

NUNAVUT HANSARD

UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

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Beauchesne's 6th edition, citation 55

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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation*

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(Amittuq)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

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(Gjoa Haven)

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Government Services; Minister of
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(Hudson Bay)

*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the
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Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

John Main
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Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

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Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister
responsible for the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission*

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Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

Calvin Pedersen
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responsible for Immigration; Minister
responsible for the Status of Women*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, October 28, 2020**

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Paul Quassa)(interpretation): Good day. Before we begin, I will ask Mr. Simailak to say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak, for opening the proceedings. Nunavummiut, good day, as you will now be watching the proceedings of your Members of the Legislative Assembly. Welcome to those listening on the radio and watching the televised proceedings.

Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 494 – 5(2): Engagement with Nunavut Tunngavik
Incorporated**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on January 21, 2020 Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Nunavut renewed their relationship through the signing of the Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol, asserting our organizations' commitment to work together on our shared priorities.

Mr. Speaker, on February 17, 2020 the Government of Nunavut deputy heads and the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated directors met to discuss work on the protocol in areas around the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee, infrastructure, early childhood education, and housing.

Since the signing of the protocol, I have met with President Kotierk regularly about our work. Most recently, we met on October 16 and committed to focusing on addressing the

infrastructure gap in Nunavut and completing a pre-employment training strategy. I was also happy to be part of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's annual general meeting in Cambridge Bay on October 20 with a few of my cabinet colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, COVID-19 has provided an opportunity to maintain close cooperation between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. President Kotierk and I speak on the phone regularly to discuss developments and updates around the pandemic. Additionally, the Government of Nunavut and federal officials meet every two weeks with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the regional Inuit organizations to discuss the territory's continued COVID response.

The Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated share common priorities and face common challenges on many files. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day we want to help people and improve lives. It's critical we work together on Inuit identity and culture, foster better quality of life for Nunavut Inuit, and ensure Inuit participation in the design and development of government process.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain this ongoing cooperation will bring many opportunities for both our organizations to strengthen planning, amplify Inuit voices, and enhance the well-being of Nunavut Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 495 – 5(2): New Nunavut Public Art Initiative: Announcement of Recipients

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a handful of weeks ago on September 23, I rose to inform Nunavummiut of the Nunavut Public Art Initiative. This initiative is one of the adaptations to our existing economic development programming, made to better meet the needs of Nunavummiut during this pandemic.

Today I rise to announce and warmly congratulate the 11 recipients of this initiative:

- The Municipality of Cambridge Bay for "Scrap to Art"
- The Municipality of Pangnirtung for Jaco Ishulutaq's "monumental carving"
- Mathew Nuqingaq, Iqaluit, multimedia installation "Small Worlds Enlarged"
- Positive Space Nunavut, series of murals in Iqaluit
- Lois Suluk-Locke, Rankin Inlet/Arviat, mounted beadwork
- Team Ashoona, Kinngait, monument
- Lucy Qiyuaryuk, Arviat, wall hangings
- Netsilik Argnakvik Society, Taloyoak, packing doll collection
- (interpretation ends) Nunavut Municipal Training Organization, canvas art

- Kenojuak Cultural Centre, Kinngait, (interpretation) community art competition to replace the old “Welcome to Cape Dorset” sign
- Sean Guistini, archival films and historical songs in Baker Lake

I would like to thank all artists in our territory for bringing entertainment, inspiration, and joy to Nunavummiut in a time when we particularly need it. Your ongoing work embodies the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principle of *Pijitsirniq*, serving and providing for community. Thank you Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. Acting Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Joanasie.

Minister’s Statement 496 – 5(2): Piqqusilirivvik Students Sharing Their Learning

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker, members, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the diverse range of learning that is supported by Nunavut Arctic College through Piqqusilirivvik, the college’s cultural school in Clyde River.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, inspired largely by the Greenland Folk School, the facility was completed in December 2010 and program delivery began in 2011. Since that time, courses offered include survival skills, weather patterns, Inuit technology and sewing. Learning is largely facilitated by elders across Nunavut who are hired and respected for their knowledge on specific topics. Although this practice was put on hold due to COVID-19, the college looks forward to finding new solutions to support this learning again at Piqqusilirivvik.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this past August, Piqqusilirivvik students participated in a two-week camping trip in Clyde River and learned to hunt narwhal and prepare *maktaaq*. The *maktaaq* was distributed amongst Piqqusilirivvik students, Larga Baffin patients in Ottawa, the elders facility in Iqaluit, the women’s shelters in Iqaluit and Apex, and the Nunatta Campus in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, courses have also been delivered in the satellite locations of Igloolik and Baker Lake. In July a modular program focused on walrus hunting and *igunaq* preparation in Igloolik. In September a cabin building course started in Baker Lake. While this course is still ongoing, three cabins have been completed to date and will be used by the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Health, Mr. Hickes.

Minister's Statement 497 – 5(2): Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Ambulatory Care Clinic

Hon. George Hickett: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As part of the Department of Health's commitment to providing timely and accessible care throughout the territory, I am very pleased to share with you that the Kivalliq region has gained access to a plastic and reconstructive surgery ambulatory care clinic, or PRS clinic, on a continual basis.

Mr. Speaker and members, the implementation of the PRS clinic was achieved in partnership with the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto. The Plastic Surgery Division at Sunnybrook worked diligently with our Chief of Staff, Dr. Francois de Wet, and the staff at the Kivalliq Health Centre to expand our surgery services in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, conditions that fall within the scope of plastic and reconstructive surgery can be provided under local anaesthetic with minimal instrumentation and minimal risk, bringing high-quality surgical care closer to home. The PRS clinic offers nationally and internationally recognized expertise in the treatment of numerous conditions, such as chronic conditions of the hand, including carpal tunnel syndrome and osteoarthritis, congenital skin abnormalities such as tumours and cysts, and can aid in the treatment of injuries from burns, traffic accidents, and workplace injuries.

Mr. Speaker, in November 2019 the first PRS clinic was held in Rankin Inlet and spanned three days. In that time the surgical team, with the help of members from the Kivalliq Health Centre, successfully provided care to 60 patients. Mr. Speaker, wait times for these patients had ranged from months to years. This year the surgical team ran their clinic from October 13 to October 23 and are already in the process of triaging close to 111 consult requests.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health is committed to deliver and expand health care services to Nunavummiut. The integration of plastic and reconstructive surgery clinic in the Kivalliq region is a positive development and serves as an example of innovation that strengthens access to care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, followed by the Member for Uqqummiut. Member Lightstone.

Item 3: Members' Statements**Member's Statement 737 – 5(2): Welcome to Iqaluit, Anaana**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not too long ago, over the lunch hour, I had the honour of picking my *anaana* up at the airport.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first time in the three years that we have been in this term that my mother has been in town while we have been in session. Unfortunately due to the pandemic, she is unable to be here to witness our proceedings today, but hopefully the stars will align and one day she will be able to join us in this Assembly.

With that being said, I just want to say, (interpretation) mother, thank you. I love you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, followed by the Member for Kugluktuk. Member Keyootak.

Member's Statement 738 – 5(2): Problems with Tammaativvik Boarding Home

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people who are following the proceedings in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, as well as my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about this matter that causes concerns amongst many patients and which members usually voice concerns at almost every sitting. It is about the Tammaativvik Boarding Home in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, ever since I arrived in Iqaluit, I have received calls almost continuously from concerned patients staying at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home, practically every night. These concerns are usually voiced here in the House by members, yet no corrective actions are ever taken.

Further, Mr. Speaker, we have been informed via an announcement that the group presently contracted to oversee Tammaativvik had their contract renewed for another five years, and this is what we are now aware of today.

Mr. Speaker, this is very worrisome and disconcerting to hear. As MLAs, many of us have continuously voiced these concerns, and it is becoming critically disconcerting to just see complaints ignored and problems relayed to the minister are never reported as to the status.

On another matter, Mr. Speaker, several precious elders have called me to urge the staff to provide more services to the elders who are boarding at the home. Several elders called to say that they had requested a ride to a store or to go visit a local relative and when an individual has been shopping, they call to the boarding home for a pickup, but they are told “You can walk” by staff at the home.

This is contrary to our cultural practices and rankles many of us who hear about that treatment of our elders whom we represent. When service staff treat our elders in that manner, it is personally hurtful to me.

I want to speak to this issue further, so I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking for unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you, my fellow MLAs.

Mr. Speaker, this seems particularly painful to my person, at least based on what I heard from the elderly patients calling me. They are not playing around, as they are overwhelmed and stressed.

I was just recently sent a photograph by medical patients staying at Tammaativvik, wanted to get driven to the hotel that accepts medical patients, and that hotel is used when the boarding home is full and they get sent to that hotel when they get overcrowded.

This hotel is used almost as much as the boarding home, as it is the hotel that accepts medical patients, and the bar and beer store are across the street. I was shown a picture by patients at the boarding home who wanted to get a ride to the hotel and were denied and told they could walk down.

The manager had to be taken to the bar first. This is unacceptable treatment of our patients. I was shown a picture of that. The manager at the boarding home was taken to the bar and the medical patients were told to walk down.

At the appropriate time I will have questions for the Minister of Health regarding this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, followed by the Member for Aivilik. Member Pedersen.

Member's Statement 739 – 5(2): Recognizing Agnes Panioyak

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize my constituent, Agnes Panioyak, who was recently awarded the President's Award from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated during their annual general meeting in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, Agnes is a well-known seamstress in the region. She can often be found teaching traditional Inuit methods of sewing, which includes making patterns, preparing materials, and using different tools.

Mr. Speaker, Agnes is especially skilled at making *puhitaq*, the sunburst shaped fur trim that goes on a parka hood. The *puhitaq* is distinctive to the western Arctic and requires much care and attention to make.

Last year Agnes ran a four-day workshop with Clara Evalik that was funded by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. There were a number of participants and the results were very impressive.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of Agnes's expertise and her willingness to share her knowledge of Inuinnaq culture so that it can carry on down through the generations.

At the appropriate time I will be tabling a picture of Agnes Panioyak in her wonderful sunburst parka. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are very proud of people who receive awards in recognition of helping others. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, followed by the Member for Quttiktuq. Member Netser.

Member's Statement 740 – 5(2): Moving Forward

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the importance of moving forward with our fellow Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, as you and my colleagues will understand and appreciate, the past few weeks have not been easy for my children and my wife, and we went through some hardships. Although this is not quite over, we will move past it by moving forward for the benefit of Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to sincerely express my gratitude to the many people from across the territory and around the nation who have reached out to us during this difficult time. Mr. Speaker, their support was very much appreciated and we will not forget them.

Mr. Speaker, I have been in public life for more than a few years, and I have learned that it is very important to focus on the future.

I want to assure my constituents in Coral Harbour and Naujaat that although my role in the Legislative Assembly may have changed, my commitment to their well-being has not.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, to the residents of Coral Harbour and Naujaat in my constituency, the usual communication methods will not change. I will still voice your concerns as my constituents, and I want to work hard for your benefit, and I will not shutter my voice, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we all have a job to do in this House. Although we may not always agree with every single issue that faces us, we have to commit to respecting each other's interests.

As the MLA for Aivilik, I intend to make every day of the next year count, and I look forward to working with new colleagues on both sides of this House on behalf of our territory's residents. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 741 – 5(2): Arctic Bay Purchases Existing Hotel

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was in Arctic Bay on October 20, where I went to listen in, and which made me feel proud as the Taqqut Co-op held an AGM to discuss their purchase of the local hotel.

