for your unanimous consent.

Mr. Speaker, local renewable power producers are offered non-negotiable contracts that heavily favor Qulliq Energy Corporation and do not respect the recommendations of the Utility Rates Review Council. Inuit-owned operations that endeavour to move away from diesel power are resorting to cutting themselves off from publicly owned community power distribution systems via stand-alone microgrids in order to move forward with renewable energy integration to reduce their operational costs and reduce our carbon footprints in alignment with federal codes and standards.

Mr. Speaker, on October 11, 2022, Qulliq Energy Corporation advertised a call for public feedback on the Independent Power Producer policy on twitter and on their website. That was open just for nine days. Mr. Speaker, nine business days is not an adequate time frame for Nunavummiut to analyze the policy and provide meaningful responses. Information has not been provided to the public on how feedback is being incorporated.

At present, there is no accountability framework to ensure energy policies such as the Commercial and Institutional Power Producer Program and the Independent Power Producer Program reflect the needs and rights of Nunavummiut.

In closing Mr. Speaker, energy policy is foundational to Nunavummiut reducing our carbon foot print, reducing and stabilizing energy costs, and mitigating public health impacts associated with fossil fuels. Furthermore, our government's energy policies must support and incentivize Inuit-owned organizations to expediently develop and sell renewable energy for a fair price with fair terms and hold collaboration with Inuit as a core principle.

It will be the government's responsibility to ensure that a final Independent Power Producer Policy approved by cabinet reflects these essential perimeters. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice to the ministers responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation and Community and Government Services that I will be asking questions about this in the very near future. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Member's Statement 149 – 6(2):
Successful Search and Rescue**

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, to the people of Nunavut, as well as my colleagues here.

(interpretation ends) I stand up this morning to congratulate the search and rescue team in Rankin Inlet for finding a young hunter that was out on the land for a couple of days. He was found last night, safe and sound. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 150 – 6(2):
Remembrance Day**

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
(interpretation) Good morning,
Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Today I would like rise to acknowledge the upcoming Remembrance Day on November 11, which is remembrance for the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace, and specifically, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge my granddad; Captain Henry Westthorpe Brewster of the 52nd Anti-tank Regiment Royal Artillery in the British Army's 5th Infantry Division.

My granddad lost his leg in Bad Sachsa in Germany, in the Harz Mountains in 1945. Mr. Speaker, he lived on an island called Jersey and had to go to the mainland to seek healthcare and at one point, had to go to the mainland to get a doctor's certificate to prove that his leg hadn't grown back, so that he could get his handicap sticker for driving.

Mr. Speaker, he had an excellent sense of humour throughout his life and his leg never did grow back. He happened to have been born on November 11 as well, so it was a very special day for me every year to be able to call him, and wish him a happy birthday and thank him.

Mr. Speaker, both of my sons carry his name; Ashevak Henry and Miles Westthrope Brewster and to all those

who have served in war and in peaceful times, I thank you. We remember today and every day. Lest We Forget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 151 – 6(2):
Arrival of Granddaughter**

Hon. Craig Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I am allowed to speak, I am happy to say that my friend and I received some good news the day before yesterday, on Saturday morning. *Niqaitunnaq* is what we call Saturday in the dialect of Baker Lake, and that is when he got word that he had a new granddaughter.

Reilly Kinngiliktuagtunnguaq was born weighing 6 lbs. and 7 ounces. We are very happy to welcome her. They are currently still in Winnipeg, but everyone is fine and we look forward to their return to Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 152 – 6(2):
Happy Indigenous Peoples Day**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to say a happy birthday to my aunt, Mona Evetalegak. If you are listening, happy birthday to you.

I would also like to say happy International Inuit Day to Iqaluktuutsiarmit, Inuinnait, Nunavummiut, and Inuit across our Inuit Nunaat and the circumpolar. To each and every one of you Inuit, I hope that we continue to embrace who we are, be proud of who we are, talk to our elders, share our traditional knowledge and societal values, and practice our traditions; learn from those knowledge holders who are passing them. *Quana* to all of you who are doing that important work.

As we continue to walk in the footsteps of our ancestors, Mr. Speaker, they can show us and guide us in ways that we don't know we always see, but by practicing and embracing who we are, we are doing that as Inuit. So I encourage everyone to continue to be proud of you are and always think and thank our ancestors for the life that they lived before us to get us where we are today. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 153 – 6(2):
Tauvigjuaq in the High Arctic**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay, the sun has set and next week Arctic Bay will be next to have their permanent sunset, so keep them in your thoughts.

The people who went hunting on the sea ice, my younger brother just got a brand-new snowmobile and went through thin

ice and almost lost his snowmobile, so him and the other hunters worked really fast and were able to retrieve his snowmobile right away. So we have to be thankful for the hunters who help each other all the time.

They look for country food for us during the dark times. The full moon will now be our sunlight at this time of the year, so enjoy the moonlight for those of you who are up there. Remember them; call them. When it's dark all the time it is really hard on your body, and whenever they hear from relatives, they get a lot happier and it livens them up.

So I'm just asking you to keep all of those people in your thoughts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 154 – 6(2):
Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Elections**

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise and I want to say "good morning" to the people of Kimmirut and Kinngait and everybody in the world. It is Inuit Day.

All the Inuit organizations will be having their elections. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association has made an unofficial list of people running and you have before 5 p.m. to remove a name, but I would like to recognize the people running for president; Olayuk Akesuk and Paul Okalik. For Kinngait; we lost Mathew Saviajuk Jaw in Kinngait and they will also have elections for a Kinngait

member. The people running for that position are: Martha Jaw, Adamie Nuna, Pitseola Pudloo, Zeke Ejetsiak, and people call him “Ejetsiak.” Those are the people running, Mr. Speaker, and this election time for QIA, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, is on December 12. Please all be aware of that date. This is for all of the communities and I would like to welcome the member that is on the Qikiqtani board who is present right now; Jeremy Tunraluk. I would like to welcome him and his son. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members’ Statements.
Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

Member’s Statement 155 – 6(2): Being Prepared to Travel on New Ice

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

The reason I rise today, Mr. Speaker, is in our community and in the riding of Amittuq, the sea ice around the island of Igloolik has frozen and it is becoming passable once again, however, one must practice safe travelling and as our colleague representing the High Arctic just related, a hunter almost lost their snowmobile.

Whenever you’re going to be crossing, please ensure you never cross alone and make sure you’re prepared and have your SPOT and GPS devices ready and bring them with you.

The new ice is fraught with danger. I’m sure all of you are eager to go caribou hunting, obviously but I want safety kept

in the forefront, that’s why I rise today. Our precious hunters who are so important in Nunavut for country food. Things like food are going up in price along with fuel, which is why I want everyone to be aware of your surroundings and prepared.

You should always bring dry extra clothing. That’s why I rise today. Also, I’d like to say how proud I am about our language, as it is aboriginal language day. It’s recognized throughout the whole world, so let’s use it and especially within our government offices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members’ Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 188 – 6(2): Inuit Language Incentive Policy

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to supplement answers I provided on October 31, 2022 following questions from the Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Mary Killiktee.

Mr. Speaker, the employee assessments for the Inuit Language Incentive Policy are completed by Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. That organization communicates the results of the assessments to Human Resources and Finance. Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit is responsible for

planning assessment visits to the communities and they announce their upcoming visits using the Government of Nunavut's communication avenues. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister responsible for the Worker's Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Return to Oral Question 191 – 6(2):
Activities of the Workers' Safety
and Compensation Commission**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are we still on Oral Questions?

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement answers I provided on October 31, 2022 following questions from the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Janet Brewster.

The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission plans to advance legislation in Nunavut and the NWT to make changes to the current pension system for workplace injuries and illnesses in 2023-24. The *Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission Act* does not need to be amended to allow for provisions for psychologically safe workplaces. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to

recognize the people and fellow residents from Baker Lake, including our Mayor Richard Aksawnee. Please stand. Also, the hamlet Senior Administrative Officer, Sheldon Dorey.

>>Applause

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the Mayor of Kimmirut and welcome him to the Legislative Assembly, Maliktoo Lyta.

Also, Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my minister's statement, Inuit organizations are going to have an election, but the person I wanted to recognize is not here. I would like to recognize that person anyway. Tommy Akavak will be remaining as the member for Kimmirut it the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. I just wanted to explain that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's great to see someone from the Quttiktuq here. There is a young person who has come here to do job shadowing, Nate Jutanie Tunraluk, please stand. His father Jeremy Tunraluk was a great employee of mine, but is now a QIA board member for Arctic Bay and he is

the Vice-President of QIA, and he is also the Chairman of the Kakivak Association. So I would like to express my pride for them and welcome them to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it's not very often that I rise to recognize individuals. I would like to recognize my friends and former colleagues. First is the mayor of Coral Harbour, Willie Nakoolak, and another individual that I use to work with, Richard Aksawnee. Since I was a child he used to be the SAO, Sheldon Duarry. I also have relatives here; Jeremy Tunraluk and his son Nate Tunraluk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to welcome everyone, especially those who travel down for meetings with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. I would like to recognize Senior Administrative Officer, Jamie Evic, who works tirelessly, and I would like to welcome him to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. I have no more names for Item 5. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 243 – 6(2): Status of Nunavut Teacher Education Program

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Nunavut Arctic College today on the topic of NTEP, or the Teacher Education Program.

Mr. Speaker, back in June it was announced that the Nunavut Arctic College was adding 10 communities to its NTEP, available for programming in addition to the existing 10, so that is 20 communities where NTEP was planned to be offered. Can the minister update the House on whether all 20 of those communities are offering the NTEP program and how many students are registered under the program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* for the question. I believe there are two communities; Taloyoak and Kugluktuk, that were not offering NTEP this past fall, but we hope to have students in the near future apply again for the next academic year. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll look forward to getting number of students from the minister as well too. Mr. Speaker in 2019, there was a change in the sponsoring university from the University of Regina to Memorial University. Now there are a couple of different models for people in Canada to get their Bachelor of Education degrees. Some have after your first degree, a one-year, and some are a two-year.

