



## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)

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

**Joelie Kaernerik**  
(Amittuq)

**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*

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

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

**Adam Lightstone**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and  
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of  
Energy; Minister of Environment;  
Minister responsible for Indigenous  
Affairs; Minister responsible for the  
Utility Rates Review Council*

**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)

**Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

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

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

**Craig Simailak**  
(Baker Lake)

**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 Joanasic**  
(South Baffin)  
*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister  
of Education; Minister of Languages*

**Calvin Pedersen**  
(Kugluktuk)

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(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield  
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## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1
Speaker's Statement .....	1
Ministers' Statements .....	1
Members' Statements .....	6
Oral Questions.....	14
Petitions .....	31
Tabling of Documents.....	31
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	32
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	83
Orders of the Day .....	84

**A.**

**Daily References**

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 ..... 1

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

463 – 5(2): Orange Shirt Day 2020 (Savikataaq) ..... 1  
464 – 5(2): Status of Housing Report (Netser)..... 2  
465 – 5(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Offering Paperless Billing (Ehaloak)..... 3  
466 – 5(2): Simata Pitsiulak Aviation Scholarship (Akeeagok)..... 4  
467 – 5(2): Arnauvugut: Building Our Dreams Trade Week (Netser)..... 5  
468 – 5(2): Addictions Awareness (Hickes)..... 6

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

696 – 5(2): Tribute to Simon Merkosak (Qamaniq)..... 6  
697 – 5(2): Employment Opportunities for Youth (Kaernek)..... 7  
698 – 5(2): Appreciation of Handling of COVID-19 (Qirngnuq) ..... 9  
699 – 5(2): Nunavut's Democracy (Main) ..... 9  
700 – 5(2): Sanikiluaq High School Graduates (Rumbolt) ..... 10  
701 – 5(2): Baker Lake High School Graduates (Simailak)..... 11  
702 – 5(2): Nunavut's Unsung Heroes (Akoak)..... 11  
703 – 5(2): Activities for Elders in Coral Harbour (Netser)..... 12  
704 – 5(2): Thanksgiving (Akeeagok) ..... 13

**D.**

**Oral Questions**

972 – 5(2): Employment Opportunities for Youth (Kaernek)..... 14

973 – 5(2): Alcohol Education Committees (Qamaniq).....	16
974 – 5(2): Mental Health Support in Isolation (Towtongie).....	18
975 – 5(2): Caribou Management (Qirngnuq).....	19
976 – 5(2): Update on Elder Homes (Keyootak).....	21
977 – 5(2): Effects of COVID-19 on Health Care (Main) .....	23
978 – 5(2): Pangnirtung Housing Issues (Nakashuk).....	25
979 – 5(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Infrastructure Projects (Pedersen).....	27
980 – 5(2): Training for Security Staff (Nakashuk) .....	29

**E.**

**Petitions**

021 – 5(2): Long-term Care Facility for Kinngait (Joanasie).....	31
--	----

**F.**

**Tabling of Documents**

292 – 5(2): Ethics Officer for the Nunavut Public Service 2019-2020 Annual Report (Kusugak)	31
293 – 5(2): Government of Nunavut’s Status of Housing Report (Netser).....	31
294 – 5(2): 2020-2021 Letters of Expectation (Hickes).....	32
295 – 5(2): 2020-2021 Responses to Letters of Expectation (Hickes) .....	32
296 – 5(2): Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan 2018 Annual Report (Kusugak)	32
297 – 5(2): Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan 2019 Annual Report (Kusugak)	32

**G.**

**Committee Motions**

Committee Motion 011 – 5(2): Amendments to the Nunavut Elections Act Respecting the Disclosure of Convictions under the Criminal Code and Other Statutes (Lightstone) .....	80
--	----

**H.**

**Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

Tabled Document 065 – 5(2): Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut on the Conduct of  
the 5th Nunavut General Election – Consideration in Committee..... 33

**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Tuesday, September 29, 2020**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanase, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. Calvin Pedersen, Mr. David Qamaniq, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 10:00*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Paul Quassa)(interpretation): Good morning. Let us pray.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good morning, people of Nunavut, my fellow residents of Igloolik, and all members. Thank you. Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I wish to make a statement.

**Speaker's Statement**

In accordance with section 58.3 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, I wish to notify the House that the Chief Justice of the Nunavut Court of Justice has given assent by way of written declaration to Bills 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49 and 50. He passed and signed them into legislation.

Let's proceed. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Premier Savikataaq.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 463 – 5(2): Orange Shirt Day 2020**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight an important event that happens tomorrow: Orange Shirt Day. As we all know, Orange Shirt Day is held every year on September 30.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I hope all Canadians take the time to understand the intergenerational impacts of residential schools on survivors and their friends and families. We see these effects throughout Nunavut and our communities. Today I encourage everyone to take the time and space to talk about the legacy of residential

schools and advocate for the continued need for reconciliation in our country. No one should ever forget how children were taken from their parents and placed in residential schools across the country, stripping them of their cultures, languages, and families. Everyone one in this room as leaders in our communities need to provide the support and understanding to help educate and address those effects.

It's apparent that indigenous peoples across this country face too many inequities and fight too hard for their basic constitutional rights. Orange Shirt Day shows us that these injustices are not in the past and we continue to carry a deep divide.

Mr. Speaker, Orange Shirt Day helps support reconciliation by bringing awareness and a need to address the work to be done. Residential school survivors are not alone. The Government of Nunavut will continue to ensure their experiences will not be forgotten or diminished. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Minister's Statement 464 – 5(2): Status of Housing Report**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of tabling our first-ever Status of Housing Report, prepared by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I hope that by sharing our progress and challenges with my colleagues, we can have an open conversation about our efforts to solve the housing crisis.

Many of our fellow Nunavummiut still seek a place to call home. The Government of Nunavut, as we all know, struggles to meet a growing demand that exceeds capacity. We understand the impact this has on our elders, our children, and our communities.

Since 2012 our government has recognized that to tackle our housing crisis, we must all work together. Today's Status of Housing Report is a fulfilment of a commitment of the blueprint for action and was developed following a two-day Pathways Home workshop with senior Government of Nunavut executives.

The Status of Housing Report summarizes the progress made in the last few years on our housing priorities and actions laid out in the blueprint, challenges we need to overcome, and next steps we need to take. The report also shares success stories, showing how partnerships are helping us make progress and overcome the housing crisis.

It also summarizes our plan for action to continue to improve housing for Nunavummiut. Our priorities include increasing Nunavut's housing supply, improving collaboration



among housing partners, providing options to meet different housing needs, and promoting self-reliance.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to work together as a government and with our partners to overcome our challenges and continue to make progress toward building strong, healthy communities in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

**Minister's Statement 465 – 5(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Offering Paperless Billing**

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is now providing a paperless billing option. This will allow customers to receive their monthly electricity bills by email instead of through Canada Post.

Paperless billing is more efficient and convenient for customers. By choosing this option, customers could begin receiving their monthly bills by email as early as November. At the same time paperless billing decreases the environmental impacts of printing and delivery, and decreases costs in the corporation's accounting system.

Mr. Speaker, interested customers are encouraged to sign up by simply emailing their account information to the customer care office. For Nunavummiut who prefer to receive their bills by regular mail, nothing will change.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation thanks those customers who volunteered to test paperless billing during the trial period are asked to provide feedback during the development of the initiative.

Mr. Speaker, this paperless billing option is an example of how the corporation is prioritizing customer service, as well as continuing to find cost-effective practices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

**Minister's Statement 466 – 5(2): Simata Pitsiulak Aviation Scholarship**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Good morning. I say “good morning” to the people of Quttiktuq.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is committed to developing our transportation workforce and to increasing the number of Inuit aviation specialists available to serve in the department's aviation-related positions. To support this goal, the department administers a scholarship program for Nunavut students pursuing careers in aviation.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to announce that we have renamed this program the Simata Pitsiulak Aviation Scholarship program to honour the memory of Simata Pitsiulak of Kimmirut, who died when his ultralight airplane crashed 20 years ago this past summer.

Simata Pitsiulak's love of flying and his initiative and creativity remain an inspiration. Not only was he a pilot who built his own ultralight airplanes; he also worked at the Kimmirut Airport for many years as observer/communicator, and was a musician and noted carver.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to point out that Simata Pitsiulak was one of the artists who crafted the Mace that rests before us in this Chamber when the Assembly is in session.

I trust that the Simata Pitsiulak Aviation Scholarship will continue to help young Inuit from across Nunavut pursue their dreams in aviation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this year we have awarded scholarships to the following students: Doris Ipeelee, Kabelo Mokoena, (interpretation) I apologize for the mispronunciation, (interpretation ends) and Todd Ryan, all of Iqaluit; Joseph Akulujuk of Pangnirtung; Tyler Akeeagok of Kugluktuk; and Kelly Owljoot of Arviat. All of these recipients are training to become pilots through various programs and colleges in Ontario, Manitoba, and Yukon.

I ask my fellow members to join me in congratulating this year's recipients and wish them well in their studies and their aviation careers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We congratulate them. We encourage the youth to keep going. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

**Minister's Statement 467 – 5(2): Arnauvugut: Building Our Dreams Trade Week**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last month there were 29 young women in Rankin Inlet from 14 Nunavut communities to learn about apprenticeship programs, including carpentry, electrical systems, oil heating systems, plumbing and heavy equipment operation. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased that I was able to be there.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, these young ladies were working with instructors, assistants, and chaperones. The young women learned the foundation and specific safety considerations of each trade. They learned to build wooden cellphone holders, something we all need sometimes, program light switches and doorbells, and gained valuable experience on heavy equipment simulators.

I am happy to report that I was able to attend some of these events, and I am so proud of the enthusiasm and concentration the participants brought to these activities.

Mr. Speaker, this workshop was organized with COVID-19 considerations in mind. The participants were broken up into groups of five, allowing for physical distancing within each group. The groups moved through the different programs together, ensuring cohort learning. Masks were also provided to participants to wear. Many activities were held outside, including a scavenger hunt and berry-picking, allowing the participants to experience the beauty of Rankin Inlet's land and welcoming nature.

Mr. Speaker, there are many organizations and people who made this event possible. Thank you to Skills Canada Nunavut, the Department of Family Services' Apprenticeship Unit, and the staff at Nunavut Arctic College. Nunavut Arctic College's Chair Sue Ball attended the workshop as well and provided the keynote speech. Arctic Heating and General Contractors, Rankin Auto Value, and Eskimo Point Lumber Supply provided small cash and prize donations for the group's extracurricular activities. Everyone came together to host a well-organized, engaging event that respected our new health and safety requirements.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I would also like to thank all the young women who applied and participated in this event. I encourage the participants to take what they learned at this workshop and allow it to inspire them as they work to graduate high school. Mr. Speaker, I also thank Arctic College for their tremendous work in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 468 – 5(2): Addictions Awareness**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the priority areas outlined in *Turaaqtavut* is Inuusivut, is a commitment to working towards the well-being and self-reliance of our people and our communities.

Mr. Speaker, here in Nunavut the Department of Health aims to increase awareness of addictions and reduce the negative societal impacts and stigma associated with substance use.

Mr. Speaker, the use of alcohol and drugs can harm your body and mind and relationships with family and friends. Building and maintaining supportive communities can help improve the lives of those who may be struggling with addiction by making it easier to ask for and receive help.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health offers community, regional and out-of-territory services to help diagnose and treat people with addiction issues.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who needs help overcoming substance use problems can talk to a mental health nurse or wellness counsellor at their local health centre, or reach out to a trusted friend, family member, or elder. For anonymous support, Nunavummiut can also call the Kamatsiaqtut Help Line at 1-867-979-3333 or toll-free at 1-800-265-3333.

Mr. Speaker and members, addictions destroy families and lives and communities and together we can work together to fight this devastating disease. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Let's proceed. No. 3. Members' Statements. Member for Tununig, followed by the Member for Amittuq. Member Qamaniq.

**Item 3: Members' Statements****Member's Statement 696 – 5(2): Tribute to Simon Merkosak**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Tununig and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to the late Simon Merkosak.

Mr. Speaker, Simon Merkosak passed away in June of this year, following a long illness.

He is survived by his wife, Jeeteetah Merkosak; his two daughters, Connie and Jena; as well as his four sons, Daniel, Ernest, Jimmy and Justin.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honour of knowing Simon Merkosak for many years. He enjoyed physical activities such as floor and ice hockey, basketball, and volleyball. Simon Merkosak was a builder.

Simon Merkosak built a company that created jobs and opportunities for our residents. He built a family. And he helped to build the community through his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, after going down south in the 1960s to take training, he returned to the community of Pond Inlet. Before entering into business, Simon was the community's senior administrative officer for a period of time.

Simon was a big believer in the value of education and the importance of hard work.

Simon also believed in giving back to the community and the territory.

Simon was active in community search and rescue and he served on numerous boards, where his contributions and wisdom were always valued.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Pond Inlet has been mourning Simon's passing, and I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to his memory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We pay tribute to his memory. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, followed by the Member for Netsilik. Member Kaernerck.

### **Member's Statement 697 – 5(2): Employment Opportunities for Youth**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues, in particular my fellow residents of Amittuq.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to advocate for our youth, particularly to encourage the pre-employment training opportunities and summer placement programs, as I notice this in my riding as well. This can provide much-needed development in our communities, both in capacity building and training opportunities, as others have mentioned.

Another matter I wish to mention relates to the decentralized communities that should be priorities for more employment opportunities from the outlying communities as offices exist already, so this is another matter needing consideration.

Another matter I refer to is employment within our non-decentralized communities as they still require consideration and inclusion, especially in looking at government employment opportunities outside their own communities. Perhaps their only option at this time is via the hamlet offices.

Another matter brought up as a common refrain is that our youth are perennial dropouts who constantly quit schools, but many youths are quite skilled in other areas in terms of their abilities to complete tasks under supervision and this ability should be noted. What I am saying here is that their potential should be analyzed, not their high school pedigree or lack thereof.

Even without completion of a formal high school education, many Inuit are capable of small engine repairs for snowmobiles and other machines, including rudimentary carpentry to fix their equipment. Many youth in my constituency communities have that capability, and who are quite capable, especially by incorporating *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*.

Mr. Speaker, I'm urging the government to look at employing people through their abilities and potential rather than just paper skills. There are very limited employment opportunities in the smaller communities already and perhaps it would lower the numbers of income support recipients and encourage self-sufficiency.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? I don't hear any nays. Please proceed, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, even though they are limited capital projects planned for my constituency in the near future, I wholeheartedly support the concept of training local Inuit to fill jobs in our construction industry. It has also been frustrating to hear that 1,500 construction workers have been flown in from the south to take construction jobs this summer.

As I indicated earlier, there are local Inuit who are very skilled in carpentry and for construction jobs. When we have over 14,000 Nunavummiut on income assistance, we have to look at local Inuit who can fill those jobs. They are only waiting for their monthly income and I would like to urge the government to employ more local Inuit.

At the appropriate time, I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Family Services. Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, followed by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove.

**Member's Statement 698 – 5(2): Appreciation of Handling of COVID-19**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a very brief statement this morning.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to all Nunavut members and family for following the process our leaders have put in place during the tough times we've encountered during the pandemic.

Also, I would like to express my gratitude to our leaders in this House for leading our people into our wellbeing and health. We as the people of Nunavut, and you're our health care and wellbeing. I would also like to express my gratitude to our healthcare providers that endure very difficult times during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the whole of Nunavut may be free of the very critical issue we ask Nunavummiut face.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the very tireless staff that made our life a lot easier in our roles as MLAs and healthy life style we follow in our stay away from home. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, followed by the Member for Hudson Bay.

**Member's Statement 699 – 5(2): Nunavut's Democracy**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I wish "a very good morning" to the people of Arviat and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, last night I was reading this document, following the report of the Nunavut Elections Officer, with regard to the general election in 2017.

We all have to be proud that we have elected to have our own government and democracy. We have to remind ourselves that at times that the parliamentary procedures we follow in the House might be strange at times. We don't always agree, and at times we disagree with one another.

