



## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak**  
(Baker Lake)

**Hon. David Akeegok**  
(Quttiktuq)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic  
Development and Transportation*

**Mila Kamingoak**  
(Kugluktuk)

**David Qamaniq**  
(Tununiq)

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
(Netsilik)

**Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**  
(Rankin Inlet South)  
*Minister of Community and  
Government Services; Minister  
of Human Resources*

**Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)

**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the  
Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak**  
(Cambridge Bay)

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

**John Main**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and  
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of  
Energy; Minister of Environment; Minister  
responsible for Aboriginal Affairs;  
Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister  
responsible for the Utility Rates Review  
Council*

**Hon. George Hickey**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)  
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial  
Management Board; Minister of Health;  
Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention;  
Minister responsible for the Workers'  
Safety and Compensation Commission*

**Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

**Hon. Patterk Netser**  
(Aivilik)  
*Minister responsible for  
Nunavut Arctic College;  
Minister responsible for the  
Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)  
*Government House Leader; Minister of  
Family Services; Minister responsible for  
Homelessness; Minister responsible for  
Immigration; Minister responsible for the  
Status of Women*

**Hon. David Joanasie**  
(South Baffin)  
*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister  
of Education; Minister of Languages*

**Joelie Kaerner**  
(Amittuq)

**Cathy Towtongie**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Tuesday, February 18, 2020**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickee, 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, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towntongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak)(interpretation): Before we proceed, I ask Member Towntongie to say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I wish to make a statement.

**Speaker's Statement**

As Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, I am pleased to welcome Nunavummiut who have joined us today for our first sitting of the year. We have a number of busy weeks ahead of us, and I look forward to a productive sitting of the House.

I am also pleased to take this opportunity to announce that the Legislative Assembly is currently hosting an exhibition in partnership with Inuktitut Ilinniaqta, which is a community-led Inuit language learning resource. I am confident that members will agree that the works on display in our main hall support the organization's goal of encouraging learning by connecting art, language and humour.

I also wish to take this opportunity to remind Nunavummiut that the deadline for submitting nominations for the Order of Nunavut is coming up at the end of this month on February 28. Nomination forms are available from the offices of Members of the Legislative Assembly and can be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website.

To date a total of 18 individuals have received the Order of Nunavut for their contributions in such fields as public and community service, the arts, education, language promotion, spiritual leadership, and business development.

As we look forward to celebrating the tenth anniversary of the coming into force of the *Order of Nunavut Act*, I encourage all Nunavummiut to consider nominating someone who has made a positive and enduring contribution to our territory.

Before we proceed and while I have the opportunity as the Speaker, I too am also a grandfather. One of my grandchildren is celebrating a birthday today. Jaelle Kinnga'naaq Mikkungwak Uqajuittuq, have a pleasant birthday celebration today.

And while I have the floor, I would like to acknowledge another person celebrating a birthday today and someone finally catching up to my age. Member Akeegok, have a good birthday today too.

>>*Applause*

We will now proceed with the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

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

### **Minister's Statement 348 – 5(2): Nunavut is Nation-building**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Arviat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform my fellow members about an initiative our cabinet has taken to advocate for Nunavut's many urgent needs. Earlier this month some of my fellow ministers and I were in Ottawa to meet with federal cabinet ministers, industry, the US Consulate, among others. Our message was simple: Nunavut is nation-building.

Mr. Speaker, we took the opportunity to let these key stakeholders and influencers know that our urgent, vast needs must be met. We spoke about the need for Nunavummiut to have the same opportunities and quality of life as the rest of Canadians. We spoke about the responsibilities of reconciliation and how that can be addressed and successful when it translates to investment, infrastructure, housing, mental health, and increased support.

Mr. Speaker, we had a very busy few days and met with many of the renewed federal cabinet ministers. Mr. Speaker, I'll just name off some of the ministers we met: Minister of Northern Affairs, Minister Vandal, Minister of Transportation Garneau, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Wilkinson, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Hussen, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Jordan, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities McKenna, Minister of Canadian Heritage Guilbeault, and Minister of Indigenous Services Miller, as well as the parliamentary secretaries of health, economic development, and northern affairs.

We gave context, strong data and information, and very clearly explained our needs and expectations. There is no doubt in my mind that we left a strong impression and provided our valuable, inarguable realities. We are in the initial phases of planning our next advocacy trip later this spring, where we will focus on our pressing social needs.

I thank my colleagues for their hard work and for giving such compelling information about their portfolios and programs. It was certainly a team effort and one that was incredibly effective. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

### **Minister's Statement 349 – 5(2): Notice of Budget Address**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform my colleagues that tomorrow, Wednesday, February 19, 2020, I will introduce the 2020-21 budget that outlines our government's financial priorities for the fiscal year 2020-21. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Minister's Statement 350 – 5(2): Independent Review of Housing Programs and Practices**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to residents of my community. You are in my thoughts.

I rise today to update regular members on the review they wanted to see in the fall from the housing corporation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update members on the comprehensive independent review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation that I committed to undertaking during the fall session. I have instructed Nunavut Housing Corporation staff to enlist the services of a qualified consulting firm to conduct this important project. Mr. Speaker, this work will begin April 1 of this year.

The review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs will focus on how the programs can best suit the needs of Nunavummiut to access and build new homes and maintain the ones they already have. The review will look at the effectiveness of current homeownership programs and explore what new ones might be created.

In addition, I want to make sure our tenants are paying the appropriate amount of rent. For this reason, the review will examine the current rent scale system.

>>Applause

The last major review of rents and subsidies was in 2013, with a new rent scale rolled out in 2014. One of the primary drivers of the last rent scale review was to ensure that public housing rents did not act as a disincentive to tenants to work. The review will examine all elements of the program.

Mr. Speaker, the review will also include an examination of costs of construction and risks and benefits of alternative methods of construction. I am often asked about tiny houses or modular homes. This review will examine all those options and determine the most cost-effective methods to build in Nunavut. We must find a solution.

Mr. Speaker, this comprehensive review will be conducted over the next year and I look forward to presenting the results of the review to you in the spring of 2021. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Minister's Statement 351 – 5(2): Public Health Act**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since its creation over 20 years ago, Nunavut has made great strides in developing and implementing infrastructure that takes into account our unique realities and opportunities.

I am very pleased to share that the coming into force of the new made-in-Nunavut *Public Health Act* represents a major milestone in the Government of Nunavut's efforts to improve and protect the health of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker and members, the new *Public Health Act* came into force on January 1 this year, representing the work we have been taking towards implementing a health system that is both modernized and in full recognition of the needs of Nunavummiut. The new *Public Health Act* establishes measures related to health protection and promotion, population health assessment, public health surveillance, disease and injury prevention, and public health emergency preparedness and response.

Mr. Speaker and members, the Act also outlines requirements in food and water safety, sanitation, and the reporting of and response to communicable diseases that are vital to health protection. This legislation not only ensures that our practices meet national and international standards; we are proud that it preserves IQ as its guiding principles.

Mr. Speaker and members, among other functions, the new *Public Health Act* provides the legal framework to enable public health officials to protect the public health, prevent illness, and promote health. The new *Public Health Act* will allow our health care and public health providers to be better positioned than ever to support the health and wellness of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker and members, this new *Public Health Act* and the associated regulations that have been updated and overhauled create more robust and Nunavut-specific legal mechanisms for protecting and promoting health in the territory. This is directly in line with the priority of Inuusivut outlined in *Turaaqtavut* and will allow the Department of Health and the Government of Nunavut to better respond to the needs of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanase.

**Minister's Statement 352 – 5(2): Professional Development for Student Support Assistants and Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit**

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

Mr. Speaker, this week from February 17 to 21 student support assistants and *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* will be receiving professional development provided by the Department of Education.

Student support assistants and *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* play an important role in schools to ensure students are supported. Student support assistants help carry out instructional plans that take into consideration the specific needs of individual students. *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* support and advocate for students while acting as a community resource person for school staff. They promote the value of education, engaging parents, guardians, and the community in student learning.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this professional development will expand our educators' skills and strengthen the important work they do to support the diverse needs of students. Educators will be able to customize their training by selecting from a series of pre-recorded webinars and presentations on a range of topics, such as self-regulation, mindfulness, and promoting independence. This approach to professional development more effectively meets the needs and interests of our educators.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, each student support assistant will also receive the Student Support Assistant Handbook, a new resource clarifying the responsibilities and range of skills necessary for the role. It provides tools and guidance for effective collaboration with teachers, students, parents, and guardians.