This hotel has been operating for many years, and the Co-op, in partnership with ACL, were able to negotiate for and purchase the local hotel, and I am happy for their purchase and I want to acknowledge the previous owners of the hotel, Moses and Zipporah Oyukuluk, who diligently worked on providing services over 15 years in operating the two hotels. They are getting elderly, which they noted and decided to sell their hotel to the local Co-op and it came at an opportune time for the local Co-op as ownership will remain in the community.

I am proud of Moses and Zipporah, as well as the Taqqut Co-op board of directors, as well as all the members of the Co-operative. I wanted to voice my pride in their accomplishment, which is why I wanted to make my member's statement regarding this change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I have stayed at that hotel myself. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. No. 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. No. 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) No. 6. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. (interpretation) Member for Baker Lake followed by the Member of Iqaluit-Niaqunngu. Member Simailak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 1038 – 5(2): Nunavut Development Corporation

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation.

As the minister is aware, one of the corporation's subsidiaries is the Jessie Oonark Centre, which is located in the community of Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues from Tununig and Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu have noted during our current sitting, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on our arts and tourism sectors.

As the minister will recall, he tabled the most recent annual report of the Nunavut Development Corporation in the Legislative Assembly at the sitting of October 25, 2019, over a year ago and before the pandemic began. The annual report indicated that "The Jessie Oonark Centre maintains a productive working relationship with Agnico Eagle Mines, who frequently have them up to the Meadowbank Mine to set up shop and sell their Nunavut-produced goods on site. Along with providing local income and employment opportunities, this company help brings an element of local diversification."

Can the minister confirm if this practice has been suspended due to public health concerns resulting for the COVID-19 pandemic, and can he indicated how the Nunavut Development Corporation is working with the mining companies to safely restart the practice in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Mr. Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I want to confirm that it has been impacted as of COVID-19. This is one of the very difficult situations that we're facing right now. When it comes to opening up the mines, all the mines, including Agnico, have been shut down to the communities.

There has been work attempted in terms of seeing how we can integrate Nunavummiut back along with the services that were available, which would include the Jessie Oonark Centre. There is a working group amongst each of the mines. For Agnico, that would be with Dr. Peterson and his team and our department and the Kivalliq Inuit Association in trying to figure out how to integrate Nunavummiut back and also how to get Nunavut services back into the mine. That work is ongoing right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Hopefully we can open up soon some way of selling our goods up at the mining companies, not just Agnico but Baffinland as well and TMAC.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to pay tribute to the community's artists and other residents who are associated with the Jessie Oonark Centre. Can he indicate what actions the Nunavut Development Corporation is taking to help support its subsidiaries and artists who are suffering economic loss as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to applaud the Jessie Oonark Centre as one of the challenges that we had with everything shutting down is what to do, and when the Nunavut Development Corporation came up with an idea of making reusable masks, that centre was one of the subsidiaries that stepped up and is still stepping up in terms of making those masks. That's one of the great initiatives that have taken place to date.

Also, our department is promoting and I stood here last week promoting the ShopNunavut campaign, and I would encourage every Nunavummiuq and across the country and international if they could order online for these beautiful products that our centre has to offer. Those are the number of initiatives that our department and our government have taken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. As the minister is aware, five of the Nunavut Development Corporation's seven subsidiaries are located in Kivalliq communities. These include the Jessie Oonark Centre, Kivalliq Arctic Foods, Papiyuq Fisheries, Ivalu Ltd., and Kiluk Ltd. However, it appears that there is currently little to no representation from the Kivalliq on the Nunavut Development Corporation's board of directors, despite the fact that most of the corporation's subsidiaries are located in the Kivalliq. Can the minister confirm how many members of the board of directors are from the Kivalliq and will he commit to addressing this issue in the next round of appointments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no representation coming from the Kivalliq, but all the board members are from the territory. Definitely we do expression of interest calls whenever our board members vacate, and definitely we encourage every Nunavummiuq to apply and to get appointed into any of our boards. We will remain committed in keeping our board appointments open and available to the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, followed by the Member for Netsilik. Member Angnakak.

Question 1039 – 5(2): Senior Appointments

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, I ran out of supplementary questions the other day, so I would like to revisit the issue of senior appointments. Mr. Speaker, as the House is aware, Commissioner Nellie Kusugak's term expired earlier this year and I join my colleagues in wishing her well in her retirement. If she is viewing our sitting today, I would say "Hi, Nellie." I also send my best wishes to our Deputy Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, the position of Commissioner has been vacant for a couple of months now; actually for a number of months, not a couple. It has been about five months, I believe. I'm wondering if the Premier can update us today on what discussions he has had with the Prime Minister concerning the appointment of our next Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, do wish former Commissioner Nellie Kusugak a happy retirement. Mr. Speaker, I can assure the member that I've had communications with the Prime Minister and names have been put forward for recommendation to the Prime Minister to appoint as the Commissioner as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to revisit my questions about senior appointments within our public service. If the Premier remembers, I noted the high number of assistant deputy minister positions that are currently vacant or are filled on an acting basis.

As the Premier is aware, a previous Legislative Assembly passed the new *Public Service Act* and ADM positions are no longer appointed directly by the Premier in the same way that deputy ministers are.

Can the Premier confirm whether or not a competitive process will be used to fill the vacant and acting ADM positions, and can he clarify if the government is considering making amendments to the *Public Service Act* in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the member that a competitive process will be and is done normally for the ADM positions. Currently right now we don't have, to the best of my knowledge, any plans to change the *Public Service Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, it's good to know that a competitive process will be used for the vacant positions and acting positions, for record. Also for the

record, can the Premier confirm how many of our current ADM ministers were directly appointed to their positions by cabinet that are in their positions currently or in the past? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the exact number on hand. There are some but very few who have been direct appointed into the ADM positions. At times when we have a suitable Inuk candidate who would be able to do the job well and is qualified, at times we do use the direct appointment process. I don't have the numbers in front of me, but it's a small number. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, followed by the Member for Hudson Bay. Member Qirngnuq.

Question 1040 – 5(2): Specialist Visits to the Communities

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to you, my colleagues, and my fellow residents of Netsilik.

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

Mr. Speaker, a concern continues to be expressed in my constituency regarding the time allotted for visiting specialists, as an example, the optometrists, audiologists, respiratory specialists, and so on. When they arrive into the community, they only spend a short time in the community working to provide their services.

Sometimes they are only in the community for three or four days in the community, which never fulfills the needs of our residents as most people are unable to book an appointment with the specialists for eye, ear and nose symptoms. When the team leaves the community, they often leave for extended amounts of time and they don't return for a long time.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to reviewing the contracts to extend the allotted time that the optometrists, audiologists, and other specialists stay in the community? What can he respond to and whether possibilities exist to allow residents to see the specialists in their home community of Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. I know this has arisen a few times lately with specialist visits, dealing with the backlog that was created, especially with COVID-19. It has been a possibility. We have extended some of the times. Even just in my minister's statement earlier on the plastic surgery clinic in Rankin Inlet, last year it was three days; this year it was ten days. Mr. Speaker, I can commit to

the member that I will follow up with my staff and look at further availabilities of extensions of specialist clinics. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that adequate response. Mr. Speaker, there is a teacher in one of the communities who submitted a concern regarding this fall's school year start, as some students require glasses while some students require hearing aids. Due to the concern about students, they have to be able to properly see the notes or numbers written, and they have to listen carefully to the teacher's instructions.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain how his department works with his officials from the Department of Health and the other departments, such as the Department of Education, to ensure students receive regular services in our schools to correct any student vision or hearing problems, so that students who need corrective vision or hearing aids receive them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately I don't know the details on exactly how that arrangement is made with the Department of Education. I do know a few years back there was a group that was working up here, providing speakers and microphone systems for the teachers to allow enhanced or louder voices, I guess, so people can hear easier. I will have to follow up with my officials to see exactly how that communication occurs.

I was actually speaking to an audiologist here in town last week on the importance of, especially with children in an educational setting, to be able to hear what's going on and how important it is. Absolutely it would be the same provision. If you can't see what the teacher is showing you, it's very hard to learn.

I will take the member's questions away with me and I'll get some more information from my department and I will follow up directly with the member in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many residents in the community as well as the parents of children who may need vision or hearing services are concerned that there will not be space for them on the appointment list when the specialist teams come to town because they are only there for a number of days.

Will the minister commit to working with his counterparts in the Northwest Territories to explore avenues for increasing the length of time that the optometrists and the other

specialists visit in the communities of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can commit to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, followed by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove. Member Rumbolt.

Question 1041 – 5(2): Activities under the Environmental Protection Act

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Environment.

As the minister will recall, I asked him questions four years ago this week concerning the issue of used oil and waste fuel disposal and management in Nunavut communities. At that time I tabled a collection of photographs in the House which depicted the large quantities of these substances that were being stored in a hazardous manner near our community's solid waste management facility.

Mr. Speaker, it has been four years and those drums of used oil and waste fuel haven't moved. In his responses to my questions, the minister acknowledged the importance of the issue and committed to working on it. Can the minister update the House today on what progress has been made by the government on this issue over the past four years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On our Department of Environment's website we have guidelines on how to dispose of waste oil and hazardous waste. Mr. Speaker, when the municipality accepts any waste oil or hazardous waste into their either solid waste or wastewater site, they are then responsible for taking care of that waste management and disposing of the hazardous materials. We have the guidelines and we do police hazardous waste and waste oil, but it is not our responsibility to dispose of or take care of waste oil. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister just stated, the Department of Environment has published a number of useful guidelines concerning the management and disposal of such substances as used oil and waste fuel, waste lead and lead paint, waste batteries, waste solvent, and other hazardous substances. However, most of these guidelines have not been updated in almost a decade. Will the minister commit to

ensuring that updated guidelines are published by his department within the next year?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can look into that because a lot has changed in the last decade in terms of technologies and ways of disposing hazardous waste. Yes, I can look into that and make sure that we have the most current policies and guidelines and the guidelines that we give out to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Environment's *Guidelines for Used Oil and Waste Fuel* are published under the authority of section 2.2 of the territorial *Environmental Protection Act*. For a number of years, Members of the Legislative Assembly have been calling on the minister to produce and table an annual report on his department's administration and enforcement of this important piece of legislation. When will the minister act on this recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the member that we are acting on it and as soon as we have the report finalized, it will be given to the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1042 – 5(2): Upcoming Plebiscite in Arviat on Alcohol

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, people of Arviat and Whale Cove. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask questions to the Minister of Finance regarding the liquor plebiscite that will be held in Arviat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a plebiscite will be held on Monday, November 9 regarding a potential change to liquor access in Arviat. A public service announcement from the Department of Finance indicated that under this vote, it is a vote on a restricted quantities approach, which is putting the question to the voters in terms of allowing access to 24 beers and 8 litres of wine every seven days.

Mr. Speaker, I should make clear for the record that I'm not advocating which way the residents of Arviat should vote on this important question. I think they should consider their own personal beliefs and experiences with alcohol and vote accordingly.

My first question for the minister is: how many residents signed the petition to hold this plebiscite and how were the proposed quantities determined? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a couple of questions in there, but they're directly linked, so I'll respond to both of them; they're very simple.

A minimum of 20 signatures is required for a petition to be brought forward, and the petition in Arviat met that threshold. I don't have the exact number of signatures, but it met the threshold in that respect.