Can the minister update the House on what changes occurred in the length of terms that the students have to go through to get their Bachelor of Education degrees, and of any changes in course requirements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. NAC, Nunavut Arctic College has signed an agreement with Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador and we're working with them to deliver the NTEP program. The program has an extended year from the previous agreement with the University of Regina and we're working to have a five-year program for those coming into graduation. They will be doing five years of NTEP versus the four. The program that's being offered is right now we have 16 communities that NTEP is being offered in across Nunavut and we're very pleased with that. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a little confused. Earlier you had mentioned that there were ten new communities being added to the existing ten, and the minister gave me two communities, Kugluktuk and Taloyoak, that it is not being offered. That means 18, so the minister just mentioned that it's being offered in 16 communities, so I'm a little confused at that, but I digress, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at changing or adding time to a course to make sure that our students are properly prepared to teach in our schools, it's very important to make sure that all of the courses that are needed for that degree are offered. It has come to my attention recently that in some communities, some courses have been cancelled, which has a potential to increase the length of time even longer from the five years.

As I'm sure the minister is very well aware with her Department of Education hat, Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students for non-Inuit only covers four years of schooling and now we're making this into a five-year program, which is fine for Inuit students that there is no limit on the amount of years, but for Nunavummiut who are accessing FANS who are non-Inuit... . There are many non-Inuit in our territory that want to be teachers and speak Inuktitut. They have been born, bred, and raised here their entire lives, yet we're putting a five-year program in place now forcing students to be on their own for at least that final year because FANS only covers four years of scholastic schooling.

I would like to get the minister's position on how the minister will be

working with her Department of Education counterpart to make sure that these students are supported all the way through and, if there are any courses that have been cancelled or postponed, what Nunavut Arctic College is going to do about it to make sure that these students have an opportunity to graduate as planned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for those detailed questions on the NTEP program. We as the college would like to support our students where best possible and do work with the other Department of Education to support our students.

Right now the way that the agreement goes is that to become a certified teacher, you need 150 hours to earn your degree. With that, there is the opportunity for working with the FANS program for the students to attain their NTEP degree while also receiving their FANS. Right now we're working on that and I know it's a new time for the five-year program to go through, but we do want to support our students as best as possible and to have the funding in place for the students to complete their degrees in NTEP and to graduate teachers is what we want.

Going forward, I hope that there are no hindrances and, if there are any teachers in training that are going through the program that do have the issue with FANS, we're always open to receiving those requests and working on them. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 244 – 6(2): Law Enforcement Initiatives

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Pond Inlet, my fellow MLAs, and visitors in the gallery.

My questions this morning will be to the Minister of Justice, with respect to my deeply held concern about enforcing laws against illegal bootlegging and drug-dealing. This is a shared concern throughout many Nunavut communities, most ardently by our elders. During our session this fall, I was called by an elder from Pond Inlet who was deeply concerned about this issue.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, I recently tabled my recent exchange of correspondence with the senior leadership of the Canada Post Corporation concerning its Indigenous and Northern Reconciliation Strategy.

As the minister is aware, one of the four pillars of this strategy indicates that:

“In collaboration with community leaders and local Indigenous law enforcement, Canada Post will expand and strengthen its efforts to serve Indigenous and Northern communities safely. This includes working to reduce the non-mailable matter, such as alcohol and illicit drugs, that enter these communities.”

Can the minister provide an update on his department's efforts to work with the Canada Post Corporation and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to address

bootlegging and drug-dealing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question on the subject of bootlegging and illicit unmailable items coming to Nunavut. To date, our department has received limited information that is Nunavut-specific or related to the implementation of the Canada Post Northern Strategy. The department officials have made regular contact with Canada Post officials.

Nunavut Justice is committed to working with Canada Post on public safety issues. To this effect, I recently wrote a letter to the federal minister responsible, asking that Canada Post begin Nunavut-specific discussions to implementing a northern strategy. This is very important to us. It's not a first-time occurrence. It's not a first-time issue. It has been an ongoing issue. We do take this seriously and we are hoping that we can get a response very soon from Canada Post. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our community is challenged with fighting to limit the amounts of illegal liquor being brought into the community via the (interpretation ends) post office (interpretation) and more inspections should be conducted.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, his department's business plan

indicates that one of its priorities for the upcoming 2023-24 fiscal year is to "work in partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to create and implement a crime prevention strategy." Can the minister indicate the extent to which this strategy will focus on addressing drug-dealing and bootlegging in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. As I had mentioned before, I introduced our new Commanding Officer Andrew Blackadar of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. We are looking at various issues, what we can concentrate on, and that is one of our priorities, trying to cut down on bootlegging and illicit drugs and whatnot. The strategy that the member was referring to had expired. We are currently in consultation on creating a new one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Hopefully we will get the information upon completing that.

(interpretation ends) I want to revisit the issue of the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*, which came into force last year. As the minister is aware, the legislation establishes a special purpose fund called the "Forfeiture Fund."

When the government generates revenue from the seizure of property that was obtained through unlawful activities, the

money can be used for “making payments to community wellness programs and organizations in Nunavut.”

Can the minister confirm how much funding has been provided to date under this section of the legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The office of the forfeiture office is a relatively new office. I do know that they are working on educational campaign, which has started with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in partnership with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada and the sheriff’s office, which will be followed by hamlets and the general public. To date there are only two active cases and no judgments have been made yet, so currently there is no money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 245 – 6(2): Activities of the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission, and they’re in follow-up to the questions that I had asked on October 31. I appreciate this return to oral question that was provided this morning by the minister.

In reviewing the *Blues* that we received for Monday, October 31, I see that the

minister answered one of my questions, however, not with the information that I was looking for. Just to make it simple, can the Minister for the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission tell us how often she meets with her counterpart, the Northwest Territories Minister responsible for the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. (interpretation ends) We pretty well meet quarterly on an annual basis. We’ve had good communication with the NWT as well as staff reviews that we have quarterly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for that response. The *Blues* said that “they meet quarterly,” so I just wanted some clarification on that and I appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut’s *Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission Act*, Part 4 of the Act speaks to administration, and No. 84, Governance Council composition states that “The Governance Council is composed of seven directors.” Can the minister please tell us how many directors are currently Nunavummiut and how long are their terms set for, how long are they serving for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that follow-up question. In past years, Nunavut was not properly represented in this management system, although our office is expanding with increases to the number of employees. Currently, the office underwent renovations here in Iqaluit, and the numbers in NWT will require more research from our end, and I will return with the answer at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, the agreement, the Nunavut *Workers' Compensation Act* also speaks to an agreement with the Northwest Territories and that's also in section 84(4) and that states, "If an agreement with the Northwest Territories under section 168 is in effect, the directors of the Governance Council are the persons appointed under the *Workers' Compensation Act* (Northwest Territories)..." Section (a) "consults with the Minister of the Government of Nunavut responsible for this Act prior to appointing the director who is to serve as the chairperson."

Just to make that a little bit clearer, the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety Compensation Commission in Nunavut is able to recommend appointments to the Governance Council and that final decision is made by the minister of the Northwest Territories. Specifically when the minister of the

Northwest Territories is considering who will serve as a chairperson, it normally goes to a member from the NWT.

I'm wondering: can the minister indicate whether or not discussions to appoint a chair from Nunavut when the time comes to renew that chair position, as there has never been a chair from Nunavut on the WSCC Governance Council to date? Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that follow-up question. We generally hold discussions with our NWT counterparts, and our Nunavut officials look at the same cases as they review the same cases that are submitted for compensation by workers.

The NWT office generally has more cases to review due to the higher number of workers compared to Nunavut, as we do not have comparable numbers albeit the case numbers fluctuate constantly. The Nunavut representatives or officials have a limited role or rather they don't have an overload of cases.

This is one area that can be reviewed and if there is a demonstrated need for a representative solely for Iqaluit, based on the number of case files they deal with, then that would be part of the mandate review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 246 – 6(2): Swimming Pool/Multipurpose Buildings

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, local swimming pools can provide learning opportunities for our residents in the communities, especially in acquiring lifesaving skills. The residents of Coral Harbour have requested their hamlet to incorporate a swimming pool with their plans for a new hamlet office. It would house the hamlet offices, the swimming pool along with the community hall, so it would be a multipurpose combined building.

I wonder if the minister responsible for Community and Government Services has dealt with these types of combined facility requests, and once I get a response, I will have a few more questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Aivilik for that question about facilities. These local hamlet infrastructure proposals are usually reviewed by the department, although when there are numerous requests and proposals, we run into our limitations of our capital budget funds.

As proposals are identified and submitted, and for the situation in Coral Harbour, I cannot ascertain the exact placement of this proposal as I will have to look into that request.

Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, I do recall that a multipurpose building housing different uses, with an office and a community hall has been successfully sought in previous years, and I recall that. However, I will need to be briefed as to where exactly this proposal is, and further, I would have to return with the information at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his prompt response. Mr. Speaker, I think if we have multi-encompassing buildings, they have multi-benefits for the community and it can be a hub for the community. So I would like this special request considered further by the government. As I say that, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the government can indicate further support towards this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Aivilik for that question. The hamlets requests usually outline what their priorities are. Mr. Speaker, we have to review them in detail as some communities have request a multi-use building and they have to outline these in detail. At this time, we develop our own designs. For example, we are doing the design for the hamlet in Sanikiluaq. It will only serve the purpose of providing office space, but this issue is perhaps something that can be looked at more in detail in the long run to have

buildings that can be used for office space, recreation, or swimming pools.

We should also acknowledge that inflation rates increase annually, but we have to look at how much interest there is towards this in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned that we can reduce costs through multi-use buildings and have a lot of benefits for the communities. If we can envision or if I may say; when we have communities with so much old infrastructure, looking at erecting new buildings that have multiple uses can have a lot of positive impacts in the communities. This is something that should be considered further by the government because we often see smaller communities put aside in comparison to larger communities.

This is very apparent. For the smaller communities, as I mentioned earlier, Mr. Speaker, I urge the government to work towards this and perhaps the minister can come back to me in a written form to see where the status is with this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I also thank the Member for Aivilik. When he is urging this, I also support him, but I will have to get back to him as to where it is at the moment.