I don't believe that there is a better government at the national and international level than Nunavut, and in reading this report I have two concerns. (interpretation ends) In terms of our democracy I would very briefly like to mention two issues that concern me. The first is the issue of voter turnout. The overall trend is down since the creation of Nunavut. This report details and shows us that there are hundreds, if not thousands of Nunavummiut, especially those under the age of 40 who don't even register to vote, let alone go and vote. That is concerning. We need to understand why that is happening.

The second issue I wanted to mention, Mr. Speaker, is misinformation that is being spread via social media. That is a threat to democracy not only Nunavut, but across the world. Just look at the issue of the coronavirus, Mr. Speaker, and the pandemic.

This misinformation not only under minds our own Health department; it can actually kill people if they follow the misinformation that they see. Those are two issues I wanted highlight as concerns to our democracy. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, followed by the Member for Baker Lake. Mr. Rumbolt.

### **Member's Statement 700 – 5(2): Sanikiluaq High School Graduates**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Sanikiluaq. It always gives me great pride to rise in this House to congratulate those high school students who have reached their goal and will be receiving their high school diploma this year.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Mr. Speaker, it is also important to remember that their efforts have been supported by parents, families, teachers, and others in the community who encourage them to attend school to focus on their studies, and to work hard.

Mr. Speaker, on October 23, 2020, Sanikiluaq's high school graduation ceremony will recognize the achievements of the following young people:

- Betsy Appaqaq
- Alicia Arraguatinaq
- Alec Cookie
- Rita Uulaju Crow
- Opik Ippak
- Qinnujuak Iqaluq
- Nungnga Ryne Kudluark

Mr. Speaker, graduating from high school is an important achievement. It is a milestone on the path of continuing education and future success.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating each and every one of these youth who have shown that they have what it takes to be future leaders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We are also very proud of them. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, who will be followed by Member Nakashuk. Member Simailak.

### **Member's Statement 701 – 5(2): Baker Lake High School Graduates**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to everyone here today. I rise today; at the end of August in Baker Lake there was a high school graduation ceremony. It was a little out of the ordinary because of the pandemic, so they had to keep it very small, but I congratulate them. There were 11 graduates and they were:

- Iga Angoo
- Sydney Aupaluktuq
- Tabitha Cook
- Shaniah Hutchinson
- Patterk Kablutsiak
- Dylan Mannik
- Sally Paungrat
- Rachel Tagoona-Tapatai
- Shania Tookoome
- Jaylene Ukpatiku
- Remie Ukpatiku

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that each of these young people have had to overcome different obstacles while they were on their journey through their education in both primary and secondary school. I comment each of them for completing their high school education.

Mr. Speaker, I wish them success in whatever future endeavour they will take on, and I would appreciate it if my colleagues in the House joined me in congratulating these 11 young people that are now starting a new chapter in their lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Let's be cognizant of the clock we follow when we're speaking. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Member Akoak.

### **Member's Statement 702 – 5(2): Nunavut's Unsung Heroes**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great appreciation for Nunavut's heroes, those individuals who go out of their way to assist, support, and even save their fellow Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's heroes are those who use their land skills and training to deal with such accidents as hypothermia, gunshot wounds even, or near-drownings. Mr. Speaker, our local search and rescue volunteers spend hours and sometimes days looking for those who are lost or in trouble.

Mr. Speaker, our own local people do go out, even people who work do go out and help with the searches. They are our heroes as well.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's heroes are those who open their homes to folks who need a safe place to stay and a decent meal to eat. Mr. Speaker, our heroes offer an ear to listen and words of comfort to those who suffer from distress or mental health issues. Our heroes answer the phone at help lines, support our elders, and volunteer their time to help their community.

Mr. Speaker, these heroes are not often recognized, but they do not do it for recognition. They are not in it for medals or awards. Our heroes simply care deeply for their fellow Nunavummiut and they go out of their way to share their skills, strength, and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude for Nunavut's heroes. I want them to know that their efforts and their contributions do not go unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, even though these individuals do not do what they do for fame or reward, they deserve our thanks and praise.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here as well today proudly, knowing that one of our members is that person in this room and I would like to recognize a good friend, Mr. Keyootak. He has done all that and there are people who would not be here today if it wasn't for his help.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues, when they return home from this sitting, to make sure to show their appreciation for the unsung heroes in their constituencies. Mr. Speaker, we do need them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We are proud of those who help our fellow Nunavummiut. Members' Statements. Member Netser.

### **Member's Statement 703 – 5(2): Activities for Elders in Coral Harbour**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My paternal nephew will be getting married this Saturday. We are so ecstatic to be incorporating another son-in-law to the extended family.

Nonetheless, what I want to speak to, Mr. Speaker, is that last weekend, the Hamlet in Coral Harbour funded a trip for 15 elders up to a place called Isuurialialaq Lake to

decompress and relax. Our local elders are well cared for by our hamlet workers, and I am very grateful for their assistance.

And further, Noah Kadlak is our deputy mayor who advocated this type of service provision by collecting funding and applying for project funding from various sources to allow this trip to occur, and some of the elders went up via vehicles as the original plan was to use a charter plane but, Mr. Speaker, the weather refused to cooperate, so they went via vehicle on the road for approximately 189 kilometres and our colleague, David, has seen the beauty of the landscape firsthand.

It was nice to see that these fifteen elders were taken out for some recreational time outside of the community itself and they had a schedule of games such as a fishing derby. There was also a cadre of young people also followed on the trip so that they could be given advice about the elders' wisdom, followed by their example during this trip.

The Kivalliq Inuit Association was an organization that helped fund this trip, and I am extremely grateful as they also assisted a Rankin Inlet resident to be involved by paying his way to Coral Harbour. He was originally from Coral Harbour who was involved. We're very happy that the hamlet assisted our elders to get out and enjoy the outdoors, away from their homes. It is quite beneficial for all elders to be outside, breathing fresh air and getting good exercise as well as being able to relax wholesomely.

I really want to send my appreciation to Noah Kadlak and I wanted to provide a long list of people, but I'll just end there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 704 – 5(2): Thanksgiving**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are fast approaching October where we will reach Thanksgiving, and during that period when we give thanks, we should remember we have much to appreciate especially based on this year with the pandemic facing us. When most Inuit are in scary situations, they tend to pray and we can be protected by other people's prayers for our well-being so to the people who do so, I thank you.

Furthermore, during this season the wildlife in the High Arctic especially are highly visible, and narwhals particularly this year have been migrating to our seas and they have fed many families, including specially prepared cultural dishes such as fermented skin and meats we anticipate feasting on in the winter, as that will also be a time of thanksgiving.

To all the hunters who provide country food and whole animals for feasts, and who look after our waters and lands, I voice our appreciation and gratitude as during this novel pandemic scare, hunters have provided much needed foods and nothing untoward has happened in our communities during this time.

Also, to my constituent who just turned 100 last year, Qaapik who is still alive has seen past episodes so I am also voicing my thanks to her, as every time I see her in person, she gets quite joyful and seeing that in light of the work required makes one appreciative for those thoughts of our success. We should always thank our families at every opportunity, and to the animals that offer themselves for our consumption as their bodies provide much-needed sustenance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Let's proceed. No. 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. One day our visitors will be back once it's okay. Item 6. Oral Questions. The Member for Amittuq is first, followed by the Member for Tununiq. Member Kaernerck.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 972 – 5(2): Employment Opportunities for Youth

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies, I'm rushing here.

>> *Laughter*

Good morning. I was going to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services. Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement I talked about the need to recognize and validate peoples' real life skills so they can apply them to jobs and career opportunities. I was talking about that just a little while ago.

Maybe the Minister of Family Services can recognize them even though don't have any formal education, or recognized certification. Now, can the minister describe what steps the department takes to recognize the skills that individuals already have, even though they don't have any formal certification and what steps are taken to match those skills sets with jobs or career opportunities in the labour market? I want to know if there is anything further being done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Acting Minister for Family Services, Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here I thought Super Shamou walked into the building or something. We saw a very fast moving object.

>> *Laughter*

Those things are really helpful for things that are made available for them. They don't just give out help. Whenever they know of healthy able-bodied people and what education material is available and when there are enough Inuit, education programs are created in the communities and one of them is the G.R.E.A.T. Program and other programs like that from Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I want to push for exactly that, minister. People who do not have recognized certificates or diplomas should be considered more. The only path they have is income support and I'm grateful to the government for providing programs, but my constituents need more jobs because there are none available.

Can the minister explain what steps his department takes to recognize the skills that individuals already have, even if they don't have formal education? Maybe they can be looked at not just for driving jobs but for administrative positions as well and hamlet administrative positions. Can you make those positions more available to all those people who are looking for jobs and who are looking to improve themselves through education? Those of us who are from the smaller communities, the non-decentralized communities, can you consider us more for jobs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Acting Minister of Family Services, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. I thank my colleague very much for bringing that up. There are jobs available for able-bodied people out there and we know that people on income support are very numerous and available jobs in Nunavut are few, but the smaller communities and the jobs can't seem to connect. The Department of Family Services provides different programs, not just family services. There are training opportunities available for adults and elders as well.

Yesterday when the motion was passed, I had quite a number of instances to talk about. Mine training positions, especially for the Mary River project, and through the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, they work together to introduce Q-STEP so that they can provide not just drivers but other skills they can use in the mines. That's what they have done. Also, for people who want to further their education at Arctic College, there are opportunities made available to people who go to income support and they are told what's available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for clearly explaining that, minister. There's a report from the Minister of Human Resources for

2017 to 2023. On-the-job training really helps. I would like the minister to commit. Let me explain. In *Turaaqtavut* there are things that we would like to see. There are good things in there to make a base in the communities so that they can provide for themselves. The *Turaaqtavut* mandate has affected Nunavut. Can the minister commit to the House to implement *Turaaqtavut*? I would like the minister's commitment on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Acting Minister of Family Services, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I represent the communities in the Nunavut government. I also represent non-decentralized communities. We're always reviewing that in cabinet and the government and in the House here. I agree with you that there are more things that we can initiate that can improve things. If you want to work in the government, then our minister the day before yesterday told the people how they can do this.

Also, I have discussions with the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation to see what else we can initiate. It is not just for government offices, but also for Nunavut communities to see how we can improve things through fisheries, through sealing and others. There are things we can initiate out there that can help us, and sometimes we don't start things.

I completely agree with my colleague that what is contained in *Turaaqtavut* will always be pursued. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Qamaniq, followed by the Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet. Member Mr. Qamaniq.

### **Question 973 – 5(2): Alcohol Education Committees**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister for the Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, he made a statement in the House during our winter sitting earlier this year in which he indicated that his department had recently held a training conference for members of alcohol education committees from a number of communities, including Pond Inlet.

As a former member of an alcohol education committee myself, I applaud the minister for recognizing the importance of these elected bodies in the communities.

Can the minister describe what ongoing training and support will be provided to alcohol education committees by his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member. I think this is a very important component of making sure that communities have access to education material and we are going to continue to send those materials out to the alcohol education committees and we are currently working on a training package that we can also send out to each alcohol education committee.

Obviously with the travel restrictions that were in place for a number of months, it stalled a lot of the onsite training opportunities, but we will be continuing to provide that training to alcohol education committees across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq:** I thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, his department's business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the current 2020-21 fiscal year is to "begin a review of the *Liquor Act* with lessons learned from the Iqaluit beer and wine store pilot project and the implementation of the *Cannabis Act*." What specific changes to the legislation are being considered in respect to the role and authority of alcohol education committees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is the best part is: as we are developing new legislation, we go out to the people, we go out to different stakeholders, and organizations, and solicit feedback and different opinions. Then we sit down and we look at all that feedback and all of those opinions and we help tailor legislation and then bring it to the House for questions, for responses, for further ideas.

That process is just starting, so I do look forward to all members and all members of our public or stakeholders to provide information when we do put that call out for consultation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I recognize that cannabis is legal in all of our communities, but it is still important that residents have clear information about the health risks of consuming this substance. Can the minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission indicate if this issue was addressed during his department's recent training for alcohol education committees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we are continuing to move through this we did have some challenges with the ransomware and then obviously with the COVID-19 situation. That is almost a year since the ransomware occurred, so it did stall out some of our activities.

We do have some materials that we are rolling out to the communities and it is going to continue to be a part of our education and awareness programs for alcohol and cannabis going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, followed by the Member for Netsilik. Member Towntongie.

### **Question 974 – 5(2): Mental Health Support in Isolation**

**Ms. Towntongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet, and my sister-in-law, Catherine Airut, and my husband’s late sister, Eva Airut, and to the all the family.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, last week the minister and his staff provided a lot of information about the operations and services at the COVID-19 related isolation hubs. I would like to first thank him for those details and follow up on one of the issues that were addressed.

Can the minister describe what kinds of mental health supports are currently available to medical clients who are in isolation before they travel back home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. When people enter the isolation hub, they are assessed by a nurse and asked questions periodically throughout their stay. With the mental health supports, those check-ins are crucial.

We do have onsite mental health staff during business hours. It is not a 24-7 service. So we are looking at mental health nurses, mental health workers, and we want to make sure that people have avenues. If people want to enquire about services available anonymously, the help line number that I gave earlier today are valid and please use those numbers if you feel that you need some help and you’re nervous about talking to the person out front.

Please, I have said it many times in the House and even more times out in the public; the first step of receiving help is asking for help and I strongly encourage people, if they’re struggling with something, please reach out for help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Ms. Towntongie.



**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On Friday the minister indicated that as of October 15, each isolation hub will have one mental health nurse, one regular nurse, and one social worker. The minister further stated that it takes time to inform and train people who are working in the isolation hubs.

Can the minister clarify whether the nurses or social workers allowed into the isolation hubs will be professionals who have worked in Nunavut and have a real understanding and appreciation of Nunavut's culture and society, or whether they will be hired from down south and provided with some sort of orientation to Nunavut training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the complexity of hiring mental health staff even here in the territory, we have sent staff down from Nunavut to the isolation hubs to assist, so I am anticipating a combination of both scenarios. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are all aware that there is a great need for Inuktitut-speaking professionals, whether it is in health care; especially mental health, or in other professions like teaching or law.

(interpretation ends) Will the minister commit to ensuring that every isolation hub has Inuktitut-speaking mental health workers, so that Inuktitut-speaking medical travel clients can get support or counselling in their own language as they wait the long wait to come, or a proper translator-interpreter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mental health assessments are available in three languages; Inuktitut, English and French. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, followed by the Member for Uqqummiut. Mr. Qirngnuq.

#### **Question 975 – 5(2): Caribou Management**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to my fellow Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit have always relied on caribou for sustenance, and it is essential that we protect the health of the species. As the minister is aware, section 176 of the *Wildlife Act* requires that a major report be tabled in the Legislative Assembly every five years.

The most recent report, which was tabled on June 5, 2019, indicates that the population of the Beverly herd is “declining” and the population of the Ahiak herd is “uncertain.” Both of these herds are of concern to the Kitikmeot.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, it is stated here by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board that there are many communities that depend on those herds; including communities in the Northwest Territories and northern Saskatchewan.

(interpretation ends) The Department of Environment’s current business plan indicates that the most recent survey of the Beverly herd was completed in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. However, it also indicates that the Ahiak survey was cancelled due to weather delays.

Can the minister confirm when the next survey of the Ahiak herd will take place?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct: in June 2020 the northeast mainland caribou herd, which is the Ahiak, the Lorillard and the Wager Bay herd was going to be surveyed, but it was due to COVID-19 restrictions that we could not complete the survey, and I can assure the member that the next planned survey for the northeast mainland, which Ahiak is a part of, will be done in June 2021. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister has managed to answer part of my next question, but for clarity purposes, I will ask it anyways.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted his department’s caribou population survey activities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, COVID has affected all surveys that were planned for 2020; not just caribou on the northeast mainland. It has affected all surveys that were supposed to happen in 2020, and we hope that things being normal, that we will be able to catch up and continue on the surveys that were not done, and the other ones that are planned in the following year, starting in 2021. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the minister has managed to partially answer my next question, so again; I will ask it anyways for the purpose of clarity.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate what submissions, if any, his department is planning to make within the next year to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board concerning the Beverly and Ahiak herds? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After any wildlife survey, we go through the results with the affected community, whether it is caribou or polar bear. In this case it is caribou. Once the survey results are finalized and all analysed, then we have information sessions with the communities that harvest, or have concerns with that population, and then we put our submission into the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, followed by Member for Arviat North and Whale Cove. Member Keyootak.