(interpretation ends) Finally, Mr. Speaker, *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* from the Kitikmeot who could not attend the annual territorial conference that took place this past October due to weather will meet in Cambridge Bay. There they will be participating in training on strategies to support the mental health and well-being of our students. *Koana, qujannamiik, ma'na*, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

### **Minister's Statement 353 – 5(2): Support and Assistance for Survivors of Violence**

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I am happy that you are back at your capital city.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, violence in any form is unacceptable. Today I invite everyone to take a stand against violence and create a brighter future for this territory.

*Uqaqtitsijii*, upcoming events like Pink Shirt Day and International Women's Day call on us to end violence in our relationships, families, schools, and communities. These days are important. They allow us to reflect and renew our commitment to end violence in Nunavut.

>>Applause

This work, however, must be ongoing. Every day we must stand united in our efforts to eliminate violence. In this we must remain guided by our principles, working together for a common cause. Ending all forms of violence can only be achieved when we work together.

As part of the government's efforts to raise awareness around ending violence and supporting survivors, a public service announcement will be circulated on a quarterly basis. The first one was circulated earlier this month. It outlines key supports for survivors of violence. Reaching out and accessing these supports is key for coping and recovery and ending the cycle of violence.

*Uqaqtitsijii*, we stand here today with a purple button that recommits us and others in our efforts to end violence. The color purple reflects courage, healing, survival, and honour. Purple has become a symbol for the fight to end violence. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) I will be introducing a motion. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

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

#### **Member's Statement 542 – 5(2): Arrival of First Great-granddaughter**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I say “good day” to my fellow residents of Qikiqtarjuaq and the residents of Clyde River who are following the proceedings.

To the relatives who were left behind by a loved one, I offer condolences to the people in Clyde River where they felt the loss of more than a single person, as several have passed on recently. One person was my cousin who also recently passed in the community of Clyde River. My cousin accomplished a great deal as he also served locally as a minister for many years and he will be missed dearly in times like now. As my cousin has passed on, I offer my condolences to his family members, especially to the impacted families in Clyde River as they lost several residents due to sicknesses.

Now, to my colleagues, I wish to share this piece of good news and inform members that I am also rising today to convey my pride as my family just grew larger, and also to note that this is my first great-grandchild and my very first great-granddaughter!

>>Applause

I wish to share this wonderful news with all my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 543 – 5(2): The Need for a School Bus in Chesterfield Inlet**

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the recognition. This matter is what I wish to speak to, albeit it may not be of importance to others. First, let me offer good day wishes to the residents of Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet and I hope you have a wonderful day today.

I was informed recently this winter and yesterday that children are walking in exceedingly cold weather enduring minus 50 or lower. Chesterfield Inlet has no school

bus and students walk to school locally. I urge some empathy from the minister and encourage him to study the feasibility of providing a school bus.

The hamlet is still waiting for parts. I had a meeting with the mayor in January and the bus they currently have is still broken. Our children continue to lament the missing bus and I wanted them to know that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 544 – 5(2): Recognizing Nathan Maniapik of Pangnirtung**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day and welcome to the people of Pangnirtung.

I want to rise today to voice my pride in and to congratulate this person who partook in a recent event in Ottawa. He is a young resident of Pangnirtung, who is always trying to make changes locally, and he was also a participant sitting in my chair during the last Youth Parliament and he was chosen as our local youth representative for that. He is 18 years old and Nathan Maniapik will graduate this spring in our community of Pangnirtung.

Further, last year he also participated in the youth program based out of Ottawa that I believe is part of the capacity building or (interpretation ends) Northern Youth in Service (interpretation) and also participated in the Northern Youth Abroad program. They won \$100,000 that will be used for cultural events, with the participation of elders and sewing. The communities of Baker Lake, Ford Providence, Igloolik, and Whale Cove will be participating.

Nathan Maniapik is a very innovative youth and I would like to acknowledge his contributions. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

### **Member's Statement 545 – 5(2): Addressing Violence and Abuse**

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a number of occasions I have expressed my concern over the many taboo subjects that run rampant in our communities, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse.

Mr. Speaker, recently a prominent member of our society demonstrated incredible courage when she came out on social media and named an individual who sexually

assaulted her and how over the years she has heard many similar stories and some much, much worse.

Mr. Speaker, in her statement she said, “I’m done awkwardly trying to make sure I’m never alone with him without giving away the reason why. I’m done with the whispered warnings to other women.” She also stated, “It’s time for us to stop carrying the shame and blame of the abusers for them. It’s time to let them carry it themselves.”

Later that day Natan Obed, the President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, set a shining example for all Inuit leaders by publicly expressing his support. Mr. Speaker, Obed said, “I want to say that I stand by her, I believe her and I support her. We need to stand with those people who need our love and support in times that are very difficult.”

Mr. Speaker, I’m proud to see a male Inuk leader stand up in support. For far too long, women have been carrying the burden of speaking out against abuse. It’s time that men must also stand with them and call out abuse in all its forms, wherever and whenever it occurs. It’s time that us as men must share the load by also condemning abusive behaviour and also coming to the defence of women when they get blow-back for speaking out. Our women and children need the support in order to help end this cycle.

There’s too much unsaid and too much pain caused by sexual assault and domestic violence abuse in our communities. Victims should not be hiding and they should not feel ashamed about what happened to them. We must encourage our communities to speak out and make it known that this will not be tolerated any longer. We need to believe victims when they come forward and we need to support them.

I thank Alethea Arnaquq-Baril and all of the women who shared and warned each other of these abusers. You’re keeping countless women and children safe by setting an example and giving others the power to speak out. I thank Natan Obed for being an ally. We need more allies like this in our communities and in our leadership.

These two are some of the people who have inspired a very important movement that brings hope to those who feel alone. I am grateful, and to the victims, I am with you, I am your ally and I believe you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

#### **Member’s Statement 546 – 5(2): Compensating Our Elders**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues. Good day to my fellow residents of Amittuq. To my constituents in Igloolik, I feel for those of you who have lost a relative. I love you, and carry on. That is all we can do.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to return to a campaign promise to advocate on behalf of our elders. I want you to remember that we would be lost without our elders' upbringing and I will continue to advocate for our elders, actually I will continue to voice concerns they hold.

Let's recall that our elders are the source of strength, and we are following the paths they created to forge our future opportunities which we have to search for due to their wisdom and social relationship skills, and their abilities others wish to emulate, both social and hunting related, including seamstress skills and such that need to be acknowledged by our government.

Mr. Speaker, due to this reason of our elders' needing advocacy whenever a court case is being scheduled and the parties have arrived, whether it is a government event or student graduation, an oil lamp is generally lit by a local elder. When a wildlife hearing is held, the men are queried as to how their hunting practices are affected and things like that. When the Minister of Family Services was questioned about the elders and the pension assistance they receive and if an increase was possible, I also queried the minister, which I can revisit. Our elders laid out a foundation for us already. "As a full-blooded Inuk, you can never become a qallunaaq." That was my late mother's saying. Much like no matter how much I endeavour to become a qallunaaq, I can't. That is what it means.

Later on when we reach question period, I will have questions to query the Minister of Culture and Heritage wherein I will ask why our elders receive token acknowledgement and honorariums without the proper prestige of a respected retiree/employee. I will have questions for the minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

### **Member's Statement 547 – 5(2): Health Centres Open for Emergencies Only**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues, Premier, and ministers. It is good to be meeting again.

Now, a common concern is what I have carried back to the Assembly. This concern causes much consternation amongst my constituents as it applies to health services and patients needing appointments from health practitioners. This concern is causing much distress and people want to hear the reason publicly why this is becoming a common refrain at our health centres: "Only emergency cases will be seen." Emergencies only; only emergencies can be seen. Is that repetitive enough to rasp on you yet?

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): "Only emergencies can be seen, emergencies only can be seen, emergencies only can be seen, emergencies only can be seen."

>>Applause

Is that getting tiresome to listen to? My constituents are extremely tired of always hearing that exact refrain and elsewhere within Nunavut as that excuse is heard from time to time in our communities. Therefore I asked questions on the radio, via written correspondence to the Department of Health, and we have just received the figures for which I am thankful. This concern is held by residents and I imagine it is also held by the Department of Health. I know that.

My constituents have told me when they hear of only open for emergency. It seems to be saying, "Keep getting more ill. I know you're ill, but get more ill so you can be seen." Perhaps you have cancer or whatever. Only if you become an emergency case we will see you. That is not right and it's obvious that whoever has a problem should see that.

The shortage of nurses, when they need to deal with patients during the night, it's obvious that health services should be better rectified in Nunavut and we should be hearing less of those emergency cases where we will only be seen. I will have questions to the appropriate ministers on that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 548 – 5(2): Housing Shortage**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We join Member Keyootak in sending our condolences and prayers to the families who have lost a loved one.

I say "good morning" to my constituents in Netsilik and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today for a concern that is a concern today and it was a concern yesterday and probably tomorrow also. Mr. Speaker, the minister mentioned about housing programs and it's good to hear. We should be moving forward on that.

