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**DAY 63**

**Friday, October 25, 2019**

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**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable Simeon Mikkungwak, M.L.A.**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Baker Lake)

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(Quttiktuq)  
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Development and Transportation*

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(Amittuq)

**David Qamaniq**  
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Arctic College; Minister responsible  
for the Nunavut Housing  
Corporation*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Friday, October 25, 2019**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. David Qamaniq, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>House commenced at 9:01

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Good morning. Before we begin our meeting, I ask Member Towtongie to say the opening prayer, please.

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on with the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 307 – 5(2):  
Counselling Training for Staff of  
Victim Service**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good morning to all Nunavummiut.

*Uqaqtii*, I rise today to advise my

colleagues of some great news. I am pleased to announce that Mr. Willis Allurut, the Victim Services Coordinator in the department, is in the process of completing a certificate in Inuit counselling and mentorship. The training is being provided by the Ilisaqsivik Society in Clyde River. The training consists of five modules and combines traditional and clinical counselling practices.

Mr. Allurut will finish his training in November of this year. Other employees of victim services are also undertaking the same training.

*Uqaqtii*, this training will allow the victim services to better support its clientele in their time of crisis by equipping the employees with culturally relevant counselling skills. I look forward to the positive impact this training will have on services provided to victims of crime in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services and Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 308 – 5(2):  
Support Mental Health**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Good morning, my colleagues, as well as the people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut takes mental health seriously and both of my departments have initiated programs to

support our staff.

Throughout the last year the Department of Human Resources, in partnership with Osgoode Hall Law School, has been holding four-day training sessions on workplace mental health to departmental human resources employees, managers, and directors. In September there was also a one-day training offered to executive staff focusing on managing mental health and accommodation in the workplace. These sessions provided staff with concrete means to work with and support staff who have mental health challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to highlight a program the Department of Community and Government Services has recently undertaken to promote mental health called “Not Myself Today.” Mental health challenges that GN staff members may be facing do not always come to the surface because of the potential stigma they may generate in the office environment. The Canadian Mental Health Association’s workplace program called “Not Myself Today” enables conversations to occur using interactive tools, activities, and webinars.

During Community and Government Services’ September 2019 senior management committee session, the team was provided a seminar on the program and is in the process of identifying team leaders to continue to keep this important initiative moving forward

The key to the success of our workforce and the positive performance of our staff is directly connected to their well-being. I am pleased that both of my departments are working together to

address mental health so our staff can continue to enjoy happy and productive lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

**Minister’s Statement 309 – 5(2):  
Climate Change Youth Advisory  
Committee**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say “good morning.” Please enjoy the weekend, people of Arviat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, climate change is a global problem that will impact generations of Nunavummiut. We must ensure future generations’ voices are heard so that together we can meet this global challenge.

In the spirit of Aajiiqatigiingniq, we must listen to young people and actively engage them in the conversation for climate change. This is why the Climate Change Secretariat is recruiting Nunavummiut youth for an advisory committee. This is a committee for youth and inspired by youth. The secretariat will be recruiting for committee members this fall.

The focus will be on building knowledge, skills, as well as peer-to-peer and youth-elder knowledge exchange. Engaging Nunavummiut at an early age increases our ability to adapt to climate change and strengthens community-level action.



Mr. Speaker, young people have been telling us they want to have a say and want their concerns about climate change to be heard. In June, Inuksuk High School staged a walkout and protest for climate change. Also, many youths attended climate change protests at the end of September in Nunavut. I would like them and all the other young people in this territory to know we hear you. Together we can make a difference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Minister's Statement 310 – 5(2):  
Accreditation for Qikiqtani  
General Hospital**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the team at the Qikiqtani General Hospital for their recent re-accreditation under Accreditation Canada's Qmentum Program. Such recognition indicates that as a department we deliver quality patient care that meets and in many cases even exceeds national best practices. These results follow an intensive assessment of the Qikiqtani General Hospital's facility and programming, where surveyors observed staff in action, collected performance measure data, and gathered feedback and input from staff, physicians, partner organizations, patients, and community members.

Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues, allow me to highlight some of the outstanding results from this program

assessment. Overall the Qikiqtani General Hospital achieved a 93 percent compliance rating with the national standards, an all-time high for our facility. Of particular note was the report's praise of the quality of staff that facilitate patient care within the hospital. We've had some examples provided by members this week. To the management, the physicians, the health care staff, and all the other of Qikiqtani General Hospital's, every day that you come into work, you are contributing to a healthier Nunavut, and for this you have our praise. The results also highlighted the limited staffing vacancies within the branch, noting that the stable medical workforce translates directly to improved quality, continuity, and consistency of care. Above all else, the Qikiqtani General Hospital staff were recognized for their role as a vital member of this community, demonstrating a capacity to be open to new ideas, accommodating to cultural needs, and collaborative with partners, both within Iqaluit and throughout all of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker and members, though the results are in, the work continues. Even now, in a continued quest for excellence, Qikiqtani General Hospital staff are hard at work to implement recommendations from the report in order to further enhance the quality and consistency of care that is offered to Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, maximizing the quality of the health care we can offer within the territory is a vital component of Inuusivut. Though this is an ongoing process, the Qikiqtani General Hospital serves as an example of what this territory can offer to ensure a healthy and prosperous Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasic.

**Minister's Statement 311 – 5(2):  
District Education Authority  
Elections**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker and fellow members, the district education authorities (DEAs) are holding elections on October 28, 2019, this coming Monday, to fill seven seats in each community. I would also like to take time to congratulate all the newly acclaimed DEA members in some communities as well as those of the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut (CSFN).

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, as an elected person myself, I would like to highlight my sincere appreciation for the engagement of all candidates who demonstrated their dedication toward education in Nunavut by submitting their application. Becoming a leader and an advocate for parents and students in your community is a task that requires commitment and your willingness to rise to the occasion deserves to be recognized.

Mr. Speaker, if elected, you will have a personal responsibility to fulfil the obligations of the office with impartiality and integrity to the best of your ability. Always remember that you

have requested and received the trust of the members of your community. It will be your duty to keep the public informed as to how you are honouring their trust and confidence.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on a related note, I think it is important to mention that some communities are facing a situation where they have no declared DEA candidates to fill the available positions. Therefore I strongly encourage all eligible Nunavummiut to express their interest and be a voice for parents and students.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. David Joanasic:** Most importantly, the outgoing members deserve our gratitude and thanks for the hard work and passion they brought to their role during the past term. I especially appreciate the contributions each DEA and CSFN elected member made during the consultations on the proposed amendments to the *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* that led to the presentation of Bill 25. (interpretation) I thank them very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

**Minister's Statement 312 – 5(2):  
Kivalliq Entrepreneurship  
Program**

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last month 12 Inuit went through the Kivalliq Entrepreneurship

Program. This is a made-in-Kivalliq-for-Kivallirmiut program. Educators, business owners, community economic development officers, and others who live and work in the Kivalliq designed and delivered this program. The Kivalliq Entrepreneurship Program allows participants to establish connections with instructors and mentors they know from their own communities. It has been running for nine years.

Among other things, the program provides an introduction to entrepreneurship, business models, networking, marketing, funding opportunities, professionalism, business planning, financial management, and permitting and licensing.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to announce the program will be expanded this year. It ran during the Kivalliq Trade Show and will also run in one other Kivalliq community before the end of this fiscal year. Over the next three years the program is expected to be delivered in all Kivalliq communities.

I want to thank my staff, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, Agnico Eagle Mines, and the Kivalliq Trade Show Society for funding and running this valuable program. This program shows our commitment to our mandate's priority of improving economic opportunities to encourage self-reliance and provide local employment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

### **Minister's Statement 313 – 5(2): New Warehouse in Baker Lake**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Naujaat and Coral Harbour.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to announce the completion of the new Baker Lake Housing Organization warehouse and office. The job was completed on schedule the local housing organization (LHO) is now conducting operations from it.

Mr. Speaker, many LHO offices and warehouses are aging and require repair or replacement. The corporation has identified the communities most in need of new buildings and we have a plan to replace them over the coming years. Beautiful Baker Lake was on the top of this list, and we're excited that it's completed.

Mr. Speaker, having modern warehouses and offices helps LHO staff complete maintenance issues and train staff. During sealift season, LHOs stock up on hardware supplies for the year and it is important these hardware supplies are stored correctly to minimize damage.