#### **Question 976 – 5(2): Update on Elder Homes**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the people of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, those are watching listening to the proceedings, as well as to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, during our winter sitting I asked questions on this topic because it was such a significant concern for my constituency, especially for Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, the elders’ facility needs to be improved in Clyde River. This facility is called home by many elders, and the condition of the facility has been of great concern by the people living there. The community members are concerned for elders, especially those who have physical disabilities. Elders with physical disabilities are suffering from a lack of support.

In our winter sitting, I asked the Minister for of the Nunavut Housing Corporation if he could commit to making improvements to the elders’ facility in Clyde River or to developing a plan for improvements. The minister’s response was yes, the work on the facility would be done. What’s the status of this situation today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank him for bringing that up. Our elders' facilities are places that need to be maintained in the best possible condition. My staff haven't provided me with an update on the situation. I will look into it and I will get back to the member, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. However, I had stated in our winter sitting that the elders' facility in Clyde River has real problems and is in disrepair. I have seen it myself and I have stayed there, having boarded occasionally at the elders' facility. It is not very well suited to the elders; there are too many steps, and the steps are too high. Additionally, often it is not cleaned, with the residents having to do the work themselves. They are not being supported. The minister said he would deal with that. When can we expect the work he said he was going to do on the elders' facility to be done? When can we expect an update? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever any of our facilities or residences need work done on them, or repairs need to be made, especially at our elders' residences, we make it a priority and we have the work done. However, if there is an issue with the cleaning staff, this is the responsibility of the Department of Health and I cannot respond to it or address this issue. However, when I hear about the need for repairs or improvements, I get my staff to look into it, report back to me, and then address the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our hearts go out to elders who have to live in unsuitable housing. I am very pleased that they are provided the space to have housing, but the current setup is not physically or logistically appropriate for elders; especially for those with disabilities.

Could the minister make his officials aware of this situation prior to the fall session, and could you indicate what they're going to be doing prior to the sitting? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my officials to look at the Clyde River situation and also get in contact with the local housing organization so that we can deal with the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 977 – 5(2): Effects of COVID-19 on Health Care**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, even before the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, there were many issues within Nunavut's health care system. Off the top of my head, staffing is a huge issue within my constituency. That's just one example.

When we look at the health care system as a whole, and I'm sure the minister does, to date, what has been the impact on the health care staff and operations of the global pandemic to date? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could probably use up the rest of the time on the clock responding to that question. There has been a very broad impact across the entire Department of Health and the staff and related connections with other partners and stakeholders and other departments, but just initially one of the first things out of the gate was we had to reprofile or repurpose a lot of the roles for health staff. Like I had mentioned, I named a few of the divisions that have been really stepping up to the plate on this, but that list goes on and on and on throughout the entire health system. So many staff were re-profiled into working on COVID-related tasks, which they're still doing their day jobs.

Because partnering jurisdictions shut down a lot of their health centres and different practices and clinical procedures, it created a backlog that we're still struggling to catch up on as jurisdictions have opened up. We're hoping to get through the majority of the backlogs in the next few months. We're looking at extending clinics inside the territory. There have been a lot of issues raised about the Tammaativvik Boarding Home. The amount of volume of people that we have been putting through there is unprecedented and as these specialist clinics open up more and more to deal with the backlog, it creates different stresses on different parts of the system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Up until now there has been a lot of hardship within Nunavut on different levels for individuals, for parents, for government staff and we hope that this is as hard as it gets for Nunavut and we can only hope and pray for that, Mr. Speaker.

My understanding is there have been some positive or silver linings as a result of pandemic restrictions and lockdowns or what have you within Nunavut within the health care system, having spoken with the nurses in my home community. Can the minister list a few of the silver lining or positive outcomes to date as a result of the pandemic? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate this question. There are silver linings to this. We've had initiatives that we have been working on, in some cases for years, that we have accelerated in the last few months. Our virtual care technology is partnering with the federal government to provide money for virtual care, part of the Canada Health Infoway.

We're looking at providing tablets, webcams, and headsets in all of our clinical spaces so that more virtual care could be provided for the clinicians; working with the Department of Community and Government Services on a videoconferencing bridge to upgrade videoconferencing capabilities across all of our health centres and clinical spaces; software for scheduling that we been struggling to get approval for, for years through partnerships with the federal government, recognizing the COVID situation.

We have put up a plastic and reconstructive surgery clinic in Rankin Inlet to do minor plastic and reconstructive surgery about a month and half ago. That was on the plan for a number of months, if not years. We were able to accelerate that.

I have spoken of this in some regard a couple of times over the last years of bringing cancer care closer to the home. We have developed and we're continuing to pilot Herceptin. It's a breast and stomach cancer treatment that typically people would have travel out every three or four weeks to receive treatment. We are doing it here in Iqaluit now. So these advances that we are looking at, we are setting the stage to provide more and more in-territory care. There are some other initiatives, but I don't want to use up any more of the clock and I am really excited about some of these initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends). In my member statement, I mentioned misinformation online; misinformation and how it can be harmful to democracy, but when it comes to the healthcare system and the needs that Nunavut has, I would call information on social media a "cesspool" in terms of trying to get accurate health-related information. There is just not a lot of credibility there.

What is the minister's perspective on the issue of misinformation that could negatively impact Nunavummiut's health or the healthcare system? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the member's statement earlier, I was thinking all of these links of the misinformation that goes out there, rumours and innuendos and different perceptions of sometimes what we are doing or what we are trying to do.

I will use a quick example of when we are dealing with a medical traveller backlog. We were looking at different options; one of them included bringing a hub here to Iqaluit under strict controlled conditions. As soon as that information got out, it blew up everywhere and it just hinders our ability to be able plan things properly because then all of a sudden we're inundated with a whole bunch of questions and information requests that eats up the time of the people that are trying to plan these operations, but I think the biggest thing is when we do the press conferences, when we put out information on the website, when we put out posters around the community, that's the information that people need to listen and to follow. If they do have questions, if there are concerns, there is information out there that's available, quite an extensive list of information.

Now I realize not everyone has access to internet and email, but I know there are Government Liaison Officers. I know the members themselves have constituency offices that can help answer some of these questions, I have fielded many question from my colleagues over the last number of months and that's where the information needs to come from, not from some Facebook page or some twitter account of people that have never even stepped foot in Nunavut before. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, who will then be followed by the Member for Kugluktuk. Member Nakashuk.

### **Question 978 – 5(2): Pangnirtung Housing Issues**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, and I say "good afternoon" to the people of Pangnirtung. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

In correspondence I wrote to the minister last month I raised a number of questions or concerns regarding the maintenance of staff housing units in the community of Pangnirtung. It was dated August 16, and I have never received a response from the minister. My first question to the minister will be: can he confirm if I will be receiving a reply to my letter within the near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member. I recall seeing the letter and I can't remember whether I replied to it or not, but we do try to respond as soon as possible to any correspondence we receive.

I do recall seeing your letter, and I believe I responded but I will check to see if I actually did. I do apologize if you did not receive a response, but I do recall seeing that letter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are five new staff housing units slated to be constructed in the community of Pangnirtung during the upcoming 2021-22 fiscal year. My question to the minister is: can he clarify how the Nunavut Housing Corporation determined this number? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the question was how the number was determined? Was that your question? Perhaps I didn't understand the question. I apologize. Can the member rephrase the question?

**Speaker** (interpretation): I apologize. Can you please clarify your question? Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Information published by the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that five new staff housing units are scheduled to be constructed in the community of Pangnirtung during the upcoming 2021-22 fiscal year. Can the minister clarify how the Nunavut Housing Corporation determined this number? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for clarifying her question.

We work closely with the Department of Human Resources. When they decide which community will require staff housing, they come to us and we start making plans to construct staff housing for whichever community has been identified by the Department of Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. (interpretation ends) During last Wednesday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the



minister provided an update on the status of the independent reviews of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's public housing rent scale and construction allocation methodology.

Can the minister clarify if this review will examine both the public housing community allocation methodology and the staff housing community allocation methodology? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The contract just went out last month and I mentioned to the House that this review will be specifically for social housing, so staff housing is not included in the review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Member Pedersen.

#### **Question 979 – 5(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Infrastructure Projects**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everybody. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

On April 9, 2019 the Qulliq Energy Corporation issued a request for proposals for the construction of a much-needed new power plant in Kugluktuk. The RFP was subsequently cancelled on December 13, 2019 because “all bids were outside available funding.” On August 26, 2020 the Qulliq Energy Corporation issued a new request for proposals.

Can the minister clarify the extent to which the scope of this project been changed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. The member is correct; the Kugluktuk Power Plant was built in 1968 and has exceeded its lifecycle. The member is also correct that our new request for proposals was published on August 26, 2020 and anticipated award for November 2020.

The scope of the project itself hasn't changed, but the timeline has changed. The timeline includes design publication to market, as we stated, August 26, 2020. The award of the contract will be November 2020. The design completion will be June 2021. Construction contract to the market will be August 2021. Award construction contract will be August 2021, with a targeted completion date of March 2024. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your first supplementary question, Mr. Pedersen.

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On February 7, 2019 the Qulliq Energy Corporation issued a request for tenders for the construction of its new headquarters building in Baker Lake. On April 16, 2020 the tender was cancelled due to “COVID-19 constraints and uncertainty in secure supplies.” A new request for tenders was issued on September 14, 2020. The RFT closes on October 16, 2020.

Can the minister clarify the extent to which the scope of this project been changed?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member again for his question. The tender was set to be awarded on April 2, 2020. The decision was made to delay the project because of its over-budget from the contracts that were received and a concern over the material and delivery delays due to COVID-19. Due to this delay, the project has been anticipated with a new completion date of 2022. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Pedersen.

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her responses. On January 16, 2020 the Qulliq Energy Corporation issued a request for proposals for the construction of a new power plant in Arctic Bay. Information published by the Government of Nunavut indicates that the contract for this work was awarded on April 1, 2020 to Kudlik Construction. The government’s announcement concerning this project indicated that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has “applied for funding from the federal government’s Arctic Energy Fund to help cover construction costs.” As of today, how much funding has the federal government approved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) For the Arctic Bay Power Plant, receipt of the funding is based on approval prior to the QEC awarding the contract. In the Arctic Bay case, the Qulliq Energy Corporation awarded the contract in March 2020 prior to receiving approval from the Arctic Energy Fund. The Qulliq Energy Corporation will be funding the project for the Arctic Bay Power Plant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize for calling you “Mr. Chairman” earlier.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, followed by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

**Question 980 – 5(2): Training for Security Staff**

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on the issue of hiring security guards at community health centres. The role of a security guard is an important one. However, it is not always clear what the specific duties of that role are and how individuals are trained to meet the requirements of the job.

Can the minister clearly describe what specific training is required to be employed as a security guard and clarify how his department ensures that all security guards at community health centres have had the necessary training and orientation?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the level of detail on exactly what kind of training is encompassed for general security, but the Pangnirtung Health Centre is under enhanced security, where typically ex-law enforcement agents or ex-law enforcement employees are used because of the level of security and the level of risk associated with providing security to the health centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In reviewing the original 2017 RFP for security services for Nunavut health centres, I noted that the contract at that time required that security staff must have completed a "Security Officer Course" and "non-violent crisis intervention" techniques as well as basic training in other areas.

In response to my questions last week, the minister indicated that there had been training provided for security guards in the past. Can the minister describe what specific training is currently available for Nunavummiut who are interested in becoming security guards and how or where they can register for the relevant courses? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize I don't have the level of detail that the member is enquiring about. We contract out the security services, so we

don't employ the security guards as a government directly, so we don't provide that training. We have set the expectations of the contract conditions through the procurement process. Through the RFP that would come in, we would have established guidelines and protocols. It's up to the company to make sure that that training is provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I have already stated, giving local people the opportunity to be employed as security guards should be a priority, especially as they are familiar with their own community and its social issues. I was pleased that the minister agreed with me on this point when I raised it last week.

We are all aware that that government contracts with the construction industry often have a required Inuit labour component and I feel this could be an important component of service contracts as well.

Will the minister commit to working with the health centre security services contractor to provide more opportunities for local individuals to receive the necessary training so that they can get employment as security guards in their home communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely I will have my officials reach out to the security contractors to continue to enforce this, but I will say and I know that similar topics have come up over the last week and a half that the desire is to hire local. There were three local security guards hired in the Pangnirtung Health Centre specifically. Unfortunately it didn't work out in those cases and we have to continue to find out why it doesn't work out.

Mr. Speaker, when we're talking security in a health centre, they're responding to a call to help make sure that that nurse or that medical staff or clinician is safe in the workplace. That is the priority under this, Mr. Speaker. We have to make sure that when people take on these roles, it's a very important critical role to the operations of the health centre. It's unfortunate that we have to go to this level of actually providing security in our health centres.

I would like to think that the majority of people in our communities don't have ill will for our health care workers. I can't stress enough how difficult it is to continue to recruit staff in some of our communities with the way that our health centre staff are treated. Things really need to change, Mr. Speaker. We need to take a serious look at our own behaviour and we have to recognize that whether you agree or disagree with the situation, there's a

proper process to follow to voice your concerns in a professional, respective manner.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period has expired. We will proceed to No. 7. No. 7. Written Questions. No. 8. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation) No. 9. (interpretation ends) Replies to Opening Address. 10. Petitions. (interpretation) Member for Kinngait, Member Joanasie.

### **Item 10: Petitions**

#### **Petition 021 – 5(2): Long-term Care Facility for Kinngait**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm the Member for South Baffin.

I rise today to present a petition signed by the people of Kinngait requesting a (interpretation ends) long-term elder care facility. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, they want the old health centre renovated into an elder care facility. There are 332 signatures. I am tabling the petition in the House, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize to the Member for South Baffin. No. 10. (interpretation ends) Petitions. (interpretation) No. 11. (interpretation ends) Responses to Petitions. (interpretation) No. 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. No. 13. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Kusugak.

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

#### **Tabled Document 292 – 5(2): Ethics Officer for the Nunavut Public Service 2019-2020 Annual Report**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Good morning, Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Ethics Officer for the Nunavut Public Service 2019-2020 Annual Report. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Tabled Document 293 – 5(2): Government of Nunavut's Status of Housing Report**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Angiraqattaqtiqitsiniq: Helping to find a good place to call home, Government of Nunavut's Status of Housing Report, 2020. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents.  
Minister of Finance, Minister Hickeys.

**Tabled Document 294 – 5(2): 2020-2021 Letters of Expectation**

**Tabled Document 295 – 5(2): 2020-2021 Responses to Letters of Expectation**

**Hon. George Hickeys:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After the line of questioning yesterday, I am very pleased to table two documents, the 2020-21 Letters of Expectation and the 2020-21 Responses to the Letters of Expectation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents.  
Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Tabled Document 296 – 5(2): Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan  
2018 Annual Report**

**Tabled Document 297 – 5(2): Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan  
2019 Annual Report**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table two documents: the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Annual Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2018 and the other report ending December 31, 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents.  
(interpretation) No. 14. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. No. 16. Motions. 17. First Reading of Bills. 18. Second Reading of Bills. 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Tabled Document 65 – 5(2) with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will break for lunch and report back at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:53 and Committee resumed at 13:30*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, committee members, (interpretation) as well as the Inuit who are following the proceedings. (interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following item to deal with: Tabled Document 65 – 5(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the review of Tabled Document 65 – 5(2): Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut on the Conduct of the Fifth General Election. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we deal with Tabled Document 65 – 5(2)?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Tabled Document 065 – 5(2): Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut on the Conduct of the 5th Nunavut General Election – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. I now ask members: do you agree to let the chief electoral officer of Nunavut and his legal counsel to appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms. (interpretation ends) For the record, please introduce yourself and your legal counsel.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members. My name is Dustin Fredlund. I'm the chief electoral officer for Nunavut. Sitting to my left, more than six feet, is my legal counsel, Sara Siebert. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Fredlund, please proceed with your opening comments.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Mr. Chairman and hon. members, I welcome the opportunity to meet with you today to review the report on the conduct of the 5th Nunavut General Election.