Mr. Speaker, we have a shortage of housing in our communities and young people need housing. You are in our thoughts. Mr. Speaker, we keep saying that the youth are our future and because they are our future, we should serve them so that something visible can be given, so that there can be a brighter future.

Mr. Speaker, we keep saying that the youth are our future. Let's be serious about our future so that we can have real discussions or experiences are being good so that we can tell people of our future, the teenagers will be working and they need housing and they apply for a house. I will have questions when I have the opportunity, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 549 – 5(2): Encouraging the Use of Inuktitut**

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, residents of my community and my colleagues.

First of all, I would like to say that in our community, I feel with my colleague for Amittuq. This comes up occasionally and we experience that. Let's keep that in mind.

It's Inuit Language Month presently and it took a lot of work to reach this stage, so let's use our language properly and urge people to use and learn it properly and be proud of it. Our language is what kept us alive in Nunavut. Let's use it.

I would like to join my colleagues to urge all residents to work harder on our language on a daily, hourly, every second usage rate. For that reason, I wanted to say that we try to use our language in the Chamber, so we should keep practising our language so that the listening audience and our youth can see examples of Inuktitut being spoken properly and so that they will know the language and not lose it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Arviat South, Member Savikataaq.

**Member's Statement 550 – 5(2): Arviat Participants at Rankin Inlet Hockey Tournament**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the young residents from Arviat who travelled to play hockey in Rankin Inlet, I share in your celebrations. Although they were able to reach the tournament final, they weren't able to win the game. They did come in second place and I was informed that it was quite fun to watch.

They're not happy because they didn't win, but they're happy that they went to play hockey in Rankin Inlet. They're quite capable hockey players and I would like to celebrate with you for playing good hockey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 551 – 5(2): Successful Hockey Tournament in Rankin Inlet**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague from Arviat voiced his appreciation and I too voice that same appreciative air on behalf of Rankin Inlet residents to the hockey players as they played some real good hockey games and played “playoff” hockey. Regardless of whether they were losing or winning, their outlook looked the same on the ice, so thank you. I invite everyone to come to Rankin Inlet to play.

I wanted to voice my pride in Rankin Inlet for placing third, Arviat who came in second place, and Coral Harbour who came in first. It was exciting to witness the games. Come join us to play hockey in Rankin Inlet. They are real hockey fans and I thank the people of Rankin Inlet who took care of the hockey players from the time they arrived until the time they went home. I thank all of the organizers and volunteers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Member Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 552 – 5(2): Appreciation of Mother on Birthday**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I also thank you for your birthday wish earlier. I wish to state that today is a very joyous day as I take great pride whenever I celebrate my birthdate.

I was born from my mother and my father and I was raised by the community. In looking at that fact, it shows the great capabilities of our mothers that I take great pride in their abilities, especially when I am celebrating my birthday every February 18. However, we should be proud of our mothers and fathers even if they are passed on, as my mother gave birth to ten children and also raised three grandchildren, and my dear wife has given birth to four children and we are raising three children currently.

With that being the case, we raise our children as communities and in looking at that, I am quite grateful that this was the case. To all the mothers, I wish every day was Mother's Day, so to all mothers, I thank you and to the people who just celebrated a new addition to their family and first great-grandchild whom I will now share a birthday with, and I hope that I will know her so that I can share and show my happiness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Returns to Oral Questions. Continuing on. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member Sheutiapik.

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

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we went through this morning... I'm proud to recognize the people who are in support. Parniga Akeegok from Iqaluit is a member of the Pauktuutit board. Please stand up.

>> *Applause*

Sileema, Chairperson of the Qullit Status of Women Council.

>> *Applause*

Beth Beattie, Executive Director of Qullit.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) Kenny Bell, His Worship, (interpretation) our mayor.

>> *Applause*

Arijana, the executive director in our office.

>> *Applause*

Yvonne Niego, my deputy. Thank you for being here. Please welcome them.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please feel welcome at your Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq and the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my wife, Mina, who is visiting here in Iqaluit during the professional development week for the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Feel welcome and I am sure that he is very pleased to have you here. I am sure that he will work harder even when you are here.

>> *Laughter*

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome. I know this person, but I want to welcome Parniga Akeagok and recognize her great seamstress skills. Even though she is younger, I want to say a big thanks to Parniga. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome while you are being recognized in the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I want to recognize my daughter Natasha Qaapik, who is here today. Welcome. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. The Nunavut territory was created so that we could recognize people such as you and fellow Nunavummiut, so feel welcome here.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Continuing on. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

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

#### **Question 738 – 5(2): Unnecessary Costs of Medical Travel**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

We recognize that the government spends a lot of money every year on medical travel. I want to say that I recognize it is an expense and it is necessary so that we can ensure Nunavummiut get the medical care that we need. Many types of care are not readily available in small communities, and individuals have to travel for appointments and treatment in bigger centres or out of the territory. I recognize that an enormous amount of money is spent on medical travel. It is close to \$100 million. However, I am concerned that a significant portion of that expense is wasted money as for one reason or another, medical clients miss their flights.

I would first like to ask the minister: (interpretation ends) can the minister clearly indicate whether his department tracks the specific reasons why individuals miss their medical travel flights and, if so, how does his department use the information to address systemic issues with medical travel operations and administration? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud the member for raising this ongoing issue. I would like to say that there have a number of improvements. The member is asking for some specifics. One example would be the change in our Medical Travel Policy last year where we allow breastfeeding mothers to take infants with them that don't count towards any of the travel.

The member is correct; there are occasions where people do miss their flights. There are a number of different reasons. We have been looking at, through our medical travel review, on getting more data. It is one of the identified weaknesses of medical travel, the amount of data and to correlate that with specific examples. One example has been of late notice of when your medical travel is to be able to allow for child care or any employment concerns to be addressed. It is something that is very high priority, especially now with fees that are going to be levied against the Department of Health for missed flights. We have to be very cognizant of why people are missing their flights and to mitigate those.

Our electronic health records has done a dramatic impact on making sure that people's appointments are there when they get there, making sure that the travel is coordinated. Last year there were over 60,000 one-way flights arranged. I will applaud our medical travel coordinators and the staff in the headquarters office on how they deal with that volume. There have been a number of occasions where...last-minute changes due to appointments being rescheduled or additional appointments that are being made. I can't thank the staff enough for how quickly they can adjust to some of those occurrences.

I just wanted to assure members that as this ongoing medical travel review occurs, we are taking steps, again with the examples and some of the changes we made last year and are going to continue to make as we see efficiencies as we identify them. We are going to continue to implement changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't really get a direct response as to whether there are any answers for why medical clients miss their flights. In 2018-19 close to 6,000 medical travel clients from Nunavut simply didn't show up for their flights. This makes it seem as though these individuals just couldn't be bothered.

I do not believe it is that simple. Recently I heard from a number of concerned constituents that they were not contacted about their medical appointments or about any plans for medical travel, but they received a call from the airlines saying that they had been booked on a flight that day. Sometimes they don't have time to make arrangements and cannot go. Sometimes they travel anyway and there is no appointment.

Can the minister clearly explain what initiatives are in place to ensure that arrangements for medical travel, appointments, and accommodation for medical travellers are being

adequately coordinated and communicated to medical clients in a timely manner? We realize that it's a complex issue.

Mr. Speaker, in correspondence to Members of the Legislative Assembly last November, the minister provided information on a number of medical travel complaints and issues...

(interpretation ends) Can the minister clearly explain what initiatives are in place to ensure that arrangements for medical travel, appointments, and accommodation for medical travellers are being adequately coordinated and communicated to medical clients in a timely manner? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for raising this. It brings awareness on how important it is for people to take every opportunity to make sure that they attend their medical appointments. It is very difficult to reschedule depending upon the circumstances, but it's not what the member is asking, I understand that.

With regard to the ongoing review, like I had mentioned, one of the issues has been child care. We made allowances within our Medical Travel Policy to allow breastfeeding infants to travel with the parent. The federal government has taken steps to allow for maternal escort travel policies, of which we still include the breastfeeding infant component to.

I do have to say the number sounds very bad. It's approximately 6 or 7 percent of our medical travellers do miss flights. The greater percentage is on the way home. That is something that we're going to be continuing to work with our contractors or boarding homes, etcetera, on identifying some of those occurrences and how they came about. As I said in my earlier response, this is something that there's not a lot of data on.

The staff that are there are working very diligently to make sure appointments occur as planned. That being said, there is human error or miscommunication that does occur and can occur, but I just want to state that this is taken very seriously. We understand almost a quarter of my budget with health is just for medical travel. We all know that as I come forward with supplementary appropriations, they almost always include a component of medical travel. This is something we're taking a very serious priority and bringing attention to this issue internally as well as externally.