With respect to whether or not we would reduce costs as he suggested, it can also be argued that housing, which is moving towards \$1,000 a square foot, is something we won't agree with, and after proposals are received we have to look at the cost. Whether it's a building for office space or a recreational building, the cost also builds up. Again, we will have to look at this and respond to him by way of a letter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 247 – 6(2): Arctic Energy Fund

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

As the minister is aware, I am a strong and vocal proponent of alternative energy and renewable energy initiatives to decarbonize our territory.

As the minister is also aware, the Canada-Nunavut Integrated Bilateral Agreement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program was signed in 2018 and provides for up to \$175 million in federal funding under the Arctic Energy Fund.

One of the core purposes of the fund is to "... support the transfer, in whole or in part, from fossil fuel-based systems to renewables."

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Department of Community and Government Services decides which entities will receive support under the

Arctic Energy Fund, and it is my understanding that the only entity to have been allocated funding to date is the Qulliq Energy Corporation, which has been using the money primarily to build diesel-fuelled power plants.

I would like to ask: can the minister clarify exactly how the Government of Nunavut determines how to allocate resources from the Arctic Energy Fund? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, the Arctic Energy Fund, we do work with Qulliq Energy Corporation on this agreement through Infrastructure Canada. Qulliq Energy Corporation, as I understand it, is responsible for identifying projects to prioritize through this funding program. We have already allocated the entire \$175 million that is currently allocated for Nunavut at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A number of my colleagues have been raising questions about the status of alternative and renewable energy initiatives in their constituencies.

Earlier in our fall sitting, my colleague from Iqaluit-Sinaa spoke about the public meeting that we both participated in concerning the potential for renewable hydroelectric energy for Iqaluit, and my colleagues from Arviat South, as well as Hudson Bay have both spoken

extensively about the alternative energy projects in their own constituencies.

Mr. Speaker, a number of these projects are being led by municipalities and Inuit-owned organizations. It is my understanding that according to Infrastructure Canada, hamlets and Inuit organizations are eligible to receive Arctic Energy Fund monies.

I would like to ask the minister: what do our municipalities and Inuit-owned organizations have to do to have these Inuit-led community renewable energy projects be considered for the selection of Arctic Energy Fund projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, we are definitely open for options to consider the broader and greener alternative energy as an innovation and the technology is there and how we can tap into that Nunavut-wide. We will continue to work with our counterparts at the Qulliq Energy Corporation in this area and identifying with other agencies that have an interest in these projects in the future. We will engage with them as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response. Over the last number of years, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has struggled to solicit bids on tenders which continue to pose major ongoing delays to

the work of upgrading and expanding diesel systems, utilizing Arctic Energy Fund monies.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this fall I heard a representative of Qulliq Energy Corporation speak on the radio stating that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is not investing in renewable energy, and encourages the private sector to do so.

Mr. Speaker, as the Department of Community and Government Services allocated all of the Nunavut Arctic Energy Fund allocation to the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and given that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is struggling to proceed with these projects, I would like to ask if the minister would consider creating a contingency plan to allow the allocation of Arctic Energy Fund monies toward private renewable energy projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a funding program through the federal government and we do have agreements in place. So to his question, we can consider those as options. Going forward, I think in the future there are tremendous opportunities around renewable, and funding that will help with greenhouse gases, because I mean, Nunavut does have a very small footprint, when we look at the global stage, but we do need to show that we're doing our part, as well. I think there is interest there, not just within the government, but Inuit organizations, as the member stated, and municipalities.

We will continue to work with our primary client. We are working with the Qulliq Energy Corporation. They do identify which projects that they'd like to prioritize and we'll continue on that path. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 248 – 6(2): Issues with Receiving Funds for Income Assistance

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. My question is for the Minister of Family Services, and it is in regard to income assistance and bank transfers. I asked the previous minister a question regarding (interpretation ends) electronic funds transfers. (interpretation) I asked the minister of the day, and I would now like to ask the minister today: have they reviewed this? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. We are aware of the concerns regarding the transfer of funds electronically. In the agreements with the clients, they provide their bank information, and we have to review their financial information. This continues today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the price of a food

basket continually increases, it is causing intense concerns amongst residents as news constantly spouts the increasing costs of food that it is impacting many organizations offering food assistance programs due to the excess requests, which is why I asked the minister if there is still funding assistance provided.

This applies more to heads of households who may go on medical travel or as an escort when they are the ones who receive the benefits for social assistance. When they request monies from relatives, their only option is via a bank transfer. I wonder if the minister can agree to review these policies, and to have them revamped.

As an example, when they are travelling in the south, if they receive a transfer of \$500, as a limit that will not impact the families' social assistance and I just used that figure as an example only. Can the minister agree to review the policy for social assistance where the person is escorting a patient, and in light of the increasing number of residents on social assistance? Can the minister agree to a comprehensive review on policies that impact people in these situations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the second question regarding our clients on income support. The funds received, to use that example of an escort attending a patient in the south, even when they are travelling, their social assistance does not change, but I believe the limit is still

listed at six months and I may be mistaken.

When they are travelling away from their community, and the money they receive is set arbitrarily, it used to impact their social assistance funding level, if the escort received funds from relatives. It is now set at \$700 I believe that can be forgiven, depending on the number of dependents. Most clients are no longer impacted by their receipt of monies when escorting others, mainly due to the concerns expressed previously on this. This amount has been adjusted, and we clearly understand the compounding costs of food increases, as the social assistance funding has a cost-of-living index now, but we are still researching our options today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response and explanation on the fact there is ongoing reviews based on increasing costs. Obviously, when a person is having financial limitations, their last option is usually to go to the social assistance office to try to get assistance.

They usually have no other recourse and stuck at a crossroads. I can only sympathize with their frustration, and I don't envy their situation. With that being said, I hope the issue of electronic transfers sent by relatives, as the minister outlined are being reviewed, and that their bank accounts are monitored. In that scenario, any extra funds sent immediately impact their

social assistance, with deductions accruing.

Alternatively, since they received monies above the limit, their social assistance can be withdrawn for the entire month, and I want the minister to agree further, by stating in this House and to Nunavummiut that social assistance client policy will be further reviewed to accommodate these situations, as you stated impacts are lessened however, most residents are battling to stay afloat. I want this issue reviewed, for (interpretation ends) electronic funds transfers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it was more of a comment, not really a question.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank you for your final question. As per my earlier response, we have made moderate adjustments within the Department of Family Services on the social assistance program policies, in taking into consideration the issues related to family allowance deductions, and with more collaboration, there are not as many deductions for income support clients.

Further, dependent numbers are now included, as well as the household total numbers, so these amounts have been increased, but there are limits to what we can modify, however, the funds sent via (interpretation ends) e-transfers (interpretation) are also now part of this monthly review.

As I stated previously, the funds received by the client are no longer deducted past a certain number, based on the overall monthly income. Further, there is ongoing review of the cost-of-living increases. A myriad of issues are being reviewed impacting our clients, but impossible to fix all associated policies.

Nonetheless, we still have to include their associated costs, such as rental scales which remain at \$60, along with power subsidy costs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 249 – 6(2): Alternative and Renewable Energy Initiatives

Mr. Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Late morning to my constituents in Sanikiluaq.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation and I intend to take all his energy plans from my questions this morning.

Mr. Speaker, when the Premier of Nunavut recently visited Sanikiluaq in June of this year, he had an opportunity to hear about the Sanikiluaq High Displacement Renewable Energy Demonstration Project. As the minister is aware, this renewable energy project received \$6.5 million in federal funding from Natural Resources Canada.

Mr. Speaker, when I last raised this issue during our spring sitting, I tabled a number of letters of support in respect to

this important green energy initiative. At that time, I noted that a number of requests had been made to the Qulliq Energy Corporation to enter direct negotiations with the project proponent respecting a power purchaser agreement.

During last Monday's sitting of the House, the minister announced that he had recently granted conditional approval on an interim basis for the Qulliq Energy Corporation to begin technical evaluations of potential renewable energy projects that fall under the Independent Power Producer Program. Can the minister confirm that Sanikiluaq's wind energy project is one of these projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question with regard to the Independent Power Producer Program. This program, we have a lot of high hopes for it to lower our carbon emissions and whatnot. With the interim policy that we enacted, it was open to Inuit organizations and open to municipalities across Nunavut and it comes on a first come, first served application based process. I do not have the list of who all applied as it is an operational matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not get an answer. Mr. Speaker in his statement to the House of last Monday, the minister also indicated that Inuit

organizations and municipalities have also been prioritized in this process and will be given the first opportunity to own and operate community skill installation as he stated. The Qulliq Energy Corporation is considering recently received public input in the final stages of policy submissions to cabinet in the coming weeks. Can the minister confirm what input has been received to date concerning the Sanikiluaq Wind Energy Project and will he commit to tabling all submissions received as part of this consultation process when the House reconvenes next February for the winter sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I can go back to his first question there, I did answer him. I don't have the list of who all applied. This is application based. I don't have the list of who all applied, so I am sorry. If my voice is off, it's because I have been sick the last few days. So I am not carrying on properly I guess, and with regard to his second question, we did receive feedback. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the minister was sick and had all his energy drained during the weekend. Mr. Speaker, the minister recently announced the new power rate structure for Nunavut. In its report to the minister concerning the Qulliq Energy Corporation's general rates application, the Utility Rates Review Council indicated that "A representative of the

Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation expressed concerns about the full phase-in of Nunavut-wide rates and the effects on smaller communities looking to install renewable generation. A representative of NRStor also expressed concerns about the ability of communities to attract renewable energy development.” NRStor is a company based in Ontario.

Can the minister clarify how the Qulliq Energy Corporation has responded to these concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. With regard to the concerns that were raised by NRStor, and other proponents, the reason why we went with the general rate application to territorialize all the rates, to standardize the rates all across the territory was to put it more inline.

With the commercial rates, we were able to lower down the kilowatt hours in 24 of 25 communities, making it easier for these proponents to make it more viable for them to get some of these programs up and running.

We are trying to make some changes to make it easier for them to get their money back and to create generating power. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 250 – 6(2): Performance of Ministers

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Arviat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Executive Council and this Assembly has been in existence for almost one year now, and Nunavummiut watch our proceedings on TV, listen to it on the radio, and all of us are here attending all of the time.

My question would be to the Premier. Where all of the ministers are supposed to work to the best of their ability, all of the ministers are expected to have deep and detailed knowledge of their portfolio, and all ministers are expected to provide candid, clear, and comprehensive answers to their questions in this House.