With respect to the quantities that are proposed for the plebiscite, it was submitted by the petition itself and we have no authority to change that. I'll give an example. In this one, the member mentions eight litres of wine. Wine typically comes in 750-millilitre bottles or two- or four-litre boxes, which makes that easier, but it would be like 7.5 bottles of wine...or sorry. 750 millilitres is seven hundred...

>> *Laughter*

...seven and a half litres of wine, which is one half litre short. If somebody were to be ordering bottles, it's not a smooth number, but we have no authority to change that and we have to act on the plebiscite as submitted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The department is holding public meetings tomorrow in Arviat at the community hall and I encourage my constituents to attend. There will be two meetings, one at 12 p.m. and one at 6 p.m. I thank the department for providing that information to the community.

Mr. Speaker, Arviat has been a dry community or a prohibited community for many years. There have been plebiscites in the past, but this is a different type of plebiscite in that it would not permit access to hard liquor. Can the minister explain the rationale behind allowing this type of a plebiscite in terms of harm reduction in terms of alcohol use in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the things that the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, what we try to do is make sure that the communities have a say in what they want to allow or not allow. In this case there was a plebiscite last year in Kugaaruk I believe it was, where they had a similar plebiscite of just beer and wine access.

There have been some studies that show and even our experience here in Iqaluit with the beer and wine store that we have that hard spirit sales have dropped dramatically. There is some context of that. Probably it was taken into consideration by the community members that promoted this plebiscite, but it's up to the community. When we talk about delegating authority, we want the communities to be able to dictate to us what they want. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) My last question is regarding the establishment of an alcohol education committee. I know that this has been an issue in other communities where they have struggled to find persons willing to serve on the alcohol education committee. My final question is: if the community status changes following the plebiscite, will an alcohol education committee be established and when would a vote be held to put members on that committee? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The way this plebiscite is worded with the restriction of the beer and wine, it takes that decision away of allowing permits to be approved or not, so there would be no need for an alcohol education committee in Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, followed by the Member for Netsilik. Member Pedersen.

Question 1043 – 5(2): Elections Education

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education.

As the minister will recall, Nunavut's chief electoral officer appeared before this House last month to present his report on the conduct of the last territorial general election. During his appearance, I indicated that I would be following up with the Minister of Education on some issues and ideas during our current sitting, so I anticipate that he is well prepared today for my questions.

Mr. Speaker, having just gone through the electoral process, I can say that it is essential that our residents be engaged in the democratic process and that this education and engagement should start at a young age.

Mr. Speaker, one good example of what our own office does in this area is our Page Program. I am looking forward to the day when the COVID-19 pandemic has passed and

we can host other pages from other communities and welcome students back to the Visitor's Gallery.

Can the Minister of Education indicate how he is working with the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College and Elections Nunavut to encourage students who are of voting age to get registered on the voters list and to provide opportunities for them to work with elections administration on polling day? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. I was listening intently on the line of questioning that he was asking the chief electoral officer around engaging our students and young population in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in our department we have developed several programs and courses that teach students around civic engagement and elections, on governance, and this includes back in 2016 when we worked with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to develop a grade 9 social studies unit on elections and the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated elections process itself, which I believe the nomination period is coming up very shortly and elections will be taking place for that organization in December.

Mr. Speaker, further to that, we are working with different organizations on awareness and promotion around any election that maybe be upcoming and engaging those students. I'll just stick to that response for now and look forward to the supplementary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your first... (interpretation) How do I say this? Your first supplementary question, Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister just stated, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is holding its next presidential election in December of this year. The voting age for NTI elections is 16, which means that a number of our high school students will be eligible to vote in this election. Can the minister also indicate if his department is working with NTI's elections officials to encourage eligible young voters to register for this election? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, there are always opportunities for different organizations to approach our schools in engaging them into different opportunities, especially when it's a learning opportunity. We welcome those and so I encourage the member and NTI specifically.

I'm not entirely sure if we have anything in place through the regional school operations around the upcoming Inuit organizational election process, but I know those organizations do have their own communication campaign and informing Nunavummiut,

Nunavut Inuit specifically, on when their elections will be taking place. I encourage our schools to take that information and make them available to our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 his responses. There have been a number of provincial elections held in Canada over the past few months, and I am sure that all of us will be following next week's US presidential election with great interest.

When the chief electoral officer appeared before the House last month, I suggested that we should be looking into ways to support students learning about elections and their democratic rights. One specific thing that I think we could look at doing is to provide course credit for students who make the effort to do such things as volunteering during an election campaign. Can the minister update the House today on his department's work in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think elections are an opportunity for using our democratic right to choose who our leaders will be.

Mr. Speaker, some schools do run mock elections whenever there's a particular election going on, typically when the territorial elections are taking place. I think that's one opportunity where a school might hold mock elections. I note that there has been one done in Gjoa Haven as well as Jonah Amitnaaq School in Baker Lake.

This Legislative Assembly itself is a venue when we have the Youth Parliament take place every two years, and I had the privilege of having a debate with the young representative who came here to talk about Nunavut issues from their lens.

Mr. Speaker, we do currently cover governance and civics and elections within our curriculum, including in grades 5, 8, 9, as well as 10, and we will continue to include those and have our young students know when they can vote, how they can vote, and where they can vote using their democratic right and their civic duty to participate in our democracy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, followed by the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak. Member Akoak.

Question 1044 – 5(2): Federal Rapid Housing Initiative

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, and good afternoon to my wife. I'm hoping she is watching right now.

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

Mr. Speaker, although I realize today is not a Friday, I'm hoping his answers will be yes, yes, and definitely yes.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the federal government recently announced \$1.0 billion in funding for a new "Rapid Housing Initiative." Although \$500.0 million will be "expedited to pre-identified municipalities," unfortunately Gjoa Haven was not included in the list. However, \$500.0 million will be accessible to provinces and territories. Mr. Speaker, even a small portion of \$500 million could go a long way, especially in a community like Gjoa Haven.

I want to read a line from the rapid initiative application process. It says, "We will expedite funds to pre-identified municipalities with the highest level of renters in severe housing need and people experiencing homelessness."

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to directing his officials to look into the new Rapid Housing Initiative and to submit an application to the federal government for funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Acting Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The first answer is yes.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I will be working with the Acting Minister of Family Services and working with NTI to make sure that there's no duplication. We're still also talking with the federal government on this issue, but we will be taking full advantage to the most we can on this program that has been announced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Information published by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation indicates that the Rapid Housing Initiative will "cover the construction of modular housing, as well as the acquisition of land, and the conversion and rehabilitation of existing buildings to affordable housing."

The Nunavut Housing Corporation recently engaged a review of the cost and feasibility of building smaller units and modular homes. Can the minister clarify when we will be in a position to consider constructing modular housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very new announcement that was made and we will be working with them. This will be part of the process to find out exactly what we can get, but we are going to do our best to get the most out of this announcement that we can for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new federal funding is dedicated to building multi-unit residential homes, and I will quote from *Nunatsiaq News*, a quote from the Northern Affairs Minister, Dan Vandal. He says, “Understanding the unique challenges of northern and remote communities, our government continues to work to address housing priorities that support families in finding a place to call home.”

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm that this type of housing infrastructure would be supported under our current housing construction policies and directives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have regular conversations with Minister Vandal, so Minister Vandal is aware of our unique situation and the housing crisis that we have here in Nunavut. I always make sure that all the federal ministers are aware of our situation and our uniqueness. Like I told the member, this program is in its infancy, the program that was announced, and we will be doing our utmost to try to get the most we can get out of this program to help us with our housing crisis needs here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, followed by the Member for Uqqummiut. Member Lightstone.

Question 1045 – 5(2): Net Metering Program

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Acting Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, approximately seven months ago at our Committee of the Whole deliberation over the NHC’s budget, I was pleased to hear that the Qulliq Energy Corporation will allow public housing units to access the net metering program.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, this had occurred seven months ago. I would like to ask the minister if he would be able to provide the House with an update on any progress made to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Acting Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have any updates for the member on net metering within public housing right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a matter of significant importance as the Nunavut Housing Corporation's demand on our limited resources is significant and the fact that the housing corporation's power bills seem to increase annually. Mr. Speaker, in the most recent annual report, the power bill for the corporation's public housing units increased by \$2 million. Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of significance, so I would like to ask if this is a priority of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and, if so, if any of the proposed public housing units will incorporate net metering. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Acting Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has tenant engagement programs and we are engaging with our tenants to try to make them more aware of using less water, turn their lights off when they're not using them, turning the furnace down instead of opening the windows. We're having all those engagements with our tenants to make sure that any energy that is needed for public housing is used wisely and not wasted.

Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, there is no net metering built into the next year's construction season. Mr. Speaker, this is not a cheap solution there. With my other portfolio at the Department of Environment, we have estimated that it's approximately about \$50,000 per house if you want to take full advantage of net metering in terms of getting the equipment, qualified people to install it, inspect it, and pass it. It's something that we may be looking at as the Nunavut Housing Corporation, but in the very near future it is not part of the construction plans, to the best of my knowledge currently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do understand that accessing the net metering program is an expensive endeavour. I believe that the minister had previously

indicated an estimate of \$50,000 to purchase, transport, and install renewable energy systems for residential homes, for home use. Mr. Speaker, it is on a single-use project, for example, but where the economies of scale come into play is the cost of transportation and installation is drastically reduced. The costs are fairly high, but in the long run, they do pay for themselves. I would like to ask the minister, going forward, if there's any intention in incorporating renewable energy systems in future public housing construction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has initiatives out to make a house more energy efficient; better insulation, better windows, better doors, a cold porch, and we're doing stuff like that.

We can look in to see what net metering would do and what kind of a cost it would have and the advantages and disadvantages because it would increase the cost of building houses. Right now we're in a housing crisis here and our goal is to try to get as many quality houses into the system as we can so people on the wait-list can get a house.

Mr. Speaker, we also have renovation projects where we are renovating older housing units so that they're more energy efficient, so that we will use less power, and I thank the federal government for the programs that they have that we can tap into. Our goal is to do 1,000 houses within Nunavut to make them more energy efficient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, followed by the Member for Pangnirtung. Member Keyootak.

Question 1046 – 5(2): Problems with Tammaativvik Boarding Home

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, we have been apprised now of the fact which I spoke to in my member's statement about ongoing concerns with the Tammaativvik Boarding Home, which is used by medical patients travelling to medical appointments primarily for the Baffin region, but no longer just Baffin patients now are housed up there. We are getting patients from all over Nunavut, and the boarding home now houses other residents who are here to see specialists brought in.

Mr. Speaker, we were recently informed that the contract will be renewed for another five years, and the group contracted out administer the boarding home which we call Tammaativvik. Mr. Speaker, can the minister inform the members how the decision to renew the contract came about when the current group's contract expired and whether or not any other private companies submitted interest in the contract? Was there any type of

competition for this contract amongst parties prior to just renewing the contract? Were there any other applicants? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a contract nears the end of its lifecycle or comes near renewal time, we take into consideration how much time it would take to put out a request for proposals out to the public and you have to take into consideration how long it would take an entity to be able to construct a new facility or acquire the resources and capacity to be able to deal with a contract of this nature.

At the time a few years back we had some concerns with the operations of Tammaativvik and I have to say that they have been doing a lot of work to mitigate some of the issues that have been ongoing and it seems to have risen again, where there seems to be a number of issues that have been brought to our attention as representatives of our communities and we have been meeting. There was a new general manager who was hired last month at the boarding home here and my staff from the medical travel team have been meeting with that general manager weekly since that person started last month and are working to deal with the issues.