There are circumstances where we can make improvements, but there are also circumstances where people do have to make sure that they follow through with their commitment to access the health care that we're doing our best to provide. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. In correspondence to Members of the Legislative Assembly last November, the minister provided information on a number of medical travel complaints and issues that had been addressed by his department's Office of Patient Relations.

While I greatly appreciated receiving details on the types of enquiries related to medical traveller experiences that were handled by that office, I feel that greater efforts should be made to directly monitor the operations of the medical travel offices and determine what specific factors are leading to such issues as missed flights and unnecessary travel.

He briefly mentioned the issue of the missed flights, but there is still much room for improvements within the medical travel process so that medical travel is better coordinated. There are quite a number of issues that the minister referenced and as I stated earlier about the delays in communicating flight information to patients, so I will just reiterate it here.

I want to ask my final question. Will the minister commit to reviewing the operations of the medical travel offices in detail and reporting back to this House on his findings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This review has been ongoing for a couple of years now and as I had mentioned, we do take the opportunity as we identify efficiencies to implement them.

One of the issues that I didn't bring up earlier that I will take the opportunity now is our travel coordinators at the health centres. Typically there's a turnover or people who have been there for an extended period of time haven't had the opportunity to really be guided or mentored or trained, and that's one of the focuses that our medical travel office is working on as one of our top priorities. It's making sure that the training component is there so that people who are in those positions at the health centre know how to do the paperwork. It alleviates some of the pressure from the headquarters staff and the people booking the appointments to make sure that all that is in line.

One of the other efficiencies that we have identified is making sure that people understand their obligations when they're travelling under medical travel or as an escort. We need to do a better job to make sure that everyone is informed of their responsibility when they're travelling for medical travel as well as the obligations and conditions of which they have an escort under.

I will continue to bring forward information as it arises to the House and I look forward to identifying further efficiencies and I look forward to the ongoing dialogue. I have said in the past that I'm always open to suggestions or if people see evidence or anecdotal information where they find it might be beneficial to my office, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

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

**Question 739 – 5(2): Introducing a Clare’s Law for Nunavut**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier and are regarding the high rates of sexual assaults in Nunavut.

Before I get into my questions, I would like to thank the Premier for his recent public comments concerning the issue of sexual assault.

Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of the Fifth Assembly I have asked many questions both in this Chamber as well as in our committee meetings about sexual abuse in the territory. During this time we have seen the number of Nunavummiut on the registered sexual offenders list grow from just shy of 500 to nearly 650. Mr. Speaker, this list has grown at an exponential rate over a mere two years, which I’m sure is unparalleled across Canada.

My first question to the Premier is: does the Premier recognize the severity of the situation and, if so, does the Premier agree that the rates of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse in Nunavut are at crisis levels? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have grim statistics in Canada that none of us are proud of that are on the negative side. I will admit to that.

We as a government are doing our best to help people who need help and help the victims that need help, but we as a society have to tackle this problem wholly. We can’t have a piecemeal solution and as a society we have to embrace this hard topic and, as you said earlier, a taboo topic. As a society we have to combat it together because it is unacceptable for any of those to happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier will undoubtedly be aware, a number of other Canadian jurisdictions have recently passed similar pieces of legislation within the last six months which help to address the issue of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, the official description of one of these statutes reads as follows: “The *Disclosure to Protect Against Domestic Violence (Clare’s Law) Act* will allow people at risk of domestic violence to find out if their intimate partner” has been violent or has an abusive history.” Mr. Speaker, this law gives the authorities the freedom to warn potential victims about known high-risk offenders.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure as we speak, there's a likelihood that somewhere in Nunavut there is or are officers that have information that could potentially help to prevent victims or assist victims still hiding but are unable to do so because of the current law.

My second question is: do you share the belief that Claire's Law in Nunavut would be beneficial to curbing the high rates of domestic abuse and sexual assaults which are contributing to the rapidly growing number of registered sexual offenders and, if so, will the Premier commit to ensuring that this government will introduce a Nunavut version of Claire's Law before the end of the current Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not that familiar with certain laws. The Minister of Justice would be more appropriate to answer those questions, but I do know that we can't incarcerate ourselves out of this situation. The answer is not to put every offender in jail. The answer is to work with the offender, to work with the victim, to work with people so that stuff like this would be unacceptable. It is unacceptable, but if everyone believed and lived that it was unacceptable, then it wouldn't be happening.

We made a statement earlier today. We all stood up; every one of us stood up here and we all say no to violence of any kind to any person. That in itself should speak. We are all here in this House against any form of violence against anyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the Premier's response. I do believe and agree that incarceration is not the sole solution, but what I am proposing is information sharing, giving police and other authorities the ability to share information with potential victims to prevent future harm. I would like to ask the Premier: does he believe that our law enforcement and other government officials should have the authority to verbally share information to potential victims? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't give an opinion on that. There are privacy issues here and there are victims' privacy issues too, but I do know and I have seen it where a person that is highly to reoffend is released from prison that a notice is given in extenuating circumstances. I can't comment on what and if they could share of, but the government can look at that and see what is possible to do that because at the end of the day when all is said and done, we want to make sure that people aren't harmed and people are aware of their situation in the surrounding area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

**Question 740 – 5(2): Alternative and Renewable Energy Projects in Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I asked for an update during the fall sitting on the status of the insulation of Sanikiluaq's new district heating system which will connect our community's two schools to the power corporation's residual heat system. As the minister also recalls, federal funding for this project was announced back in September 2018.

Mr. Speaker, when I asked the minister last November for an update on the tender for this project, the minister indicated that she had no information that she could provide at that time. Now that the minister has had a few months to look into this, I will again ask the minister if she could please provide an update on this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon to my constituents in Cambridge Bay and all Nunavummiut, and my colleagues here today.

Mr. Rumbolt's question regarding the district heating systems in Sanikiluaq for the two schools of Nuiyak and Paatsali High School, the projects have commenced and the completion dates for these projects are for 2020-21. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (no interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to see this project move forward.

Mr. Speaker, climate change and federal carbon tax have been a major issue of discussion in recent years. The federal announcement concerning the installation of the new district heating system in Sanikiluaq indicated that the new system will "help reduce the territory's diesel fuel consumption and cut carbon emissions." Can the minister provide an estimate as to the magnitude of the fuel savings and carbon emission reductions associated with this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't have that level of information that you are looking for as to how much we will save, but once the system is up and running, I can find examples as to the ones that are running in Iqaluit and some of the other communities, such as Arviat, Kugluktuk, Pangnirtung, and Rankin Inlet. I can get that information for Mr. Rumbolt so that he can compare those

amounts and see the difference with how much savings Sanikiluaq will have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Rumbolt

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qulliq Energy Corporation has ranked Sanikiluaq as being one of the top five communities in Nunavut with the greatest potential for wind energy. As the minister will be aware, a subsidiary of the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation has also been working on a wind power project in Sanikiluaq. When I asked the minister for an update last November on the Qulliq Energy Corporation's involvement with this project, the minister indicated that she had no information to provide at that time. I will now ask the minister if she can provide an update on this project at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am very pleased to give you some information on the wind energy project and potential for communities in Nunavut. The communities that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is looking at are Sanikiluaq, Iqaluit, Arviat, Rankin Inlet, and Baker Lake. Mr. Rumbolt is correct that the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation is currently doing the research for possible wind energy. Currently the study is almost complete. Qulliq Energy will be working with the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, and we will be visiting these communities and come up with next steps for this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 741 – 5(2): Qikiqtaaluk Caribou Management**

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. I will be asking about caribou.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, on June 20, 2019 the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approved a change to the non-quota limitation for Baffin Island caribou to allow for up to 25 females without calves to be harvested, with a total allowable harvest of 250 caribou. In his formal response to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board of July 15, 2019 the minister wrote that “The implementation of this decision and the subsequent allocation decision from the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board will be monitored by my department very closely to ensure that the harvest of females does not exceed the limit of 25...if the implementation of this decision leads to a conservation concern, such as negatively affecting the recovery of Baffin Island caribou, I will consider recommending or taking management action.”