Mr. Speaker, I will be travelling to your community next month with you to celebrate the opening of this great building, and I look forward to that event. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser, please give your

statement to our Clerk, as the copies provided were different from your statement. It would be appreciated if you could provide a copy to our Clerk. Thank you.

Continuing on with the orders of the day. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

### Item 3: Members' Statements

#### Member's Statement 460 – 5(2): Addressing Elder Care

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my fellow members, Premier, (interpretation ends) and ministers.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I rise as the Chair of the Regular Members' Caucus. I wish to inform you that we will be raising questions and making statements in regard to elders. We are aware that the need to support our elders has been brought up for many years in Nunavut. We have been raising the issue since we were elected two years ago.

As well, the principles document we drafted as a group resulted in the *Turaaqtavut* mandate, which includes passages specific to the need for government to resolve this need. Deliberation is what we need to do now within Nunavut. Even though everyone generally agreed that our elders need more support and that we should not be sending our elders to southern centres such as Ottawa, we haven't come to an agreement to date as to what we can accomplish that is more beneficial. We should explore options as a government.

For example, (interpretation ends) Continuing Care 2015 to 2035 (interpretation) mentions various governments in the Arctic. I'll quote from it. (interpretation ends) Denmark and Greenland, "Since 1987, no new nursing homes have been built and many older institutions have been closed, instead care is provided at home or in smaller facilities with single occupancy rooms." Finland, "Since the 1990s the emphasis has been on decreasing nursing home placements and increasing smaller 'service housing' facilities." Norway, "Nursing homes and residential care homes are the responsibility of each municipality." (interpretation) Those are just examples, Mr. Speaker.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. I only have a little bit more to say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed with your statement, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

Just to cite the example of other jurisdictions within the circumpolar world, they use different or alternative methods to provide services and care for their elderly citizens that provide beneficial returns, such as elders' beds and facilities that are built from time to time.

I look forward to our government giving full consideration of my colleagues' ideas and directions, and we as regular members are monitoring the government's responses. Our ears shall

pick up nuances as our hearing is still strong. This morning our debate shall centre on deliberation and brainstorming to arrive at a consensus, which is the practice and foundation of our government. That's all I have to say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

**Member's Statement 461 – 5(2):  
Implementing the Government's  
Mandate**

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the residents of my community and my colleagues.

Although I was not able to be present here for a number of days, I observed the proceedings on television while my colleagues were at work. It's very obvious now that many elderly Inuit also hang onto every word uttered. As an observer with vested interests, I watched and heard every word the public experiences while convalescing at home.

I listened to the statements of the MLAs of what this government is required to implement what we had already agreed to when we first got elected. Nevertheless, in watching and listening from home, I have noted that this government is hard-hearted, refusing to listen as the bureaucracy hardens its heart to what Inuit rightfully deserve. Their hard-heartedness is very observable.

The action items we keep espousing are specific to our elders' care facilities, our elders, housing, and education. Those

action items that we wanted to initiate as Full Caucus haven't really become reality. We have to band together as the legislators to ensure that abandoned or ideas felt to be inferior are given a chance to blossom, to show the bureaucracy the folly of their ways, to the point where it lands on what the public perceives.

It also depends on how our Inuit organizations focus on the shared responsibilities of Nunavut in light of the changing conditions. The Inuit organizations are waiting when they want to help, yet our government states that they haven't been approached. They say that they still haven't heard from anyone who wants to partner with them. With the Inuit organizations waiting to help with establishing elders' care facilities, they made themselves available.

With that being the case, our government should open its ears; our government should open its heart. I just wanted to elaborate on that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Member Akoak.

**Member's Statement 462 – 5(2): The  
Future of Gjoa Haven's  
Continuing Care Centre**

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues. My family watching, good morning, and the community of Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my

concern for the future of the Gjoa Haven Continuing Care Facility.

Mr. Speaker, the Gjoa Haven Continuing Care Facility is an important part of our community. Not only does it provide safe and comfortable care for elders who are unable due to their failing health to live independently, but it also provides employment for almost twenty individuals from the community.

Mr. Speaker, I will give an example of who we are housing at the facility. There's an elderly couple in Gjoa Haven, one of whom resides in the continuing care facility because of dementia. Every day the spouse goes to visit and this person is also handicapped and who lives half a mile away from the facility but finds time to go visit his loved one. That's how much love grows as you get older.

Mr. Speaker, while I do recognize that the government's plans to close the Gjoa Haven Continuing Care Facility are some way off in the future, there will be elders from Gjoa Haven in the future as well. I want those elders to be able to stay close to their loved ones, to have their loved ones visit them.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that the future plans for long-term care in Nunavut will mean that Gjoa Haven will lose its continuing care facility. We will lose our elders who will be sent away. We will lose jobs for community residents. That concerns me, Mr. Speaker.

I hope that the government will come up with a better plan for long-term care across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

**Member's Statement 463 – 5(2):  
Addressing Elder Care**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues. This morning I will be speaking about elders and associated issues.

Now, within the *Turaaqtavut* mandate it states that we would prioritize service provision. I have gone on record as saying that our elders require advocacy in Nunavut and not just in my constituency. We have to strengthen the usage of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, which is my belief. With the current set-up, our elders are supposed to get services, but when will the government enhance these services?

Many of our elders anticipated changes when we got Nunavut. Many elders are still waiting for changes, whether it is service provision, collaboration, or partnership. With that being the situation, when we reach question period, I will be querying the minister responsible relating to how the services provided by the government can be enhanced so that our elders are provided proper services within Nunavut.

Yesterday I stated that without our elders, where would we be now? Would any of us be present without our elders? Due to this reason, I will be querying the minister responsible by speaking about the fact that our elders require more attention and care. They have spent their

lives surviving in an inhospitable place, allowing us as descendants to live and to work towards attaining Nunavut.

Now, with our elders stressing over life's challenges, when they are bullied, when they are fearful, when they are scared, I become very protective of them. I get fearful when our elders get mentally hurt. It has been proven that bad things happen if an elder passed away with hurt feelings. When elders are passing away with hurt feelings, it is scary. Yesterday I stated that that will continue.

Yes, I will be asking questions later when we reach question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 464 – 5(2):  
Nunavut Arctic College Students  
of Pangnirtung**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues.

This morning I would like to talk about the fact that I am proud of the students at the community learning centre in Pangnirtung. There are two courses taking place right now. In the first one, there are seven students taking part in the Teacher Education Program, which was mentioned. They started the program being trained entirely in Inuktitut and all of their learning materials are in Inuktitut, so I would like to express my pride in that and encourage them. They are:

- Meghan Mike Murphy
- Lucy Metuq
- Jane Nakashuk
- Anita Nakashuk
- Geela Kunilusie
- Rhoda Nuvaqiq
- Jenna Kilabuk

They are first year students, so let us encourage them and support them. When I went to visit them, they had an elder teacher on the day I went there and they were making sealskin pants.

In the other program, the new students are learning culinary skills and there are six of them. They are:

- Lena Akpalialuk
- Leese Maniapik
- Meena Alivaktuk
- Melissa Akulukjuk
- Joshua Metuq
- Jennifer Ejetsiak

I would like to express my pride in all these students in Pangnirtung in the two courses. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

**Member's Statement 465 – 5(2):  
Community Support for Elder  
Care**

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage our government to give greater consideration to the community initiatives which are focused

on providing elder care.

Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues will recall, in the past years I have worked with Iqaluit-based, local, non-profit entity Sailivik, which had developed a proposal to build and operate an elder care facility in the community of Iqaluit.

Despite my best efforts, we could not get a commitment from the government. We did not get any response. We've had nothing to support this initiative, even though we had the partnership with the Inuit development corporation, the land, and most importantly, the funding.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that we all agree that our elders need to be at home, close to their home, their family, and their culture. They need to speak their language, eat their food, and be part of the daily life of the community.

Mr. Speaker, this can't happen without community support. Our communities have shown willingness. Individuals have been trained to provide this support. However, the only concrete development that we have seen to date has been the introduction of a new capital project in one of our regional centres.