As this is my first appearance before you to speak to a general election, I want to recognize and acknowledge the hard work of those presently in my office and those who came before.

I appreciate that the report in front of you is not necessarily concise, but it does provide you and the public a better understanding of how elections are administered and gives some insight into the steps my office takes to fulfill our mandate.

The report provides details on our preparation and outreach initiatives, different voting opportunities, detailed results of each constituency's elections, recommendations to improve the electoral process, details of when I had to adapt the Act in response to unforeseen circumstances, and a summary of complaints and investigations.

An area I am very proud of is the youth engagement activities we undertook during the election. For the first time we employed high school students to work in the polls. Twenty-three percent of our election officers were these young, energetic and dedicated students who had an opportunity to see first-hand our democracy in action.

We partnered with CIVIX, a non-partisan Canadian charity that engages schools throughout Canada to build skills and habits of citizenship.

Our information campaigns specifically targeted our young voters, who are a demographic that have traditionally failed to register and vote.

In this era we have seen social media become an important platform for information-sharing and discussions on our democracy. The substantially increased level of engagement between my office and the public and candidates and their constituencies through these platforms was unprecedented, which I believe has led to a more civic-literate Nunavut.

After the general election, there were areas that were identified for improvement. Through discussions with election officers, candidates, voters, and some of you, we have made progress on making the administration of elections more effective and efficient.

Other areas for improvement will require legislative amendments. In this report you will find the recommendations that I am proposing for legislative changes to improve our electoral process.

My office's mandate has changed during these past couple of years. The First Assembly's Standing Committee Ajauqtiit's vision of a coordinated election process is being realized with the harmonization of municipal elections in the *Nunavut Elections Act*. Last year my office oversaw these elections for the first time, and I am encouraged with the level of cooperation between the communities and my office.

The feedback I have received has been extremely positive and we look forward to further developing our relationships in building a strong democratic process at the community level.

Many things have changed in our lives during these uncertain times. It is crucial, however, that we continue to administer elections and plebiscites in a manner that is fair, transparent, and safe. We will remain flexible, with the ability to adapt quickly and wisely to address evolving challenges as they arise.

I look forward to our discussions today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Just a reminder that we do have interpreters who are trying to keep up with you. Do members have any general comments? General comments? Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): This is one of my most pressing concerns of using social media or the Internet forums as candidates for an election, as some candidates use negativity and debasing the other candidates' reputations. In this day and age of web-based forums, I have seen cases where candidates, of which I was one, as a woman was belittled, along with her husband, their children and the other family members.



I believe we need to deliberate on ways to ensure that anonymity cannot be used during elections so that candidates are not swayed from running via intimidation tactics or bullying or in trying to belittle other candidates' histories, background, past and future possibilities via these forums.

I wonder how we can unmask some of these virulent attackers who would be forced to reveal their names if they attack candidates anonymously behind a keyboard, or to have comments only with real names during candidate forums and questions, which I would prefer.

I'll add to this briefly in English, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for recognizing me. (interpretation ends) Just a short notice, I had noticed when a candidate gives their name to the election officer, there is often lines between defamation of character on that candidate's name, family, spouse, and there has to be way so that when these comments show up on social media, instead of hiding behind the computer, they could print their name. There has to be an Elections Nunavut, maybe, discussion forum and the rules to say "Base it on the issues. Don't base it on personality politics." Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's just a comment.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Just general comments? Seeing none, I will open the floor now for members' questions. The first name I have on my list is Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, Mr. Fredlund. Welcome.

(interpretation ends) On the issue of youth engagement in the election, I think the initiatives that you have undertaken for students to learn about the electoral process and also on employing high school students in the actual election itself, I think those are great and I fully support those.

Looking at page 23 of the report, this second graph there where it shows the difference between registered and eligible, I'm looking at the under 40 age category. My first question is, it looks like there's a whole bunch of people captured in there who aren't registered to vote. What does the chief electoral officer think explains why they are not registered? Is it too much trouble, is it too time consuming? Why are these people not registered to vote, especially the younger ones? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the hon. member for his question. It's been awhile since I was in the mind of an eighteen year old. I will say that this chart is not unique to Nunavut. If you look through the reports from other jurisdictions, you will see that youth engagement is something that is of concern to all electoral management bodies across Canada. This is the first time that Nunavut has been able to capture and display this information.

We don't have a lot of data going back. Moving forward, this will change. We will start to be able to look at and identify so that we can focus our initiatives more towards the 18 to 33 year old age group that are not registering to vote, not to mention not voting. If they are not registered, they won't be voting. So I won't gander to say why our youth are not necessarily getting out to register.

I think civic activities in general with our youth is challenging already, and there are organizations throughout Canada who are dedicated solely to civic education and youth, because I think we all recognize this is an issue. I hope that answers your question.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There is a whole group of people who are not even registered to vote, but then when you run activities in the school, there is a lot of interest. That has been my experience when I go into the school in Arviat or Whale Cove, invited in by a teacher. There is a lot of interest in politics and in the legislature in general from the young people.

My next question is about the civic education opportunities that are being provided. Are they generally well received by school staff and students, and is the plan to continue delivering these types of opportunities in the years to come? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, civic education is a pillar of democracy. It is important that we continue to educate our youth, even the ones who are not eligible to vote yet. Some of the initiatives that my office has undertaken for the upcoming general election; we are looking at something called a "provisional voters list" which many jurisdictions in Canada utilize right now where they can actually register 16 and 17 year old voters, who are not still eligible to vote, but they are on the voters list. This is one way we would hope to encourage the younger voters.

In the schools it is always well received. Our election officers use some campaigns during the general election period to go into the schools and run programs; to speak to the students. Our partner organizations like Civics, they went into many schools throughout Nunavut and held a mock vote because practice makes perfect, and having students actually go through the process of voting; we believe that will encourage them in the future to vote as well.

So in short, absolutely we will continue to look at ways to engage our youth. Those who are not eligible to vote yet and those who are, that we seem to have missed, that most jurisdictions seem to miss; the disenfranchised group of 18-23 year olds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just have one last question before I give somebody else a chance.

Going back to the registration issue; are there any barriers for people to register? I'm talking about the actual act of registering and trying to get yourself on the voters list. Do they need to have photo identification? Is that a barrier? Or is a long piece of paperwork that has to be filled out? Is there anything that comes to mind that would make it easier for people to register to get on the voters list? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, a very good question that we have looked at. Currently, the government provides different types of identification for young people, for elders and for all demographics; for travelling, for healthcare cards, all of these types of identification we accept. We accept everything from phone bills, to co-op account receipts. We are very flexible when it comes to accepting identification.

To make it easier and more accessible, we are working toward actually permitting online registration so people can go online to our website and be able to register, either uploading their identification and sending it to us, or stopping by the office. So yes, I think we are always looking to improve, but we are very flexible when it comes to identification.

For the most part, we know everybody. Our election officers know everybody in the communities, so it is not difficult at all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Main, are you done? The floor is open to any Member of the Legislative Assembly. My next name on the list is Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome. (interpretation ends) I want to address the issue of encouraging more women to stand for public office.

As an MLA, I have been involved with Commonwealth Parliamentary Association efforts in this area and I have attended a couple of conferences. I have seen your report; it provides the detailed information concerning the number of male and female candidates in Nunavut's general election. What education and/or training initiatives does Elections Nunavut plan to undertake to encourage more female candidates to run for territorial and municipal office? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Obviously, since that information was in the report, it is very important to me and to my office, and to Nunavut as a whole; the representation of people standing for candidacy for those across all demographics, especially those who are disenfranchised and not traditionally in politics; women and young people.

As you have mentioned in the report, I am pleased to say that the increased participation of women, women being elected and young people participating in being elected is improving throughout the years.

As for specific initiatives targeting women in politics; my office has done nothing yet as of today. It is something that we have discussed and we think it's important and it is something we do think is important and we will be looking for ways to reach out to the demographics that don't traditionally run, specifically women. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank him for the response. It's something I think about. During meetings, women are usually not as represented as the men, and here as well in the legislature. Young women and even if they're not young women, many of them have children and some of them are single parents.

Running for office, there is money available, saying that these are available for pins and papers and campaign material. I'm asking for young people or single parents or parents in general, if they're going to be running for office, if they can be helped with daycare. Has that ever been thought of in your office? This is a big barrier in the communities whenever you're trying for anything. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. I think it's a valid question. Since my office is an independent office and non-partisan, we don't get involved with providing financial grants towards candidates or other entities involved in the actual campaigning or running in elections.

Our Act does recognize child care as an expense that is exempt from the overall allowable contribution limit. You're allowed to receive \$30,000 in expenses during a campaign. Child care expenses are not included. We want to encourage people and we know child care expenses are expensive. Many of us have children that we still utilize daycare. We do recognize that challenge and to the best of our ability, we have addressed it.

As for providing more funding or funding sources, it's something our office can't do. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I strongly encourage you to go after that, especially if women can be supported more when they're running.

This other matter, in your report it states... (interpretation ends) On pages 26 and 27 of your report you observed that there has been a decrease in voter turnout over the past four general elections. What specific factors have been identified as contributing to this decline? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's probably the question asked of all chief electoral officers in Canada, myself including, is on voter turnouts. It's something that we can grasp as a society in the media of how successful or unsuccessful an election was.

From my standpoint, voter turnout is just one indicator and as you pointed out, it has been decreasing over the past few elections, something that all jurisdictions across Canada have seen. We don't have the worst voter turnout in Canada, but we don't have the best. I believe there's no real one aspect to determine voter turnout percentages. There is voter apathy, there is a lack of political voter will, there are many aspects that are outside of our control.

My role is to ensure the information gets out to the public on how they can vote, when and who they vote for, their rights as voters, how to register to vote. I don't have authority or influence over how many people are actually going to turn out to vote. That is something I believe that we as Nunavut as a whole shoulder as a team; democracy and voting and those types of things.

As we saw in the last general election, many of you were campaigning and were engaging your constituents and working towards seeing people come out to vote, but it is not a clear cut question and it is one that I actually don't have much control or authority over. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have to congratulate our mayor who got elected not long ago. Unfortunately the voter turnout was 24.7 percent. That is probably one of the lowest turnouts. Like you stated, you try and figure and out why the results are very low in the turnout itself.

I don't know the details of how you function or the timeline as to when you know there will have to be an election in a community, whether it be for mayor or MLA. As the newest members know.... How do you determine that, when there an election that will have to come down the road? For example, Baker Lake or Kugluktuk; when do you determine the timeline as to when the election should be? Because I'm thinking the number of turnout, in my thought, is because it was such really bad timing. People are out camping, in Pangnirtung at the time of the election as well.

(interpretation) It is incredibly variable; elections and things run very differently at certain times of the year. How do you decide when in the year to hold elections? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her questions. Specifically for the Pangnirtung election; the by-election, we timed it to coincide with the MLA by-elections in Kugluktuk and Baker Lake. This is the most efficient and effective use of our office's resources to hold more than one election at a time.

So essentially, Pangnirtung piggybacked on the MLA elections. I wasn't involved in choosing the MLA election timetable, so the House provides me with the information on when to hold them, and I'm sure they take into account many factors.

It is unorthodox to hold elections during the summer or fall periods, but as you are well aware, we are in unorthodox times. Sometimes things are going to happen that I imagine are not going to feel normal or feel right because of the timing, but there are many aspects that I am not privy to on that.

For the Pangnirtung election it was because of cost savings and efficiency. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. The next name on my list is Mr. Pedersen.

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Mr. Fredlund. On page 6 of your report, you indicate that the Vital Statistics Division of the territorial Department of Health provides Elections Nunavut with information on residents of Nunavut who have either left the territory permanently or are deceased.

Approximately how Nunavummiut of voting age are currently long-term residents in out-of-territory care facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. If I understand the question correctly, you are asking how many eligible voters are currently in long-term care home facilities in southern Canada.

At this time we don't track that information. Residency is at times a complex requirement within our Act. I think that once a person leaves for more than 10 months with no intention of returning, or without the intention of returning, they will lose their residency regardless of whether they are in a long-term care home or not. So people on short-term or temporary medical leave; those we don't capture necessarily, but we do engage them during the election periods to assist them with voting.

As you will notice in the report, we have a special ballot section that describes how many people we have engaged to vote that were either going to school, were in medical facilities, or were in prison; these parts of our population that are currently temporarily residing outside of Nunavut. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Pedersen.

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your responses. You got my next questions out in your response there.

To what extent would it be possible to amend the *Nunavut Elections Act* to allow Nunavummiut serving sentencing in federal correctional institutions to retain their voting rights in territorial elections? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. As mentioned, those incarcerated outside of Nunavut are still considered residents of Nunavut, regardless of their length of sentence and can continue to vote. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Fredlund. The next name on my list is Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not too often I get to ask questions in this House. First of all, welcome. I know over the years when I was a journalist with CBC I covered many, many elections through the '70s, '80s, and '90s, and had the fortune to participate in a couple of municipal elections and territorial ones.

In the Nunavut elections I was elected twice, lost once, and also tied one. In those situations and having worked in federal elections and municipal, it is always very important to ensure, and I saw some colleagues here have talked about getting the electorate out. That is key in every election, if people don't go and vote, you can't have an election without people coming out to vote.

I have heard and seen the Nunavut elections talk about; that we have the most ways to vote in the elections. You can vote in person, you could vote in an advance poll, you can vote by proxy, you could vote by phone, or mobile vote, and those are I think most of them.

Anything short of advance poll and voting in person becomes very complicated and very frustrating, especially when you tie, when you know you have a backlog of people who you tried to do the proxy vote, but they were denied. For one technical reason or another, people who want to vote aren't allowed to vote, and because of timing, they didn't let them know in advance.

In the last election, I spent the better part of three hours trying to get a person to vote because it has to be sent by faxes and communications, and the most frustrating part of all

that is some people who are in hospitals or bed-ridden don't have access to faxes and it's just not accommodating.

I'm really hoping that at the upcoming elections that your office will be looking at ways to ensure people get to vote, instead of looking for ways for not to make them vote. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. I recall the instance where we discussed this and I do recall the level of frustration on your behalf and other candidates and voters who found the proxy vote system complex, rigorous, and time-consuming, especially when it's only permitted during such a small window.

You will notice in my recommendations that I am recommending that we remove proxy voting and expand our emergency voting, which is the telephone voting, for that purpose in itself because, in the report, you will see the complex spreadsheets of what it takes to get a proxy vote. We had only a handful of proxy votes in the entire election in 2017. Of the 10,500 votes we had, there was only a handful of proxy votes, yet it took up a lot of my office's time and it took up a lot of our officers in the field, their time as well.

One of my recommendations is to remove the proxy vote. We are the last jurisdiction in Canada at the provincial-federal-territorial level to allow proxy voting. Everyone else has realized that it's too hard to use, it's not reaching the right people, and to offset the loss of the proxy vote, we're looking to expand the emergency vote, which telephones can be used. This would allow those who had to leave last minute or unable to reach a computer to be able to call us and to vote by phone. I hope that answers the minister's concern and thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** It's so good to hear. It's nice to hear that you are moving forward and looking for new ways. Because election is happening next year, close to this date, how far along are you when you talk about voting by phone, I assume? Is your office also having discussions in being able to speak by video, like by a phone system but by visually? I don't know the term for it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Act says telecommunication device, we would definitely interpret that to be Skype, to use other type of videoconferencing calling technology, and actually I believe that is the technology we used during the last general election for a number of people outside of Canada and who had to call us to vote. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Kusugak.