Can the minister update the House today on how his department has been working with HTOs and other partners to ensure that the total allowable harvest limits for Baffin Island caribou are being followed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work with the hunters and trappers organizations and the conservation officers in the communities to monitor the harvests. When the harvesters harvest the caribou, they are required to report their harvest and proof of sex. As of today, the female harvest has not been obtained yet of 25. Up to date 20 females have been harvested in Baffin and we believe it's a good thing they haven't gone over and we still have a few months. I'm sure that the total amount for females allowed to be harvested will be reached. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Having been one himself, I am very confident that the minister will agree that it is important for all Nunavut communities to have a conservation officer in place, as they perform important work in many areas, including the enforcement of harvesting limits. Can the minister update the House today on how many Baffin communities are currently without their allocated number of conservation officers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Her preamble was not long enough for me to open the book to the right page to get the actual numbers, so I have to go by memory. We have a number of communities that don't have conservation officers, but they do have wildlife guardians that we have hired to work there. Grise Fiord is one, Qikiqtarjuaq is another. Like I said, I'm going from memory. There are others that are in the process of being hired. It might be Hall Beach, but this is just going from memory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The recovery of the Baffin caribou population is very important, and I do support actions being taken to see the population return to healthy levels, which will be great news for all of our hunters and communities. Can the minister update the House today on the status of the population's recovery? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a caribou population is in their low cycle...Mr. Speaker, first I'll explain. Caribou naturally cycle in their population,

they have highs and they have lows, and it's a very long cycle. When they're on their lows, that's when we have to be careful not to overharvest them so they can recover, but recovery is slow because most of the time it's related to a food source. The Baffin Island caribou, we haven't done a full island survey, but we do a survey in the fall to count the number of calves and then we do another survey in the spring to count the number of calves that survived the winter. That gives us an indication of whether the population is adding more, being stable, or rising a bit. The population, I believe, is going up a bit in some parts of the island but not substantial enough to make any management change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towtongie.

### **Question 742 – 5(2): Beer and Wine Stores**

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

As the minister will recall, plebiscites were held in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay in May of 2017 concerning the question of whether or not the government should open retail beer and wine stores in the two communities.

Mr. Speaker, although less than 40 percent of registered voters cast ballots in Rankin Inlet, close to 75 percent of the votes cast were in favour of opening a beer and wine store in the community.

My question for the minister is very clear: does the government plan to open a beer and wine store in the community of Rankin Inlet within the next 12 months, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. This gives me an opportunity to talk about the Nunavut liquor and cannabis survey that's online. There's a notice that went out today where people can provide feedback on the beer and wine store here in Iqaluit, but just to get to the member's question, yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the adequate response. Have you kept the hamlet council informed of the government's decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm so honoured to be getting a yes.

My final question, Mr. Speaker, the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store opened in the fall of 2017 and it was described by the government that it would be a "pilot project." I would like to know: can the minister clearly describe what specific lessons from the Iqaluit project will be used in relation to future stores in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for the question. Iqaluit did request that there be a pilot; Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay did not. The lessons learned from it, we're still analyzing a lot of the detailed analysis, but I will say that our import for hard spirits, which is one of the objectives of the beer and wine store, has dropped dramatically and I mean like a very dramatic difference, over a third down just in the first year and from the rough information I have now, less than half the spirits that are being ordered.

That being said, there is a survey that I just mentioned that is available for all residents of the territory 16 and over to provide some feedback on some of the lessons learned, how habits have changed, and that survey is going to allow us to finalize our analysis of the beer and wine store. Thank you.

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

### **Question 743 – 5(2): Health Centre Closures**

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

Mr. Speaker, this is in regard to a written question I brought up earlier regarding the health centres and closures. Looking at the numbers here on page 3, Arviat is one of the highest in all of Kivalliq and there are different communities that show a variety of numbers.

Using Arviat as an example, when there's a health centre closure and it's only open for emergencies, if it's frequent, how does it affect the wellness of the community? (interpretation ends) Just for clarity, Mr. Speaker, I want to understand: what does it do to a community's overall health when you have frequent emergency-only service provisions, using Arviat as an example? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising this issue. It is an ongoing one and to be frank, I don't see it ending anytime soon with the competition that we have with other jurisdictions on our nurse recruitment.

That being said, in the last fiscal year and the current one we have hired over 200 indeterminate nurses, which to me I think is something to be very congratulatory of our nurse recruitment division and the efforts that they are working on. The department has taken a number of different steps on retention as well.

To get directly to the member's question, when there is a closure other than emergencies, the first thing to suffer is the programming. When you're looking at the health of a community, the preventative health and wellness projects and programs that the communities provide to the residents, you know, healthy mothers, tobacco reduction, dietary programs, those are the first things to suffer. That is a difficult component to analyze because it is hard to grab statistics on what the impact is.

If I can stress enough how important it is that when circumstances do occur where they do have to close other than emergencies, that is to allow the nurses to recover. In a case where somebody is over tired, and I'm sure we have all been there in different aspects of our lives, you are not running at peak efficiency if you are overly tired. We have to make sure that we are providing that care for our staff, not just for the community, to make sure that the nurses are capable of providing the health care that we expect. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We see people who need the services of a nurse and we do also see the nurses who are overtired. I'm sure that it is tiring for them and they can't work at their peak when they are tired. That's understandable.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, when I first asked this question in written form, it is my understanding that the Department of Health was not tracking these emergency-only closures or occurrences, and I'm happy to have these numbers. These are the first numbers that I have seen in terms of how frequently this is happening in different communities. The response to a written question mentions "...a tracking system that is being piloted by the department to track closures and reduced services in health centres." I would like to know from the minister when this tracking system will be in place across the territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for highlighting this and it actually gave us the opportunity to recognize that there was reporting, but it wasn't consistently applied across the territory. I think that is one of the

important messages that when we look at numbers from year to year, this has highlighted some consistency in the reporting. That to me is a very positive step. When we are looking at the piloting, there are a number of different components to it. We want to make sure of the consistency.

I can't give a timeline, Mr. Speaker. This is something that is very fluid right now. We are looking at a number of different factors, not just closing for emergency but impacts on staff levels, impacts on volume within the health centre. Unfortunately I am not able to give a precise date right now, but it is ongoing work and I can assure the member that this is obviously a very serious component with health care delivery. We want to make sure we are doing it properly. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My final question for the minister, Mr. Speaker, on page 4 of the response it mentions reduced staffing levels several times, that these contribute to emergency-only services. My question for the minister is: in the upcoming fiscal year, which communities will be seeing increases to their staffing levels in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately I don't have that level of detail with me right now on which communities specifically. I would have to get back to the member on that. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 744 – 5(2): Compensation for Elders**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, every year the Department of Culture and Heritage sets aside a considerable amount of funding, more than \$6 million, in grants and contributions for official languages, heritage, and elder and youth initiatives.

Can the minister confirm that the majority of projects and initiatives funded by the Department of Culture and Heritage involve the contribution and expertise of Nunavut elders? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for the question. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture and Heritage accepts applications to

various programs, including projects that elders and youth want to undertake. Our annual funding for grants and contributions is over \$7 million, but the programs specifically for elders and youth are allocated \$400,000. It's not a large amount, but the different elders councils are eligible to apply for that funding. There are different funding programs that try to involve elders, whether it's for languages or tool-making. They try to hire elders and that's reviewed before they're approved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They spend quite a bit of money for all of Nunavut. Perhaps the Department of Culture and Heritage can look at other avenues aside from application-based programs. On what I just mentioned, that \$400,000 figure, in my constituency they can have a pilot project on hiring elders on culture. Can you look into that as the Minister of Culture and Heritage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The application based, even though we provide that kind of fund, we have an office in Igloolik for elders and youth workers. They annually plan on-the-land programs or survival courses, tool-making, or for example, drum dancing programs and involving elders.

The government staff and on top of that, I'll just mention it, there is the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit and they work with the Department of Culture and Heritage. The elders who are knowledge holders of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, there are elders, and under the Department of Education there's a separate elders' committee and they just deal with curriculum development. That's a separate program.

However, in our schools also, the DEAs can appoint their elders in the community and sign them off. To date there are over 200 elders in our schools and we would like to see more to increase that number. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for that explanation. You used as an example the district education authorities. I think I can use it as an example on the environment and family services. You were talking about the school counsellor and I'm looking at the environment outside of our communities. I used the environment as an example. A male elder is and family services and women would be with... .

(interpretation ends) My question is: will the minister fully commit to working with his staff to create paid elder advisor positions in Nunavut's communities, to provide steady income to compensate those elders who contribute on a regular and ongoing basis to

language, cultural and heritage initiatives supported by the government? (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. We are looking at different ways of getting elders involved on different government programs and services. There's a recent one I came across, the poster called the Nunavut Hunters' Education and that's with the environment department. Well, it's an online course, but I know you can use elders as advisors.

In relation to other departments, we are trying to work in partnership, in collaborating with other agencies on how to best utilize elders in their capacities with their knowledge and expertise. As I mentioned education, there's a process for us to certify elders so that they can be able to work in our schools. We want to continue on those types of programming for elders, that they're able to contribute and they are very knowledgeable with their lifetime experiences and cultural knowledge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Member Akoak.

#### **Question 745 – 5(2): Community Morgues**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Uqhuqturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will recall, I wrote to him in June of last year concerning the important issue of community morgues. In my correspondence I raised concerns regarding the lack of appropriate morgue facilities in my community of Gjoa Haven.