I have stated a few times in the past week that, as the department has put quite a burden on the Tammaativvik Boarding Home from a capacity standpoint and again, with the response that I had the other day, one of the issues we have is when weather goes out in a community, the people who go to the airport end up coming back and it puts an additional burden on the capacity of the facility. We're trying to do as much care in territory for our residents and it is leading to a bit of a challenge and we are working with the boarding home to rectify those issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't receive an adequate response to my query, as I was asking whether or not a competition was held for this contract, and whether any other companies expressed interest in managing the boarding homes. That was my original question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, let me query the minister with this question. Now, it may apply specifically to the regular members, and in particular with those of us representing the Baffin region as we receive constant submissions of concerns about Tammaativvik from medical patients.

These days, we are starting to hear more about operational issues, at least I do, about the administration's handling of services to the medical patients, as less and less services are being provided and it is becoming problematic operationally.

It is not improving, and the medical patients provide concerns when they return or when we are here, and many patients are becoming dissatisfied with the level of services they

are provided with. And further, when they need to go places, they are getting refused services, and especially our elders attending medical appointments.

This should have formed the basis when the new contract was being considered, and I wonder if the upper management of the Department of Health, or even this minister, are making arbitrary decisions on these contracts by not voicing these commonly held concerns voiced continuously.

Have they provided more direction to the contractor to improve these services prior to the usage of this most recent contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies that I wasn't clear in my initial response.

When we do have a contract in place with a supplier or with a company, we can't look for other alternatives while that contract is in place. It would have to be nearing expiration or if we decided to renew and then look at putting out an RFP to give future opportunities to other organizations that would want to bid on that type of a contract, but while the contract is in place, we cannot look for alternatives. We would be breaching our own contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister provide copies to this House about the numbers of medical patients who travel within the Baffin region, as well as other places besides Baffin, the approximate number of patients provided boarding services here in Iqaluit? Can the minister provide more details about this issue?

We all know that the home has limited capacity and we keep hearing about more problems that are cropping up at the home. Furthermore, I wonder if the minister can include the details on the employees who are Inuit, as to their numbers and how many non-Inuktitut speaking employees they hired. Can he provide that level of detail in a report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The number of Inuit staff as of September 24 was 23 Inuit staff, 20 of whom are bilingual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung.

Question 1047 – 5(2): Seniors' Benefits

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought I wasn't going to be reached. My question this afternoon is for the Minister responsible for Seniors. He will need to consult with the Minister of Finance on some of the issues that I am raising today.

The Government of Nunavut offers a number of important programs and services for seniors and elders. These programs and services are administered by a number of different departments.

For example, the Department of Finance administers the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Program and the Department of Family Services offers the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program.

In the case of the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Program, applicants must be 65 years of age or older to apply. In the case of the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program, the age is 60. The age of eligibility for these programs is different, even though they are both held by the government.

Can the minister update the House on what work the government is undertaking to standardize the eligibility age for programs and services that are intended for seniors and elders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Seniors, Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the property tax relief, that is rooted in a long-standing agreement or arrangement. I'm not exactly sure where historically it got started.

Typically what we want to make sure is that people that do own their own homes that are 65 and over do get that tax relief and it's a very simple process. Basically you fill out a form, take a copy of your birth certificate, put your lot and plan number down on it, and it's accepted.

With regard to the senior fuel subsidy, there are still a lot of people in the workforce, but they're eligible to take early retirement at that age. With a lot of the federal programs, Old Age Security and whatnot, if they take a reduced amount, they are eligible for it. That would be the reasoning behind the disparity in that case.

One of the things that I did mention yesterday during one of my responses, as Minister responsible for Seniors, I don't have a staff or a budget associated with that. That's something that I do plan on looking at and working with my cabinet colleagues to actually be able to unify some of these programs and at that time then we would actually have the capacity to be able to review a lot of the conditions and accept eligibility conditions of these programs.

I'm not looking at opening any of those doors right now, but it is something I would like to, given the resources, be able to look at standardizing some of these programs and bringing them under a more unified, one-window type opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, the government offers different programs that are geared towards seniors or people with disabilities, and if the person is a private homeowner who happens to be an elder aged 65 or over, then they are eligible.

They also review the income of the person applying, and to use the fuel subsidy program, the assistance available is also separated into different categories depending on their level of income. There are different requirements for income levels throughout the year, and if they make too much income, then they are not provided any subsidy, while others with lower income brackets can receive larger amounts. This is exacerbated by the requirement to pay taxes on these subsidies, as they are not tax-free. Their level of assistance depends on their income, so if they have a high level of income within the fiscal year, the program applies equally to all elders.

I would like to ask the minister if a review can be struck to look at a unified program for elders for assistance programs. Can it be reviewed again for the assistance for elders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood the question correctly, it is something that I do want to take a look at, is having as many as possible of the senior programs available under one roof so that we can actually be able to coordinate things and simplify things.

With regard to the senior fuel subsidy itself, it is administered by Family Services, but it was just reviewed, I believe, it was two or three years ago where we brought in the standardized 3,500 litres, as an example. Previously it used to be each community based upon the cost of fuel had different differing litres that were eligible under the subsidy program.

One of the things that we have to take into consideration when we do put income thresholds on some of these programs is that they're intended to benefit the vulnerable people, the people with lower incomes, and we want to make sure that those are the people that we're allocating the monies first to.

I don't know the exact status. I believe that the majority of the money of the budget from the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program is expended. It is something that we continuously monitor to make sure that the effectiveness of these programs are impacting the people

that we're intending to impact, but I do take the member's questions and I have similar interests of consolidating some of these programs to make sure that they're easier to access and more clarity involved with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying that information about programs specifically for elders, and the book he mentioned, the seniors' information handbook that elders can use to try to understand what programs they can apply towards from the Government of Nunavut. These programs are listed within that handbook, and it was produced in the past, so it is not recently introduced by this government but by previous governments. It was introduced by government and it states clearly who the eligible applicants are and it also lists the telephone numbers.

The handbook should be upgraded to reflect new programs. Actually, in reading the information, some of the information is no longer relevant or listed, such as toll-free numbers, and this highlights the need to revise the handbook is evident there. My last question is if the minister can make a more updated edition available for our elders so that they can keep themselves informed. Can they reproduce this handbook?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize; I wasn't aware that some of those phone numbers or contact information was outdated. Again, I don't have a lot of resources specifically allocated to my senior file.

We have had the reliance of the seniors' society that created that handbook and did a lot of work when Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs oversaw the file. I will look into it and I'll try to identify resources so that we can do an update, at the very least, of the contact information so that people can get in touch with the appropriate people that they need to access the senior programs that are available from the Government of Nunavut.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period has expired and we will proceed to Item 7. No. 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) No. 8. Returns to Written Questions. No. 9. Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation) No. 10. Petitions. No. 11. Responses to Petitions. No. 12. I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) Responses to Petitions. Minister of Health, Minister Hickee.

Item 11: Responses to Petitions

Response to Petition 021 – 5(2): Long-term Care Facility for Kinngait

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't put my hand up high enough. My apologies.

Mr. Speaker, I have a response to petition tabled by the Hon. David Joanasie, Member for South Baffin, Petition No. 21 – 5(2), the subject, community long-term care needs petition.

Mr. Speaker, my response is:

The Department of Health thanks the residents of Kinngait for their petition for a long-term care facility in their community.

Health remains committed to meeting the long-term care needs of Nunavummiut and providing quality care in a culturally appropriate manner.

Together, Health, Finance, and Community and Government Services, with the assistance of Partnerships BC, have developed options for in-territory long-term care facilities, which include one long-term care facility in each region of Nunavut. The location of the Qikiqtani long-term care facility will be in Iqaluit as it is close to the territory's sole hospital which can provide a higher level of care, especially for Nunavummiut living with mid- to late-stage dementia.

As informed by national standards of practice, the Government of Nunavut at this time does not endorse renovating or repurposing old buildings to be used as long-term care facilities. This is to ensure the health and safety of seniors residing in the facility, adherence to building standards for long-term care facilities, and to be able to provide the level of services required for Nunavummiut living with complex health care needs such as dementia.

Again, I want to thank the community of Kinngait for taking the time to communicate their community's view on this important topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Responses to Petitions. Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters**Committee Report 030 – 5(2): Bill 35, Medical Profession Act**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 35, *Medical Profession Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The report has been received and Bill 35 will appear on the order paper for Friday, October 30.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) No. 13. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member for Kugluktuk, Member Pedersen.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 308 – 5(2): Picture of Agnes Panioyak

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I recognized Agnes Panioyak, who was recently awarded the NTI President’s Award. Agnes is well known for her skills at making *puhitaq*. I would like to table this photo of Agnes in her wonderful parka, which shows just how skilled she is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are very proud of her. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Tabled Document 309 – 5(2): Killiliisa – Let Us Set Boundaries

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling a document which I made reference to yesterday, Killiliisa, which is “Let’s set boundaries.” Mr. Speaker, this is Greenland’s strategy to reduce child sexual abuse.

Mr. Speaker, this strategy focuses on six key areas: information and knowledge sharing to break the taboo; primary, secondary and tertiary prevention measures; interdisciplinary cooperation between social services, health, police, schools, and corrections; support and treatment for victims as well as their families; as well as support and treatment for offenders.

Mr. Speaker, as in Nunavut, no figures exist in Greenland as to the extent of the problem, but it has been reported that child sexual abuse in Greenland is nearly as common as it is in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am tabling this document because it is a powerful report. It is also relevant to Nunavut and I believe it is the solution to addressing the issue of child sexual abuse in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, this detailed report is approximately 50 pages long, but as I said, it is powerful and I request that all members review the document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) No. 14. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. (interpretation) No. 15. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) No. 16. Motions. 17. First Reading of Bills. 18. Second Reading of Bills. 19. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 51 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:13 and Committee resumed at 15:45*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome to the meeting, (interpretation) as well as the people who are watching the proceedings. (interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following to deal with: Bill 51. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the review of the 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, followed by the Department of Justice and, if time permits, the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 51?

Bill 51 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2021-2022 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Akeegok: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, Minister Akeegok, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Bernie MacIsaac, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. To my left is John Hawkins, Assistant Deputy Minister. That's who we are.

I say "good day" to you, my colleagues and Mr. Chairman. I am very happy to be here with the Committee of the Whole to review the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's capital estimates for 2021-22 and to answer my colleagues' questions.

Mr. Chairman, the department is proposing \$11,449,000 in spending in our capital estimates for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The largest portion of these capital expenditures is for a range of airports. As members know, airports are critical in providing safe and efficient connections between our communities and to the rest of the world.

(interpretation ends) The largest capital project in our planning horizons are the six airport terminal building projects that are jointly funded by Transport Canada under the National Trade Corridors Fund and these are for the communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Naujaat, Whale Cove, Kugluktuk, Kimmirut, and Rankin Inlet. Two architectural and engineering contracts were recently awarded for the design of these air terminal building projects and the design of these facilities are now underway and will run into 2021.

We are requesting a total of \$5,915,000 in Vote 2 funds to conclude the design of the Rankin Inlet project and to mobilize for construction for the five smaller facilities. The Rankin Inlet terminal expansion is a much larger project and the design will not be complete until the fall of 2021, with the construction beginning in 2022.