**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lastly, Mr. Chairman, through you, could you let us know: when does your wheel start to turn in terms of preparing for the upcoming election? Mr. Chairman, thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Again, this is something that my office's focus is turning to. Obviously, we are always in a state of preparation to run by-elections which are similar to elections. As for the sixth Nunavut general election that is slated for next year, we will turn the key for the ignition to start the actual process in late November, starting to secure our returning officers and offices.

Throughout the winter we will continue to prepare our materials and prepare our training manuals and those types of things. Moving into the summer is when we will commence the training aspects. That is actually when we start spending the money is bringing people in to do training and tweaking and finalizing all the information that is required. I hope that answers your question. It is as it is. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. The next name on my list: Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to welcome the witness here. In your written report, specifically on page 22, which my colleague earlier identified partially in referencing the voter list summary outlining eligible and ineligible voters, the data starts in 1997, listing registered voters all the way up to 2017. It also lists the differences between actual votes versus registered and eligible voters. They tracked the voting tendencies of each riding, and in some cases, the number of actual votes is about 50 percent, and today it is even lower to see the voting rates.

I was thinking of ways of increasing the percentage of voters who cast their ballots, and ideas to try to encourage more voters to vote, and whether they have an advertising slant to try to do that in future election cycles. I hope I am being clearly understandable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. It is part of my mandate to get the information out to the voters and as technology and media changes, our office is attempting to adapt and to take advantage of all of these different ways to communicate with the public. For our certain demographic that likes to watch cable, we advertise on the cable channel. We use local radio as much as possible, many communities still have it. It's a vital source of information. Our office has increased our abilities and capacities to use social media; Facebook, twitter, these types of things which a lot of our young people do use.

We believe the message is getting to our youth. To those who are not interested or have not been interested in voting, it's how to get them past that. They know they should

register to vote. They know they should vote, but they're not. So that is kind of a question that has stumped a lot of jurisdictions and it's something that I think we need to work together as the election officials, as the Legislative Assembly, as candidates, it's a job for all of us to do. We definitely can't expect or consider that Elections Nunavut solely holds democracy on its shoulders. It's something that we all share.

When you ask for ideas on how we can reach more people in your communities, you're our community experts and so this is an area that I would like to work with the candidates in the upcoming election and review now if you have great ideas or would like to speak with our office on improving this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, when you are fellow residents with other candidates within a large constituency, one tends to pick or choose sides and elections will continue in this manner in our future. Has anyone thought of, and here I wonder if it has ever been discussed or brought up, about a permanent election space?

Every fall practically, elections are held in the communities, in our case near the end of September or October where communities hold elections for their MLA or local hamlet councillors. When Inuit in the communities, since they have freedom to choose, will make a decision and it is impossible to stop them, so I wondered if this has been discussed when more voters just stay home during the winter months, and that I want to understand, hence my question on it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The fixed election date provision identifies the day that elections take place, which is the fourth Monday in October every four years. That was chosen by the Assembly at the time and that was chosen because of considerations given to weather, to hunting seasons, to when students are in school, etcetera.

I think it's something that there's never a perfect time in Nunavut to hold elections. I think there are some times that are worse than others. We don't want to hold elections on Christmas Day, for example. It's something that is in law, but as we all know, laws can change. I think that if the timing of the elections is something that the members feel is not appropriate for our communities, then further discussions can definitely take place. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Next name on my list: Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Fredlund, for coming this afternoon with your colleague. First of all, I want to congratulate you and your staff

on the civic education for students across Nunavut to learn about elections as they are our future leaders, and I appreciate all the work that you do during this time.

The Manitoba legislature recently approved a change to the province's elections legislation, which requires candidates running for provincial office to disclose certain convictions under the Criminal Code and other statutes. These provisions came into force for the province's recent 2019 general election. If our Legislative Assembly were to introduce a similar requirement, what issues would your office likely encounter by administering the provision? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Ehaloak. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. My office has been watching closely Elections Manitoba's work with moving this provision forward. I have a close relationship with the different election management bodies across Canada, Elections Manitoba being one of them.

I had an opportunity to speak to my colleague from down in Winnipeg, and her office identified that administratively, it was not difficult to manage. It is a self-disclosure. What the Manitoba provision is: is a self-disclosure of criminal record. So it is not a criminal records check, which we all know in small communities would take sometimes a long time to get. Essentially it is just a one-page disclosure where the prospective candidate identifies if they have ever charged with a criminal offence under certain legislation or not.

Administratively, to my office's view, it would not be a difficult thing to administer. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the information. What other provinces or territories have similar requirements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, I believe it is only Manitoba within Canada that has this requirement of candidates. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. The next name on my list; Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Justin and Sarah. On page 92 it states that they want to remove the proxy voting option and it is just listed as a possibility and you already stated that a telephone or internet vote could be offered.

What about voters who may not even have internet access or cellphones or landlines? They would be deprived of their voting rights, albeit previously they were able to vote by

proxy. I wonder if Elections Nunavut will install toll-free numbers or telephones locally for voters to use if they don't have access to a phone or computers that can access the Internet. Or would they be able to call collect to the local elections office wherever their community is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. We are very aware that many of our residents don't have access to computers or phones; mobile phones or landlines.

Telecommunication devices include HF radios, CB; it includes many different ways to communicate. We also offer many different ways to vote. So this is one small way to vote. We can vote by mobile poll, we can come to people's homes, we can vote by mail; everybody has a mailbox, and if they don't, then they can use general delivery. Everyone can vote by going to the polls on Election Day, or during the advance vote.

So voting by telephone would only be under very certain circumstances, where someone had to leave at a last minute, didn't know they were leaving, or they can't vote any other way, for example, someone working on a shrimp ship for four months at a time. We can't get mail to them, so this is one way they could vote.

Our office does have a 1-800 number, and if people were to vote by telephone, they could call the 1-800 number, which is toll-free, and call that way or collect; whatever they would prefer. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 95, it states that candidates are required to open a bank account. Some of the communities don't have banks. Some of them have Co-ops and some of them only have Northern Stores. I am aware that are able to use the Co-op in our community of Pond Inlet. I tried to open an account with the Northern Store but I was unable to open one with them. If you can, I would like an explanation on that if you would clarify it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. I remember during the Tununiq bi-election the Co-op and the Northern were unable to process cheques. So I made an order that allowed you to pay cash. We understand there are certain communities that don't have access to regular banks. Most communities have access to Northern and Co-opportunities, but if they are unable to process cheques, our office is able to be flexible and we can find other ways to do it.

This is an area that we're not going to discourage candidates from running because their Co-op and Northern won't issue cheques to them or the post office. The post office also

issues money orders, I believe. So this recommendation says that these accounts, if possible in your community to be open by a certain time. So that means that when you run, as it stands right now there's no timeline. Sometime within the election period you have to open an account. What we are finding if you were to read through the audited reports is that many candidates were unable to open an account or unwilling or did not open an account on time and this caused confusion and issues further down the line. We need an official account to show a money trail; the money coming in and the money going out. This is a way we stay accountable to the communities and the voters to ensure full transparency; where did you get the money for your campaign and by going through the bank or Co-op or the Northern, it enables us to be able to see that entire money trail. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman for that response. On page 6 in your report it states "The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) hosted a pre-election meeting with Elections Nunavut and Public Prosecution Canada (PPC) to revisit the enforcement protocol that guides investigations during election periods" (interpretation ends) My question would be: what issues has your office encountered in administering that enforcement protocol? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The enforcement protocol is the agreement between the RCMP, the Integrity Commissioner, the Public Prosecution of Canada, and my office. Essentially each of us has a role to play in investigating election offences and they're all interrelated and in the protocol.

Some of the challenges we would face would be one day, every four years, the RCMP are made aware that there possibly could be election offences occurring within the communities and so it's kind of an eleventh hour at times for information dissemination, getting the information from Rankin Inlet to Grise Fiord or from Rankin Inlet to Kugaaruk.

It's something we're working towards improving our communication with all the actors, everyone involved in the protocol, but overall I believe it's a positive relationship. As you can see in the report, it worked, the investigations were thorough, and they provided us information on what their next actions would be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question, as other members will want to ask questions.

(interpretation ends) As of today, are there any outstanding investigations underway related to incidents that occurred during the last general election? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. I believe all matters have been resolved through the Integrity Commissioner's office, so that's a question that you could forward to her the next time you see her or read her annual report where it discusses that. I'm an information provider and then the Integrity Commissioner takes that on and as I had mentioned, I believe that all matters have been resolved. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Next name on my list: Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome and I am very pleased to see you once again.

I would like to make a brief comment on the students. We would like to see more training involving the students. Usually in my riding I go to the schools and they wanted to be involved in the training that is provided to the high school students. They're given an opportunity to ask questions and also to have an election, so to speak, in their class or in their school.

During the general election, this was the first time that I put my name in as a candidate and it took a very long time to find out who got voted in. We knew that we were elected, but it took a long time for the information to reach the general public. Usually we get the information in the morning and usually we wait into the wee hours of the night. I would like to know how we can improve the information system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. It was three years ago, but it feels like yesterday that my office was sitting in my office at 2 in the morning with sweat and tears and blood, trying to make sure that the numbers were correct to get back into the communities so that our members would know who were elected.

Our priority is to make sure that the election numbers are correct. It takes time. Each one of our election officers is trained. They know how to do their job and they're judged on the one day they work every four years. They're under a lot of stress and pressure. They've had a long day to work and then we expect them and demand that they count numbers correctly.

It is going to be into the late night at times that some communities are going to get their results back. I do not foresee this changing and we attempt to forewarn our candidates and our communities by putting on our website kind of "a frequently asked questions"

like “Why does it take so long?” We have to account for every ballot.

When your returning officer finishes their count, they send their information to Rankin to our headquarters where we sit and we verify and we look over the numbers to make sure they match. So there is a two or three step process to make sure that the numbers are correct before we make them public.

In your case, you have three communities, which means that even extends the time of communication between the three communities. Some communities were faster to get data information out, results because they were smaller or because they were a singular constituency. Those with multiple constituencies are going to find that the numbers are going to take longer to get out. I hope that answers your question. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for responding to this.

I do represent the three communities in getting those results. I was able to get that through my scrutineers and the offices were closed, and the results were still not in, and that was one of the most painful waits, knowing that I won, but knowing that I cannot celebrate until your office says “Congratulations, you won with these numbers.” That is where I think some of the improvements need to take place.

Moving on, as you know, the riding I represent, we are three communities and there were nine candidates. Three of us did not live there so three of us did not have any right to vote for ourselves. I’m glad my colleague from Rankin Inlet mentioned switching over to something more simple because I knew I was going to run, and I knew I was not able to vote on my own, but I wanted to vote in the community I live in, which is Iqaluit. That was time consuming and very complex. I am glad that it was raised there, and I fully support that as a candidate that does not live in the riding, if I am going to pursue that again, I would expect similar changes toward that. I was happy to hear from there. As you mentioned, those phones would be for very specific things. Would something like a person who wants to run in another riding that you do not live in qualify as potential of being able to vote, because I focused all my attention to the riding I was running for, not the riding of where I live? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. What is current and what is proposed is that the emergency communications voting would only be able to be used for unexpected absences. So if you expect to be away from home for three weeks and you are not going to be able to be physically present to vote, we have the mail-in ballot, which means the day the writ is dropped, you can actually apply online, or through an online form to receive a mail-in ballot, and the mail-in ballot can be mailed anywhere in the world. So that is the means that I would suggest that your scenario would work if you were unable to physically be present in the polls. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the enforcement protocol that you raised on page 6 of your report, it puts the onus on the RCMP to investigate.

I don't know, through this protocol, whether you would find ways because some of the examples that I want to use are the campaign posters that are put on in a public place may be taken down and then I go and report it to the RCMP. I don't think it's the role of the RCMP; I think it's the role of Elections Nunavut to go and enforce what I'll call minor infractions, not the major ones. I can still see the role of the RCMP, but minor infractions where I think an official from Elections Nunavut can go on the local radio and just say this happened and this should not happen again.

I think, through these protocols, if you can further have dialogue with the enforcement and to see where because I know the RCMP is very busy in the communities and having to investigate that would be such a minor infraction. That's one of the things that I just want to give to you as a food for thought, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his comment. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name on my list: Mr. Pedersen.

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got a suggestion for Mr. Fredlund and your staff and I hope the Minister of Education is listening because I'll be asking him this next month when we come back.

Perhaps you could coordinate with the Minister of Education, local DEAs, and Nunavut Arctic College to provide some sort of incentive for these school-aged students or post-secondary students to both register and vote, and maybe it could create some sort of short course that's offered during election year so that these students can get a credit in whatever courses they're taking and also just learn about the election process while they have their own mock elections. It's just an idea. I'll be asking that of you next month, so you get a whole month to prepare your answer.

Now I'll move on to my question. What measures do you plan to take to address the impact of COVID-19 in respect to the next general election? We're all hoping that you won't need it, but do you have plans, let's say, for campaigning and things of that nature? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. It definitely is something on our minds and all electoral bodies across Canada. There are a



couple of provinces currently in the midst of preparing for or having elections. As we're all aware, Elections Canada, the federal counterpart of my office, has made some statements in regard to their preparations in preparing for an election during a period of COVID.

Obviously we will always work closely with the chief public health officer's office. Ultimately the direction on safety of voters will come from his office and the Department of Health. We will work closely with them to provide a foundation for the election to happen in a safe manner. In saying that, there are things that my office can do to replicate some of the activities and initiatives we have done. Voter safety, we continue to utilize the guidelines given by the chief public health officer in regard to distances and wearing masks, limiting the number of people into voting stations.

Legislatively under the Act, I'm allowed to make changes to things within the Act if the situation necessitates it. So let's say that everything is ok, we're running the election and then something comes down the pike that is not good and changes everything quickly, I have the ability to be flexible and to address that.

There are certain aspects that you might see throughout this year that I'll be requesting some direction on, would be to either do what Elections Canada has proposed by expanding their election day to two days. We have the opportunity to expand advance votes to allow for longer voting periods, so less people will show up on each day.

So there are measures that we are looking at, absolutely, to ensure that if required that we're going to be running a vote, hopefully not, during a period of uncertainty in COVID times, I think that for sure, I think it's something that we will be prepared to do and take direction from the Chief Public Health Office. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Next name on my list: Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 106, the funds that were budgeted for the period ending March 31, 2017-18; the budget was \$274,000. However, \$159,530 was spent and they had \$114,470 left over. So that means that approximately only 40 percent of the funds were used. So I would like to know the details behind these numbers. It's stated that it was paid as a salary to elections workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. The line item you were looking at is the casual wages. During the periods of elections, my office hires people to work as casuals within the office. We were also using that line item to pay some poll workers as casual workers.

However, during this year we decided to use the tariff of fees, and treat them as contract employees instead of casual workers. As you can see under the service contract line, it is

over spent by over \$264,000. That was included into the paying the casuals; instead of paying them under a CSAs for one day, which is a lot of paper work, we paid them as contract workers. So that kind of adjusted down that way. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the Chief Electoral Officer and welcome, Sarah. On page 9 of your report, you discussed a number of information technology and graphical information system initiatives that your office undertook to the fifth general election. That's on page 9 of your report. What new initiatives do you plan to undertake prior to the next general election? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. We are looking at utilizing certain aspects of electronic technology during the election. The main one we will be looking at is something called "Live strike-off" through an electronic poll book. Currently when you go to vote, there is a paper copy of your name on it and they will cross your name off. What we're looking at usually is essentially an electronic version of that, which allows my office to be able to track each poll and each constituency live, so that we can see what's happening and which polls are active and not active.

This also gives the opportunity for a bank teller style voting opportunity. Currently when you walk in to vote, you will see two tables that say "A to K" and "L to Z" or three tables broken down by last name. This new technology will allow the voters to walk in and vote at any table, just like a bank. You walk in and you go to the available teller, right? That's one aspect that we're looking to make it easier for the voter and a smoother process for voting.

This also provides an opportunity for candidates to have a portal into an online database so they can watch voting in their constituency live. Currently candidates are permitted to have a voter's list and to sit in the polling place and record those who vote. You're allowed to watch the voting happen. Well, this is one aspect that we could address with COVID is to ensure that more people are not around that need to be. That means you could sit at home and watch the live strike of who is voting in your constituency from home.