In his reply to me, the minister indicated that an interdepartmental working group has been established to “address concerns with regard to the maintenance and operation of morgues and the need to clarify the responsibility for the handling or disposal of a deceased person.”

Mr. Speaker, when I followed up on this issue during our fall sitting, the minister indicated that the government has been working to “develop a strategy” concerning this issue. Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update today on this work? 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. Dealing with the bodies of deceased persons is a huge issue and the local governments have to deal with it in collaboration with different

agencies inside and outside the government. We are still reviewing it and we have not made any decisions on what the next steps are, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his reply to me, the minister also indicated that his department is “committed to assisting municipalities with the costs of converting a surplus building into a morgue and visitation area for the deceased through its small capital fund with funding packages of up to \$250,000.” Mr. Speaker, I again thank the minister for taking this action. Can the minister indicate which communities have approached his department with funding requests? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. The issue of deceased persons is discussed more in the communities. We are still putting things in place on our application for funding for community morgues. Sometimes they are not buried for a long time due to weather. With that being the case, we are working on it right now, but I don’t have any information in front of me on who has put in funding requests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his reply to me, the minister committed to working with the Municipality of Gjoa Haven to address our community’s situation. I again thank him for this commitment. Can he update me today on what actions have been taken? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been discussions with different communities on this issue, as well as which applications my staff is working on presently. Regarding the community he mentioned, they have had discussions as to what their needs are and what the next steps should be. I will keep my colleague informed by correspondence on what has been done in the coming days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

#### **Question 746 – 5(2): Coronavirus Preparedness**

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is a small and remote jurisdiction. However, history has taught us that our population can be quickly and profoundly affected by the arrival of a new strain of illness or virus. With a small population, we are affected immediately.

For that reason, for the benefit of the listening public, people of Nunavut, can the minister clearly describe what preparations there are to detect and treat coronavirus should it come to our territory? What plans have been put in place? Please inform us people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising this. It gives me an opportunity to state, one, that overall the chief medical officers from across Canada are deeming this a very low risk to Canadian residents. There have only been a handful of cases across the country.

That being said, I can assure all members of the public and the House here that there have been numerous conference calls with health leadership across the country in taking preparations and keeping abreast of what has been happening on a day-by-day basis. Through our health office, there has been a number of communications with health centres, with the hospital here in Iqaluit, which is one of the conditions that we think has the most opportunity with international flights flying through here. We want to make sure that the hospital here in Iqaluit is well prepared. There have been isolation rooms and different sterilization protocols have been put in place.

That being said, I just want to reiterate that this is also flu season and just sort of basic hygiene, handwashing and coughing into your sleeve are steps that we should be taking on a daily basis, not just when situations such as this, but I do want to thank the member for raising the question. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for informing Nunavummiut what to do and what not to do.

Mr. Speaker, just recently, looking at the coronavirus disease, Covid-19, the current situation as of February 16, there are three confirmed cases in Ontario and five in British Columbia. As you know, Nunavummiut often travel from their communities to other jurisdictions to receive health care and treatment. When they return home after spending time in a medical facility down south, they may have been exposed to different viruses or illnesses.

Can the minister clarify what steps have been taken to ensure that our community health centre staff are prepared and equipped with the necessary protective gear and equipment to enable them to deal with an individual who may have been exposed to coronavirus?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. It's Speaker. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The practice across the country and of course as we have been saying in the last week in Ottawa that we are a part of Canada, we want to continue to assure all of our residents that no matter what community you are in, there procedures in place. We will isolate and make sure that testing is done. There is a microbiology lab in Winnipeg that is being utilized across the country for doing testing. We want to assure all of our medical travellers or just our residents that are travelling, one, obviously maintain your own personal hygiene and cough into your sleeve and make sure you wash your hands frequently and make yourself aware.

That being said, one of the low-risk factors is coming into contact within a health setting because of the isolation and the testing that would be done automatically if someone was to present any symptoms at an outside health facility. They would be isolated immediately and the testing to confirm whether they actually have contracted the virus or not. I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize if I didn't say it properly.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I do recognize that our public health professionals are carefully monitoring the national coronavirus situation and are in communication with health professionals, as you just indicated.

I appreciate that this zoonotic virus is very new and has caught many unawares. To date scientists don't seem to know which type of animal originally transmitted the virus to people.

Will the minister commit to increasing public awareness campaigns to inform and advise Nunavummiut on how to best protect themselves from coronavirus? (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member and applaud him for highlighting this. It gives me again the opportunity. As flu seasons or different viruses go around the territory, we have to remain vigilant on our personal hygiene of handwashing, making sure that we're not coughing around others, making sure that we're not smoking. Second-hand smoke contributes to respiratory illness as well too. We want to make sure that the message keeps going out and there's a continuous public relations campaign on flu seasons, on smoking habits. I just want to assure members that we will continue with those public service announcements. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period has expired. Member Main.

**Motion 059 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been a long time since we met and there are many questions to ask. Pursuant to 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, that question period be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order and is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Question period is extended by a further 30 minutes. Whenever possible, if you have questions, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation would like to be asked, as well as...

>>*Laughter*

...the Deputy Premier, if you would like to ask them questions.

Question period will proceed. Following the list, Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

**Question 747 – 5(2): Housing Shortage**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, I have written him a number of letters concerning the shortage of housing in the communities that I represent in this House. Although I recognize that all communities face shortages, it's important for Members of the Legislative Assembly to advocate on behalf of the constituents.

Mr. Speaker, during the Legislative Assembly's recent fall sitting, the minister committed to undertaking an independent review of the public housing community construction allocation system. I want to ask a question. Mr. Speaker, can the minister update the House today on the status of that work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague's earlier comments that we have to work hard to address the housing issue and we are all working hard. As I stated in my (interpretation ends) minister's statement, (interpretation) we will be reviewing those and I believe that we will be tabling the results of the review next year, if I understood the question, once the review has been done by the consulting firm. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut's population is continuing to grow at a rapid rate and the rate of new housing construction is not keeping up with the demand. Can the minister update the House today on what commitments he has received from the federal government as well as from our own Inuit organizations for new resources to address the housing crisis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were in Ottawa just last month and I had a meeting with the federal housing minister face to face, and I identified and reiterated the crisis that we are faced with in Nunavut. We provided him with documents. I also recently read through the media that Minister Vandal was in Rankin Inlet and that he had messaged the people there that he would like to work and tackle more on the housing crisis. We hear that as good news, and we would like to work closely with the federal government on the housing crisis. It looks like they are open to working together with us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that good news.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that our young families are losing hope. During the Legislative Assembly's recent fall sitting, the minister did not formally table the Nunavut Housing Corporation's plan for public housing construction allocation for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years, which I understand will include new units in both Kugaaruk and Taloyoak. Will the minister commit to tabling this information during our current winter sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As was mentioned, our population is growing and we are also seeing more educators and professionals in our communities. I believe and you also believe that homeownership through the HAP housing program is something that we want to encourage people to apply for. I believe that people are capable of owning their own homes. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the housing allocations for Taloyoak and Kugaaruk for 2020-21 and 2021-22, we will be building 10 units for Kugaaruk and another 10 units for Taloyoak, which are his constituency communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Member Kamingoak.

**Question 748 – 5(2): Kitikmeot Caribou Management**

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Kuglukturmiut. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Environment.

As the minister will recall, I have spoken a number of times in this House on the issue of caribou harvesting and management in the Kitikmeot region.

As the minister is well aware, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will be holding a public hearing early next month in Cambridge Bay to consider the Government of Nunavut's proposal to reduce the total allowable harvest for Bathurst caribou from 30 to zero.

For the benefit of Kugluktuk residents who are watching our sitting today, could the minister provide a clear explanation for why his department is proposing this reduction?  
*Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for giving a reason for that. The total allowable harvest of 30 for Bathurst is, of the 30, I believe 20 are used for sports hunting currently for non-residents to come into Nunavut and hunt those 20 caribou and the other 10 are used for domestic harvests.

Mr. Speaker, in the NWT for quite a few years now, the Dene have not been able to hunt any of the Bathurst caribou due to their regulations and legislation. Mr. Speaker, I believe that if it was the other way around, we in Nunavut would be crying and yelling towards the NWT and say, "Why are you allowing that caribou herd to be hunted when we can't do it on our side?" That's one of the reasons. The other reason is because it's at such a low level that we believe it can't sustain a harvest and it will help recover.

Mr. Speaker, there are different herds that are there. The Beverly comes by in the very same area and the member is aware that last year the Beverly did come by very close and a lot of the harvests close to Kugluktuk were harvested from the Beverly caribou herd. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for your response. The reason why I bring it up is because I have constituent who live out at Contwoyto Lake who rely on the Bathurst caribou herd.