So I have a very simple question; yes, or no. It’s very simple. Is the Premier satisfied with the performance levels of all of the ministers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

Hon. P.J. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for asking that question. I know that there will be a motion about the matter, but the member knows that we are all elected here and also elected to the Executive Council, and only the House can say if they are pleased with our performance or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) You didn't answer my question. (interpretation ends) The Premier stated that Executive Council is at the pleasure of the House. We all understand that, but the Premier is the head of Executive Council and one of the questions that was asked during the leadership forum, the now Premier and all of the other candidates were asked "How would you tackle a minister who was not performing to his or her expectations?"

That was one of the questions. So we all hear on question period, we are on Committee of the Whole, we hear the responses, and it's a simple question. I'm not talking about anything else other than the Premier, which is the head of Executive Council. Is the Premier satisfied with the performance level of all of the ministers? Thank you.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague once again. The *Katujjiluta* mandate is where we were planning what direction to go in. Now, I have met with all of my fellow MLAs here and all the ministers, and they have been asked as members of the executive, we check to see if they answer the questions properly as well as the directions from the House.

Today, I have met with all of the ministers to see where we can improve things. We always have room for improvement. I can say that, and looking

at the direction that we want to go to, I know that we each have our own strengths and we will embrace that, and we always want words of encouragement on ways to improve things. Sometimes it's confusing as to which way to go, but I have met with all of the executive ministers, and along the lines of the *Katujjiluta* mandate, there are over 243 directives that we have to work under. I agree with the member that we always have room for improvement. That is how I can respond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Nunavut are listening on the radio and they can hear whether the ministers are answering the questions or not. We watch and listen here as well.

Now, the Premier didn't answer my question. Yes, there is room for improvement, and yes, they each have their own strengths. I hear that, but the people of Nunavut would like to know if the Premier is pleased with the performance of his ministers and if they answer the questions asked properly.

(interpretation ends) Nunavummiut deserve to know if the head of Executive Council, or how the head of Executive Council; the Premier, is satisfied with the level of all of the ministers and their performance level that they have. One last time, Mr. Speaker: is the Premier satisfied with the performance level of all the ministers? Thank you.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The mandate that we have put together, we always try to work towards it, and as to the question, it deals with the details of what we have been doing or it requests to know the details of what we have been doing.

Some of our efforts have gone ahead, and some things have not gone ahead. While we were in Cambridge Bay, we were going to review where we were at and I always expect that to happen, but we're here because we are elected and the fact that I can appoint ministers to certain portfolios, I always think about that and that is the task I am given by my colleagues here. As the Premier I have to review these things and try to make things fit where there is something missing. I have always had discussions with my ministers and we are getting close to one year of being the executive. I know not everything has been finished. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 251 – 6(2): Elders in Our Schools

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for the opportunity. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

The minister made a minister's statement last week, during our meetings and I have some questions about that statement about community learning centres.

(interpretation ends) As you stated, going back to your statement last week,

about the elders in our school; you stated that past five years have seen over 340 elders (interpretation) that were knowledgeable in, and taught about country food. (interpretation ends) You also stated that they do provide guidance and cultural activities, and we know, also Inuktitut language, traditional skills building, and teaching Inuit societal values.

Can the minister provide what was an issue, a problem, within the local Nunavut communities this spring of 2022; why land programs had to be called off in some communities? (interpretation) 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 these very important people that worked in our schools. We have 342 *innait* that work in our schools, and we're very happy and thankful for them to be guiding our students and sharing Inuit societal values and traditional knowledge with our students, as they can.

The funding for the *innait* to be hired is channelled through the District Education Authorities. Those District Education Authorities are able to hire and certify those *innait* into our schools through a process. The specific details to what the member is talking about, that happened with the cancellation of some on-the-land programs, was in reference to a misunderstanding with insurance. Neither the Department of Education, nor the district education authorities channels the insurance policy that goes

through the Department of Finance.
Quana, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speake. It had a very heavy impact last spring; the community's schools greatly look forward to being out on the land with experienced hunters and gaining this invaluable experience.

(interpretation ends) Also, you stated that elders play an important role in our schools; a highlight of their work includes on the land trips. You might have covered with this, I want to again ask, can you, minister, give us an explanation; this spring, land trips were having an issue in running the program this year, and why it had to be called off? Can you give us more explanation that why our teachers had to face this during an exciting time? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Mr. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member again, for the questions. As I stated, it was the confusion on behalf of, some of our school communities were having issues accessing on-the-land programs. The issue was cleared up and is resolved, and is shared amongst our schools. The issue was between the Department of Finance and the DEAs. They are working together through the Department of Education, with partner relations. The issue was cleared, and we're good to go for this next school year. We look forward to those students getting out on

the land, and I know some of them already have. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying that issue. Indeed, our elders in the communities tend to be quite involved or associated with cultural lessons, as they connect with the school which they wish to continue. They teach Inuit societal values and especially the cultural practices taught in the schools stemming from *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, and these are the lessons most appreciated by students, and the need to continue this practice is self-evident along with the need to continue this programming.

It was saddening to see in our community, the discontinuation that resulted in the students being very frustrated when this on-the-land program was curtailed, but the instructors felt very disappointed as well. You did state that this has been rectified, nonetheless, this seems to only be a one-year extension to fiscal year 2023, and it may still be cancelled afterwards.

I believe more honest communication needs to be provided, as you alluded to the fact that we need to have an effective program if it will continue into the foreseeable future, and this program is considered very important by communities, as many families can no longer go on the land and the students can only learn via these school programs.

It is a learning experience for the students as many families can no longer

afford equipment today to go on the land, which is why this program is the most enjoyed by students, which is why I rise today. I want to ensure that these programs are operated properly at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. I believe that was just a comment. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

Question 252 – 6(2): Fuel Quality Concerns in the Kitikmeot

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services, and perhaps the EIA department that assists government operations.

The minister is aware as I recently announced this problem stemming from concerns expressed by hunters and campers.

Further, Kugluktuk residents are to be commended for forwarding this concern about the sale of improper naphtha fuel within our community. The minister is aware obviously, that naphtha fuel is an essential product for hunters, and the Rangers, and the Search and Rescue volunteers, along with other residents with cabins.

This means that the users should be provided fuel of the best quality, and Mr. Speaker, you are aware that previous reports of hazardous white gas were submitted in other ridings, as this happened in a couple of Kitikmeot communities such as Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of his department's investigation into this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and *quana* to the Member of Kugluktuk. In my dialect we use the term fuel for our stoves. In regard to his question Mr. Speaker the petroleum products division and I would like to thank the Member for corresponding with me on October 21 and Mr. Speaker, to date we are looking to get a full report from petroleum products division and also the problems with naphtha in Kugluktuk and other communities. We will do a quality check and I look forward to giving you further details on what's happening with this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for that response. As the minister is aware, the 2017-18 annual report of his department's Petroleum Products Division was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 2, 2021.

I'll say this in English. (interpretation ends) The report indicates that the Petroleum Products Division "is a voting member of the Canadian General Standards Board and ensures that all fuel purchased and delivered to Nunavut meets or exceeds the Board standards for Zone H Arctic Canada."

Can the minister clarify what testing was undertaken on the supply of naphtha that was shipped to the Kitikmeot during the 2022 resupply? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, I can't specify what exactly they're looking into on the naphtha in Kugluktuk in particular, but we are assessing... As the member had brought it forward to my attention, the Petroleum Products Division is looking into the matter and I'll be more than willing to respond to the details once I have further information around this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that response. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, hunters buy their naphtha from local retailers. Can the minister clarify how his department's Petroleum Products Division works with Arctic Co-operatives and other retailers to provide timely reporting of concerns related to the quality of fuel supplies? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Petroleum Products Division is committed to providing the different fuel types that our communities need, including naphtha, and we do have local contractors to supply these fuels. It

is an ongoing partnership that we do have at the local level, Arctic Co-ops and others that we work with. If there are questions around the quality of products that are being provided, we would like to hear from them and there are mechanisms in place to try to address these types of issues when it pertains to fuel types or naphtha.

I do note that this season, as I had stated in this House, it has been a different resupply season and there have been challenges around providing fuel in our communities. It's unfortunate to hear some of the information that we're hearing from Kugluktuk, Gjoa Haven, and Taloyoak, and I believe the member mentioned that the Member of Parliament had supported the people in Taloyoak, the hunters and trappers there, in addressing their concerns. We will reach out to the Member of Parliament's office and see what they had been able to do in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 253 – 6(2): Funding for Affordable Child Care

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my next question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, in January of this year, a little over ten months ago, there was announced \$66 million over five years to support affordable child care.

Mr. Speaker, to meet the terms of the agreement according to coverage on this topic, the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut will create an implementation committee that will

monitor progress on child care commitments in consultation with stakeholders and that the Government of Nunavut will need to track how child care is being provided in Nunavut to help build on that system. Can I get an update on the progress of that initiative, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question on the early learning and child care agreement. It has been since the beginning of this year that we have signed the agreement for the funds, and I am happy to say that the Department of Education staff does work closely with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and will be meeting in December for a couple of days to continue discussions on this agreement.

Moving forward, there are various years and steps that we have to go through, and this year we're working to reduce child care fees and look forward to work that's coming forward and making it more affordable for Nunavummiut to obtain lower cost of daycare fees for their children, which will put more money into the pockets of Nunavummiut. I'm happy that the department is working closely with our partners and the stakeholders to ensure that we have reduced rates of child care and that we're going to be moving and implementing this agreement in a really nice fashion, Mr. Speaker.
(interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for bringing up the topic of daycare fees. It was committed by the government and clearly stated that daycare fees will drop by 50 percent by the end of 2022. The minister gave an update saying that they're meeting on this topic, but I would like to get an update on the status of when that fee reduction will be implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I can't announce the particular details at this time, but I can say that the department is working very hard to meet the needs of this 50 percent reduction and I look forward to a news release coming out in the next couple weeks.
Quana, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look forward to that news release and I'm looking forward to another news release, Mr. Speaker. It was also stated at that time that the Government of Nunavut would invest up to 25 percent of the federal funding on increased wages for early childhood educators.