Mr. Speaker, I have advocated for elder care throughout the six years that I have been in office. I fully support the establishment of long-term care facilities across our territory. I also support the ongoing work of the facilities that are currently providing this elder care in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we must have a comprehensive long-term care strategy

that includes our current continuing care facilities, our elders centres, facilities built with contributions from outside and the government, and high-level care facilities closer to our hospitals and physician services. I encourage our government to carefully consider all of our communities in its long-term care strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

**Member's Statement 466 – 5(2):  
Elders with Disabilities**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my colleagues and my fellow residents of Netsilik.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to address the needs of elders with disabilities. I believe that we need to do more for them, a lot more.

Mr. Speaker, in today's generation we often feel that within the current health care system, we are helpless to do more for our disabled elders.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to our government the importance of human feelings. Mr. Speaker, please do not misunderstand me. I am not saying that the government has no sense of human feelings. No, it's not that. It's about taking human feelings into consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this question: how many of us have waited for our dad to come to our igloo in the middle of the



winter, in frigid temperatures of minus 50 degrees Celsius, when he was out sealing so that we can have heat in our igloo and food in our stomachs? Mr. Speaker, they endured all of that out there so that you and I may survive today.

Mr. Speaker, let us make the same effort for our elders who are disabled. We need to work hard together so that they can come home to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Member Kamingoak.

#### **Member's Statement 467 – 5(2): Our Elders**

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Kuglukturmiut, colleagues, and especially to my constituents who live off-grid, John and Mercie. Thank you for being the guardians of our land.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as one of the younger Members of this House to express my respect, my thanks, my appreciation, and my love for our elders. Our elders are the keepers of our traditions. They share the stories of our past and help guide us towards our future.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that every Member of this Assembly shares these feelings. The passion of our debate yesterday demonstrates this clearly.

Out of respect for our elders, I believe

that we must work together to find solutions. We must find solutions that will ensure that our elders are well cared for, close to their families and their loved ones. We must find solutions that look to the future while keeping ourselves grounded in the land and culture that our elders have given us.

There are challenges that face the younger generations that our elders did not have to overcome. However, our elders have wisdom and knowledge that they have gained from facing their own challenges.

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to our elders to make good decisions. As they grow older, they place their trust in us and we must honour that trust.

I look forward to working with my colleagues as we move forward to make good decisions on behalf of our elders. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Member Ehaloak.

#### **Member's Statement 468 – 5(2): Iqaluktuuttiaq District Education Authority**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good morning to my colleagues and those in Iqaluktuuttiaq and around Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud today to congratulate the Ikaluktutiak District Education Authority, the members who were acclaimed. They are:

- Alan Sim
- Angela Gerbrant
- Aphlyne Etienne
- Brenda Sitatak
- Jeannie Evalik
- Pam Langan

I look forward to working these members once they have all been sworn in and everything is in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Member Akeegok.

**Member's Statement 469 – 5(2):  
Recognition of Devon Manik**

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak. Mr. Speaker, yesterday at the Nunavut Tunngavik board meeting in Rankin Inlet, the president gave recognition, as recognition awards are given during their board meetings. A person from Quttiktuq was recognized for helping Inuit and promoting their Inuit identity.

I have mentioned Devon Manik in this House a number of times because I'm very proud of him. He is very young and doing a lot of work and hunting. He is also an excellent photographer. He has a dog team and has started mushing his dog team. He provides food for his family and fellow residents of the community, and he was recognized for that. I would like to express my pride in him.

Next week I will be going up to Resolute Bay. He will be part of the grade 12

graduating class. There are four students that will be recognized in Resolute Bay and Devon will be one of them, and I am very proud of him. Even though he is just a student, he completely embraces Inuit culture.

I thank the President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Aluki Kotierk, for the recognition and Nunavut Tunngavik for recognizing this student. I'm very proud of and congratulate Devon Manik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Member Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 470 – 5(2):  
Addressing Elder Care**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Nunavut.

I enjoy it when elders' care facilities are being discussed. As we all remember, we were asked when we were elected what we want to work on and we all discussed the need for elders' care facilities. When we elected the Premier and the government, I remember very well at our initial meeting, along with our Premier at the time, Mr. Quassa, we made elders' care facilities a priority and that we would fast-track it, making it the absolute priority and everything else would follow.

During a planning meeting in Igloolik, it was again a priority. Also at our meeting in Pond Inlet, the need for elders' care facilities was a priority. Ever since we started talking about it, since we first sat

in the House here up to now, we have always stated that we need elders' care facilities. We don't say that we want to close elders' care facilities. We don't say that; none of us say that. Nobody here wants to close elders' care facilities; we want to open elders' care facilities. We have to make elders' care facilities a priority.

During a previous government, almost on a daily basis, there was an MLA who would say that we need an elders' care facility in Rankin Inlet. That Rankin Inlet elders' care facility would be for everyone in the Kivalliq region and other patients when necessary. We would not need to close any other elders' care facilities. It will have 24 beds, and there are more than 24 residents in Ottawa right now. We wouldn't even be able to accommodate them if the facility opened anywhere. We were talking about a facility that would be in Rankin Inlet yesterday. That's what I'm referring to.

Our elders are extremely important and we always say that elders have to come first. This is part of that initial process and this will not be the only one. They want to create facilities in the other communities, but we just want to start with this one. We're not even thinking about closing other facilities.

I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Member Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Our elderly population will continue to increase. What I envision is that once the facilities being planned by the government are established, we will be able to move forward from there.

Perhaps some communities can have smaller elders' care facilities, with separate access for their children. We're looking at different options for elders' care facilities.

For me personally, we should move quickly to bring our elders home. We shouldn't be closing the current elders' care facilities because they can be beneficial to Nunavut. I haven't heard anyone in this House say that we're going to be closing any facilities or not being in support of elders. All I have heard is support for moving forward on this, which I am working hard on. I think all of us MLAs, since our first day to date, have said that we support elders. If anyone didn't say so, I would like to see written documentation of that.

I will support the building of elders' care facilities in Nunavut. Let's prioritize bringing our elders home because too many elders have died away from home. We should be prioritizing that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towntongie.

**Member's Statement 471 – 5(2):  
Addressing Elder Care**

**Ms. Towntongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was campaigning, I visited elders in our

community and an elder told me something that I wasn't expecting. The first thing this individual said was that they will not go to Ottawa; that they can stay with their son.

We have to do something about our elders. Different communities should come up with something that they can do for elders. The reason why I brought this up is while we're talking about elders, what do the elders actually think? Our elder was fearful of going to Ottawa and, if this individual should go there, she won't be with her descendants, her daughter or her son. She wouldn't be able to listen to the local radio station and miss out on traditional foods.

The elders' care facility has to be built in Rankin Inlet. As a government, we have to come up with options now because I saw on Facebook a blind elder who was sleeping on a bench at the air terminal in Rankin Inlet. This is urgent. This is very urgent. I want to work with the members to come up with the best way to move forward for our elders. Yes, if we open the facility in Rankin Inlet, it will be located in the regional centre for the Kivalliq. That's not the only one. I also support the facility in Gjoa Haven. Can the continuing care centre continue? It should continue.

We have to brainstorm because at our retreat in Pond Inlet we said that we would make elders our priority. If we delay what has been planned...

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There

are no nays. Member Towtongie, please proceed.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

Let's work together as Members of the Legislative Assembly and not look at one particular community or maybe we shouldn't even be thinking about an elders' care facility. What would our elders say about what we're discussing? Would they talk about what we're talking about? Would they consider what we're considering? I know that they do not want to go to Ottawa, so we have to plan to build one here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Uqummiut, Member Keyootak.

#### **Member's Statement 472 – 5(2): Addressing Elder Care**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq who are watching and listening to the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to talk about our elders. I believe we have all campaigned and have placed the elders as a priority, which I am very happy to talk about, and I am very pleased to hear the ideas that are floating around here. I am sure that the elders out there are listening and watching the proceedings and they are probably very excited to hear the debate.

Mr. Speaker, the one thing that I am concerned about is that some communities have separate housing units designated for elders. Some elders are housed in apartment buildings. Particularly in my constituency community of Clyde River, there is an elders' group home, although it's not very big. Small elders' homes are built in the communities.

With that being the case, I have seen and visited these elders who are given specific houses in the community. We also had a group home built in our community through the local housing association so that they could provide better services, especially for the widows and widowers. There is also one in Clyde River. I have visited those elders to make sure that they are properly taken care of in their homes, but I have noticed in Clyde River that elders in that group home don't have any home care. Home care is not provided and the houses were not built for elders.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. It won't take much longer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member Keyootak, please proceed.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to build houses specifically for elders, they have to be built properly and we have to ensure that there is home care provided. I will be asking questions at the

appropriate time about how the elders' homes are operated in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Returns to Oral Questions. Continuing on. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There are none. Continuing on. Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 636 – 5(2): Senior Advocacy

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister responsible for Seniors' Advocate, the Premier.