On another note, as the minister is also well aware, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will be holding another public hearing early next month in Kugluktuk to consider the Government of Nunavut's proposal to reduce the total allowable harvest for Bluenose-East caribou from 340 to 107 and to establish a male-only non-quota limitation.

For the benefit of Kugluktuk residents who are watching our sitting today, could the minister provide a clear explanation for why his department is proposing this decrease?  
*Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are proposing the same reduction in this for the same reasons as Bathurst there. It's a conservation concern and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will be having hearings and hearing the concerns of Kuglukturmiut on this harvest. For the benefit of the Kuglukturmiut, the previous harvest was not being met too, so that in itself should tell you that maybe the previous total allowable harvest may have been too high if it was not being reached.

As I stated earlier, there are different caribou herds that come by and through satellite collaring, we're going to work with the HTOs there to let them know what caribou herd is around. Once this hearing is done by the NWMB, a decision will be recommended from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to the minister, I, and a decision will be made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board deadline for receiving formal submissions concerning the two public hearings closed last Friday at five o'clock.

As the minister is aware, the Kugluktuk Angoniatit Hunters and Trappers Association has expressed a number of concerns about both of the government's proposals, and I want to express my thanks to the HTO for taking the time to provide submissions. For the benefit of Kugluktuk residents who are watching our sitting today, could the minister provide a clear explanation for why his department does not agree with what my community's HTO is recommending with respect to the Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou harvests? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work with our co-management partners, whether it be the HTOs or the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and we take all the information that is given at those hearings. The NWMB will take all the information that is given at those hearings, and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will make the recommendations based on their hearings and based on data that has been provided by the Department of Environment.

Any decisions we make is for the benefit of the caribou and the benefit of the people that hunt and rely on the caribou to make sure that the caribou are there for the future generations to have and enjoy like we have. We want the caribou to be around for future

generations, not just for us currently sitting here. The reason we make these tough decisions is because we want to make sure that for many years, for generations to come, people have the same privileges of hunting and eating caribou like we do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 749 – 5(2): Enforcement of No-smoking Areas**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to my fellow residents of Tununig, my constituents, and the members. I am also thankful that question period was extended. There are a bunch of us that would not get a chance to ask questions.

Mr. Speaker, I may be mistaken, but I believe my question is directed to the Minister of Health.

There are smoking areas designated outside of hospitals, schools, airport terminals, and near school playgrounds. These designated smoking areas are to make sure that people do not smoke all over the place. The Nunavut government has made policies or regulations about smoking in public places and near schools or on school grounds.

Who is responsible for enforcing those non-smoking areas? People who smoke in non-smoking areas, who enforces it? Who does the fining of these people who break these laws? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our environmental health officers do inspections of facilities where there are no-smoking regulations. Typically it is the building owner that has the responsibility to make sure that the residents are compliant with the legislation. That being said, we are looking at opening up our Tobacco Act with the vaping and other products, and any recommendations when that legislative proposal comes through to the legislature, I would be very open to any dialogue and suggestions from members. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for answering my question about that. There are laws on the smoking of cannabis now and the federal government made it legal for recreation purposes. People who want to smoke can do so now. What about smoking cannabis near public places? Can cannabis be included for non-smoking areas for tobacco? Who enforces and administers the fines for people who do that so people who don't smoke can have a place where they can complain about people who smoke where they are not supposed to?

I may be wrong, but I believe I should be directing this to the Minister of Education or the Minister of Health. The Minister of Health said that the minister may have an announcement about this in the future, so I'm asking about cannabis smoking in public places for the sake of children and young people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we are talking about cannabis use, there are limitations further than tobacco use on public consumption. With the legislation that we passed last summer with the legalization of cannabis, it was obviously a part of that discussion of making sure that where you can smoke cigarettes doesn't mean you can smoke cannabis.

There is still legislation in place and regulations to limit public consumption. We want to make sure that again, from an enforcement standpoint, there is limited enforcement from the government side of things. There is still the RCMP, there are still by-law officers, there are still building owners or property managers that would hopefully be deterring people to be consuming cannabis in such a public place.

When we bring forward tobacco legislation, it is going to be an opportunity where we can look at some of the limits. When it was legalized, we went from three metres to nine metres for tobacco. Like the member mentioned in his preamble, there are schools, hospitals, and health centres where we have expanded the no-smoking zones even farther.

I strongly encourage people to pay attention to the rules as they are brought out. The public service announcements on smoking deterrents or quit methods, it is an opportunity to promote reducing our tobacco and cannabis use. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for explaining that. I was not an MLA when this was being dealt with, so thank you for helping me understand that better.

Perhaps since the local municipalities or hamlets have by-law officers, they could take over the responsibility of enforcement to make sure that there is no smoking near public places, and whoever smokes in a public place should be fined. The legislation says that people will be fined, but it doesn't state who will actually issue the fines. I would like the minister to consider local municipalities taking over the enforcement of this in the future. I believe they can make it run well in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the suggestion and I will speak to my officials about it. Thank you.

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

**Question 750 – 5(2): Introducing a Clare’s Law for Nunavut**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice and continue on the theme of my previous questions to the Premier regarding Claire’s Law.

Just to recap, I had mentioned the unacceptable rates of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse that run rampant through our communities. I also pointed out the exponential growth rate of Nunavummiut that are currently on the registered sexual offenders list. I identified Claire’s Law, which is the legislation that gives the authorities ability to warn potential victims of known high-risk offenders.

I would like to ask the Minister of Justice: do you share the belief with me that a Claire’s Law in Nunavut would be beneficial to curbing the high rates of domestic violence and sexual assault which is contributing to the rapidly growing number of registered sexual offenders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Lightstone, for your question. I myself don’t know about Claire’s Law, but I will be doing more research into this. As you know, usually our staff are watching the proceedings and I will work with my staff to find out how we can incorporate Claire’s Law into our legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I think that this is an important piece of legislation which could make a world of difference. If it could save one life, then it is well worth the effort.

Mr. Speaker, to continue, the sad fact is that almost half of the individuals on the registered sexual offenders list have been charged with offences against children, including a few who are listed as high-risk offenders. While I am not able to substantiate this, I think it is safe to assume that no other jurisdiction in Canada has a similar ratio of child predators per capita. Since no other jurisdiction in Canada has a Claire’s Law which pertains specifically to child abuse, I presume that such a law would set legal precedent.

My next question to the Minister of Justice: do you believe that a police officer or other authority figure who may have information that could potentially protect a child from harm should have the legal authority to verbally disclose that information to help protect potential victims? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Lightstone, for your question. As I stated earlier, I don't know about Claire's Law. I will do the research myself to find out what it is about and how it can benefit Nunavummiut. Like you, I am very compassionate and I have a passion for children, youth, and elders, no matter what age or sex and when individuals have been offended by sexual predators and I have the same passion that you do, and I will look into this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 751 – 5(2): Water Security**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they concern the issue of water security.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, he declared a formal state of emergency last summer under the territorial *Emergency Measures Act*. This declaration was part of a coordinated response to the ongoing water shortage facing the city of Iqaluit, and I thank the minister for his actions.

One of the ongoing priorities of the minister's department has been the development of a drinking water strategy and action plan to address the issue of water security in Nunavut. Can the minister update the House today on what specific progress has been made in developing this plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Mr. Speaker, we gladly helped the City of Iqaluit when they had their water problems. As you know, the city gets their own block funding to deal with issues such as this, but we are more than happy to help them out.

In terms of specific details on the strategy, I don't have that detailed information in front of me, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Water is a very important commodity to really look after and I'm hoping that the minister will get well versed so that he can answer some of the questions in the coming days.

The City of Iqaluit has had to devote considerable resources to addressing the water issues facing our territory's growing capital. As the House is aware, almost a quarter of Nunavut's population now calls Iqaluit home. In December of 2020 council approved the city's capital plan, which includes funding to plan for a "long-term water supply." What assurances can the minister provide to the city that our territorial government will be ready to help fund its new long-term water supply? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Mr. Speaker, I know how important water is. I hear about it every day. She's asking for specific details on a specific study that I'm talking about.

In terms of Iqaluit and what we were going to do in helping Iqaluit with their water problems, I know it's the capital city and I know it's a growing community, but the city, because it is a city, gets block funding to fund programs and projects for the ever-growing community. They get block funded. The city gets block funded to deal with their water woes and water issues. They have a department that's dealing with that and if there's anything that the city needs help in, they have been assured that they can come and talk to our department and we will see where and how we could help them.

In terms of funding, this government block funds Iqaluit a hefty amount of money to deal with the water issues in this community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The city does receive block funding, but the cost of the water crisis that we've had here and the old infrastructure is way more than what they get from the government. It's something to look into and I'm hoping that the minister will be able to do that, I guess his staff to work with the city.