Those are the type of technologies that we're working towards to make things easier for voters and for candidates. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question, page 11, you discuss a number of social media initiatives that your office undertook. My question is: how does your office address the issue of complaints about candidates that are posted on social

media? The reason I'm asking this, I was surprised. I had run in other elections across Nunavut, and they have criminal record checks, but the Government of Nunavut or your office does not require criminal record checks. I'm just curious: how do you address the complaints? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my final question.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the question. Complaints on social media, we monitor social media, but once again it's the RCMP that does the investigations on any type of complaints from the public.

Now, the Act says that you're not allowed to tell lies about other candidates and that's basically where it stops. If a candidate or someone in the community believes that someone is spreading lies about another candidate, that is against the law and those people can definitely either call our office and we will help them with the forms to fill out or go directly to the RCMP to lodge the complaint. The RCMP was very helpful during the election of doing the investigations.

As for criminal records checks, that's an aspect that there's no jurisdiction in Canada, aside from Manitoba, that has anything to do with disclosures of criminal records. Nunavut is the same. We don't have any requirement for disclosing candidate records or having criminal records checks. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Next name on my list: Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few questions and a lot of them are just more of a clarification from questions that were asked.

The new voting portal that you just mentioned, you said that you will be able to see who has voted. Will you also be able to see who has not voted? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. Yes, you will be able to see who has and who hasn't voted. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On one of the recommendations that you put forward, it is the anonymous donors there of increasing it from \$100 to \$2,500. Earlier you said that you want to be able to have a paper trail of who is financing the person's campaign. I was just curious as to why this is being raised from \$100, which I agree is low, up to \$2,500 because I just did a rough going-through of the financial statements on your report and 24 candidates spent more than \$2,500 and 43 spent less than \$2,500 in total, not just per person, in total, so if I could just get a reasoning for raising the amount to \$2,500. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member again for his question. The anonymous contributions recommendation as it currently stands is the limit is \$100 per contribution. What we're recommending is right now there is no limit to how many \$100 contributions you could get. If the maximum allowed is \$30,000 for all contributions, technically you could get 300 anonymous contributions.

What we're asking is to limit that. We don't want someone having \$30,000 worth of anonymous contributions. We want to limit it to \$2,500 and after that, if somebody slips a \$100 bill under your door, you say, "I can't take that, sorry, sir or ma'am," or give it back to the CEO. That's what we're asking here is we're asking to put a limit on how much unknown money is going into your campaign. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staying on the financial end, I just want to ask if this is on the radar: the last election that the Northwest Territories had, a candidate there who was elected owed the government a huge amount of money, and I think that does not look good. I would understand if you owed money to the government or any of its subsidiaries if you were making payments and in good standing, but if someone were to be elected, one of the candidates, and they had a lot of money owed to the government that was outstanding and they weren't making payments on it, it doesn't look good. I just want to see if that's on your radar because, as we all know right now, to run for municipal election, if you owe \$500 or more, you are disqualified as a candidate. I just want to see if that's on your radar. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. The reason the \$500 limit is in our Act is because it was in the *Local Authorities Elections Act*, which was written decades ago. I can't speak to why it wasn't then, but the reason we moved it into our Act is because the communities asked for it. It is on our radar, but I think that it is something that would be discussed amongst yourselves for further discussions, if desired. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification then, the Assembly could recommend to the chief electoral office that we could recommend a dollar amount that if you owed so much money to the GN or any of its subsidiaries, then you would be disqualified as a candidate. Is that what I'm hearing, that the recommendation would come from the Assembly to the elections office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. I would like to defer the question to my legal counsel, Sara. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Siebert.

**Ms. Siebert:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question of whether having a debt owed could be a disqualifying factor would require a change in the Act. I can advise the House here that currently there are no territorial or federal rules that make it a disqualifying factor to have indebtedness, and that's likely as a result of section 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that protects the right of an individual to run for election in the Legislative Assembly. If the House were to consider such an amendment, I would suggest that careful constitutional analysis and constitutional scrutiny be brought to that type of amendment and it's something that may ultimately be challenged in the courts as unconstitutional. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Siebert. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding now is that in a municipal election, it's okay to violate a person's constitutional right because if they owe more than \$500, they can't run, but in a territorial election that would not be allowed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Ms. Siebert.

**Ms. Siebert:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I can advise the House is that section 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms applies only directly to members of territorial and provincial assemblies, that right to run those elections. For that reason, there are municipalities that have that debt rule. There are also, for example, band councils on certain reserves that have a similar rule that, to become a member of their council, you must not have debt owed to the band.

The issue has not been challenged directly in the courts and so it's something that would need to be carefully scrutinized if it were to be brought in at the territorial level. Certainly when the amendments to the *Nunavut Elections Act* in 2017, when that provision from the previous *Local Authorities Elections Act* was brought in to municipal elections under the current Act, something that I would expect was considered and decided that in the circumstances, that provision would remain. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Siebert. Before I recognize the next member, I would like to take a 10-minute break. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 15:02 and resumed at 15:26*

**Chairman:** I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. The next name on my list is Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, Mr. Fredlund. Good day. (interpretation ends) I appreciate this report that we're seeing.

With my question here, it pertains to the electoral boundaries since I have multiple constituencies that I represent. My question: with those voter registrations in both ridings of Amittuq and Aggu, especially looking at the Aggu side of Igloolik, were there any complications or confusion with those voter registrations for those people who thought were in the riding of Amittuq but actually they were in the Aggu riding? Was there any confusion with the voter registration when it comes to general elections? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kaerner. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. In any constituency that has more than one community, it is more complicated. Igloolik as a community has different types of house numbering systems at times that cause confusion within our system. However, we have worked closely in the past with the Department of Community and Government Services in their lands division and to ensure that the boundaries identified in the Act are actually clear on the map as well.

In short, it is more difficult to ensure that the voters are registered in the correct constituency, but as a voter comes to vote, they're always asked to ensure that they're in the proper constituency and they're shown maps because many people don't know what their house number is and so we use maps that people can actually point and say "This is where my house is." Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the report, I see there eight spoiled ballots on the Aggu side and two spoiled ballots in the Amittuq riding. My question was: was there any confusion? You just mentioned the house numbers. If I try to phrase it, were there also any living in the same dwelling that were registered in different ridings or to one riding? In terms of Aggu and Amittuq, were there family members registered to these two ridings or just one riding to Amittuq or Aggu, since you have mentioned the house numbers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kaerner. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. The responsibility to ensure that a voter is registered in the correct constituency, either Aggu or Amittuq, is the voter's responsibility. They're provided with a voter information card, it's in their mailbox, and it says that you are a resident of Aggu or Amittuq. If it's not correct, then they are supposed to come on election day or to call our office at the 1-800 number to correct it.

I don't know of any specific circumstances in your constituency where a constituent may have been registered in the wrong constituency. It has occurred in the past and we correct it on election day with the work of the voters. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification. You also mentioned that Elections Nunavut is in the process of doing some phone-in voting. I'm just wondering: if I myself was registered to Aggu but there was some kind of a mistake, how long would that process take? Does it take like a five-minute phone call, or how would that process work out? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kaerner. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member again for his question. It is a very simple process. A person who finds that they're registered in the wrong constituency can call us or talk to us. It's a one-page form that they need to fill out. During the election period they can go to their election officer's office to fill it out in person or they could even change it on election day. When you walk in to vote, you say "I'm on the wrong address," and they can fix it right there while you vote. It's a very simple process. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification on that. I would like to move on to my next question where my colleague, Savikataaq, mentioned on the municipal election. Since this was amended to a four-year term, since they had changed it and amended it to a four-year term, and it was mentioned that these individuals don't have to have \$500 in occurrence, but with the territorial elections, it's a whole lot different. The legal counsel mentioned that this needs to be scrutinized.

I'm wondering: before the next general election on the municipal part, will there be some kind of amendment to the Act when it comes to this \$500 debt? Is there any process that is in the plans to make this amendment when it comes to municipal elections? That would be my final question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kaerner. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. At this time there are no discussions on amending the Act to remove the eligibility requirement for candidates in municipal elections to owe \$500. There is no discussion on removing that right now. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Next name on my list: Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Welcome, Mr. Fredlund (interpretation ends) and your colleague there.

I would like to come back to the topic of civic education, particularly related to our young population and students in our education system. I thank Mr. Pedersen for giving me a heads up that he will be asking me on this topic in terms of what level of engagement your office conducts with schools and/or district education authorities. I recognize and understand, I believe some schools do have either a student council or district education authorities have a student representative on their board.

In terms of trying to get the young population of Nunavut excited and engaged and part of the election process and part of democracy, to understand their civic duty, I just want to kind of circle back to that discussion and how much level of engagement your office has. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. It's something that I think we feel strongly as a group that civic education is important, not just for voter turnout numbers but for why are people voting; why are youth voting.

During the last general election, we worked closely with your department, the Department of Education, in ensuring the schools were engaged with CIVIX, which was the not-for-profit organization. They were the expert matter specialists. They understood that's their full-time job to do civic education, so we worked with them. We funded them through a grant to be able to work with the schools.

We believe hands-on learning is pretty important as well. You can teach students out of the books all you want, but we saw that having the students actually work in the polls and to cross voters' names off and to say "hi" to their parents when they came to vote is just as valuable as learning about civic education as in why it's important and stuff. I think that's one area where the DEAs, the schools, and the principals, everyone was on board, everyone was excited. The students were able to take a day off work, day off school, sorry, get paid and see their community. On the flipside it was also really good for the adult population to see our youth being engaged in something that was community-based. I think it's important. I think there is room for improvement.

Once again, I will be engaging your officials to see what more can be done through the school system as well as Arctic College. I think there's also a role for all of our educational institutions to play in elections. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I would encourage and support the good work that you do on this. I look forward to the next election when the young population will be more fully engaged.



I'm going back to my youth and when I turned 16, it's when I became eligible to vote for Inuit organizations. I'm wondering if your office collaborates at all with any of the returning officers for, let's say, when Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated held their elections on sharing information of that sort. Can Mr. Fredlund talk a bit about that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. Our office is open to any collaboration at any level within Nunavut, from HTOs to local housing boards. A great example we can see is during the last municipal election, there were some communities that wanted to hold a plebiscite on changing their names to their traditional names. They came to us for assistance and we provided it to them. It's outside of our mandate, but we believe that it's important that we continue to work together at the community level and at the local level. Absolutely, we will continue to work.

Some of the larger organizations have a more sophisticated election system, like some of our designated Inuit organizations, that don't require our collaboration as much, but once again, I would be open to anything like that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to a different topic around electoral boundaries, I know in the Fifth General Assembly when I ran in South Baffin, that was an election debate topic that was brought up in my constituency around the boundary should be revised. I note in your report on page 1, the introduction, it states that "The next electoral Boundaries Commission will be conducted in 2022." You state too in the report that your office will be providing mapping services and other logistical support for that commission when it takes place.

Can you talk a bit about what are the trends, what's going on around electoral boundaries, how they shift over time, or what are the factors that are at play? I know population is a big thing, but what other factors would be considered when Nunavut's electoral boundaries would be considered again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question on the Electoral Boundaries Commission, which in two years from now we will be participating in. The Electoral Boundaries Commission is not led by my section; it's something that is led by the House. Our role is to provide, as mentioned, the support, the GIS, the mapping support, and whatever other types of support that we can provide.

At this time I don't think I'm really in a position to talk about some of the criteria and what the boundaries commission will use to make their determination, but it's something

I'm sure that if the member was interested, he could look into previous reports and identify some of that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Next name on my list: Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I get into my questions, I just wanted to express my appreciation for your youth engagement initiatives in the previous general election, as well as your efforts to expose youth to the democratic process. I think that was a great idea to get them employed and working towards ensuring individuals vote.

I would just like to recommend that Mr. Fredlund consider reviewing the next voter list in the next election to identify any of those youth that had participated because I think it would be interesting to see how many of those youth actually took up interest in the democratic process and voted when they did come of age. That's just a comment or recommendation.

Moving on, I would like to follow up on a few of my other colleagues' questions. Ms. Nakashuk brought up the topic of getting increasing female representation in the Legislative Assembly. I think this is crucial. Gender parity is crucial to democratic societies. I believe Mr. Fredlund had mentioned that there were some discussions that had occurred. I'm just curious: what exactly was discussed and how and when do you plan to reach out to those disenfranchised demographics? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. As we have seen since the Act was changed to the declaration period, used to be nominations, we have seen an upwards trend with the declarations when we removed the requirement for people to go out and get 15 signatures in support. Since that time what we have seen is an increase in youth and women candidates. I think there are certain things that we have done legislatively, perhaps not on purpose, but that has incurred an increase in participation from the traditionally disenfranchised groups.

Within my office we have always discussed the role of the disenfranchised groups within the election body and the fact that it's in our report shows that it's something that my office and myself personally feel is important. There have been initiatives that we have not been involved in that we would have liked to have been involved in, but my office also has a very independent role where we can't be necessarily involved in activities that would create a perceived partisan bias, regardless of demographics.

We continue to do the youth outreach because that's an area that we believe is within our mandate. I think there's a fine line between civic education and targeting specific genders, for example, regardless of how strongly we feel that it's an important role. As I mentioned to the previous member, our office has done no specific initiatives for women in politics. It would be something I would be interested in discussing because I am not a subject matter expert, but I do believe that there are others within Nunavut who know

more about this, including those who have been elected. I appreciate it and I apologize if the answer is not necessarily super positive, but I think, moving forward, it is an area for improvement. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. I'm glad that these issues are being taken into consideration.

Other jurisdictions have placed emphasis on increasing female representation in politics and have gone as far as creating campaign schools to assist those disenfranchised groups. Is this something that Elections Nunavut could consider? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time I'm not very familiar or at all familiar with what you're referring to. I think it sounds amazing. Anything with "school" attached to it has got to be good. This is something that my office, we wish we could do more in the civic education realm of things. We don't have a position specific for it. I think it's an aspect that is very important. Hearing from you, I believe it's something that we're definitely going to look at improving. We can only improve from here when it comes to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. Moving on to another topic that was previously discussed was the election date, and I believe the way that the legislation is written is that the election date is set for the last Thursday in October. I can attest that campaigning so late in October is not fun and I would highly encourage Elections Nunavut to consider shifting that date to a bit earlier, such as the first Thursday in the month of October. Is that something that can be considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. You may recall this last election we held, the municipal election at the end of October, we struggled through snow storms and power outages. However, at the beginning of October we also had snow storms and power outages. I think various communities have different seasons that are most important to them. I think Iqaluit may be cold and windy at the end of October. Once again, this is something that was enacted by the Legislative Assembly at the time and I don't make decisions on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to the next topic that was previously discussed is Manitoba's criminal record disclosure requirement for candidates. I would like to ask Mr. Fredlund if he is familiar with the purpose and intent of that piece of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's question. I am familiar with the intent of the piece of legislation. I am not familiar with the purpose of it. The intent of it was to ensure that every potential candidate disclosed any criminal records they had under the *Criminal Code of Canada*, the *Substance Act*, and the *Income Tax Act*. That's the extent of my knowledge in regard to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Shortly after Manitoba passed that legislation, there was an election, I think, within a few months after that legislation was enacted. I would like to ask if Mr. Fredlund had followed that election and whether or not he had identified any successes or challenges that Elections Manitoba had faced. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the follow-up question. Fortunately I have a good working relationship with Elections Manitoba. Administratively, I believe that they had no issues with doing it administratively. As mentioned prior, it's a self-declaration, so it's not a criminal records check. It's just a self-declaration, so administratively, no problems. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan of Elections Nunavut there's reference to the annual conference of Canadian chief electoral officers. My next question is, at these annual conferences, if the topic of mandatory criminal record disclosures for candidates has ever come up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question about the CCEO conference and discussions had therein. Inasmuch as I can recall, it was only brought up in response to Manitoba enacting their legislation and not prior. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Continuing on the topic of Manitoba's criminal record disclosure legislation, in one of the articles that was published around that

time, there was a quote in there that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba "...agrees that openness and transparency strengthens the democratic process... and...The voters in Manitoba should be aware of the history all candidates so they can make the best decisions possible."