Mr. Chairman, maintaining our airports also requires that we have reliable mobile equipment and efficient and safe airport facilities. We will do this through two projects. First, the transportation equipment and facilities project is for heavy equipment that is costing more than \$250,000 and for facilities maintenance, repair and upgrades. Under equipment we have allocated \$2 million to purchase airport equipment, including the following:

- A grader for Grise Fiord;
- Plow trucks for Kimmirut and Pangnirtung;
- A loader for Rankin Inlet; and
- A skid steer for Sanirajak; SSS.

As we have done for a few years now, we propose to include an additional \$1 million in the transportation equipment and facilities budget to undertake regulatory remediation projects as required by Transport Canada and other regulatory authorities.

For the second project, small capital, we propose \$1 million for the expenditures of under \$250,000. We are requesting \$530,000 to buy runway inspection vehicles for six communities, as well as snow blower attachments for Igloodik. Small capital also includes \$350,000 for lifecycle renovations of our facilities and \$120,000 for studies to initiate and develop capital projects.

Mr. Chairman, the budget also includes \$1,034,000 in funding for lifecycle payments for the Iqaluit airport. Under the terms of the project agreement, the Government of Nunavut has continuing obligations for these payments through the 30-year term.

Mr. Chairman, my department is also responsible for marine infrastructure in our communities. This plan includes \$500,000 to make minor improvements and lifecycle repairs to docks, boat launches, and breakwaters across Nunavut under the small craft harbours budget. This funding will be made available under contribution agreements, allowing communities to undertake work on priority projects that they have identified.

Mr. Chairman, this plan will allow us to continue and move forward on our air terminal building replacements and expansion projects as well to support safe and reliable operations of our airports through lifecycle renovations and replacements across the territory.

I will be glad to answer questions from my fellow members. *Nakurmiik*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, members. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. The department's proposed capital budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year is \$11,449,000. This represents an increase of approximately 14.1 percent from its 2020-21 capital budget.

In 2016 the Government of Canada announced a new Trade and Transportation Corridors Initiative. On September 14, 2017 the Legislative Assembly was informed that the Government of Nunavut had submitted seven expressions of interest to the federal government for funding under this initiative. These expressions of interest concerned the Grays Bay Road and Port Project, the Nunavut-Manitoba Winter Road Project, air terminal building replacements in Chesterfield Inlet, Kimmirut, Kugluktuk, Naujaat, and Whale Cove, marine development projects in Qikiqtarjuaq and Rankin Inlet, and airport relocations in Kimmirut and Pangnirtung.

On May 16, 2018 the Government of Canada announced funding under the Trade and Transportation Corridors Initiative for the construction of new airport terminal buildings in the communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Kimmirut, Kugluktuk, Naujaat, and Whale Cove.

On August 13, 2019 the federal Minister of Transport announced funding under the National Trade Corridors Fund for four projects: renovation and expansion of the Rankin Inlet Airport Terminal Building, preparatory work for the Grays Bay Road and Port Project, study and design of an intercommunity all-season road in the Kivalliq, and installation of passenger boarding ramps at seven airports.

The standing committee continues to encourage the minister to revisit, in partnership with the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, the scope of the proposed Qikiqtarjuaq Marine Facility, with the goal of resubmitting it to the federal government for funding consideration.

In June 2019 the Legislative Assembly approved a \$512,000 capital carryover for the Pangnirtung Airport Relocation Project. Given the lack of federal funding for this initiative, the standing committee continues to encourage the minister to clarify the government's plans with respect to this project.

The spring 2017 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to Parliament included a chapter titled Civil Aviation Infrastructure in the North. One of the Auditor General's recommendations was that the federal Department of Transport "...should lead the development of a long-term strategy for northern airport infrastructure. The strategy should clearly outline the role that Transport Canada will play in addressing the infrastructure needs of remote northern airports." The federal government's response to this recommendation was that Transport Canada "...will work with territorial governments and other federal government departments and stakeholders to identify shared priorities for northern transportation infrastructure, including, but not limited to, northern airports." The standing committee continues to encourage the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly concerning its work with Transport Canada in this area.

On August 27, 2019 the federal Minister of Transport announced \$7.4 million in funding to "...improve access to northern aerodromes in poor weather conditions by introducing a new Global Navigation Satellite System instrument approach procedure." The standing committee continues to encourage the minister and his department to work with Transport Canada and NAV CANADA on this initiative.

During the Committee of the Whole's consideration of the proposed 2019-2020 capital estimates, the minister stated that his department would be updating its *Nunavut Airports 20-Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment*. The standing committee continues to look forward to the updated report being tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The 2018-2021 business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation indicated that one of its ongoing priorities was to "...complete planning work for remediation and removal of decommissioned airport terminal buildings" in a number of communities. This work has not yet been completed in Qikiqtarjuaq, Coral Harbour, Nanisivik, and Resolute Bay. Recognizing that there may be a lack of jurisdictional clarity with respect to responsibility for certain facilities, the standing committee continues to encourage the minister to publicly clarify the department's

schedule for the decommissioning of the buildings that have not yet been remediated and removed.

In August 2015 the department's Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy was revised. The policy's "sunset date" was March 31, 2020. Schedule A of the policy concerns departmental support for "access roads and community marine infrastructure." Funding for projects under Schedule A is provided from the department's operations and maintenance budget. Schedule B details departmental support for "small craft harbour capital contributions," which are funded under the department's capital budget.

The 2018-19 annual report on the administration of the program was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 4, 2020. However, the 2019-2020 annual report has not yet been tabled. The standing committee looks forward to the ongoing and timely tabling of departmental annual reports on the administration of this important program, as well as the timely tabling of the revised or renewed Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy.

In June 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board published a notice of screening for a "Four Harbour Feasibility Study Field Program" that had been submitted by Advisian. Information submitted by the company indicated that it "...has been retained by Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Small Craft Harbours Program to conduct an engineering feasibility study for the construction of small craft harbours in four communities in Nunavut: Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Clyde River."

On August 14, 2019 the federal Minister of Transport announced \$76.5 million in funding under the Oceans Protection Plan "...over seven years to build two community harbours in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay...this investment is part of the \$190.0 million in infrastructure funding by the Government of Canada for communities in the area...Transport Canada will work with the Government of Nunavut and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association to design the community harbours and provided funding to construct the harbours...funding builds on previous investments made through the Safety Equipment and Basic Marine Infrastructure in Northern Communities Initiative. Funding has also gone towards installing mooring bollards for safer fuel delivery and refueling operations in Nunavut communities and a comprehensive community scoping study to implement essential marine infrastructure projects across Nunavut."

The standing committee continues to encourage the minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly on the status of these projects.

On October 18, 2019 the Government of Nunavut issued Request for Proposals 2019-65: Comprehensive Marine Infrastructure Scoping Study. The request for proposals closed on November 18, 2019. Information published by the government indicates that Worley Canada Services was the successful proponent. The standing committee looks forward to the results of this important work being tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The department's proposed 2021-22 capital estimates include funding for "small capital projects" and "transportation equipment and facilities." The majority of this funding is for the acquisition of mobile equipment for Nunavut airports. The department's proposed 2021-22 budget for small capital projects also includes funding for airfield regulatory remediations, lifecycle renovations, and capital planning studies. The standing committee continues to encourage the minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on the results of these remediations, renovations, and studies.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are there any general comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to keep my comments brief.

I would hope that the minister should know about the proposed air terminal building in Whale Cove, which I want to query him on at a later date. Residents of Whale Cove have anticipated this facility for a few years as the construction phase edged closer, and if it isn't set for next fiscal year, then in the following years.

Another item that Arviat residents have anticipated was the airport maintenance heavy equipment garage, which they expected to be funded from this current supplementary appropriation, but it was not included in this budget, which is unfortunate. I was just made aware, if it is true, that in the entire Kivalliq region, Arviat is the only community without a mobile equipment shelter at the airport, as that is something we are missing.

Another matter the minister spoke to last year was the initiative to do a road feasibility study, which would be the first study to be commenced and Kivalliq residents anticipated hearing more information on that front, as it was good news last year. We want to hear how much progress has been made on that project. I will want an update at a later date.

Lastly, the air terminal in Rankin Inlet will probably cost about \$60 million for the project. I would like to know how detailed the plan is on the expenditures of the funds, and to try to remain within the budget. ED&T will have to develop that project, but we keep hearing about budget overruns within most of our construction projects and this is very worrisome.

When the first budget is struck at the beginning, if the plans are not comprehensive, it means that they will most likely go over budget to address all of the finishes. I urge the departments to undertake complete budgetary planning to ensure that they don't need to ask the regular members for supplementary appropriations. What we assumed was going to be the actual budget is usually depleted and then a supplementary appropriation is requested because they have gone over budget, which is not conducive to approvals.

Those are my comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any more general comments? Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, minister and your officials.

I wish to briefly comment on the budgetary requests. I will try to keep it brief too. Now, a facility my constituency has been clamouring for many years relates to (interpretation ends) small craft harbours, (interpretation) or in my dialect, breakwaters. This facility has been requested for many years. Based on the minister's previous statements that they originally chose six communities, yet only four communities are written into the paper.

I wonder when this will be constructed since Sanirajak's coastline or rather the sea bottom is rising as the waters are getting shallower, which we try to convey at every opportunity, and the government will deny replacement funding assistance to hunters if they lose the outboard foot due to shallow water. I wanted this changed and considered when the department asked for funding to construct a small craft harbour.

Even while I am sitting here, at the end of my mandate, I am trying to offer ideas and to brainstorm within this House, because at the current time I have to report back that the proposals were not accepted after each of our sessions, after every sitting, I report back to my constituents to say I am sorry that the government again closed its ears, as they didn't even acknowledge my ideas. Yes, I get encouraged to submit more proposals.

While we are in general comments, perhaps I'll word it this way. Since I represent two different communities, the other community is much smaller, but I try to keep it equitable to ensure that both communities benefit. Also, as members of cabinet, ministers must also lead these other projects within the government because constituencies with ministers are receiving the large pieces of infrastructure.

To use this example, the Iqaluit International Airport will receive yet another \$1 million allocation from this budget. For members representing two communities, that \$1 million would produce more substantial benefits, at least in my perception, in your role as the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Within your opening comments, to move to a different subject, we rely heavily on air transportation as a territory, although there is movement to look at building a road in the Kivalliq region. My fellow residents of Amittuq, and when I mention the riding name, I include Igloolik as I represent part of the community. I had questioned the minister previously in this House about how other ideas such as attaching it to other regions, whether studies could be done for access roads or the cheapest options to connect communities such as Igloolik.

I tried to provide ideas on how we can improve things, but then nobody seems to ever hear me. However, it seems they just turn their back on the needs in our constituencies. When incorporating *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, this government attempts to implement equality amongst all, but we just keep seeing favouritism.

To use the example of a facility for our elders that will be constructed, and because the government overtook this project, they moved the entire project from the community that proposed it and moved it to a different community.

As regular MLAs, whenever we question these changes and ask for the same practice of moving funds from this pot to this other budget, we just get the usual refrain of “We can’t do it.” This government should look at the indirect benefits of developments in smaller communities, and if we collaborated on making things equitable, then our cooperation would improve and increase. Yes, there are some aspects to be proud of since we have done quite a bit, but I prefer that smaller communities receive some sort of compensation or smaller project while they are waiting. I don’t know.

Mr. Chairman, the proposed budget for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is \$11 million. Yes, I am aware we always lack funding and we will still be lacking funding, and here I always state this fact that since government has funds to undertake certain projects, they can move projects around and just pay the amount. It is indeed possible to move funds around with enough political will.