Mr. Speaker, I have long been an advocate for paying our early childhood educators a fair salary so that the daycares can have some consistency of care. We too often hear of daycare closures because of staffing issues, and the income of those educators is one of the key components that will build a lot more of a solid foundation. Can I get an update from the minister on the status of

the wage subsidies for early childhood educators? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member. I echo his words in stating that we are very thankful for those early childhood educators and as our daycares across Nunavut are run primarily by not-for-profits with support for operation and maintenance from the Department of Education, we are happy that we will be able to support those educators that work in our child care facilities across Nunavut and help enhance their wages as part of this funding. The department is currently under review of wage salaries and doing a wage grid at the moment, and we hope that these implementations of the unified standard of a salary across Nunavut will be implemented by next fall, 2023. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members, be aware that the time allotted... . Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to extend the period for oral questions today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There is a nay. Recognizing the clock, the time, we will break for lunch and report back at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 12:05 and resumed at 13:29*

Speaker: Welcome back, everyone. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 001 – 6(2): Chesterfield Inlet Airport Terminal Building

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting a petition that has been signed by approximately 40 of my constituents in Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners have expressed their support for a new airport terminal building for the community. This is an issue that I have raised on many occasions.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this petition today on behalf of my constituents and I look forward to a favourable response from the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. He's coming. Mr. Joanasie.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Hon. David Joanasie: Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I believe it is the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation that is tabling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Let's try again. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Tabled Document 068 – 6(2): 2021 Nunavut Housing Corporation Contracting and Procurement Activity Report

Tabled Document 069 – 6(2): 2021-22 Nunavut Housing Corporation Annual Report

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table two documents; the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Contracting and Procurement Activity Report for the year ending March 31, 2021, and Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2021-22 annual report.

Mr. Speaker, the Inuktitut version of the annual report will be tabled once the translations are complete. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 014 – 6(2): Reviews of the Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act – Notice

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that the reviews of the *Official*

Languages Act and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* be referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation;

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

Speaker: Thank you. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Motion 015 – 6(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until February 22, 2023.

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

Speaker: Thank you. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just need a short break. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act – Notice**

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. I didn't have this on hand.

(interpretation ends) I give notice that on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Legislation Assembly and Executive Council Act*, be read for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will seek consent to waive the notice period so that Bill 15 may be read for the first time today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 16. Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Item 16: Motions

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

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with her motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Ms. Brewster.

Motion 014 – 6(2): Reviews of the Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AND WHEREAS these reviews may include recommendations for amendments to the statutes;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly, by virtue of Parliamentary Privilege, has the authority to determine the manner in which the reviews shall be undertaken;

AND WHEREAS the terms of reference for the standing committees of the 6th Legislative Assembly were adopted by way of motion of the House at its sitting of March 7, 2022;

AND WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Legislation is empowered to consider matters referred to it by the House;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that the reviews of the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* be referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the standing committee report its finding and recommendations to the House on or

before the last sitting day of the fall 2023 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Motions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion adjournment motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please, proceed, Mr. Malliki.

Motion 015 – 6(2): Extended Adjournment

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until February 22, 2023.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Motion 013 – 6(2): Admonishment of the Executive Council of Nunavut

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) WHEREAS subsection 60(3) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides the Premier and members of the Executive Council hold office during the pleasure of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the current Executive Council was appointed in November 2021;

AND WHEREAS the mid-point in the life of this Legislative Assembly will be reached in November 2023;

AND WHEREAS it is incumbent on all ministers to execute, to the best of their ability, the powers and trust placed in them by the Members of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the role of the regular Members of the Legislative Assembly is to hold the government to account for its actions and decisions;

AND WHEREAS all ministers are expected to have a deep and detailed knowledge of their portfolios;

AND WHEREAS all ministers are expected to provide candid, clear and comprehensive answers to members' questions in this House;

AND WHEREAS all ministers are expected to provide a candid response to the members' correspondence and other communications;

AND WHEREAS concerns have been expressed by members regarding ministerial performance in these areas;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, that the Executive Council be admonished.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The regular members have brought this motion forward because we have not been receiving answers to our questions and I want the minister to think about this motion carefully. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the motion. The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you colleagues. I want to start off first to the motion that was moved, since we have stated as a government, our wish to be open which was the beginning, and I clearly recall our caucus meeting in Cambridge Bay, and spoke about the need for collaboration and partnership. We have continued to try to keep that principle, to date, and our work to be inclusive with the regular MLAs, and this has been shown repeatedly to now.

Due to this openness, this motion was unexpected, and through this avenue, Mr. Speaker. But, it is clear that more emphasis needs to be made towards clearer modes of communication, the need for greater partnership and this was

held by the membership as the reasoning for this motion.

As a government, we strive to provide clear messages in our responses, so we know and are aware, Mr. Speaker, that our colleagues are expressing their expectations via this motion, and their wish to be more involved in the actual decisions made in light of the discussions leading to this motion.

Mr. Speaker, we must not forget where we began, from whence we started and the outlook we formed, as we all wanted to enact modifications to the way past governments operated, and up to now, we have tried to keep our constituents and the electorate at the top of our minds. This is something we do not easily forget, and Nunavummiut wanted to see concrete changes, and to see facilities allocated fairly to every community.

This infrastructural discrepancy has been in play for far too many years, and has consistently been brought forward, and our esteemed elders whom we wanted to repatriate to Nunavut, which were the basis of our discussions along with development that benefited all the communities, bettered our daily lives and our culture.

Mr. Speaker, I want to voice my observation that the issue of daycares was something we debated and our expectations as the last jurisdiction in Canada to join this initiative, and we have tried to keep that in the forefront to assist Nunavummiut to meet their daily challenges. This is a principle in *Katujjiluta* which is clearly outlined, and the basis for prioritizing it.

In the last two weeks rather, during our session in this House, we have discussed the need for progress in the largest sectors that provide the best benefits as a result of development to our communities using the budget funds we have identified as meeting these needs.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, we identified the number of housing units that will be constructed in the upcoming fiscal year, totalling 360 units planned for construction. This is a commendable development as we work towards meeting our housing crisis. We know this is an obstacle for many residents and we have prioritized this from the youngest residents to the oldest.

This impact, Mr. Speaker is tangibly palpable through these initiatives, and I also want to verbalize the need to prioritize the needs of our precious elders, and we have sped up the approval of the facility to be constructed in Rankin Inlet for the caring of our elders. This is also identified as a need within our *Katujjiluta* mandate, to give precedence to facilities that assist our elders.

We anticipate that as these projects move forward, that we will note more progress, and I also want to note the agreements negotiated with the regional Inuit associations to work in tandem to meet these needs, and to date, we have identified areas where we can partner up with them to address many of these shared priorities.

And further, to conclude, this last part I want to briefly speak to is the workforce in our public service that was one of the clearest priorities when we formed this government, and lastly, this most recent

announcement regarding the Qulliq Energy Corporation, the Teachers' Association along with representative of all of our employees under the NEU.

We worked hard to negotiate these agreements and to date, we were successful in negotiating an agreement so our employees could work without undue stress, and we are very clear in understanding that our employees are the foundation of good governance, and in partnership with them, our public façade can become friendlier.

Mr. Speaker, we have undertaken a lot of work in these areas, and these are readily apparent, and yet we also hear the wishes of the regular MLAs to be more involved, their wishes to receive pertinent information for their ridings, their wishes for clear responses, and it is obvious that through closer co-operation, openness, and transparent dialogue, I expect substantive changes towards our path forward.

These are all written within the *Katujjiluta* mandate, and we are approximately halfway through our governance and by November of next year, we will also be conducting a review on where we are as a government. This has been our basis for being open to working with others, and we will continue to work towards this goal.

What I want to clarify is that the executive is open to partnership with our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, and I wanted to note that our doors are always open for any realistic solutions to issues, to valid concerns and I wanted to clarify these matters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the motion. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Mr. Speaker, the motion speaks for itself, that there is dissatisfaction from the regular members. Mr. Speaker, the Premier stated all of the things that they want to do that they are working on. I didn't hear too much speaking towards the motion.

One of the things is: all ministers are to execute, to the best of their ability, their powers trusted in them by the Members of the Legislative Assembly. We expect all the ministers to perform at ministerial level in question period, Committee of the Whole, responding to emails. That is what we expect. That is why we entrusted them to put them where they are. They were voted by the House to perform to the best of their ability. They took an oath to perform to the best of their ability.

Also, "...WHEREAS all ministers are expected to have a deep and detailed knowledge of their portfolios." I didn't hear any speaking to the motion of that. We had some examples this morning again of our questions in question period not being answered again.

Also, "...all ministers are expected to provided candid, clear and comprehensive answers to members' questions in this House." Sometimes when we get the answers, we get lots of data and other information thrown at us, but at times we don't get clear, candid answers, and we ask these questions for our constituents. Our constituents want to know. They come to us and say "This is my issue, this is my problem. I need your help." Then we bring them to the House for our constituents.

Also, "...all ministers are expected to provide timely responses to members' correspondence and other communications." It speaks for itself.

I'm not sure how we can have two such drastically different views between the Executive Council and regular members as to how things are running right now in question period, Committee of the Whole and interactions we have between the regular members and Executive Council. I will be supporting this motion because it is needed. Thank you.

Speaker: To the motion. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Good afternoon, members, ministers. I too want to speak to the motion. As for our constituents, we represent their wants and desires when we select the executive, it's the regular people that vote the government in. When you become a minister, it's all of Nunavut that we are representing. All of Nunavut made this government happen, to be able to function. It's all by the constituents. We are representing Nunavummiut.

As members in this House, we bring forward issues and concerns that we receive from our constituents. The Premier of Nunavut spoke that Elders are a priority. I would say, in terms of our Elders, we have come a long way before this. We relied on living well and being good. Currently, the rules are set out in paper, and the current conditions we live in, and the way we live, and the way we progress.

We are reviewing the capital budgets and the departments that the government requires for capital items. We try not to

just give you a rubber stamp. We don't just agree to disagree. We, as members, speak regarding concerns and issues that are priorities in the communities. That is the purpose of this motion.