First of all, I would like to know what you do as the Minister responsible for Seniors' Advocate. Exactly what do you do as an advocate? We're interested in what the seniors' advocate actually does, if he can explain that first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member Quassa, I'm asking who you're directing your question to. Is it to the Premier or the Minister responsible for Seniors? Member Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm directing my question to the Minister responsible for (interpretation ends) Seniors' Advocate. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister responsible for Seniors,  
Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I missed a portion of the question. I'm wondering if the member can rephrase it, please.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member Quassa, please clarify your question. Member Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He wasn't listening, so I'll rephrase my question and I'm sure he's listening now.

My main question is exactly what he has done as Minister responsible for Seniors' Advocate. What has he done since he became minister? We want to know exactly what he has done in his ministerial capacity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Seniors, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for the confusion.

Mr. Speaker, continuously we're working with partners and stakeholders, one of them specifically the federal government, on lobbying for increased support. One of the things that we do provide through Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, there's funding from the government to provide for the Nunavut Seniors Society. They do a lot of work. They have produced a handbook to assist seniors to help advocate for themselves or to access services that are provided by the government and other partners that we

work with.

We continue to promote healthy living, working with our public trustees on making sure senior abuse... I have heard a number of comments here today and I'm actually more hopeful now maybe then I was yesterday on how much value we actually put to our seniors. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I see too many cases where seniors are not respected. We as a government have a role to play in that to make sure that there are programs and safe places for seniors to go, such as facilities in the territory or if necessary, outside the territory.

There are a number of different avenues where we advocate for seniors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think almost all of the communities have elders' complexes where elders are housed in (interpretation ends) public housing (interpretation) like here in Iqaluit. It is obvious that communities have those facilities. Has he visited elders when he visits the communities? He probably needs an interpreter if he wants to visit elders. Does he visit elders when he visits the communities? Does he visit the elders who are put in a complex? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, we were just recently in Arviat and I took the time to go with my colleague, the Minister of

the Nunavut Housing Corporation, to go to the facility there and speak to the residents in there.

Anytime I have been to Gjoa Haven, I have gone to the facility there. I have been to Igloolik and I have gone to the facility there. It has been a while, in my previous life as the Minister of Health, but absolutely, getting that feedback, not just from the residents in there but from the staff as well too, any challenges or success stories that are exciting to see from.

I remember in Igloolik there is one elder that I had not seen probably since I was a child. I didn't even remember her, but as soon as I learned her name, I remembered the family and my *anaanatsiaq* talking about her, and she was very excited to see me and it was a great little visit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government still has two years left in its mandate. What else is the Minister for Seniors expecting to do in the coming years when we are talking about elders? We talk about them almost daily. What has he heard of things that need to be done right away for the elders as he is the Minister responsible for Seniors? What has he heard from the elders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever I have gone to facilities and talked to the elders, and the

member is correct, I've had to use an interpreter a few times, Mr. Speaker, the family connection is the biggest issue, almost to a unanimous consent process. A lot of the elders miss their families. Again, that is one of the reasons why through the discussions that we've had over the last couple of years, and even in the previous Assembly, on the need to provide more elder care facilities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

### **Question 637 – 5(2): Departmental Involvement with Elder Care**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, seniors' care is an urgent issue and it's a problem that collectively we have to solve in this territory. It's a problem that can be looked at from a health care viewpoint, you can look at it from a cultural viewpoint, you can look at it from a housing viewpoint, and you can look at it from an economic viewpoint. It's the economic lens that I'm going to look through today.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the elders' care facilities are an obvious benefit to the communities. They provide jobs, businesses are involved, and small businesses, for instance, are involved in cleaning or clearing snow. I know that yes, money should not be put first, but financial management has to be involved.

My first question to the minister is: to date, as our government is making decisions on elders' care facilities, how is the Department of Economic Development involved when our government is planning for the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking the question on the subject. Yes, we are involved and when housing or jobs are introduced to Nunavut on how they benefit the communities. That is what we work on and how it provides assistance. For example, elders' housing has provided more than 100 jobs in our community. I think my community is the only one with such facilities. Over \$12 million, as you suggested, is contracted out. We go above and beyond for that purpose and it's a direct benefit. If we built more facilities, it would be good as we would provide jobs with elders' housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. I would like to get more information on this. The minister also mentioned the \$12 million figure. I think he was expecting my next question. How is that \$12 million divided? (interpretation ends) What is the breakdown in terms of that \$12 million benefit figure? How much is going to contracts? I know there are some Inuit-owned companies that are involved. I know there are community-

owned companies. There are jobs. Most of the jobs, I believe, go to Inuit workers, looking at my home community. Just in terms of a breakdown, if the minister could clarify that figure. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the breakdown of the \$12 million service contracts that are geared towards senior care. These are facilities that our government has contracts with in one form or another. It's to do with the operations and maintenance. A lot of it has to do with the operations and maintenance of the building; as you also said, the road clearing. Some of them actually need health care professionals contracted in. There are a number of factors.

I don't have the specific breakdown, but as my department, when we look at it or when our government looks at these economic opportunities, we tend to say how much of our diverse economy goes to this. When it comes to senior care, we calculated about \$12 million for the contracts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Looking at the elders' care facilities, one of the key components are workers. There has to be enough staff. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, one of the key inputs for seniors' care is labour.

My last question for the minister is: does the department have access to any labour



market analysis data, particularly showing Inuit and Inuktitut-speaking workforce that would help the government plan for elders' care facilities in the territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This year we have done the labour force analysis for all sectors and elders' care or seniors' care would be as part of that. My answer would be yes, the labour force analysis is available for the public to see. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

#### **Question 638 – 5(2): Timeline for All Long-term Care Facilities**

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

Mr. Speaker, in response to questions last week, the minister indicated that the government would build the first of three new long-term care facilities in the community of Rankin Inlet.

Can the minister clarify what the proposed timeline is for the construction of all of the long-term facilities needed to care for our elders within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the letter that I had sent a

couple of weeks ago outlining this plan to all regular members, I had stated in there that we needed a year to plan out a facility in Iqaluit and to give time to work with Kugluktuk. We are hoping to bring forward another capital strategy for additional facilities in a year from now. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the government can only work on a limited number of capital projects at one time. However, if we are only starting now with the Rankin Inlet long-term project, it could take many years before we see the other long-term facilities built through the government capital planning process.

**Speaker:** A point of order. Mr. Hickes.

#### **Point of Order**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is making assumptions, Mr. Speaker. That's not permitted. Thank you.

**Speaker:** To the point of order, can you rephrase your question? Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's just my opinion that something could take a lot longer than what's anticipated because I think we all know from history and from the past that government projects have their own processes and those processes can take a long time. That's my concern. That's what I'm bringing up. Thank you.

**Speaker:** It's a matter of personal

opinion and it's not a point of order. Please continue, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I'll ask that question again the way I wrote it.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the government can only work on a limited number of capital projects at any one time. However, if we are only starting now with the Rankin Inlet long-term project, it could, in my opinion, take many years before we see the other long-term care facilities built through the government capital planning process.

Can the minister tell us whether the government would consider repatriating our elders who are currently residing in the south into a long-term care home that was built independently in Nunavut and not as part of the government's capital planning process? This will help speed things up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely. I will have to correct the member, though. Mr. Speaker, any time we enter into a long-term contract where a facility is built with outside dollars, it does become a part of the capital plan. We have to capitalize that lease for that facility over a set period of time, so it does have to go into the capital plan.

I will take this opportunity... . Again, we are working right now with Kugluktuk. As the member talked about yesterday, we worked with Sailivik. When I was the former Minister of Health, I gave assets of our department to help Sailivik put their proposal

together. There were people from our long-term and continuing care division, there was our deputy minister at that time who was directly involved in the proposal with Sailivik. It was going strong, as far as I knew, when I left the Department of Health in my last stint and I haven't heard a whisper about it since I have been back. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quite shocked to hear the minister state that. Being on the Sailivik board, I never saw any kind of response whatsoever. If the minister could provide us with the response that was written to Sailivik in regard to the proposal and how it can go forward, I would love to see that because we don't have it. Maybe it got lost somewhere. I have never seen anything like that. It surprises me that you say that. Maybe it got lost somewhere. I don't know.