When our elders request certain initiatives for their youth to ensure opportunities are taken advantage of, the answer is always no, we have no extra funding for that, so perhaps I am asking the wrong questions or perhaps I question this public service too much, or perhaps as a young MLA, I speak in Inuktitut too often.

Look at the shield: “Nunavut is our strength.” I believed that when I was trying to get elected as an MLA to this House, yet when I arrived, unexpected issues were introduced and I saw things I didn’t anticipate. I don’t want to have my constituents having certain expectations about receiving infrastructure, which is why I speak in my language.

Another thing as well, I want to publicly apologize to my constituents as what I wanted to push for in terms of infrastructure will still be priorities, but not to expect anything now. Yes, it may be good window dressing to see regional centres receiving many of these expensive projects, and I imagine residents from smaller community are in awe when they visit Iqaluit and see the unending infrastructure and buildings all over the city.

There are also certain infrastructures that we have never seen in any of our communities, but which are built upon approval by the members, and this is what the government is capable of achieving if they looked to provide more development opportunities for the smaller communities, yet there is no funding available.

I am aware of being overly critical of the public service and I imagine it is painful for them to hear, so I will stop there for now. Thank you for the opportunity to speak, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kaernek. General comments? Seeing none, we will go to page K-3. Economic Development and Transportation. Transportation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$11,449,000. Questions? First name is Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials this afternoon. The 2017 report of the Auditor General of Canada to Parliament concerning civil aviation infrastructure in the north recommended that the federal Department of Transport should lead the development of a long-term strategy for northern airport infrastructure. The strategy should clearly outline the role that Transport Canada will play in addressing the infrastructure needs of remote northern airports.

The federal government's response to this recommendation was that Transport Canada "will work with the territorial governments and other federal government departments and stakeholders to identify shared priorities for northern transportation infrastructure, including but not limited to northern airports."

What specific work is currently taking place between your department and the federal Department of Transport to develop a long-term strategy for northern airport infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much. We continue to work and I continue to advocate with the federal minister every chance, every opportunity I meet with him and I try to encourage that that department does need a northern ACAP program, the Airports Capital Assistance Program geared towards and dedicated the northerners, as per the auditor's report and in one of the reports that they have done, and I continue to advocate for that.

Our reliance is heavy when it comes to getting federal dollars to help with our airports. We're eligible and we're given special considerations throughout the three territories on the Airports Capital Assistance Program. Also, with this government, they have dedicated for the north the National Trade Corridors Fund, which they had their initial, as the chairman of the standing committee reported, some of the successes that we have done so far. There's a second call that's taking place right now that we will have until the end of December to submit our proposals.

Since COVID-19 we haven't had this, but there is a northern roundtable that does take place, either through security or through transportation, that focuses on transportation issues. There are different avenues that we're doing, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation)
Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response, minister. Minister, as you will recall, I tabled a letter from the Municipality of Baker Lake on October 22, I believe it was, just a few days ago, on the GPS system for the Baker Lake Airport. Once and for all, what is the status of the GPS approach for Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, could I ask John Hawkins to respond to that question? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The Baker Lake Airport is currently equipped at both ends of the runway, or both runways, as we call it, with GPS approaches or GNSS approaches. To the limitations of the terrain around the Baker Lake Airport, there's rising terrain on one end of the runway and there's some rising terrain to the side of the runway that limit how close that approach can bring an aircraft in. Somewhere around 530 feet, I think, is the approach limits, but that is likely as close as they can get with instrument approaches into Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. I'll forward that off to the Municipality of Baker Lake.

On to another subject, in Baker Lake itself, it's actually before Nunavut times, but it's related to transport property, I should say. There were historical fuel spills on Ministry of Transport lots and property. Is your department looking at helping to clean up those sites? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government has a list of all the contaminants that haven't been cleaned up and that are known. There's a scheduled list in terms of who is responsible for it.

When it's a grey area, then it becomes a little bit harder to define, but we do have a long list of contaminated sites throughout the territory within the municipal boundaries and outside, which includes airports. When it comes to the Department of Transport and our department, the ownership becomes greyer because once the transfer came, when environmental concerns were not in anybody's top priority, but that would still be there.

That list does exist. We do not have specific date as to when those cleanups will take place and how that's going to take place. That's long progress in work that's taking place within the territory and to try to identify dollars specifically for cleanups. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. I guess I'll start with our Iqaluit Marine Infrastructure Project and just get an idea on the impact of COVID-19 on the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a result of this and the late start for this season, the project completion is moved to next year and that's the impact that COVID has with this particular project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us what kind of impact the delay has had on employment for Nunavummiut Inuit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently this project has a target for 15 percent of Inuit employment into the project and as this project is still proceeding, the numbers fluctuate, but for this season currently, it is at 9 percent Inuit employment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering if the minister can tell us what his department has been doing to encourage more Inuit to apply or to try to get some of those numbers up. How is the department working with the contractor on this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For this project and the major project that is happening in Iqaluit in particular, the Department of Family Services and our NNI Secretariat have developed a work plan to try to attract more Inuit into these projects, either through training programs and encouraging the positions. That's the work that's taking place focused on projects that our government has done or are doing and this is one of the projects that we're focused in terms of trying to get our Inuit employed into these positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of that collaboration with Family Services, how many Inuit were you successful in getting to go and work on the project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll probably have to find out more to break down how many as a result of those. As I mentioned, there is 9 percent of Inuit employment and it's moving right now because there people being hired and people who stop working. I don't have a definitive number in terms of what success this current work is taking place right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to receiving that information.

I would like to go on to something I raised in the House and that's the road. I am concerned about the road that leads to the marine infrastructure. I mean, even I think the minister uses that road as well, for when you're pulling boats on trailers, the municipal is using it, just people going back and forth to the park, boaters, municipality, and then you're going to get the big trucks offloading, and it's a two-lane road and it's not paved. I know that the city has tried to maintain it, but I don't think they could even keep up with that with the state that the road can get in.

I do know that the minister, when he replied to me in the House, he said that it's the city's responsibility, but I know that the city doesn't have bucketfuls of money and so it needs to be addressed. It could be a real safety problem there with the amount of traffic, and I just want to get a better idea on if this situation has been looked at by his department and what are the short- and long-term plans to address these concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This city has problems that other communities envy of seeing major projects coming into the community. One of the colleagues mentioned that everything seems to be coming here with major projects that come here. In saying that, we are working very closely with the city, not just with this particular project. It was a major issue and that needed to be worked on when the Iqaluit airport was being built. That section was not paved and it was in a dire strait of improvements, but working very closely with the city, we were able to have them fix up the road from the airport to the main town.

With that work, we have been advocating the city to do something similar to the road from the main town to where the people launch their boats. There are a number of things that I think the city can do because, with any of the major projects that we build comes with increasing grants in lieu for them to help build and maintain their road systems. When there's an existing road system, it is through those grants in lieu that we see from the government perspective that they will be able to maintain the roads better and improve it to where the residents of Iqaluit can enjoy in terms of going through that.

That's the dialogue that's taking place right now. That discussion has been with this particular project and our department and the contractor, along with the city, in terms of

how to try to work this through and that discussion is still going on, but it's with the department staff that brief me, the responsibility rests with the city in terms of keeping that road safe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a new project and with new challenges, and I think it's a very concerning challenge. I really do think it's a safety issue and just by pushing it to somebody else's responsibility... I think the government has a responsibility to address this with the city and I would like to know what kinds of options have been discussed between the city and the department in order to address this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Definitely we are working very closely with the city in terms of trying to find funding for this road and looking to see if there are other avenues that they can look into in terms of trying to address the roads. I think one of the discussions that the city is starting, or including us, is starting to see if there needs to be development fees. Those are the sort of things that I think the city, as it grows, we will need to start to go through this.

With this project, the project scope would have to be expanded if we needed to look at the existing road, but we are of the view that the city is very responsible and will be able to maintain this or improve it through different [sources of] funding or through the grants in lieu of taxes that they get from our government. There are different avenues

I might be corrected with my colleague. The city here has its own gas tax dollars that they get from the federal government and those are geared towards improvements in the infrastructure to the city. There are opportunities and different areas, and definitely we are working very closely with them when it comes to trying to find resolution to the safety concerns that are taking place right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that gas tax is being used by government for everything. Whenever the city needs anything, "Oh, well, they can use the gas tax. Oh, well, you can use the gas tax." There's only so much money in that and only so many homeowners in Iqaluit. I don't know how long we can keep relying on "Oh, let the city use the gas tax."

I'm wondering if the minister can tell me why the road was never included in the project in the first place. It's an integral part, offloading, on-loading. This is a very important component of that whole project, yet it seems it was left out. Why? Why wouldn't anybody think that that would be such an important part of the project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That road that leads to the project, there is an existing road, an existing road that the city has been maintaining and it's a two-lane road that's there right now. The project, when it was built, was the farther one, the one that's going to be used for if they needed to build the road and that's what they have done. That's connected to the existing road. That's the main reason why putting it in, in terms of the scope of the work, it was not in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, common sense would tell me that when I start to look at a project, I look at the whole project and I would say, "Okay, we want to build the infrastructure for the marine, but hey, wait a minute, we need to transport all these goods coming off the ships. Oh, what do we have? Oh, look at that, we've got a two-lane road that's not paved. We better go to the city and see what's up," and how we can incorporate all of this so it's one package instead of having to divide and now there's no money for this and that. To me, that only makes sense and I don't understand why that wouldn't have been looked at.

The other issue I want to bring up about the marine infrastructure over there and the causeway is the fact that it needs some lighting. You have the breakwater lighting very nicely done, the new breakwater, you have lots of lights. That's great and I am happy about that, but as the minister himself has probably arrived to the causeway in August, in the evening when it's dark, it's pretty dark. I'm wondering: what is the plan there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Definitely we are looking into that particular one in terms of lighting the causeway and where the sealift would be going to. If it's going to be within the scope, then that will take place, but right now they're working on getting the earthworks done right now because this would be part of the safety aspects. As the member mentioned, there would be some safety in where the public is using it. That's definitely on our radar. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Mr. Angnakak: Thank you. I just want to state that I think the whole road is a safety thing, for the record, because if anything happens, you can't say that it wasn't brought up. I really am concerned about that. I am concerned so many people, and I really would like to encourage the department to work really closer with the city and come up with a plan.

I would like to go on to something else now. In regard to transportation, looking at airports and runways and things like that, I'm wondering: has Nunavut, has the department, I don't know who it would go to, but have we received fines by Transport

Canada for breaking regulations because of the state of our airport infrastructure and, if so, how many fines and at what cost to the government? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In short, we have not had any fines as part of the infractions that do take place within our airports from Transport Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister stating that Nunavut has never received any fines from Transport Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within the last 10 years there have not been any fines, but I must say that there have been findings and it's as a result of these findings and this, Transport Canada demands that we fix certain things. Through this House, this is where we're asking for a million dollars to help us for these regulatory remediations because those findings, if we don't fix them up for sure, we either get fines or they're going to cancel our airports, which then we won't be able to fly regular schedules, so we're very cautious of that.

I appreciate Transport Canada, as there has been at the officials' level very heated debates in terms of what needs to be fixed and what needs to be fixed now, and in some cases our staff that are here in Nunavut for their lifetime is when a certain thing is broken and there is a urgent demand that it gets fixed, reality sets in where it's underneath snow where you can't do it.