Mr. Speaker, our questions are not being answered. That's the base of this motion, Mr. Speaker. This motion, I will support as well. As we agree to work hard on behalf of our constituents that we work really hard, and we speak in front of God that we will represent them well. We know it's difficult. When things are difficult, sometimes we go in areas that we aren't sure about. We have difficulty bringing issues forward, and not getting responses. Maybe not all the members will support this, or not support this. This too will be to do with their constituents.

The motion before us that we need answers in the House in a timely manner for our constituents. When we become ministers, the people that we represent has to be a priority. We work towards Nunavut's strength, Nunavut *Sannginiriyavut*. Who are we representing? It's the Inuit of Nunavut, whether they're *qallunaaq*, or Inuk, or they're from outside of Nunavut. We represent them all. Our language and culture has to be built in the House.

There are many expectations of elders, and elders that have passed that wanted an Inuit government. We also hold, Mr. Speaker, when are we going to operate as Inuit in the House? If we were to look around the world, when they have their own, they use their own language. As I try and speak Inuktitut in the House. This is real stuff that we bring forward in the House. As I speak, let me note clearly that we need answers in the

House and to be fair and equal and to work together. These are some of what we need to do. They are not just words that we hear in this House. When we work together things improve. This motion I will support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the motion. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the motion, I want to make it abundantly clear that the regular members took serious consideration on this motion and every aspect of the motion. We collectively agree that we are here to be the best constituency MLAs that we can be and that putting our constituents first is what leads us and therefore it is our responsibility to put them first by asking questions of Executive Council and what we all agreed on is that we're not getting clear answers. They are not concise. Sometimes we have to wait until the *Blues* comes so that we fully understand whether or not our questions were fully responded to.

There's been unacceptable length of time between members putting concerns forward to Executive Council and hearing responses and that reflects not just on the executive members but it also reflects on us because our constituents are left with the impression that we are not advocating for them. That we are not doing our job and what we know when we think about Inuit values that we are all raised in is that every person in our community is important. Every person has a role. Every person has a responsibility and if we are not supporting every person in that role and responsibility then we are not serving

our people. We are not serving our community and if we as regular Members of the Legislative Assembly are not being given the tools through the answers that we are seeking from Executive Council then we cannot be productive members of our community and we cannot productively represent our constituents and that is why I will be voting in favour of this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the motion. I have no more names on my list. Does the mover of the motion Mr. Malliki have any closing comments? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has become apparent or obvious on what we are requesting from the hamlet. We are not pleased with the answers that we are getting, we are not pleased with not getting answers and I hope that the government understands this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. A recorded vote now. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. All those abstained. The motion is carried.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I seek consent to waive the notice period so that Bill 15 may be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking consent to allow the first reading of Bill 15 for today. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act – First Reading

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to waive the notice period so that Bill 15 may be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking consent to allow the second reading of Bill 15 for today. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

**Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the
Legislative Assembly and
Executive Council Act – Second
Reading**

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* to address the demise of the Crown. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and as Bill 15 is a House Bill, it is immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 4, 8, 10, 11, and 15 with Mr. Malliki in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 11 – 6(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 10-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 14:03 and
Committee resumed at 14:17*

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

Chairman (Mr. Malliki): I would like to call this committee back to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 4, 8, 10, 11, and 15. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the main capital estimates for the Department of Culture and Heritage, followed by the Department of Justice. We will then commence the review of the Qulliq Energy Corporation and, once completed, we will finalize the main capital estimates for the Department of Finance and then proceed with the review of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, following the clause-by-clause review of Bill 10, we will proceed with the review of Bill 8, Bill 4, Bill 11, and Bill 15. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 10?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2023-2024 – Culture and Heritage
– Consideration in Committee**

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

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials in.

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

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) To my right is my Deputy Minister, Teresa Hughes, and to my left is Director of Corporate Services Wendy Bens.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The proposed 2023-24 capital estimates include \$1,450,000 under the Department of Culture and Heritage. This amount breaks down into three parts:

- \$700,000 is being requested to continue the Heritage Facilities Contribution Program;
- \$500,000 is being requested for a new Public Libraries Facilities Contribution Program, which is modelled on the heritage facilities program; and
- Lastly, we are requesting a one-time small capital amount of \$250,000 for maintenance of our Kugluktuk office.

I am available to respond to questions members have on this section of the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Quassa. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness concerning its review of the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of...wrong.

>> *Laughter*

I guess this will come later. My apologies, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

It has been a long few weeks here. My apologies, Mr. Chairman.

I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness concerning its review of the 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year is \$1,450,000 for its ongoing heritage facilities funding, public libraries facilities funding, and its small capital budget. This represents an increase of 107 percent from its 2022-23 capital budget.

The department's capital contribution program is allocated to non-profit community-based organizations and municipal corporations for the development or renovation of heritage facilities and relevant associated

equipment. Information provided to the standing committee indicates that a total of 34 community entities have received funding through these agreements since the 2016-17 fiscal year. During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members questioned which entities received funding and in which amounts.

Members encourage the minister to begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly which details the department's activities, expenditures, and initiatives in relation to the Heritage Facilities and Public Libraries Facilities contribution programs. The reporting of specific work that has been done with these programs would be beneficial to all members in evaluating the impact of these programs.

Members note that the department has allocated \$500,000 for a new Public Library Facilities Grants and Contribution funding program. This funding is intended to assist in the modernization of existing public libraries. Members look forward to the development of a formal policy to manage this new program.

During the minister's recent appearance, members raised the issue of a new Nunavut Heritage Centre. Members questioned the extent to which the department has been consulting with Inuit Heritage Trust and the Qaggiavuut Society. Members recognize that this a major project that is currently in the planning phase and look forward to receiving ongoing updates on the status of this important work.

Minister, I would like to also welcome you and your officials here today, and

that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me an opportunity to say a few brief remarks before we proceed with the deliberation of Culture and Heritage's capital budget.

The first thing I would like to say is *tunngasugit* minister and your officials. I always make a point to identify when ministers bring in a compliment of Inuit officials. I think that's something that deserves recognition and celebration, whenever we see departments being led by Inuit.

I also wanted to make comment on the Public Library Facilities Project. Over the years I have been raising my concern with the fact that there are so few communities in Nunavut that actually public libraries. If I recall correctly, only seven of our communities have active public libraries. That has been a concern of mine for quite some time for the fact that community libraries play such an integral part in any community, not just providing a warm safe space for youth and community members to access, but promotes literacy and literacy programming, and allows the community to access the internet, if they don't have it at home.

As I've been raising my concern over this for a number of years, it is so great to see that the department has put

forward this capital project; this pot of funds that allows communities and organizations to apply for funding for the construction of community public libraries, or major capital renovations and additions to existing spaces. It's nice to know that my concerns are being heard, and that the government is acting on addressing the situation. I just want to thank the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. (interpretation ends) I have no more names for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting on page F-3. Culture and Heritage. Total Capital Expenditures, \$1,450,000. Questions? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For a number of years, the Department of Culture and Heritage's capital estimates have included half a million dollars in annual funding for its Heritage Facilities Contribution Program. The department's 2023-24 project substantiation sheet indicates that five facilities were awarded a combined total the half million dollars in 2021-22 fiscal year.

Which five facilities received funding, and in what amounts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just give me a minute. I do apologize, again. With the Heritage Facilities, we have given monies to Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay,

Rankin Inlet, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, in Chesterfield Inlet and for the Kivalliq Inuit Association in Nauyasat, and also Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure some of my colleagues will have some follow up questions in that. Mr. Chairman in March 2022, the Minister of Community and Government Services provided all Members of the Legislative Assembly with a list of projects entering the planning stage for the 2022-23 fiscal year. This list indicated that a new Nunavut Heritage Centre is "going into the planning envelope for the 2022-2023 fiscal year." To what extent has the Department of Culture and Heritage been working with Community and Government Services on this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the planning envelope, we are looking at the locations and the design of the facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is pretty short and straight forward. Has the government decided in principle to construct a new heritage centre? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the heritage centre, we will have a discussion and work with the Heritage Division and only after an agreement between the two parties can we begin the planning portion of the heritage facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the reasons why I asked that question, the Government of Nunavut had also recently announced that an employment opportunity for a conservator position based out in Gatineau Quebec and the job description states that the position is temporarily located in Quebec until “such time that a Nunavut Heritage facility is constructed in Nunavut.” So what is the department’s current timeline for the construction of a Nunavut Heritage Facility or is this position going to be located outside the territory indefinitely? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Prior to the construction, we are planning ensure that we are properly located. We have to learn about how to operate out of such a facility and we are currently training individuals so that they’ll be ready to be employed at that facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am a little confused. The minister just mentioned that they are looking at training to fill positions at the facility and yet there is not a firm plan on when the facility is going to be built. Maybe if the minister can elaborate a little bit. I am a little confused at what stage is going to come first? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister if you would elaborate. Madam Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the Nunavut heritage facility, it is going to take a while to have it finalized and completed. Usually there are obstacles that we have to go through, but we went to make sure that we’re prepared to fill the positions in a Nunavut heritage facility. It’s doesn’t take one year train an individual. There are the curators and other employees that will have to be employed. We want to be fully prepared to fill the positions and possibly relocate in order to be provided that training. That’s what we’re going to be doing in Gatineau, Quebec. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister on that clarification. My question with this position that is going to be located in Gatineau, Quebec; how long is the Government of Nunavut, or specifically the Department of Culture and Heritage going to accept as a length of time for this position to be located outside the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, we have it set for three years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions? I have no further names. Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your opening comments, you stated \$250,000 in small capital funding for the Iglaaaq Building. Where would the building be located? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have rented an NCC building and it's part of the government building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As well as the Igloo building that you stated, will that also be included? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you. No, we're going to be working only on the government building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Under Small Capital, the Department of

Culture and Heritage's 2023 capital estimates include \$250,000 for small capital projects. The department's substantiation sheet for this project indicates that Kugluktuk's Iglaaaq Building is in need of carpet floor replacement and recommends replacing all carpets with resilient sheets, tiled floor, which is more environmentally friendly and durable.