I know that the Sailivik board invited the minister and the DM over for pizza that we bought ourselves to have the minister and DM come to talk about what Sailivik wanted to do in terms of a long-term facility. We never had any kind of response. Sailivik went and had a meeting with the Premier. There was never any response after that either. This really surprises me.

Mr. Speaker, it's not clear to me why the government would want to limit its ability to establish a long-term care facility in Nunavut by insisting that such facilities may only be built with capital funds. This is especially puzzling when

there are entities that are willing and ready to invest the dollars to build these facilities.

Almost all jurisdictions across Canada have long-term care facilities which were not built with public funds. Of course the government would continue to allocate the funds for the care and services received by our elders. Currently a significant portion of that funding is being paid to a non-government entity outside of Nunavut. What's the difference?

Will the minister commit to reconsidering the option of having non-government entities established in Nunavut's future long-term care facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can stand here and I can say with all sincerity I have not shut down any proposals that have been brought forward to the Department of Health for long-term care from anybody. I'm absolutely open to partnerships. That's one of the reasons why we've had to do this on our own is because we have reached out to look for partners. There are people and they're not coming forward with any suggestions or any partnership ideas, Mr. Speaker.

This is why we've had to take this step is that there are partnerships that have not been available to us other than the Kugluktuk proposal. Like I said, I haven't seen the Sailivik proposal in... I haven't heard about it in two years. I'm not sure what happened to it under the

former health minister, but I had absolutely no part in shutting down any proposal that was brought forward from any outside partner to the Government of Nunavut.

The member knows this, I'm sure, very well: whenever we lease or have a contract with a service delivery facility in the territory where we are using the bulk of the facility, which in the case of a long-term care facility we would be using, if not all of it, most of it, we have to capitalize that contract. With a facility like we're using in Ottawa, we have a small portion of that facility, so we do not have to capitalize that. It's strictly through O&M. There are apples and oranges, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

#### **Question 639 – 5(2): Culturally Relevant Care**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my fellow residents of Amittuq. I said I would ask questions to the Minister responsible for Seniors.

Let me first say that Inuit culture as written in the backgrounder related to our elders requires that they be provided better services. Let me elaborate that the report written in 2015 specified that our elders should be engaged and included.

What I want to ask the minister firstly is: within this report that was presented, how can the Inuit customs or cultural beliefs be incorporated more fully into this existing report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** To the point of order. Ms. Angnakak.

**Point of Order**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of talk and that going on across the room. It's very distracting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) To the point of order. (interpretation) I'm also observing that as the Speaker. All members and ministers, I ask that you remain at your seats during question period.

>> *Applause*

Minister responsible for Seniors,  
Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question. To bring more culturally relevant care, we need to communicate and keep getting ideas from our residents, communicate with staff, communicate with families, bring forward suggestions to the management of our facilities. They're open, Mr. Speaker. They want nothing but the best for our elders. That's why they're taking care of them.

Mr. Speaker, if there are ideas or options that any member has, I would love to hear them myself or if you have a facility in your community, you go visit. I was just asked when I last visited. When was the last time you visited your elders in your communities? I think it's a very important aspect to get feedback from our constituents, and I think that that's a great way to do it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Kaernerker.

**Mr. Kaernerker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me reiterate that on this page it states, (interpretation ends) "As a result, the needs assessment is largely based on the comments from health system professionals and may be biased toward a medical model of continuing care services without adequately reflecting Inuit values and cultural preferences."

(interpretation) I again want to ask the minister: how does the Department of Health work on promoting the Inuit culture more? Alternatively, if they're not going to deal with it, perhaps Nunavut Tunngavik or the Qikiqtani Inuit Association can be involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We consult a lot of different organizations, but NTI specifically, quite frequently on a number of different areas. I believe they were involved in the report that the member is reading.

As far as how to bring more cultural experience into the clinical side, that's in education. Again, the Department of Health has taken steps to standardize our orientation package to help our health care professionals understand where they are better. Again, I have to put it back to all of us and all members of the community. If there are ways that you can see to make improvements in the care, bring forward ideas in a positive way, I'll reinforce, to help clinical staff be able to provide more culturally

relevant clinical care.

At the same time, in all the facilities that we have, we have local employees in there that are keeping on top of what the needs are in the facilities, what the needs are of the community, and I hope that they use their voice with their supervisors and with their management team to continue to make improvements. It's a fluid level of care, Mr. Speaker. Every day people are trying to do better. Again, if the member has any suggestions, I would be obviously more than happy to listen to them. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, one of my constituency communities doesn't have an elders' care facility while the other community does have a facility. Now, what I want to state here is how we can include *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit*, especially with decisions made by our government. Where will this be?

How many elders' care facilities would be established? As I stated, one of my constituency communities doesn't have an elders' care facility. With respect to the communities that don't have existing facilities, will they be first to receive them? This is in relation to Inuit traditional knowledge when it comes to the provision of services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In all communities, not just the ones with elder care facilities, the

Department of Health, through the health centres, has home care nurses and workers. It was mentioned earlier about home care, and I think it's a very important message. I believe the member from Arviat North brought up the issue of home care and it's a very important one.

There are best practices and obviously the desire is to keep people in their home as long as possible. There are different models, as the member spoke of, around the world, but at the end of the day, the longer we can help provide services in people's homes to keep them in their homes as long as possible so that they don't need to go to a facility... .

Mr. Speaker, the member mentioned if a facility can be put in and when can that be started. Just a rough costing, Mr. Speaker, if you look at building twenty 10-bed long-term care facilities in communities across the territory, we're looking at half a billion dollars and nearly \$100 million in O&M every year. That's the model that we're comparing against the need to put regional facilities right now.

Mr. Speaker, when we're talking about and I have to say, at some day there may be a possibility of repurposing some of the existing facilities, but we're not looking at closing anything, especially right now until we have actually met that need. At that time, if those facilities become surplus, is when we will take a look at other options available.

Mr. Speaker, I can't say right now that we're going to be closing any facilities, especially after this first phase. We've got one facility that we're looking at bringing into the system that still won't

meet our current needs. This is not going to lead to closing of a facility. In fact it actually reinforces the need, especially in some of our communities that we need to continue to provide the services so that people don't fall through the cracks. We've got that transition and people's needs are being met with regard to the level of care that they need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

**Question 640 – 5(2): Services for Elders Living in Elder Housing**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated in my member's statement that I would ask questions about elders' homes in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I visit elders' homes in my community. The other community that I represent has a group home where elders live in one building. I have checked with them, especially my constituents of Clyde River. There is an elder group home there. I'm not sure which department to direct my question to, the Department of Economic Development or the housing corporation.

They are not provided with staff in the elder group home. They have to clean their elder home themselves and they have to do snow removal. They are all widows and widowers and they are elders and they run the building themselves. I feel empathy towards them. They don't get paid. One of the residents of the group home who is also an elder tries to help other people in the group home. That elder cleans the whole

group home and even does the shovelling when the snow covers the stairs, and they have really long stairs.

Can they get assistance? The elders were saying they really need help when I visited them. They don't have staff assigned to them or maintenance workers or anything like that in the house. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Good morning. The housing corporation builds elder group homes. I don't know who is responsible for the cleaning of them. It is always really good to see these elders' group homes being cleaned by children for their elders. This is *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat*.

I'm not sure who is responsible for cleaning those homes, but I have noticed that whenever an elder doesn't have anyone to clean for them in my community, they have people come in to help them. I don't know who they work for, though, but the local housing organization does the maintenance.

Maybe home care nurses or people who work at group homes or staff of the health centres do the cleaning. However, we try to take care of our elders because we love them and we shouldn't just wait to see who will come and clean their houses. This is *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat*. We should go and help them whenever they need help and not just wait for the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member

Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation for his explanation. Mr. Speaker, can the minister look into this matter? The minister wasn't aware who is responsible for the cleaning of the group homes. Can the minister look into this matter of the group homes to see who is supposed to be taking care of them? Can the minister work with the caretakers of these group homes so that they get better care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, as I stated, the housing corporation builds the group homes. I just stated that the home care nurses go to the homes and clean them when they don't have anyone available to do that. I also stated that whenever kids see their parents or grandparents in the group homes, they should go and help them and not just wait for the government. We work hard to get money to build the group homes while children can help their parents in the group homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, grandchildren have to serve, but we can't just rely on them. The government has to do this.