Those exchanges are very fluid with Transport Canada and I appreciate them for not giving us the fines, but if we don't do the work, they have no hesitation in closing or putting any NOTAM into our airports, which is why through this capital plan, I am seeking for a million dollars because at least four or five communities get visited and there is usually findings in terms of what infractions could be taking place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister provide us with an example of a more concerning infraction versus a less concerning one, if you know what I am trying to say? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if I can get into those levels of details in terms of what is more or what is higher or what's not. If I can ask our assistant deputy minister to give some of the examples for this, through you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The most concerning ones are probably around lighting. We have a very dark season. Lighting is extremely important to be able to find the runways and to be able to land on them safely. That's one of our largest concerns.

Other infractions, typically there may be snow that hasn't been removed far enough away from the runway at some point in time. Those things do take time, but they're relatively easy to address. We want to make sure that those things are all cleared off as quickly as they can be.

There can also be issues with the softness of a runway or lack of material on it to actually build it in and to be able to sort of shed water as it should. Those are typically seasonal and we can address some of them with NOTAMs, short-term NOTAMs. I would say that the most pressing ones can be lighting. I mean, they're things that have to be addressed right away. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. If I can remember correctly, NOTAM is short for Notices to Airmen. Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I would like to ask the minister: when Transport Canada comes up, do you know about it in advance and how often do they come up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the exception of this year with COVID-19 in place, it is planned and it is usually four or five communities per year in terms of looking into those safety issues for each of the airports. We organize with Transport Canada in terms of scheduling those with each of those communities. When there are notices, then each of those are addressed through a working group that we have. Those are the very regulatory inspections that they do on an annual basis.

With 25 communities, your community gets visited at least once every three years, so I'm saying that to most of the communities. For here in terms of inspection of the lighting system, it's more frequent and it all depends on the level. With our international airport, it's a higher standard than what the regular communities have. When I'm talking about these transportation visits, Transport Canada visits those. I'm saying that for the 23 other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question, I just want to get a status update on the airport lighting extension. It was going to be past the end of the airstrip and I know that there are some problems due to the lack of room with the tidal flats and all of that. Can I get a status update on that project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, could I ask Mr. Hawkins to provide that update? Thank you.

Chairman: We don't have quorum at the moment, so just wait a few minutes. My apologies. We didn't have quorum. Ms. Angnakak. Oh, Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That project ran into some regulatory issues and they were not solved while there was potentially funding available to address that. We were going to address it through the Airports Capital Assistance Program. The regulatory issues delayed the onset of that project and we applied for other projects under the Airports Capital Assistance Program. Until we can wind our way back around to it, we think that the regulatory issues have been fixed, the lighting works, and it is in conformance until we change it, in which case it will have to meet the whole new standards. That was why it was such a complicated project, but it is quite an extension out into the water and that's where the regulatory issues from. They weren't regulatory from the airport perspective; they were actually from the marine shipping perspective. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. With the new marine infrastructure in place where ships will be offloading over there, will that make a positive impact on this project you're trying to do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There would be no impact with this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I meant that you had regulatory issues because of the marine issue, so I'm wondering if that's because of the sealift offloading and all that, and since the sealift offloading is going to be now at our new marine infrastructure project, is that what the problem was, because you were offloading, or what was the actual problem in regard to the marine issue that you spoke of? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, could I ask Mr. Hawkins to respond to that? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The regulatory issue on that was actually that there was a perception that airport lights could be confusing to marine navigation. I think that's not true, that we have established that that's not the issue. That's how the regulatory issue has been resolved, but the funding issue has not resolved at this point. The development of the causeway does not impact the airport, and the airport to be developed, the lights would not impact the causeway. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

This item I want to ask about was partially referenced by our colleague, but I want to completely understand the subject, so I will query the minister about the particular rules surrounding airports and aerodromes.

In your opening comments, the minister has a section outlining how the work will be undertaken for airstrips as they require complex layers in construction of an airstrip and they have to be the right materials, especially when the airstrip is a regional hub that sees multiple landings in a day.

We submitted a letter as a committee outlining our concerns where our chairperson wrote to the minister on our behalf, and which spoke to the need to update and upgrade these regulations. Due to these reasons, I will briefly also speak to this matter as I want complete clarity about this matter that I will reference.

It will be almost a year ago when we first heard about the COVID-19 pandemic and members had already returned home around March/April, and in Kugaaruk the government flies in petroleum products, such as heating fuel, naphtha, and jet fuel.

When we were getting our resupply flights, there was a government charter that landed properly in Kugaaruk, but in taxiing into the airport, the aircraft ran into a ditch. They had to leave the aircraft on the side, and it became a problem for a while, so I immediately sent a letter to the minister to see what options we had to resolve this accident. I am sure he recalls the letter about the aircraft.

The reason why I am asking about this and why I want to ask about it is because this was a government charter. When an accident occurs in our community, it can be quite stressful and concerning. Would the blame fall on the airport maintainers, or would the aircraft charter company or would whomever chartered the plane have to pay for these repairs?

I'm wondering: does the liability fall on the charter company or does it fall under the government? I ask because the minister responded earlier to our colleague stating that they would not have to pay for repairs due to that mishap. I would like to clearly understand who is liable to pay for repairs or if any news is available to ease my concerns, hence my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Using charters as an example or private airline companies, if they're carrying hazardous material, they have to be insured in case of an accident or some kind of a mishap. Our contractors or the pilots would be reprimanded and pay for the fine for the infraction. If it's chartered aircraft, the person who chartered the plane would be fined and would pay. That's our policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As that's the case, in the minister's letter and also correspondence from our chairperson, we have to make sure that we deal with such matters. What kinds of plans does your department have to make sure that we're prepared for such incidents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I would like to ask Mr. Hawkins to respond to the question, as he is more into the details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I got the question correctly, I think every airport has an emergency response plan and so they have a response that is sort of scripted as to what they would do, and that response plan would include aircraft removal, a damaged aircraft or a disabled aircraft removal. However, part of the plan is to inform the other authorities that have jurisdiction, which would be Transport Canada and the Transportation Safety Board, that there has been an accident, in case they want to come in and do an investigation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is of concern should there be an accident or a mishap. Well, that plane was on the side of the runway, but it was still of a concern as it was an obstacle for landing and aircraft taking off.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to move on to another subject regarding the marine infrastructure in the smaller communities, and to use Taloyoak and Kugaaruk as examples. What types of

plans do you have for the smaller communities? I'm thinking of Taloyoak because they had already made a request to have a launching pad to offload sealift in their communities. I want to get an update on that, Mr. Chairman, hence my question. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funds requested are still under consideration and no responses have been sent to us. We will send our reply once we receive that response, and we anticipate getting an answer soon with respect to sealift and small craft harbours that we submitted a request for. Some requests have been made by the hamlet councils and Taloyoak is one of the communities that made such an application. I look forward to responding to these applications, but I cannot respond to the member's question at this time because we are not getting any funding for that type of project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list: Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask about this first. Now, we have been making this request in the community of Qikiqtarjuaq for many years, which is a known fact. In 2019 we submitted a proposal under the National Trade Corridors Fund for a new marine facility in Qikiqtarjuaq, but it was not approved. The committee has also been supporting the request by Qikiqtarjuaq.

Can we get an update on your department's work with the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation to develop and submit a revised proposal for the new marine facility in Qikiqtarjuaq? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for bringing this up repeatedly and we have been trying to work together on this proposal. Once the proposal is up, I commit to working on it further because we would like to see it up and running again.

This past week we heard that we can resubmit proposals through the National Trade Corridors Fund under Transport Canada. December 21 is the deadline. Currently our staff and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation are urged to resubmit their proposals before the deadline. We know exactly what the criteria are, so we will be resubmitting. That's where we are at currently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that clarification. I do look forward to having something started before the end of my

term and I will repeatedly keep bringing it up in the House. I am very pleased to see that the organizations are working together.

Moving on to another subject, in Nunavut there are still old terminals that have to be decommissioned. In Qikiqtarjuaq, Nanisivik, and Resolute Bay there has to be decommissioning of the old air terminal buildings. Can the minister give us an update on those old terminals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I would like Mr. Hawkins to respond to the details of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a fair number of these old terminal buildings that have to be demolished or removed. We have done the environmental work to assess what hazardous materials had to be taken out of them before they can be taken to the dump. I believe that we have planned to take two of them away still this year before the end of the fiscal year, but I'm afraid I don't have the actual two in front of me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, during the fiscal year 2018-19 there was funding totalling \$850,000 for it. It looks like this amount is just for one community, Sanikiluaq. Did it cost over \$850,000 to demolish the old terminal building in Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$850,000 is not only for Sanikiluaq. That has been decommissioned and we used less than the \$850,000 for the building you're referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that clarification. Again, in your proposed 2021-22 capital estimates it does not seem to include any new funding for the decommissioning of old airport terminal buildings. What is your timetable for remediating and removing decommissioned airport buildings in Qikiqtarjuaq, Coral Harbour, Nanisivik, and Resolute Bay? That's for 2021-22. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that level of detail, but I think it's going to be approximately or below \$250,000 under small capital projects. For example, Sanikiluaq, it's the same type of air terminal and it costs approximately \$250,000 to decommission that building and we are approximating that it would be about the same amount to decommission that building. We are looking at ways and means of how we can decommission those buildings. However, Qikiqtarjuaq is one of the priorities under the remediating and removing of the decommissioned airport buildings. That's the current status. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, (interpretation ends) minister and officials. (interpretation) The first question I would like to ask comes from your opening comments. It stated that Pangnirtung is slated to get a plow truck. My first question is: (interpretation ends) how does the department determine what equipment is needed in the community? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through our 20-year needs assessment, there's a long list of replacement for our vehicles and for vehicles such as plow trucks. It depends on the age or if it has been damaged. Those are the two criteria that we go through. It is through those that we try to replace through our transportation equipment and facilities projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Something the minister mentioned a little bit in the opening comments or in the substantiation sheets it states that from the (interpretation ends) trades and transportation corridors initiatives, (interpretation) they're planning to work on four or five airport terminals. Looking at the past expenses for similar work, how have these plans been effected by the COVID-19 pandemic? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The five communities that we planned on last year, the two would be first and then the three would come next. That's how we planned it. For the signage and things like that, we had to do that this past year in two communities. Once we complete those, we will start on three other airports. During the coronavirus pandemic, we can't work on them right now. On the five airports, we have just started the (interpretation ends) design and engineering and architectural work. (interpretation) That's what we call it in English. Work has started on all five airports at the same time. That's where the course of work has changed a little bit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is something that I have mentioned here and asked questions about in the House here previously. The four projects through the National Trade Corridors Fund were approved. Well, they were announced by the federal government in 2019 and Pangnirtung was not mentioned at all. You stated that you have until December to submit proposals to the federal government. What considerations have you made in your submissions? Has the Pangnirtung Airport been mentioned? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the relocation of the Pangnirtung Airport is always in the back of our minds and we're always trying to plan for it. We are looking at what projects we can submit under the National Trade Corridors Fund. We just got it this week. It's pretty much the same as the last time. Our submission is pretty much the same as the one previously in 2019.

It's basically the same call for similar projects. We're trying to do a thorough review of the relocation projects for Pangnirtung and Kimmirut, but we still don't know if it is eligible under the National Trade Corridors Fund.