In June 2022 the Legislative Assembly approved \$300,000 in capital carryover funding for a carpet replacement project at the Timivut office building in Igloolik, and \$150,000 in capital carryover funding for carpet replacement at the Iglaaaq office building in Kugluktuk. As of today, what is the status of these projects? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to this \$300,000, it had to be divided between Igloolik and Kugluktuk. However, additional funds are being made available for the shortages of materials or completion of the building in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2023-24 capital estimates include \$250,000 in small capital funding for a carpet replacement project in Iglaaaq building in Kugluktuk. Is this a continuation of the small same property replacement project that was

approved in the 2019-2020 fiscal year?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this one
is the same one and amount, however an
additional request the project due to the
increase in costs. That's why we are
requesting additional funding. Thank
you.

Chairman (interpretation): I have no
more names on my list. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank
you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to
Igloolik's portion on the office, can you
please remind me what is the shortfall?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For Igloolik
there is no shortage, the \$250,000 is for
the Kugluktuk office where we have a
shortfall for the work needed on the
building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank
you for clarifying that, as I misheard that
the shortfall was Igloolik, but apparently
it was actually for Kugluktuk.

My question is: here, within the
Department of Culture and Heritage,
under the capital estimates for 2023-24,
the \$500,000 estimate for libraries...the
estimate budget provided by the

department on page 2, that portion of it
has been closed for recent perhaps lack
of space. I would like to ask, where is
this located? Which community is it that
the library has been closed? Thank you,
Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can say that
we have 7 libraries that request funding
from this this program and funds are
made available. Most communities don't
have a proper local library. Some do
lend books, for example, people are able
to get a book at the school library.
However, we have only seven local
community libraries. I don't recollect
which community library closed,
however I can say most would be
utilized ...most communities have their
libraries at their school. Some have
indicated that they don't want their
library used for the public. I hope that
answers your question. Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank
you, Mr. Chairman. By way of letter, if
you were to respond by way of
correspondence, which community has
been closed? I would like a written
response, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll confirm
which community was closed, and I'll

commit to writing back to you on that.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will expect a letter with which community was affected. Earlier, the Iqaluit-Manirajak MLA stressed the importance of the need to read and write in Inuktitut and English. I want to ask a different question, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) When it comes to department's substantiation sheet, indicates on page 2 that "these funds are primarily for the construction of community public libraries and major capital renovations and addition to existing spaces." How will \$500,000 be sufficient to construct a new building?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The communities can also benefit from the request that I made to the Culture and Language Department. If any changes wanted to be made in the community, the community may request funding for renovations or repairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Perhaps the \$500,000 will be inadequate, as always. Perhaps if I may ask this way. Culture and Language, how are they informing the local municipalities, or non-government organizations how this

funding is made available at your department? Do you notify the municipalities? My last question is on that. How often do you inform the municipalities? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On an annual basis, the funding request. We give notice by radio, media, and letters to hamlets, or local newspapers. Information is given this way. Most communities also realized that funds are available. Even when notices are not given, communities are submitting their requests in advance. Those who represent the communities come and give reports of what they may request for funding. This is how we give information, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on the list.
(interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Directive. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1,450,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page F-2. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1,450,000. Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded Culture and Heritage?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Minister Quassa, do you have closing comments?

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Yes, I do. Thank you. I would especially like to thank my staff, in particular my staff at the Department of Culture and Heritage for their hard work. The request, no doubt, is especially in the area of culture and local libraries, and realizing that we really need these in the communities.

These funds provide a lot of benefits to the communities and especially to our young people. With respect to heritage, with a new building that will be built, these will definitely have a lot of benefits for the communities. I thank you all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2023-2024 – Justice –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table. We'll just wait here. We'll move on to the next item.

Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Simailak, do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the officials in to the witness table. For the record, Minister Simailak

please introduce your officials and then proceed to your opening comments.

Hon. Craig Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Deputy Minister of Justice Stephen Mansell.

I appear before the committee today to present the Department of Justice's 2023-24 capital estimates. We are seeking approval of \$1,350,000 for the Department of Justice's capital expenditures for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

The Department of Justice continues to work closely with its partners on the construction of the Aaqqiarvik Correctional Healing Facility. Phase two, which was the renovation of old facility, has been completed and we received occupancy of the facility in July 2022. A warranty amount of \$250,000 has been allocated to this project for 2023-24.

The Department of Justice is also seeking approval for \$1,100,000 in the minor capital budget. Our minor capital includes:

- Two new vehicles for the Corrections Division, Iqaluit (\$125,000).
- Acquiring a new boat in the amount of \$90,000 and a boat trailer for \$50,000 for Kugluktuk Healing Facility.

These new vehicles and boat will replace the existing vehicles that are dated and have high maintenance cost.

- The Rankin Inlet Healing Facility requires painting as part of the regular lifecycle for building maintenance. This project was supposed to begin in the fiscal year 2021-22 but did not happen due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The estimated cost is \$200,000.
- Office tenant improvement in Building 1107 in the amount of \$235,000 here in Iqaluit, which is the headquarters of the Department of Justice with over 50 employees in the building. Funding is required for the replacement of carpets on the first floor along with other general improvements, such as fixed cabinet replacement.
- Information technology systems and infrastructure in the amount of \$200,000 to replace the aging hardware and software computer systems of Justice as well as installation of fibre-optic connections to leased buildings.
- Finally, building maintenance and improvements in the amount of \$200,000, covering the repair and maintenance costs associated with vandalism and emergency repairs at the seven correctional facilities and the Nunavut Court of Justice building.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I will now take any questions from the committee members. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee

have opening comments? Please proceed, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was so excited to be delivering opening statements that I started them earlier.

I am happy to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness concerning its review of the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice. The department's proposed capital budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year is \$1,350,000. This represents a decrease of 88 percent from its 2022-23 capital budget. The primary reason for this decrease is the completion of the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility.

In June 2022 the Legislative Assembly approved \$1,560,000 in capital carryover funding to complete the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility project. Members recognize that the construction of the new Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility will significantly increase Nunavut's capacity to house adult male offenders within the territory. During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members asked for an update regarding the number of beds available in the facility.

Members are happy that the department is moving forward with renovations to the Kugluktuk Ilavut Healing Centre. This project is currently in the design phase and has no construction costs for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Members questioned the extent to which the department has explored options for incorporating alternative energy technology into the Kugluktuk Ilavut

Healing Centre. Members encourage the department to make every reasonable effort to include solar panels and other alternative energy while planning the design of its facilities.

During April 2022, the Members of the Legislative Assembly held a televised hearing on the most recent report of the Auditor General of Canada concerning correctional facilities in Nunavut. Members support a correctional system that focuses on rehabilitation and anti-recidivism. Members encourage the department to review relevant best practices from appropriate jurisdictions, including, for example, the Ny Anstalt high-security correctional facility located in Nuuk, Greenland. The facility was designed and constructed with a focus on progressive rehabilitation for the facilities inmates.

Members noted that the Department of Justice's five-year capital plan includes a new Courts and Corrections Information System. Information provided by the department to the standing committee indicates that the funding is expected to start in the 2025-26 fiscal year. Members note that this multi-year project is intended to modernize the processes and technology that supports the administration of the courts and corrections departments. Members look forward to ongoing updates on this important project.

Members also note that the department's proposed 2023-24 capital estimates also include funding for a number of minor capital projects.

I would like to welcome the minister and his official, and that concludes my opening comments on the proposed

2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? (interpretation) It looks like there are none. (interpretation ends) We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting on E-3. Justice. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1,100,000. Questions? Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In June 2022 the Legislative Assembly approved \$1,560,000 in capital carryover funding in order to complete the multi-year Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Centre project, and your department's capital project carryover substantiation sheets indicated that the project was previously delayed by one year due to cost overruns. Just for the record, minister, can you tell us, as of today, what is the status of this project? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. The Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility project is completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, your department's draft 2023-24 substantiation sheet indicates that the facility will receive a

certificate of substantial completion by September 2022. As of today, can you tell us again for the record: has your department achieved this certification? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We received it in July of this year. Thank you.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, your department's 2022-23 capital estimates included \$200,000 in minor capital funding for government building contingency costs related to repairs in correctional facilities and the Nunavut Court of Justice building. What repairs have been undertaken at these facilities during the 2022-23 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Vandalism, replacing windows, painting, sort of that nature. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's draft 2023 capital estimates include \$200,000 in minor capital funding for government building contingency costs related to repairs. Specifically for the Nunavut Court of Justice building, what repairs

have been undertaken, Mr. Minister? I'm just confused about whether or not you were responding regarding the correctional facilities or the justice building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Simailak, can you...(inaudible)...

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was for both. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names for questions. Do any members have questions? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department's draft capital estimates include \$15,000 in minor capital funding for structural cabling in Gjoa Haven. The department's substantiation sheet indicates that this cost is for "installation of fibre and structured cabling into the building owned by CAP Enterprises."

In March 2022 a fire in Gjoa Haven burned down the community's Government of Nunavut building, as we're all aware. The Legal Services Board had a number of positions located in this building.

Can the minister confirm if the Legal Services Board positions are currently located in the building owned by CAP Enterprises? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are in the hamlet office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the government's long-term plan for relocating the Legal Services Board positions in Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once we have a permanent facility in Gjoa Haven, they will be moving into there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department's five-year capital plan indicates that funding for its new Courts and Corrections Information Technology project will start in the 2025-26 fiscal year. The department's substantiation sheet for this project indicates that it is currently considering three different options for this project. My first question, Mr. Chairman, is: why will this process take two years to complete? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Other priorities have come up and we are currently reviewing options. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: That leads to my next question, I guess, basically is: what is the status of the review and the evaluation of the different options? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow Deputy Minister Mansell to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. We have done a technical analysis and the overall cost of the project was significant and we're now looking at what other jurisdictions have done and what may be available off the shelf, as they say, and looking at various options due to the significant cost of this project. It is a priority for the department, but we want to make sure that we pick the project for cost-benefit that is the best use of funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list once again for questions. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask this question. (interpretation ends) In June 2022 the Legislative Assembly approved \$74,000 in capital carryover funding for court services for radio equipment. As of today, what is the status of this project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's complete. We're just waiting for the back orders to come in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) To carry on, your department's approved 2021-22 capital estimates included \$100,000 in minor capital funding for the painting of the Rankin Inlet Correctional Healing Centre. However, information provided by your department indicates that the project was delayed due to the COVID pandemic. Your department's draft 2023-24 capital estimates include \$200,000 in minor capital funding for the painting of the same facility. This represents an increase of 100 percent. What accounts of this increase? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was the estimate that we received. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): The fact that it was brought back, can you clarify that for me, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Simailak, can you clarify that?