>> *Applause*

We are asking the government to do something. We shouldn't just turn to the

grandchildren. The grandchildren are not the only ones available out there for help. They are made to be in school all day and they go home tired too. We all know that. They come home when they're tired and they have to help their parents. Are we just going to rely on the grandchildren now? We're trying to encourage the government to do something, so they should do more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was a boy, I would stand beside my father when he was boating. I would always stand beside him on the boat. We would go through real deep water and when I became an adult, I took care of my father. Is that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): All members, I advise you that your microphones work very well. I'm advising you that we can hear clearly because the microphones work just fine.

Oral Questions. Continuing on. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

#### **Question 641 – 5(2): Elders with Disabilities**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The matter at hand is very difficult to deal with and sometimes it's good and not so good to deal with in other aspects.

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

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my statement earlier today, our elders looked after us in our childhood and youth. It is only right today, now that we have grown, that we return the favour.

Can the minister explain how it is decided to send an elder with a disability out of the territory for care and when they can return home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Clinically there are assessments done on people's abilities, their function abilities, their mobility, their cognitive ability, their physical condition, and there are different levels of assessment. When the need gets high enough that it can't be met in the community, then other facilities are looked into.

We always work very closely with families to make sure... Like I said earlier about home care, we want to make sure we keep people at home as long as possible, but at the same time, when the families and the community can't meet the physical care needs of somebody and they are assessed at whatever level of need that they are, that's when we find appropriate accommodations for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Netser. I mean, Qirngnuq.

>> *Laughter*

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's okay. We all make mistakes.

Mr. Speaker, what we members are talking about is our parents. I don't know how many members still have parents. We still feel for our parents. When we were young, cold, and hungry, they took care of us.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clearly explain to this House in detail what the long-term plans are to bring our elders with disabilities back home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question again. This is what we have been talking about since yesterday. This is our plan, to build centres in regional centres to start with.

I can't go ahead without mentioning again that nowhere in the budget proposal that has been brought forward is it stating that we're closing any existing facilities. That is going to be determined according to the need going forward. To be honest, I don't appreciate the fear mongering for staff and residents in the existing facilities today for something that may or may not happen down the road.

Mr. Speaker, to answer the member's question more directly, we work very hard with the families, with our health care professionals to find suitable accommodations when that stage is needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Qirngnuq.



**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response, although he didn't completely answer my question.

Mr. Speaker, we have been told since we were children that if your parents come to a place where they are unable to do things for themselves, you have to help them. You never turn your back on your parents. Mr. Speaker, that is good for us.

Can the minister help us understand our environment? Can the minister tell us if he can work with other organizations? For example, NTI and KIA are organizations in Nunavut. Can he speak with our recently elected federal government as well? Can the department collaborate with them on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I really thank the member truly for raising this. It's a very important initiative from all stakeholders across this country. Working with NTI, working with the regional Inuit organizations, working with the federal government, working with our communities, our hamlets, ourselves; this is what we're here to do, is to make sure that we're taking care of our elders in the best way we possibly can. I will continue to do that, and I sincerely thank the member. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

#### **Question 642 – 5(2): Senior Citizens Tax Relief Program**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance. I'm following up on the questions I posed during the Department of Finance's appearance before the Committee of the Whole last winter sitting.

Mr. Speaker, at that time I asked the minister about questions regarding the senior citizens property tax relief program. I would like to ask again: what exactly is the minister doing to ensure that all eligible elders are receiving this property tax exemption? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. Mr. Speaker, we send out tax notices every year to property owners. When they are sent out in April of each year, we work very closely with people who are receiving those notices. When we get information from them that they're of age, then we can look at tax relief options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that the minister is working to ensure that all elders are receiving this exemption, but I would like to ask: is it possible that there are elders who are falling through the cracks and not receiving this property tax exemption? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is possible, Mr. Speaker. We don't have a birthdate linked to every tax title across the territory to be able to solicit. It is up to people to come forward and let us know so that they can take advantage of this program. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do believe that it is the government's responsibility to do everything possible in their ability to ensure that no elder goes unassisted.

Last March I asked the minister if he would collaborate with his cabinet colleagues who also have elder-targeted programs and specifically, for example, our Minister of Family Services, who also has an elder fuel subsidy program. I asked the minister at that time if he would be collaborating with the other ministers to ensure that elders on one list are also included in the property tax exemption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the member brought up to raise that question in the past, our officials would be discussing that. I haven't had an opportunity to follow-up with them on this topic, but I will do so. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Member Qamaniq.

### **Question 643 – 5(2): Inuktitut Services at Embassy West**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Pond Inlet as well as to my colleagues.

Before I was elected, I was in Ottawa in March and I visited the residents of Embassy West to see if they were getting proper care, if there are culturally relevant services available to the elders there, and so on. The Embassy West facility is housing elders from all across Nunavut and they hardly had any Inuit staff. Of course because there is a shortage of nurses here and I am sure down south too, we were concerned about the prescription pills that were given to them and the elders not knowing what they were for.

I wanted to speak to this matter. If unilingual Inuit at Embassy West would like to have dialogue with one of the staff, who do they call so that they can have an interpreter or who can they contact so that they can have an interpreter if they want to have dialogue with the staff? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will say I know the Embassy West facility has been working very diligently to continue to hire Inuktitut-speaking support staff. They do have somebody on staff during business hours and they are working to provide more coverage. There is somebody on staff that an elder residing there could approach to help coordinate a meeting with the other staff, or the family can

contact the facility itself, or through our patient relations office and they can assist in facilitating a conversation. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for responding to my question. My question is that they have relatives all over Nunavut. If they should make a complaint about the care of the clients, who can they contact? Does this contact person speak Inuktitut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If they contact the Office of Patient Relations, we do have Inuktitut-speaking staff on site. Otherwise they would contact the Ontario Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority. Mr. Speaker, I doubt very much that they would have Inuktitut-speaking staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated that it is a possibility that they might not have staff that can speak Inuktitut. Can the minister and his officials look at the possibility of creating a position where the individual has to be able to speak Inuktitut? There are many elders who can't speak English, although some of the clients can speak English. Can he look for funding to hire an Inuk that can be a contact or liaison person between

the clients, the staff and the family? There has to be somebody there instead of just relying on interpreters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we've got a contracted service such as we use the facility in Ottawa for, part of their contract is to provide the services according to the contract conditions. They do have interpretive staff there from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., I believe, seven days a week.

I understand where the member is going, but when you look at having a liaison, that's what we have our Home and Continuing Care Division within the Department of Health to provide that service between the facility and family. There are staff that are available to assist with that and they can be contacted through the patient relations office. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

#### **Question 644 – 5(2): Home Care Workers**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Pangnirtung. My question is for the Minister of Health.

We know that there are home care workers that do a lot of work in our communities. My first question is: do all communities have home care workers, and will you be increasing the number of home care workers based in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the detail of the staffing levels for every health centre on home care workers with me and I do apologize I don't have that level of detail. To my knowledge, there are home care workers in every community; some are full time, some are half time, and some are on casual. In some communities it's even overstaffed because of the need. We do get some funding from the federal government specific to home care program provided. I want to continue to really hammer today that when we talk about home care on how important it is for those home care workers to be able to provide that care in the community. That's what helps people stay at home longer.

Just to give them a little plug, I know I have spoken to different home care workers over the years and they really appreciate the role and the families' engagement. We were talking here earlier about families helping out as well too. Mr. Speaker, I have to say, if the House will indulge me just for a moment, how important it is for families to make sure that they're doing their part too. Our home care workers are there to help care for the elders; they're not there to pick up diapers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that clearly. While we're on the subject of elders and proper care and their staying

at home longer, we don't just want to send the elders away. However, my question is: how much training do home care workers receive? What types of medication do they review? (interpretation ends) What level of training do they receive to ensure that they are able to assist elders in the communities that may be going into long-term care down the road? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. I just wanted to again... I appreciate the question because these home care workers are trained and there are different levels of what their duties or what their work has directed them to do. They can help with some light housekeeping. They can help with bathing. They can help with medications.