I would like to ask the Chief Electoral Officer if he agrees with these statements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately I didn't catch the entire thing to agree to or not agree, but I will say that my personal opinion is irrelevant in this situation. I am an independent office of the Legislative Assembly. I execute your will and so this is something that I would ask to accept that I will not be able to give a personal opinion on, and that moving forward, I can definitely provide administrative challenges and issues that we might overcome to that extent. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response. I would like to move onto the next topic that was previously discussed, and it is the hamlet debt eligibility, or ineligibility criteria.

I would like to ask: how many times have candidates at the municipal level been in violation of this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the questions on municipal elections. Our office doesn't track that. After a candidate is elected, appointed or acclaimed, the essentially whatever happens next is within the *Hamlets Act* or the *Cities, Villages Act*, which falls under the jurisdiction of a different department.

During the election period we have an indebtedness form that municipal candidates would sign indicating that they were not in debt to the municipal corporation, which had to be verified and signed off by the finance director of the hamlet. So there were no candidates in this general election that were elected during the municipal elections that were in violation of the *Elections Act*. After the election, I cannot speak to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move onto my next question. The second half of the annual report provides the financial information of candidates' campaigns, and I noticed that there are a number of campaigns that had a deficit. So I

would like to ask: how exactly would a campaign be in a deficit position? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. A deficit would be when a campaign had more expenses than they had income. The Act provides for a certain amount of time, I believe it is a couple of weeks or a few weeks after the election day for finances to be straightened out when it comes to deficit. It would be if you spent \$100 on posters, but you only had \$80 in the bank, so when it came to election day for the audit to occur, it means that your campaign is in a deficit. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 55 of the report is the financial information for the campaigns for Iqaluit-Manirajak. On here it shows that my contributions were equal to my expenses. I was wondering how that came about because I did not receive that much in contributions; I received very little contributions. I'm kind of curious how come mine does not show a deficit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the member. I don't have specific details on every candidate's campaign finances throughout the election, but I will say that contributions also include in-kind contributions. It doesn't necessarily mean cash.

I'll also point out that these are unaudited financial returns. Basically what you sent my office, we pulled numbers and put them in here as best as our office could decipher, some returns were clearer than others, and then we gave it to our auditor, who then sifted through and made sure that all the numbers added up and matched, so hence the unaudited financial return title.

The audited financial returns where our arm's-length auditor looked at your work without influence from us and provided us and you the feedback can be found online under a heading on our website. If you would like to actually see what the auditor saw out of your campaign financial return, I encourage you to go and look in there. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to the next topic on page 6, the annual report indicates that Elections Nunavut worked with the Department of Health's Vital Statistics to help correct the voter list. I'm glad to see that because there were a lot of names on my constituency's voter's list that were inaccurate. I would like to ask: in that collaborative effort with Vital Statistics, how many individuals on the voter's list did they identify for removal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. To be able to remove voters on a voter's list, we have to have essentially solid proof that they're either deceased or have left the territory. When it comes to the deceased, we rely heavily on our election officers within the communities to know because, for the most part, we know who has passed away. In transient communities like Iqaluit, recording where someone lives every four years is insufficient. People move around within the community, people move around within the territory, and people move down south.

Our improved relationship with Vital Statistics has enabled us to target specific communities, Iqaluit being one of them, where we believe there's a high transient population and a high population on a voter's list that needs to be removed and we work with them closely on this. Roughly, I believe it was about 23 percent of the voter's list in Iqaluit was purged in this last year based on information of mostly people having moved south or outside of the community. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Lightstone, your time has run out. Next name on the list: Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Can you hear me? (interpretation ends) Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome Mr. Fredlund. It's my first time seeing you and your legal counsel.

You mentioned earlier that you would make a list of who has and who hasn't voted. Isn't that practised already? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question to the member. Yes, this is already practised. Each day during the advanced vote, the returning officers provide us a list of all the people that have voted, and at the end of the advanced votes, we provide that information to the candidates.

On election day, candidates can have themselves or representative sit during the voting with a voter list and cross names of people as they come in. So it is already practised.

What we are suggesting would make it a cleaner and an easier means for candidates to see who has voted and who has not voted, and it also provides an opportunity for candidates to not have to physically be there, which we know at this time it is not necessarily the safest. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you for the answer. My next question is: as we know, we are going in for general election next year and you will be hiring returning officers in

each community, or each riding. How many months prior to polling date do you hire these individuals? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. We start securing hiring our returning officers in the end of November, the beginning of December to start identifying them. We do not start paying until the election time though. So we have them sign contracts that they are willing to work for us the following year. We begin training them in summer, and July and August is when we actually physically start bringing them in and paying them and training them. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you for the answer. Now I note that you work closely with Civics Canada in terms of promoting their rights to vote. Now my question is... I know you target the youth and my question is the legal voting age is, I believe 19 or 18 for voting for our legislature; I think it is 19. Do you target those groups at high schools, etcetera? (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question to the member. Yes, Civics targets the high school students with a civic education, but as I earlier discussed, I am interested in enacting or creating a provisional list in the future where we can register 16 and 17 year olds and put them on the voters list. They won't be allowed to vote, but they will still be on the list so when they turn 18, I can send them a letter saying "You're ready to vote." So there are many ways that our office is looking at to try and catch the younger, and the middle and the older youth. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation):** Thank you. (interpretation ends) That is a really good plan. Now, we know we are going into an election next year and the voter turnout has been going down steadily over the years. I think it would do well for Elections Nunavut and us as a legislature and concerned citizens about democracy, that we should start promoting that next October will be a very important year for Nunavut. I think we can work together in terms of promoting candidates to get ready for the incoming candidates for each particular riding. I think that is just a suggestion.

Now, my question may be comical, but I read on page 4, I believe it is... On page 2, item 4, "Serving Liquor on Election Day" which was assented on November 5, 2015. Have there been problems associated with candidates, A) giving alcohol so it can be... the candidate be... ? Why is this in there? (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Fredlund.



**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Prior to 2015 it was illegal to sell alcohol on election day. That rule was removed. So now bars and restaurants can serve alcohol on election day. As of 2015, our office not been notified of any instances where alcohol has been used wrongly on election day. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Next name on my list: Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just want to follow up on the online voting portal. I do realize it was brought up earlier. Just for clarification; so there will be a portal or a system in place in time for the next general election scheduled for about a year from now? Or what will be in place in terms of online capabilities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. So yes, not online voting, but there'll be online registration, and then there will be a portal for candidates to be able to watch the election in their constituency in real time. This database will also allow our election officers to run electronic poll books. That's where they put a check mark beside your name instead of crossing your name off which also allows our office to watch the voting happening in your constituencies.

Another significant improvement towards our system with this new online database is the fact that now we will have the ability to track voters and the demographics of whose voting. So right now we can't. If you ask me how many 23 year olds voted in last year's election, I couldn't tell you, but after next year's general elections, I will be able to tell you like the demographics in age groups of people who are voting. So I think it's a real improvement and I believe we're exactly where we're supposed to be in the evolution of digital technology in elections. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was looking at the NWT's recent election and I think they were the first in the country to offer online voting capability and I think something like 425 people took advantage of that. So the way I understand it, it was used as a like a special ballot, you would have to apply to get online voting capability. So it wasn't meant to replace in-person voting, but it's something that is being done in our neighbouring territory and I wonder why this isn't something that's going to be in place for 2021. Was the online voting capability looked at? Is it on the radar? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question to the member. I think online voting has been on the radar of election management bodies since someone plugged in the first computer. I think it is something that has been studied and researched.

You are correct in saying that the Northwest Territories is the only federal, provincial or territorial jurisdiction to use electronic voting. The reports commissioned by other provinces who have also looked into this have indicated that currently the security risk is too great at this time.

As I have mentioned, we are just moving into the abilities of electronic poll books and another aspect using technology, and I believe at this time we are not in a position to be using online voting.

I'm concerned with the security aspects. You ask yourself, "I can do online banking and provide other sensitive information online, right?" We also recognize, and I'm sure you will acknowledge that it is not necessarily 100 percent secure. We have all been touched or know someone who has been touched by online fraud, so this is an aspect that I personally am not prepared to move forward until some of these unknowns in the security realm of online voting is proven. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. I'll move on.

I would like to ask about individuals who are working at the mining operations in our territory. There won't be online voting in 2021, and I know that you have recommended that proxy votes be done away with. I wonder if Mr. Fredlund could compare between the 2017 and what is anticipated to happen in the 2021 election. Will there be any difference in how someone who is on a two-week in, two-week out rotational shift will be able to vote on election day? Will there be any difference and what are they anticipated to be? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question, Mr. Main. Yes, I think that as I've alluded to earlier, we may have to measures in specific instances to ensure that we respond to any aspects that would limit us in voting because of the pandemic, including expanding the days that we allow the advance vote. I also will be encouraging our territory to take advantage of the early voting, and also the special ballot; the mail-in vote.

Currently we target those who are down south or at the mine, but we don't necessarily target everyone else. We may be looking to expand our initiatives to encourage all of Nunavut to take advantage of the mail-in ballot; stay at home, vote, vote safe.

For the mines, this is an aspect that we saw during the municipal election, especially in Arviat and Baker Lake where you have many of your community members working in the mines. We don't undertake mobile polls to the mines because mobile polls are restricted to who are housebound, but what we did do in Arviat for example, is we had a

special poll at the airport when the miners were coming back or going out, to ensure we captured their votes.

The flexibility of my office will be able to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to vote if they make the effort. If somebody at the mine says “I can’t vote. I decided not ask for a mail-in one because I just didn’t want to.” That person might have difficulties voting because they had an opportunity. So everyone will have an opportunity to vote, if not on paper, then we will do it by phone. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. I think it is important, especially if we hope to see more and more Nunavummiut going into that industry, that we can meet them halfway, but I do appreciate that they have to put in the effort as well.

Jumping over to the NWT again, I noticed that in the most recent election, they had what were called youth ambassadors. From what I understand, these are younger people who are employed in an outreach role to encourage their peers to go and vote. I could see it as an expansion of what you have already done in 2017, which was hiring youth to work as poll clerks and to be honest, the youth ambassador work sounds a lot more out and about and maybe exciting from a youth perspective. Is this something that is being considered for the next general election? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. I think my counterpart in the NWT would be tickled pink that we’re looking to her and her initiatives for the youth outreach. Absolutely, I think her youth ambassador initiatives with Elections NWT were solid. I think they’re doing some great stuff over in the NWT and all across the country that we definitely look up to and the type of resources that they have are different than ours. In short, yes, I think the youth ambassador program is a great program and I will be working with Elections NWT on seeing how we can use that over here. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I’m happy to hear that you will be looking into that. It seems quite promising, especially when we have such low turnout among young people.

On page 11 of the report it mentions the Nunavut Votes social media presence. In 2017 and in the recent by-elections, I think this is great that you are able to directly provide information to the public. I know that when my colleagues, Mr. Simailak and Mr. Pedersen, were acclaimed, as soon as Elections Nunavut posted that on their social

media, I knew about that before any of the news outlets had headlines up and so I think that's a great initiative in terms of social media. I just wanted to comment on that.

Just one last area, two questions, the first is the concept of making voting mandatory. Has this come up at any of your meetings with your colleagues across the country and is there any way that we can examine how to make voting mandatory for Nunavut residents? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. In short, no, I think, in Canada there are no discussions on having mandatory voting. There are some countries that do, I believe Australia being one of them, where there are fines provided to voters who don't vote, but that's the extent of my knowledge in that aspect. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It sounds like mandatory voting is not really an area of interest or not very promising in terms of Canada and Nunavut. I'll just leave that alone for now.

I just had one last question about the finances. It is right at the back of this report and Appendix G on page 106, and this is the 2017 elections. I'm looking at the amount for service contracts. It was budgeted at \$782,000 and then it came in at \$1.04 million for service contracts. I'm just interested in what accounts for that discrepancy on service contracts. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. As mentioned earlier, previously we had hired poll clerks and poll staff; the 170 or 180 of them under casual staffing actions, so that would have put them under the casual wage aspect. This time around, we found that when we hire someone for one day of work, very important work, where we cannot have people not showing up, we need to pay them in a manner that is expedient. We cannot say "You are going to get paid six weeks from now." People would not show up. So we attempted to put them under service contracts as a contract employee, and so hence, the increase in the service contract line. It was planned for, it just happened to go in a different line.

Now, this does not account for the entire discrepancy, because there was an increase in real estate. In the communities, it is getting more and more expensive to rent buildings and rent community halls, and so if you think about through all of Nunavut, we rent buildings in most of the communities for two months and under short term contracts it gets very expensive. So there were some unplanned areas that we did not foresee as increasing as much as they did, but as you can tell, we were under budget because we

were able to make greater efforts in savings and ensuring that the efficiency of our office was greater. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) and thank you for the explanation. I note on page 103 that you are proposing to simplify the ways that these temporary staff are compensated, so I think that is good to see.

My last question, Mr. Chairman, and this is my real last question, is on the issue of direct democracy and conducting referendums. This is something that is done in other jurisdictions when you have issues that are of concern to the entire population. I will use for example, uranium mining. That is something that in certain jurisdictions is prohibited by the provincial or governments, and it certainly is a hot topic, and I am not meaning to make a pun there, Mr. Chairman, but using that example; if you had an issue that was controversial, does Nunavut elections have a procedure whereby you would be able to run or organize a referendum on a specific issue? Thinking back to the division of Northwest Territories; that might be the most recent one, which was many, many years ago, so how would that process work, and do you have the mechanics in place to run a vote like that on a specific issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. To Mr. Main's real last question, Mr. Fredlund.

>>Laughter

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for this question. In Nunavut, the *Plebiscite Act* is under jurisdiction of my office which encompasses exactly what you are asking. A plebiscite authority would approach us, and a plebiscite authority could be anyone from a municipal council to a minister, approach my office and say "I would like a question presented to this community, this question, or to all of Nunavut." The *Plebiscite Act* is exactly what you are looking for.

The last one we ran was the sale of municipal lands in 2016 where we asked every community whether or not they would like to have the opportunity to sell land in the municipality. It is one that is not exercised often. Plebiscites are expensive and not to be confused with the liquor plebiscites that we conduct, that are conducted under the *Liquor Act*, which is not under the *Plebiscites Act*. I hope that answers your question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was only recently given the Inuktitut version of this report, and I myself cannot read the English version. I can read English, but not to the extent of a full report. So, I have not had the opportunity to thoroughly read the report in its entirety.

First, I would like to ask you; as we all agree, holding an election is a very important event. When an individual submits their name for candidacy during an election and you end up with a list of names; what is the course of action that occurs if they accidentally give you their proper legal name incorrectly? Is that investigated? Maybe if I could ask that first, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the member. There are two different areas we can look at. One is the declaration where a candidate would write their name on the declaration, and then there is one for the ballot. That is the one we actually see on the ballot where we checkmark or put an 'X' beside.

Our laws allow a candidate to use any name they want; a nickname, an Inuktitut name, an English name. They can use any name they want on the ballot. Our office does not investigate their names. We do not say "Did you spell your name right? Is your name right in Inuktitut; is your name right in English?" We trust the candidate knows how to write their name. It is their responsibility to write their name. So no, we do not investigate their name. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What if it is discovered that a candidate has used a name that is not their proper name to try and enter an election; are there any repercussions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is allowed. They don't have to use their legal name. Obviously there is common sense. It has to be a commonly used name. So, someone named Matthew could be called Matt, or something like that. It's not their legal name, but it is still allowed. The common sense part would be: I would probably step in if someone were to use foul language, or crude names. Even if it was their nickname, if they have a name that is not polite, then I would probably step in, but other than that it is up to the candidate to use what name they want to use. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it is probably not applicable here. As an example, let's say that a person submits a name that isn't theirs for the opening of the candidacy in the election; one that belongs to someone else who has no intention of running. If I, as an individual find out that my name is on the ballot, what actions am I able to take? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, if your name is on the ballot, I hope you win, but when a candidate signs the declaration, they say that “This is my name.” If they sign the declaration and they’re lying, then my office would step in and the RCMP would be informed. That has never happened. In five general elections, no one has ever lied about their name on a ballot and we don’t believe people are going to lie about their name. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within this report, at least in the Inuktitut version which I just started reading now, and in reading the particulars, I noted the candidates for Arviat North-Whale Cove, as there were just two candidates, Pauloosie Keyootak and Aarluk Main with Pauloosie Keyootak losing the election.