Hon. Craig Simailak: Yes, that was the estimate that we had received. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Maybe that makes more sense now. Ms. Killiktee, are you done? (interpretation ends) Okay. Next name on my list is Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, minister and your officials. (interpretation ends) In a recent letter to the standing committee, you provided an update regarding the possibility of including solar panels to the Ilavut Centre renovation. You indicated that the Department of Community and Government Services is including the initiative into the government-wide feasibility study. Is there any expected timeline as to when the committee will know if the solar panels were approved by the department? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't received the timeline yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Do you have a ballpark figure of when you will be getting it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The studies should be done in the fiscal year of 2023-24. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak: Your department's 2022-23 substantiation sheet for the Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre renovation project indicates that \$50,000 would be allocated during the 2023-24 fiscal year. However, your department's draft 2023-24 substantiation sheet indicates that funding will not resume until the 2024-25 fiscal year. Why has the timeline for this project changed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's due to the timeline for the request for proposals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list.

I would like to recognize someone who is no stranger to this House, the former Member for Netsilik, Emiliano. Welcome to the House.

>>Applause

Also, to the people accompanying him, please feel welcome in your House.

>>Applause

Thank you. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Total Capital Expenditures for Directorate is \$1.1 million. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page E-6. Corrections. Total Capital Expenditures. \$250,000. Any questions? (interpretation) I don't think so. (interpretation ends) Do members agree for total capital expenditures of \$250,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page E-2. Justice. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1,350,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we concluded Justice?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): As that department is done, we will take a break. (interpretation ends) Oh, closing comments, minister. (interpretation) I'm sorry. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the committee for the questions and comments. We always work them into either programs or thinking ideas and whatnot going forward and we appreciate it. I thank Deputy Minister Mansell for appearing before me as well. Thank you to the committee. (interpretation) That's it.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms,

please escort the official out of the witness table.

We are now going to take a 20-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 15:16 and resumed at 15:36

Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024 – Qulliq Energy Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to call this committee back to order. I would like to ask the minister: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize; I didn't have an earpiece on and I didn't hear that.

Chairman (interpretation): I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask Minister Simailak: do you have officials that you would like to appear before this committee?

Hon. Craig Simailak: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials to the witness table.

For the record, Minister Simailak, please introduce your officials and then proceed to your opening comments.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is President of the Qulliq Energy Corporation Rick Hunt; to my [right], Acting Vice-president Bill Nippard.

Mr. Chairman, I am here today to discuss the use of the Nunavut carbon rebate, which helps upgrade the territory's existing conventional street lights with new energy-efficient light emitting diode bulbs.

Our government is focusing on reducing our reliance on diesel and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. Replacing existing street lights with energy-efficient and cost-effective lighting helps lower harmful emissions being released into the atmosphere and save communities thousands of dollars in maintenance costs. These savings can then be reinvested in our communities.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation is asking the Government of Nunavut for the final instalment of \$500,000 to complete the four-year street light replacement project and replace lights in the remaining communities, which are Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Naujaat, Kinngait, and Sanikiluaq, in 2023-24.

This street light replacement project is a continuation of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's energy efficiency efforts. While the upfront cost of each bulb is significant, the new street lights bring significant savings in maintenance costs since light emitting diodes last five times longer than conventional lights. Communities pay the Qulliq Energy Corporation for the electricity to operate their street lights. Using higher efficiency bulbs will generate savings for our communities. In addition to the

environmental and financial benefits, light emitting diode street lights also offer improved public safety as they provide better illumination of the roads.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation is committed to working with the government to uphold its commitment to the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*. We are committed to providing Nunavummiut with energy-efficient solutions that lessen the burden on non-renewable energy sources and reduce our territory's environmental footprint. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Members recognize that the Qulliq Energy Corporation's four-year street light replacement project is being funded by revenues from the federal carbon tax. Members continue to support the intent of the project and encourage the minister to table a final report in the Legislative Assembly at the conclusion of the project which provides comprehensive detail concerning the corporation's activities and expenditures.

The standing committee also encourage the minister to provide regular updates to

the Legislative Assembly on the corporation's renewable energy projects and other green initiatives to reduce the territory's dependence on fossil fuels.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed '23-24 capital estimates of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? I don't see any. Do the members have any questions? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we last had the Qulliq Energy Corporation in front of us for another \$500,000 LED project, I was assured that LED lights were going to be put in Arviat and I left Arviat on October 25 and not a single one has been put up yet. Explanation? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member left just a little too early. They started. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that and I'm looking forward to going home, I hope going home to a brighter place. Estimates on how long it will take to complete the whole project of 198 lights, I believe? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Depending on exactly when he gets home, but it should be completed by November 12, so it should be brighter by then, his street lights and streets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I'm glad the minister said that the ones by my house will be done first, but...

>>*Laughter*

...that's all I have. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) That was just a comment. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: And a humorous comment at that.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure the minister is very aware that LED light bulbs, in some cases around the world, I know of numerous cases in North America where there are defective bulbs that are not showing the bright lights, that are showing purple lights, that apparently that is the original colour of an LED light bulb. It's purple. I would like to get confirmation from the minister that, as far as he is aware, whether or not we have any of those defective bulbs in inventory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, if you will have my vice-president, Bill Nippard, respond to that operational question. Thank you.

Chairman: Please proceed.

Mr. Nippard: Thank you. To the best of my knowledge, we haven't encountered this particular failure in the LED lights. We have purchased three different types of lights from three different manufacturers, but so far, we haven't seen this deficiency. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm happy to hear that and hopefully we can remain unscathed with that manufacturing defect.

Mr. Chairman, I know we don't like to deal with rumours or not-confirmed information, but there has been... I don't know if it's a story or a rumour or even how to classify it, that there might be some interest from the City of Iqaluit in selling their ball diamond lot, which is adjacent to the older plant on the way to the airport. I know historically that that land was donated to the city by the Qulliq Energy Corporation way back in the day.

In a circumstance where land has been donated for recreation use, that was the original intent of the land transfer, if there are any actions taken by the city to remove that from their recreation inventory, does the minister know if there are any clauses or any information or agreements back from the original transfer that would keep that lot in the

high-use recreation facility... ? Space, not a facility; I guess it technically could be. It's a ball diamond, but it's a very highly used part of the recreation inventory through the City of Iqaluit. I would just like to get the minister's position on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since it was donated to the city to be used as a recreational facility, it would be a shame for that to be lost, but that's before our time and we don't know if there were any clauses or not that it had to stay a recreational facility and we don't have any plans on trying to take it back from the city as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list for questions. Does anyone still have questions? I don't think so. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that we have concluded the Qulliq Energy Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do you have closing comments, Minister Simailak?

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to my officials, Mr. Rick Hunt and Bill Nippard, for coming to present with me.

Thank you to the committee. With this final approval, all of the Nunavut communities will now have brighter streets, which is safer for all of our constituents, especially with

communities like Arviat, where they have a problem with polar bears.

With these light emitting diode lights, it can be a bit safer, especially for Mr. Savikataaq there. Just to correct him, I didn't say his house would be first. I didn't say that, but thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the committee. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out of the witness table.

(interpretation) We will take a short break.

>> *Committee recessed at 15:48 and resumed at 15:49*

Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024 – Finance – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I ask... (interpretation) I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. (interpretation ends) I ask members to go to page C-2. Department of Finance. Total Capital Expenditures. \$20,163,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded Finance?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Closing comments, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, colleagues, and thank you for your patience in dealing with our department. I would just like to thank everybody that participated in the conclusion of this item, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2023-2024 – Legislative Assembly
– Consideration in Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation ends) I would like the Speaker of the House to get to the witness table.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Thank you.
(interpretation ends) I would like to ask if the Speaker of the House has officials that he would like to appear before the committee.

Speaker: Yes, I would like to have my official beside me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the committee agree for the Speaker's official to appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the official.

For the record, Speaker Akoak, please introduce your official and then proceed to your opening comments.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The official beside me on my right is Mr. Quirke, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before you and members today to present the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

I am pleased to note that the proposed 2023-24 capital budget of \$250,000 has not increased since the 2021-22 fiscal year. The proposed 2023-24 capital budget will be used for minor capital projects, including equipment upgrades and furniture replacement for offices of Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Office of the Legislative Assembly, and the offices of independent officers of the Legislative Assembly.

Over the past year, a number of improvements have been achieved at the Legislative Assembly Precinct, including the installation of a new Courtesy Flagpole, which has been used to commemorate such occasions as National Truth and Reconciliation Day.

That concludes my opening comments. I thank you and members for your support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker Akoak. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. We will be reviewing (interpretation ends) page A-3. Assembly Operations. Total Capital Expenditures. \$250,000. Questions? Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page A-2. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Total Capital Expenditures. \$250,000. Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded the Office of the Legislative Assembly?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Mr. Speaker Akoak, do you have closing remarks?

Speaker (interpretation): I thank you all very much. I also thank you very much for approving the capital budget for the Legislative Assembly. Thank you to our Clerk and our staff here at the Legislative Assembly. Thank you very much.

>>Applause

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the official out of the witness table.

**Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2023-2024 – Consideration in
Committee**

I ask you to go to Bill 10 in your legislative binder. Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the Schedule on page 2. Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 2. Schedule. Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2024. \$337,950,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 10 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 10 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Closing comments, minister.

That's concluded of Bill 10. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Mr. Chairman, I would like to report progress.

Chairman: There is a motion on the floor. It's not debatable. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Raise your hands again, please. All those opposed. Motion carried. I will now rise to report progress.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Your committee has been considering Bill 10 and would like to report that Bill 10 is immediately ready for third reading as admitted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. Oh, sorry. The motion... . Oh. Is there a seconder? Mr. David Akeeagok.

>>Laughter

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

Item 21. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024 – Third Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance... . Just a moment.

...(no audio)...Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for November 8:

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

18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of
the Whole of Bills and Other
Matters
 - Bill 4
 - Bill 8
 - Bill 11
 - Bill 15
20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 11 – 6(2), this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 8, at 10 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:02*