Depending upon the level of training, there are home care workers and then there are obviously home care nurses who go in with more extensive clinical process or supports. Some of the training that's providing is in-house and some of it is through training courses that are offered periodically from the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying that. The Minister for Seniors said that they ask what courses are needed in the communities.

Can the Minister of Health work with the Minister responsible for Arctic College? We are all aware that this provides jobs within the community and it provides service to Inuit and to elders with long-term care needs. Maybe they can come up with different courses or workshops to keep the elders in the communities longer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's comments/question. I will, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker (interpretation):** Members, the time for question period has expired. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

**Motion 052 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period**

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that question period be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker (interpretation):** The motion is in order and it is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes.

Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

**Question 645 – 5(2): Partnerships with Organizations on Capital Projects**

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

and Government Services.

We have talked about how we can work together or cooperate when large facilities are constructed, whether it is for elders' care facilities or healing programs. When we talk about such facilities, we talk about partnerships. For the larger capital items, has the minister asked for help from the Inuit organizations or has he had discussions with Inuit organizations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker (interpretation):** Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, when capital projects are requested, we approach our different government departments and when there is a desire for a partnership outside of the government, yes, we meet with them and strategize with them on looking for beneficial items. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker (interpretation):** Your first supplementary question, Member Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have heard more than once in the House that the Inuit organizations haven't been approached for partnerships. We have even heard from the Premier that they have not approached them. When we hear this and when we hear from this side of the House, we believe it takes much too long to build capital items. Inuit organizations can build things very fast or even other organizations.

It has also been used in the past; (interpretation ends) private-public partnerships (interpretation) have been used. The Iqaluit International Airport was built under that type of arrangement. We have Inuit organizations that are just waiting out there. When it comes to elders and the need for facilities, when we first started discussing it, Inuit organizations came up with a design right away and there are such things. (interpretation ends) Public-private partnership (interpretation) is for partnerships. Is he considering such partnerships for important capital items? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we're talking about capital items and when he's talking about (interpretation ends) public-private partnership, (interpretation) and when we want to come up with large facilities in partnership with non-governmental organizations, we want to make use of them.

However, the major factor is everything costs money. If the government builds a facility or as an example, if an Inuit organization builds it, it will cost money. Financing is a barrier and the funding has to be approved. If we build or lease the facilities, it costs money. There is an annual cost to it or a one-time payment, but it costs money and the funding has to be approved.

We look for the best options for this. Through a (interpretation ends) public-private partnership, (interpretation) we would have more debt and have to pay for it for the next several years. Those

options are looked at by the government and different organizations that want to build a facility. The cost becomes a barrier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are well aware, those of us sitting here in the House, and the Inuit who watch the proceedings are well aware that the *Nunavut Agreement* was meant for the Government of Nunavut to collaborate with Inuit organizations because they represent the same people. For that reason, I urge the minister. We keep talking about these things. There are facilities available that we need, such as elders' care facilities. They are readily available outside the government.

They approach the government and say that they can provide assistance, but the government doesn't seem to listen to them to date. My last question is regarding (interpretation ends) public-private partnership. (interpretation) Can the minister not only put public-private partnerships into consideration but begin using them more? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are always looking for benefits for Nunavut on a daily basis. As a government we're not trying to stop anything. We are one entity. Everything has to be approved in this House. We're not looking for barriers; we're looking to move forward.

However, with respect to the P3 project he is mentioning and borrowing money,

everything is tied to money. If there's no funding to pay for these partnership agreements by the Government of Nunavut, the loan agencies, and private businesses, we have to pay for it as a government.

I know I'm not the Minister of Finance, but what I'm trying to say is that when it's good timing, it's the best approach, and it can be operated to the fullest extent, perhaps a P3 is the best option for some but not all projects. Using the availability of funding and the priority list, we weigh all of those factors. We will be monitoring whether it's the most beneficial in the coming days and months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

**Question 646 – 5(2): Blueprint for Action on Housing**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation in relation to the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* Accountability Framework.

Mr. Speaker, with over 60 action items, the blueprint for action states, "A critical challenge...will be maintaining focus and momentum..." Mr. Speaker, as many of these actions are multi-year in nature or are dependent on other actions for their completion, most of the actions will require substantial collaboration between departments and as such, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is concerned over sustaining such a level of coordination that requires a clear governance structure which is supported

by a strong reporting mechanism to ensure the accountability and transparency, which is why the Nunavut Housing Corporation has set up an accountability framework where every action has a department identified to be accountable for each action item and its implementation, which is reinforced through a quarterly reporting requirement and an annual interdepartmental workshop.

I would like the minister responsible if these quarterly reporting requirements or annual interdepartmental workshops have been coordinated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct on the blueprint for action. It requires a whole-of-government approach into addressing the 60 action items identified in the program.

As for the accounting question he is asking, I believe we do 80 reports per year for the accountability side on our spending. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another focus on the accountability framework is a major element of the proposed blueprint accountability framework is the Annual Status of Housing Report, which the Minister responsible for the Nunavut

Housing Corporation is to be tabling in each fall sitting. Since the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* was tabled in October 2016, it means that there are three years of outstanding annual reports on the status of housing. I would like to ask the minister responsible when the minister will be tabling these three annual reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) When they're ready to be tabled, we will table them. The thing we wait for is the Auditor General to approve the reports and we have to do multiple translations on these reports before we table them. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Annual Status of Housing Report is meant to give Members of the Assembly and the general public an idea of how these interdepartmental relationships are working in meeting the action items, which I believe do not require any audits or any roles in relation to the Auditor General's office. I'm not sure if that is an appropriate response to the question that I had asked.

I would like to ask again: when will the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation be presenting or tabling in the Assembly the annual status reports for the progress made on the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* for fiscal years 2017, 2018, and 2019? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I misunderstood the first time, so I apologize. I thought he was talking about the funding we use that is reviewed by the Office of the Auditor General.

I don't know when we will be tabling the action plan. The (interpretation ends) blueprint for action (interpretation) has 60 items. (interpretation ends) It's a work in progress and it's going to take a long time to address the action items. I said earlier and the member alluded to it that it's a whole-of-government approach, so it's going to take a long time to address those 60 items. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) But as we progress, we will make reports to the House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

#### **Question 647 – 5(2): Future of Elders' Care Facilities**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, first of all, my opinion is that, and I believe I am able to state my opinion here in the House, that one man's fear mongering is another man's healthy debate.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

>> *Applause*



**Mr. Main:** There has been some discussion here, healthy discussion, about the future of the existing elder homes in Nunavut. Several members have said, “Oh, this will not happen,” and I am concerned.

My first question: with regard to the Baker Lake Elders’ Home, which is under the ownership of the Department of Health, when did it close down and when will it open again? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m just looking for the exact date.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize for the delay. Mr. Speaker, the contract expired on March 31, 2018. A letter was issued to them on April 17, 2018 notifying them that the one-year contract was not being renewed, and there is no intention of reopening that facility in Baker Lake in that existing facility. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) That’s a shame and I look forward to hearing the department’s plans to re-establish an elders’ home in Baker Lake.

>> *Applause*

I believe it was one of the longest running elders’ homes in our territory, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that it doesn’t

become part of a trend.

Mr. Speaker, the government’s current presented plans for elders facilities in Nunavut are based on a target of 156 beds, and the plan or the idea is for three facilities broken up along the lines of 24 beds, 24 beds, and 108 beds, three facilities. However, there are 44 existing beds in Nunavut, not counting the ones in Baker Lake that have no longer been made available.

My next question for the minister is: when the department was planning for long-term care facilities, why didn’t the department include the existing elders’ care beds in the territory in their math? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is phase 1. This is talking about the facility in Rankin Inlet. When it comes time to the other facilities, it is when we’re going to take into consideration all the existing facilities, whether we modify or put a lower bed facility in one community to keep these facilities open. This is phase 1 of a long plan to make sure that elder care is provided in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, nowhere in any of our documentation are we stating that we are going to be closing existing facilities. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I’m going to quote from the information that has been provided to us regarding the

Rankin Inlet facility. This is in reference to the existing, the three planned facilities. "This means the current existing facilities, continuing care centres, and elders' homes will be redundant from a capacity requirement perspective." It is stated in here that it seems to be a plan for obsolescence of the existing facilities.