And, if you continue on down to the Uqqummiut list, Pauloosie Keyootak won, and it seems to insinuate “finally won”. The election is something we are supposed to play around with, but was my actual name used or was there just a common surname spelling or mistaken spelling of an actual candidate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. I’m not exactly sure where member is asking whether there are typos. Pauloosie Keyootak was a candidate in Uqqummiut and Uqqummiut consists of Kangiqtugaapik and Qikiqtarjuaq. There were two different communities with two different votes and people in Qikiqtarjuaq voted for Pauloosie Keyootak and people in Kangiqtugaapik voted for Pauloosie Keyootak, so it was one person. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That may be clearly delineated in the English version, nonetheless, we still have many unilingual Inuit who can read syllabics but illiterate in English, and the report states the candidate names for Arviat North riding. They were Pauloosie Keyootak and Aarluk Main and my name seems to be used in that report. I have never run in that riding of Arviat North; however, I have run in the Uqqummiut riding many times. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to the member if he found an error with his name in the wrong constituency. I can assure you he was not elected in Arviat North and only in Uqqummiut, so he doesn’t get both salaries. I will make sure to fix that in the Inuktitut report. I apologize.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are you done? (interpretation ends) Thank you. Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I only have three questions. The first question relates to older pieces of legislation dealing with electoral practices such as the old rule of no electioneering the day before an election, and no campaigning or delivery of campaign materials on the day of the election based on the past laws.

Now, within the new details listing the new law, I noted a change but I can't recall it now since I forgot to highlight it, and I can't find it offhand, although I was hurriedly perusing the documentation. It seems clear that it is allowable now, and if I am not mistaken, this can occur the day prior to the election day, and also you can now campaign on election day and still air our promises on that day? Am I correct in that interpretation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you are correct. The member is correct. Since he was elected in a by-election, I guess he missed out on all of the discussions. Yes, on page 2 it talks about the blackout period, which it used to be that you could not campaign on the day before or the day of election. That has been removed, so you can campaign as long as you want. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This matter may have been previously debated in this House, or perhaps you in your role as chief has received calls related to it. As candidates in an election, some candidates will offer to drive voters to the polling stations to ensure they vote and they air this service publicly as part of their campaign. So is that also acceptable as candidates to promise to drive voters to the polling station?

Some candidates are then disadvantaged if they don't have a vehicle to also drive other voters and I use that example to ask if this sort of practice is acceptable? Is this type of advantage allowed in communities where candidates who can drive voters to polling stations, do so? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the really good question from the member. It comes up every election that I have been involved in, is candidates offering rides to the polls. It's allowed as long as they do not attempt to influence the voters. For example, you can't say, "I will give you a ride if you vote for me." That's not allowed, but if you say, "I'll give you a ride to the polls because I'm a nice guy or lady", then it's allowed. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Qamaniq.



**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my last comment. Now, in looking at local municipalities, even though hamlets are not identified, they were the subject of some questions regarding local hamlet elections.

Since we now hear about this issue related to the loss of Inuktitut syllabics and the use of Roman orthography, as I am unsure of their actual name, but Inuktitut syllabics, and Roman orthography being more common online, and we have heard in the past questions about whether we should remove that via a plebiscite to either use one writing system. So would that question be eligible for a municipal vote?

If a community wanted local preference, could they ask that question in a local plebiscite? Mr. Chairman, I hope I was clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question, to the member. Yes, I think our office has looked into having both syllabics and roman orthography in Inuktitut. I think it's important. We are updating our websites and we will be including the roman orthography. We already have syllabics, but we will be including roman orthography and all of the material used in elections will be transliterated to roman orthography. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I wasn't too clear about what I was trying to ask. There has been some talk about whether to use Inuktitut syllabics or Roman orthography writing and so on. There has been some talk about whether or not to decide which writing system the people of Nunavut could be using. I guess my question would be whether or not this can be put into a plebiscite, or whatever you call that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question to the member. Those are the types of questions that we will run a plebiscite Nunavut-wide or community based, based on whatever questions are given to us by the plebiscite authority.

My office does not have any say in what the question is, but if it something that you would like to discuss, absolutely we can discuss it. We can also provide assistance, so I am not just telling you to go find out by yourself. You can come and talk to me directly and we can talk about something like this.

Keep in mind that plebiscites are very expensive; Nunavut-wide plebiscites. So it is not something that we can do lots. I wish we could, but Nunavut is a big territory and it is

very expensive to run things, so we have to keep that in mind. I hope that answers your question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. I have no more names on my list for questions. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just want to follow on Mr. Qamaniq's question and this is my last question; my real last question. How much does it cost to run a Nunavut-wide plebiscite? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. I do not have the exact numbers in front of me. I do know that based on the last plebiscite that we ran Nunavut-wide, it was in the realm of about a \$1 million for a Nunavut-wide one.

You can tell in our annual report, based on what it runs to run an election, it is very similar. We use the same type of rules and the same type of election staff. So if we are going to be asking questions, we need to be sure that we are prepared to pay for it. In saying that, there are other opportunities to run plebiscites, say concurrent with other types of type of elections.

When you work with my office, we can do more than one thing at a time. We are pretty special. I hope that answers your question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to begin by following up on a previous question regarding residency requirements in a 12-month period.

I just wanted to point out that there are two different standards. The general election, which has a residency requirement which is territory-wide, and then there are the by-elections where the residency requirements are limited to the specific constituency.

I have a few questions, and the first is: why do these different types of elections have different standards? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for the question. I would say that at this point, it is not my office's position on why it's in it. I know that it's in it and I can interpret it and enforce it, and you are correct in saying that there are different residency rules for elections and by-elections to that extent.

I'm just going to quickly glance at my legal counsel. I think I have answered it to the best of our abilities. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Siebert, you wanted to... ? Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two follow-up issues on that, has your office ever encountered any challenges with these two different requirements, and do any other jurisdictions have different residency requirements for the two different types of elections? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. Yes, we have been challenged in 2008. It's on our website. You can see the court decision on residency. There were a number of questions that were asked by the courts and were answered. Yes, other jurisdictions have varying residency rules. It's not consistent across the country. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. I'll move on to my next question. On page 27 it provides a table of the voter turnout by constituency and you have identified the average of 64 percent as well as the number of constituencies that fall below that average. My next question is: does Elections Nunavut have any initiatives to target these constituencies with low voter turnouts to try to encourage more participation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. Logically we should probably not be focusing on too much with Arviat North and Arviat South. They seem to have a voter population that really likes to get outside and vote, so I commend that.

For the constituencies in the lower end of the voter turnouts, once again I would strongly recommend that we don't put too much weight into the voter percentages. I would say that we could definitely look at the lower end of the communities by ensuring that our election officers in those communities are trained or have better training. More robust outreach initiatives, our office is small and we only have so many resources to focus in on and I would prefer to focus my resources for disenfranchised groups like youth and women versus targeting constituencies.

I think that's something that as partners, candidates, and Elections Nunavut, it's all our jobs. I would suggest those communities who see themselves in the lower end of voter turnouts to continue to engage their constituents and encourage them to come out and vote. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you. I'll make sure to keep that in mind.

Moving on to my next topic, southern Canadian politics can get very ugly, and I'm quite proud with the level of decorum and respect that we have in this House, but when it comes election time, southern jurisdictions are well known for the level of slander or smear campaigns or attack ads. In my campaign, it was fortunate that none of our candidates had participated in that type of campaigning, but I was just curious if your office has monitored that situation or if you have ever received any complaints on the issues of smear campaigns and attack ads. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. I am not aware of any intended campaign smear ads or attack ads. I think as alluded to earlier today, by a member who said there were some candidates who may have been treated badly online, but it wouldn't have been by other candidates necessarily, no. I also want to agree and to support your positiveness about Nunavut not being that way. We are not southern politics; we are above that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next questions are in relation to the recommendations on page 92. Recommendation no. 2, "Expand Emergency Voting...to...allow for voting by means of telecommunications device, i.e. radio, telephone, or internet." I think it is a great idea, but in the second paragraph it states that the new proposed category would capture individuals who for example, are not able to vote on election day because of last minute medical travel, but does not include those who are away at school.

I would like to ask why Nunavummiut who are away for school are not included under emergency voting because I think you would get much better voter turnout amongst those individuals if they were not limited to mail-in ballots. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The emergency voting procedure is targeting only those in an emergency. Students are not in an emergency even if they think they are.

We permit mail-in ballot, which is really the target that we use for students. We work with FANS and with the designated Inuit organizations who fund students to make sure they get the information. We don't know each and every one of them, but for the most part, all of our students are receiving some form of financial assistance, so we are getting the message to them that they can apply by mail.

To the extent where during the last general election, I actually went down to Nunavut Sivuniksavut to give a presentation, to register them to vote, to encourage our future leaders to see firsthand what it means to be involved in our democracy. I think we do a really good job with our students getting the message to them to vote. Getting them to vote is another question in itself. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question on this emergency voting is: what security measures would be in place to verify their identity? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's question. On identification and verification during the emergency voting procedures, if someone wants to apply through the emergency voting procedures, they have to apply for it with an application. The application includes identification, if they are not registered to vote. So they would have to send us, through scan or through photo, a digital form of their driver's licence or some other official document.

As a small territory we are able to identify... . Our returning officers are also going to know the people who are away for the most part; Iqaluit being an example where that may not be the case. When someone applies for it, they sign declaration saying "I am who I am, and this is the phone number I can be reached at." We trust that. We don't ask them for their passport to verify they are a Canadian citizen and we don't ask them for a birth certificate to verify that they are 18 years old. So there is a level of trust.

If that individual lies on their declaration and is not the person they say they are, then we would advise the RCMP and that individual could be charged. Thank you. I hope that answers your question.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to the next topic, the idea of directly electing the Premier has been raised on a number of occasions in this Assembly. From your office's perspective, what issues would be taken into consideration in respect to this idea? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I ask that the member rephrase the question in a way that provides more information on what he's looking for? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To rephrase the question, the topic of the population electing the Premier has been raised on numerous occasions. My question is: has the Elections Nunavut office considered this option and, if so, what options would be available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for rephrasing the question. Once again, I feel am fortunate to be as an independent officer in a position where I can enact the will of the Assembly and the members here. I think that my opinion and my office's opinion are irrelevant to any discussions that you want to have on the direct election of the Premier. That's the extent of how I can answer honestly.

I think, administratively, if you ask me administratively, I believe that my office could administer any type of election that you ask me and my office to do. We could administer it effectively, regardless of what it's for. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. I would like to return to a previous topic that has come up a few times today and that's criminal record disclosure.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, all of us here, hold a very integral role in Nunavut, which requires ethical responsibilities and certain other specific obligations under the *Integrity Act*. Another important aspect of duty of an MLA is of course creating and passing legislation. In order for us to do that effectively, we must maintain public confidence, which is why I believe that the Elections Nunavut Act has a clause in there for penalties up to removal of members who are convicted of an offence while in office.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to put forward a motion for the Committee of the Whole's consideration, if I may do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Go ahead, Mr. Lightstone.

**Committee Motion 011 – 5(2): Amendments to the Nunavut Elections Act  
Respecting the Disclosure of Convictions under the Criminal Code and Other  
Statutes**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I had stated, all of us here have a very important role and our jobs hold a certain level of integrity. I believe that it is important that MLAs are law-abiding citizens, and I do know that we are, but it's the issue of candidates with criminal records that I would like to bring up. It has come to my attention that our own Inuit organizations have eligibility requirements or criteria for candidates in their own elections, including criminal records.

I have done research and I have found that NTI, Qikiqtani Inuit Organization, and I believe Kivalliq Inuit Association have eligibility requirements which state that in order to be eligible, sorry, “No person who has ever been convicted of an indictable offence or whose imprisonment as a result of such convictions ends within the three years immediately before the voting day is eligible to be a candidate for election.” I think that our Inuit organizations had included that specific section for a reason.

Further, Manitoba in 2019 set a precedent in Canadian history which requires MLA candidates to publicly disclose criminal records. I think that when I first read about that in 2019, that really sparked my interest and that begun my exploratory efforts into similar requirements in Nunavut.

With that being said, I would like to move that this committee recommends that the Management and Services Board, in consultation with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer consider amendments to the *Nunavut Elections Act* that would provide for the disclosure of convictions under the Criminal Code and other statutes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Please provide your motion to the table. Thank you. We will take 10-minute break so that copies of the motion can be made and distributed to members.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:07 and resumed at 17:20*

**Chairman:** Thank you. Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order.

A copy of the motion has been given to all members and the motion is in order. Before we proceed with the debate on a motion I have a few comments to make as to procedures.

Every member has a right to speak once to the motion for a total of 20-minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first. The mover of the motion has a right to the last reply, which closes the debate.

To the motion. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to point out a few things on the matter. One, this motion will not automatically amend the *Elections Act*. It is only to recommend the Management and Services Board, in consultation with Mr. Fredlund’s office, to consider options. Two; the intent is not to prohibit anyone from running in general elections. The intent is just to give voters all the information that is necessary for them to make an informed decision.

Another item to add is that there are many options that can be considered. For example, criminal record disclosures can be limited to only serious violations such as sexual

assault, or fraud, or violent behaviour, child sexual abuse, for example and other considerations can be... . Timelines can be included as well.

If someone has a criminal record, it does not mean that they would automatically be disqualified. Options to consider would be: an offense that occurred within last year or the last five years, as an example.

I just think that voters have the right to have all the information necessary to make an informed decision. If someone has a criminal record and they are the right person for this job, their community will elect them. I think that having a criminal record disclosure would just increase the integrity and public confidence in this Assembly. That is all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. To the motion. Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Inuktitut, I am sure I will get the right information through you, Mr. Chairman and by the table officers, but in the Inuktitut it states that it recommends that the “Management and Services Board in consultation...” Is that the right Inuktitut we use for Management and Services Board? That is my question. Is that the proper translation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. I have been given a nod, yes. Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The voters in the communities are well aware of who has committed sexual assault or child molesters and other convictions or have committed murder. We know who the people are and for that, I’m not going to be supporting this motion.

We were told that as Canadians, we have the right to exercise our rights and that would be violated. From what I understand, my colleague has wanted to disclose names of child sexual abusers and the Department of Justice does not want to disclose such information. As Canadians, it will be violating our rights and for that, I will not be supporting the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. To the motion. Seeing none, does the mover any last reply? Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Member Qamaniq for his comments.

I encourage every member to vote as they please. I know that this has caught members off guard and I will not be requesting a recorded vote because I would like members to vote as they please and not have any consequences. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. The debate is now closed. We will now vote on the motion. To the motion. All in favour, raise your hands. All those opposed. All those abstaining. The motion is carried. Thank you. I have no more names on the list for questions. Mr. Fredlund, do you have any closing comments? Mr. Fredlund.

**Mr. Fredlund:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nothing official, but I do want to thank the House for allowing me to come and speak to the report from 2017.

In less than a year from now, I imagine I will be seeing some of you again as we move forward to the Sixth Nunavut Assembly. Once again I thank Mr. Speaker for the time. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Fredlund. My committee wishes to thank you for answering all their questions, yourself as well as Ms. Siebert. What is the wish of the committee? Go ahead.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon. No. 20. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 65 – 5(2) and would like to report that the review of Tabled Document 65 – 5(2) is concluded and that one committee motion was adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Akeagok. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

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

No. 21. Third Reading of Bills. There are none. No. 22. (interpretation ends) *Orders of the Day*.

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Management and Services Board meets tomorrow at nine o'clock in the Tuktu Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for October 21:

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

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. To the members who are travelling home tomorrow, please have safe travels and I wish you well. We will see you this fall.

This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 21, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:34*