I fully recognize that Iqaluit is not the only community facing serious water security issues. As you mentioned, we heard a lot about water in the House from various communities. I want to shift attention from Nunavut's largest community to its smallest community, Grise Fiord, a uniquely beautiful place where I have friends and family. As the minister is aware, climate change has been identified as a factor that is threatening the long-term sustainability of the community's current source of drinking water, which is a glacier.

It is my understanding that the minister's department has undertaken at least one study in recent years to identify alternate long-term solutions for this community. Can the minister highlight the findings of the study and will he commit to tabling its results in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking questions about Iqaluit and then Grise Fiord. I appreciate her comments and I have had discussions with the member for Grise Fiord about this issue. We don't want to see a shortage of drinking water in any of the communities, be it from a lake or glacier or elsewhere, but it's impossible in some communities.

In Grise Fiord we've had dialogue with the member representative and the community to see where we can identify a lake that is drinkable. We're currently doing a study at this time and once we have completed the study, we will make sure to get the information out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members will note that the time for question period has expired. Continuing on with the orders of the day. Written Questions. Continuing on. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

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

**Return to Written Question 049 – 5(2): Cost of Lunch Hour Transportation**

**Return to Written Question 050 – 5(2): Use of Travel Agencies**

**Return to Written Question 051 – 5(2): Department of Health Budget and Expenditures V.2**

**Return to Written Question 052 – 5(2): Sales of Caribou Meat**

**Return to Written Question 053 – 5(2): Nunavut Arctic College Solar Power System V.2**

**Return to Written Question 054 – 5(2): Security and Violence in Schools**

**Return to Written Question 055 – 5(2): Community Health Centre Closures**

**Return to Written Question 056 – 5(2): Casual Employees and Direct Appointments**

**Return to Written Question 057 – 5(2): Alternatives to Income Assistance**

**Return to Written Question 058 – 5(2): Unemployment Rates and Labour Force**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the returns to the 10 written questions that were asked during the fall 2019 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Continuing on. Replies to Opening Address. Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Petitions. Continuing on. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of

Documents. (interpretation) Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

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

#### **Tabled Document 245 – 5(2): 2018-2019 Public Service Annual Report**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the 2018-19 *Public Service Annual Report*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

#### **Tabled Document 246 – 5(2): Clare’s Law**

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I asked several questions in relation to the possibility or potential use of the “Clare’s Law” for legislation here in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table copies of the “Clare’s Law” statutes that have recently been passed by the provinces of Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that we can and should pass our own version of this important tool against domestic violence and sexual abuse before the end of our current Assembly, and I encourage all members to review these documents with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you. Tabling of Documents.

#### **Tabled Document 247 – 5(2): 2018-2019 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer**

#### **Tabled Document 248 – 5(2): 2018-2019 Pension Administration Report under the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act**

I have two documents to table today. The first document is the 2018-19 *Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut* and the second document is the 2018-19 *Pension Administration Report under the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Continuing on. Notices of Motions. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions****Motion 060 – 5(2): Appointment of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut – Notice**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Thursday, February 20, 2020, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that the Legislative Assembly recommends that Ms. Karliin Aariak of Iqaluit be appointed as Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, effective this day.

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

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Motion 061 – 5(2): Extension of Review Period for Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act – Notice****Motion 062 – 5(2): Extension of Review Period for Bill 37, Legislation Act – Notice**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, February 20, I will move that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bill 25 and Bill 37 back to the House be extended by a further 120 days.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main. I'm sorry. Continuing on. Notices of Motions. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

**Motion 063 – 5(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days – Notice**

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, February 20, 2020, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, 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 winter 2020 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on with the orders of the day. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickeys.

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

#### **Bill 39 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021 – Notice**

**Hon. George Hickeys:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, that Bill 39, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2020-2021*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you very much. Continuing with the orders of the day. Item 16. Motions. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

### **Item 16: Motions**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion today.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with her motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. You may proceed, Member Nakashuk.

#### **Motion 060 – 5(2): Appointment of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut**

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

(interpretation ends) WHEREAS section 18 of the *Official Languages Act* provides that the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut is appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly to hold office for a term of five years during good behaviour;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly's Management and Services Board has undertaken a merit-based selection process for this position;

AND WHEREAS Ms. Karliin Aariak is presently serving as Acting Languages Commissioner;

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

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that the Legislative Assembly recommends that Ms. Karliin Aariak of Iqaluit be appointed as Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, effective this day.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion.

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Member Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the mover of the motion that is before the House today, I am pleased to take this opportunity to make some comments in support of its passage.

Mr. Speaker, as the House is aware, our territory's *Official Languages Act* provides for the appointment of a Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, who serves as an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly.

The Management and Services Board issued an invitation for applications for this position in November of last year.

As a member of the Management and Services Board, I took part in our recent selection and interview process for this position.

Mr. Speaker, the board was very pleased to unanimously recommend that Ms. Karliin Aariak be appointed to serve in this role.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, Ms. Aariak has been serving as the Acting Languages Commissioner since October of 2019.

She is fluently bilingual and a graduate of Nunavut Arctic College.

Her professional experience includes positions as a reporter, editor, host and producer for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; a senior policy analyst for Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated; an investigations officer for the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, a terminologist for the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit (Inuit Language Authority) and acting executive director for the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit.

Ms. Aariak has also been a volunteer and active member of the community whose service has included positions as vice-chair of the Board of Directors of the TV Nunavut Educational Broadcast Society, a member of the Board of Directors of the Tumikuluit Saipaaqivik Daycare, a member of the Ajjit Nunavut Media Association, a member of the Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Iqaluit District Education Authority.

Mr. Speaker, Karliin Aariak's skills and experience make her a very well-qualified candidate for this position, and I am pleased to close by asking all members to support the motion before the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

>>Applause

Is it okay now? I'm sorry. It wasn't caught by the mic. She is in the gallery, so please give her a warm welcome. We congratulate Karliin Aariak, who will now be our Languages Commissioner for all of Nunavut. Welcome.

>>Applause

Continuing on. Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I'm asking for unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Member Main.

**Motion 061 – 5(2): Extension of Review Period for Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act**

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

(interpretation ends) WHEREAS Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act*, received second reading on June 5, 2019;

AND WHEREAS the bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration;

AND WHEREAS Rule 68(1) provides that bills referred to a standing committee shall not be proceeded with until the Assembly receives the report of the committee or 120 calendar days pass from the day the bill was given second reading;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee has been giving careful consideration to the bill, including the holding of televised hearings at which a number of witnesses appeared;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee requires additional time in which to complete its work;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bill 25 back to the House be extended by a further 120 days.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the mover of the motion and the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to take this opportunity to speak briefly in support of the motion that is before the House today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my motion, Bill 25, the proposed amendments to the *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration following its second reading. Since that time the standing committee has been giving careful consideration to the bill.

As members will recall, the standing committee recently held televised hearings on the bill, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank all witnesses, including the Minister of Education who is in the House today, for taking the time to appear before the standing committee.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Bill 25 is an important piece of proposed legislation and I am pleased to report that the standing committee has been making steady progress in its consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to support the motion that is before us today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I'm asking for unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Member Main.

#### **Motion 062 – 5(2): Extension of Review Period for Bill 37, Legislation Act**

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

(interpretation ends) WHEREAS Bill 37, *Legislation Act*, received second reading on October 31, 2019;

AND WHEREAS the bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration;

AND WHEREAS Rule 68(1) provides that bills referred to a standing committee shall not be proceeded with until the Assembly receives the report of the committee or 120 calendar days pass from the day the bill was given second reading;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee has been giving careful consideration to the bill;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee requires additional time in which to complete its work;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bill 37 back to the House be extended by a further 120 days.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this is the last time I will rise for the day.

(interpretation ends) As the mover of the motion and the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to take this opportunity to speak very briefly in support of the motion that is before the House today.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my motion, Bill 37, the proposed new *Legislation Act*, was referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for consideration following its second reading during the recent fall sitting.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that the standing committee has met to undertake an initial review of the bill and anticipates a productive dialogue with the sponsoring minister.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this important piece of proposed new legislation is lengthy and complex, and additional time is required to complete this work.

Consequently I ask all members to support the motion that is before us today, and I note that I will be moving similar motions at tomorrow's sitting of the House with respect to Bills 35 and 36.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motions. Continuing on with the orders of the day. First Reading of Bills. Continuing on. Second Reading of Bills. Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

**Motion 064 – 5(2): Adjournment for the Day**

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

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

>>*Laughter*

The motion is carried. We will now proceed to Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for February 19:

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

17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

18. Motions

19. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 39

20. Second Reading of Bills

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

22. Report of the Committee of the Whole

23. Third Reading of Bills

24. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, February 19, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:20*