My question for the minister today is: will the minister stand in the House in front of all our constituents who may be watching and commit that the existing facilities in Nunavut, including the Baker Lake Elders' Home, will not be closed down at any point and the government will not plan to close them down at any point? (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to debate in the House here in this forum on why the Baker Lake facility has been closed and why it will remain closed. Mr. Speaker, I can only speak to what this government's mandate is going to do. I will not be closing any facilities without any contractual issues for the rest of my term here in this mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernek.

**Question 648 – 5(2): Implementation of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit**

**Mr. Kaernek** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. I will direct my question to the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

This morning we're dealing with elder issues. Perhaps the Department of Culture and Heritage, regarding our language, culture, and elders, my first question is maybe *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* is not just there to make the government look good. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. The Department of Culture and Heritage is the lead on *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and we work with the elders and we even have the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit. Several times a year, perhaps four times a year, they meet. They make recommendations to various government departments and agencies on how to implement Inuit societal values.

I mentioned a few days ago about *Iviqtippalliajut* and we came up with it with the help of our elders. The Katimajit will be taking part in those meetings. I welcome my fellow MLAs and Nunavummiut to continue discussing *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* with our elders so that we all have a better understanding for implementing it in our daily work as a government so that it can be used more in the workplace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, regarding our language, I always say that our culture should be reflected in your services. Maybe the Department of Culture and Heritage and the different government departments, just citing this example, can work together. Perhaps the government offices can present more written documentation so that you're not just reacting but implementing our culture. Maybe all government offices can come up with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for that question. Yes, we have presented the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principles and defined them. We want the IQ principles clearly understood and how they impact our lives. Using collaboration as an example, various departments worked together to present *Iviqtippalliajut*. I can use other examples, but we have published posters about the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principles and we try to give them out to the various offices. If we get a request for those posters, we can definitely provide them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it has to be promoted more. I can use this as an example again. Let's say an elder goes to school. If they saw training taking place, they would say to the students, "This is what it's trying to mean." Alternatively, if they went to the hospital, "Work with

me." If they went to the office, it's working together. You can make examples like that.

Can you make this stronger within the government departments and promote it further? You stated that yes, it's falling into place. Can you direct the departments to strengthen this as the Minister of Culture and Heritage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Iviqtippalliajut* is kind of new, but we expect that it will be utilized more by our staff. We always say that policies and rules should be targeted toward Nunavut more and be more cognizant of our culture. Yes, I want to take part in working with the other departments, especially with the elders.

Putting my education hat on, we have elder cultural advisors in the schools and they are appointed by local district education authorities. For example, they help teach *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, and they explain the meaning of Inuit words and this can be very comprehensive. We will always work on *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*.

I appreciate our elders who have been able to give us their knowledge and experiences to our students and Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Member Qamaniq.

**Question 649 – 5(2): Repurposing of Old Arena**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

In our community of Pond Inlet the old arena is being worked on and converted into a garage so that it can be utilized for water trucks and other hamlet service vehicles. I'm sure it is being funded by the Department of Community and Government Services.

I used to work for the hamlet and the water trucks drip water, and when they are brought into the warm garage, the snow on them melts and drips. That prospective garage's floor is sand. Has the Department of Community and Government Services made any plans to put concrete flooring in the new garage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. All Nunavut hamlets lack garages and many hamlets garages have just a dirt floor, not concrete. The old arena is being converted into a garage, but I haven't seen any plans to put concrete flooring in it or when. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Qamaniq

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The House was

working on the estimates before I was elected. I am slowly learning about government operations and finance procedures. I haven't seen any capital estimates that say that there are any plans for a concrete floor. Now, if the newly elected hamlet council in Pond Inlet makes this a priority, can the minister consider providing funds for a concrete floor in that garage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We visit the hamlets every year to see what they have and what needs to be improved. This usually helps the communities. Our officials are experienced in doing that and they have done reviews. They realize there are things that need to be improved from time to time.

With respect to whether or not there would be funding for the concrete flooring of that garage or if it would be beneficial, as the work is progressing, our staff will be monitoring it. Sometimes there is funding available for minor capital that the communities can request for. We can work with the Hamlet of Pond Inlet to see if we can find financing for that purpose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The time for question period has expired. Continuing on with the orders of the day. Written Questions. Continuing on. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters**

**Committee Report 019 – 5(2): Bill 29, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act and the Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act and the Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 29 will appear on the order paper for Tuesday, October 29. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I seek unanimous consent to go back to Item 10, (interpretation ends) Petitions, (interpretation) Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 10 in the *Orders of the Day*. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Going back to Item 10 in the *Orders of the Day*. Petitions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Revert to Item 10: Petitions**

**Petition 006 – 5(2): Andy Aulatjut Elders Centre Operations**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you,

Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues. I still don't grasp Inuktitut fully.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today I have the honour of presenting a petition on behalf of my constituents in Arviat. This petition is regarding the Andy Aulatjut Elders Centre and is requesting the Government of Nunavut commit to continue providing funding for the operations of Arviat's Andy Aulatjut Elders Centre and to provide capital funding to expand the facility.

Mr. Speaker, Arviat's elders centre has been successfully operating for the past 20 years. Residents would like a commitment from the government to ensure that the elders centre will stay open in the future and that we will be provided an opportunity to build on its success. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on with the orders of the day. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Minister Akeegok.

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 203 – 5(2): Nunavut Business Credit Corporation 2018-2019 Annual Report**

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling the 2018-19 Annual Report of the Nunavut Business (interpretation ends) Credit Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents.

Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister Savikataaq.

**Tabled Document 204 – 5(2): GN  
Response to the Report on the  
Review of the 2016-2017 and 2017-  
2018 Annual Reports of the  
Information and Privacy  
Commissioner of Nunavut**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling the Government of Nunavut's Response to the Report on the Review of the 2016-17 and 2017-18 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut, June 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of the Nunavut Development Corporation, Minister Akeegok.

**Tabled Document 205 – 5(2): Nunavut  
Development Corporation 2018-  
2019 Annual Report**

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am once again tabling the 2018-19 Annual Report of the Nunavut Development Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister Savikataaq.

**Tabled Document 206 – 5(2): Access  
to Information and Protection of  
Privacy Act 2017-2018 Annual  
Report**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling today the 2017-18 Annual Report on the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member for Gjoa Haven, Member Akoak.

**Tabled Document 207 – 5(2): Adopted  
Resolutions from the 2019 Annual  
General Meeting of the Kitikmeot  
Inuit Association**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of tabling the formal resolutions that were introduced, considered, and adopted at the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

Mr. Speaker, if you will allow me, I would like to read one of the resolutions that were sent. It says, "To ensure there are long-term care and specialized care facilities in each community for elders who are not able to live on their own and to ensure adequate training for home care workers in Nunavut." Mr. Speaker, that's part of one of a whole bunch of resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to review these with care, and I anticipate having a number of appropriate questions to appropriate ministers on the contents of the resolutions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member for Aivilik, Member Netser.

**Tabled Document 208 – 5(2): Adopted Resolutions from the 2019 Kivalliq Mayors’ Annual General Meeting**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table resolutions from the Kivalliq Mayors’ Conference. My community of Coral Harbour was the host and I’m tabling the resolutions made at that meeting.

Resolution No. 5 states that they want to see an elders facility. (interpretation ends) Resolution 005-2019 states:

“Elders Facility / Palliative Care

Whereas:

- Residents of the Kivalliq region have a moral duty to care and protection of our Elders; and
- That Elders are better off in their home communities or their home Region.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Kivalliq Mayors support immediate action on the construction of an Elders Care Facility in Rankin Inlet so we may support our elders with dignity surrounded by families and friends.”

I encourage all the members to read the resolutions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Notices of Motions. (interpretation) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Motion 050 – 5(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the fall 2019 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

**Motion 053 – 5(2): Adjournment for the Day**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 46, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Gjoa Haven, that the House adjourn for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order and it is not debatable. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Before we go to Item 22, I would like to wish a happy birthday to our fellow Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

>> *Applause*

>> *Singing Happy Birthday*

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

>> *Laughter*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Continuing on. (interpretation ends) *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### Item 22: Orders of the Day

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Oversight at half past one this afternoon and also there's a meeting of the Full Caucus at ten o'clock tomorrow morning, and both meetings are being held in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for Monday, October 28:

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 8
  - Bill 30
  - Bill 31
  - Bill 32
  - Bill 33
  - Bill 34
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker:** This House stands adjourned until Monday, October 28, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 11:53*