I am kind of concerned about it because they prefer us requesting \$50 million for one project. That will be a barrier for us, especially for the Pangnirtung project, because that project will cost more than \$50 million to relocate the airport in the community, but we are trying to find options. It has been looked at for a very long time now. We will try to include it in these future requests. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank him for explaining that. The next question I have is, the minister stated that the project would cost more than \$50 million. Is he saying that he won't be working as hard to try to get help from the federal government for the relocation of the Pangnirtung Airport? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we're working hard for it and we will continue to work hard for it. The 20-year plan stated that it was supposed to be relocated and it hasn't been moved yet. We will try to keep trying to find funding for it. If it can go through the corridors fund, then we will try it through there or through another funding program or try to make a request to the House here.

We know it's needed and if we keep delaying it, it's going to become harder and harder and more and more impossible. We are aware of what the member has brought up. We

have to look at the National Trade Corridors Fund's terms and conditions to see what we are eligible to apply for.

My officials are working hard in putting together our proposals, including the relocation of the Pangnirtung Airport, whenever the federal government brings out funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The projects that you have thought about and the previous proposals that were not approved, have you informed the hamlet that the federal government has put out another call for proposals? Have you worked more with the Pangnirtung hamlet council since then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Up to now, no, we have not, but we are going to start to review these and we will work with the hamlet, we have no choice, but to do that and I will direct my staff to work with the Hamlet of Pangnirtung. I will keep the members informed as to what is happening. I agree with you that the hamlet has to be involved in this work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the proposed money for that project, \$512,000 has been set aside for the project and they are still there. I guess they will be kept there, the money that was set aside for the airport relocation. Will that money just be sitting there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't read his writing legibly, therefore if I can ask through you to ask Mr. Hawkins to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That \$512,000 that was there is not enough to be able to do the sort of next phase of that project, so we had to lapse that funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): I know I will have other questions on this matter in the future, but I would like to move on to something else. During the spring sitting, I believe it was this spring, on March 4 there was an annual report tabled for 2018-19. Do you

have any plans to table an update from the Department of Economic Development?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, during the winter sitting, I anticipate tabling that report in the House. We are preparing it now and it is being developed at this time as they are still writing in the details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question will be in the 2018-19 annual report about the Community (interpretation ends) Transportation Initiatives Program, (interpretation) it indicates which communities requested funding and Pangnirtung did not make any request in that year. Has the Hamlet of Pangnirtung made any requests up to now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not be reporting on that this sitting as it is still being worked on.

In 2020-21 Pangnirtung had requested a Kuulik Trail Project that was a request made to us and it was approved for 2020-21. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list for this page: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm just going to follow up on Ms. Nakashuk's questions on the trade corridors fund. The minister's correspondence of October 27 mentions a recommended funding limit of \$50 million, which adds up to \$66.5 million once Nunavut's contribution to the project cost is added. Is that recommended funding limit something that's right across the country or do they allow for higher funding limits for the Arctic or for Nunavut in recognizing the costs of building infrastructure up here? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The National Trade Corridors Fund, the northern aspect has that limit of \$50 million or up to \$66 million. For southern ones, some of them are very specific and they're more than \$50 million projects for that, but I don't know what their terms and conditions are for the southern portion in terms of where they can ask for projects because the federal government breaks it down where they're very targeted and specific on one project and then puts out proposal calls for others. This is the northern component. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I hope the minister can maybe try to use the argument that it's more expensive to build infrastructure here than anywhere else in the country, so the federal government should set higher limit.

The minister mentioned earlier coordinating with the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation on the Qikiqtarjuaq port project. In terms of the other Inuit organizations or development corporations, are there any plans to coordinate, looking at this call for applications? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes and if we're able to finish on time today, I have a phone and my calendar has it scheduled to talk with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association president regarding the transportation corridor fund. I don't have a specific time for the Kivalliq or for Qikiqtani, but from my perspective, what we asked and what we got was very successful the last go-around and I want to repeat that, work with my cabinet colleagues and also with our Inuit organizations as to which projects we're going to submit. The first one did not do as well where everybody submitted, so I want to keep this strategic within the territory and it has been successful. I have talked to Minister Garneau about it and seeing the success of it.

On your comment that we do have higher costs, we continually raise that. One of the reasons, I think, they put a \$50 million scope into this is this is a \$200 million initiative that they have under their National Trade Corridors Fund for the north. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) It's good to hear that you will be coordinating. It certainly did look silly when, in the Kivalliq, there were two applications, one in for a winter road and the other one for an all-weather road, and both going in the same direction.

On the Kivalliq intercommunity road study, your correspondence of October 27 mentions three reasons why this important project has been delayed. I'm disappointed that this has been delayed. It was announced in August 2019. I wonder if the minister can explain: where do we currently sit with regard to this project as of October 2020? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're finally getting the agreement to sign it off, so once we sign that off, we will be going in the coming weeks getting that

up and running. I'm disappointed too in terms of the delay, but there's so much that has happened since August to now that I think those delays were warranted, especially and I want to give hard credit to my staff who worked tirelessly to try to get this through, with ransomware taking place, followed by COVID. Those two are unavoidable for the work that our staff have done and for this to be where it is now, I'm glad that we're finally going to get this agreement end going and getting that study done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have two questions. The original budget for this study was \$6 million and now that Baker Lake has been added to the scope, has the budget changed and when will you be coming forward and looking for funding from this Assembly for this study? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought we got the money for the study in last capital, but I'll verify that. I'm sure that he's flipping the papers, but I'll ask, through you, for our assistant deputy minister to respond properly. We did ask for the money and this is the 25 percent of it for the study, and I understand that we got that, but I'll ask my staff to respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking here and I do not see them in here, so I'm afraid I don't have the answer. I thought that we had appropriated that and I'm a little bit confused. I'm sorry about this, but I don't have the answer for you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, I'm a bit confused too because I seem to recall that money was allocated, so I'm curious as to why there's no substantiation sheet explaining where the project is at if money has already been appropriated for the project. Can we get a substantiation sheet for the project or...? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do apologize for this, but yes, we will definitely have that substantiation sheet available for the members here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I should have raised it at the committee level. Honestly, I didn't realize that we didn't have it in here. Has the budget changed? It was \$6 million to do a study to connect four communities, including Arviat and Whale Cove, and now the scope has increased to include Baker Lake. Has the budget changed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, just the scope has increased but not the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll move on and hopefully the minister will be able to get us that substantiation sheet.

On the Whale Cove airport terminal, I'm curious. There are five terminals that will be built and I want to compare the substantiation sheets for Chesterfield Inlet and Whale Cove. According to the information in front of us, they are exactly the same size, 311 square metres, but the budget for the two buildings in Chesterfield Inlet and Whale Cove vary. Whale Cove is budgeted at \$5.2 million and then Chesterfield Inlet is budgeted at \$7 million. Given that they're in the same region and they're the same size building, I wonder what explains the different amounts between these facilities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For those two projects, for their budgets, they're coming in, in terms of different years, but we will need to adjust that if we need to adjust that. The difference would have been by the years because the capital costs in terms of following the inflation, it would have been taken into factor.

For the Kivalliq road study, it was approved in the 2020-21 capital. I confirmed that and what we need to do is that we would have to carry the money forward. If it's going to be on the capital carry-forward for 2021-22, it will show up as part of the capital carryover, so members can get that information for the Kivalliq road study. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) On these airport terminals, and there are going to be five of them, Naujaat, Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, Kugluktuk, information provided by Community and Government Services indicates the target date for request for tender construction services is March 2021 for Whale Cove. Does that mean that construction

would start in the summer of 2021? I'm just trying to understand the timeline with that project. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, could I ask Mr. Hawkins to respond to that? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would hope so, but if the design is completed on March 31, as is currently scheduled, then the tendering process and the delays of that, it's likely that it would only be materials delivered. Well, we have been trying to get these things done as quickly as we can. That seems to be the schedule that we're on. If the design is not complete until March 31, it doesn't appear that we would have a significant amount of construction completed in 2021. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The minister also gave us correspondence to different MLAs dated September 15 on these terminal buildings and it said that "A decision was made to procure and complete the design for all five small air terminal buildings together. This will streamline the procurement process and will deliver efficiencies." Does this mean that you have decreased the cost of the design work which was budgeted for these five facilities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point not necessarily. There will probably be a small decrease, but once that work is done, we will have a firmer figure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) One final question on the Whale Cove airport terminal, I have mentioned the need for multipurpose space in that terminal. It could be for arts and crafts. It could be for a tourism type operator. Given that the facility is in design, where should those types of suggestions be directed to? Is it to the minister or to the company doing the design? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All of the communities were visited just last month. Was it last month that they visited for the design? It would have been

through that process that you would have brought those ideas in. If those weren't brought in, then my suggestion would be for probably the municipality to have written correspondence to our contractor and to our department officials. This is a project right now, so we are treating these as projects. It would have to be within the scope of the work, so I would encourage that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Moving to another airport much larger, the Rankin Inlet facility, which is currently budgeted at \$60.6 million and with construction to take place over three and a half years, it seems it will be a complicated project to execute. I was going through the documentation and it's not apparent how much of the \$60.6 million is a contingency in case of overages or changes to the project. That's my question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. Through you, can Mr. Hawkins respond to that question? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that project, the scope is not quite determined yet, but we have been firm with the consultants and with our project team that that is the budget and that the contingency of probably 10 to 15 percent would be built inside that budget and that the scope would be at 85 to 90 percent of the budget. That's kind of the only way we can work with those projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. That's reassuring. It sounds a lot better than 2 percent contingency. I don't think that's advisable to any major project.

On the small craft harbour work or the marine infrastructure scoping study, the minister also mentioned that in his correspondence and he gave a list of projects that were submitted to the Oceans Protection Plan's Safety Equipment and Basic Marine Infrastructure in Northern Communities Initiative. Sorry, interpreters.

There are six projects led by the minister's department, sealift improvements in six communities. Is there a ballpark cost for these six improvements that have been applied for and would they be fully covered and paid for by the federal program or would the Nunavut government have a portion of these to pay if they're approved? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All those projects vary in terms of how much those proposals were and they vary in terms of the numbers that we submitted to the Oceans Protection Plan. As I mentioned earlier, I am anticipating a response and a word to these projects in the very near future. I don't have the various in terms of the specific numbers, but with this Oceans Protection Plan and the proposals that we submitted, those were for the Department of Transport Canada to fund it 100 percent; 100 percent of these projects would be funded through that project once they were approved. That's the plan at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What is meant by "sealift improvements"? In Arviat, which is included in these proposals, the sealift infrastructure is dirt. There's not a lot of infrastructure there. I'm not trying to get too far into the details. What is meant by "sealift improvements"? Does it involve concrete? What type of infrastructure or improvements are we talking about? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This would include stuff like fencing, road improvements, lighting, and the gravel that's going from the sea to the high-water mark, so it would be the improvements towards those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I was going through the terms for that scoping study and the primary objective is the sealift infrastructure, but then the secondary objective is also other types of marine infrastructure. It's a general question to the minister. Under this contract, this scoping study, things like small craft harbours, community docks, whatever you want to call them, they will be included in terms of the scoping. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is the intent to include those, include anything related to marine within the communities. In some cases more work will be needed than others, but the intent is to include that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on Economic Development and Transportation. Transportation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$11,449,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok, closing comments? Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. You did a great job chairing this meeting and we were able to complete this department. I would like to thank you and my colleagues for asking good questions.

I felt the comments that were made, especially the comments made by members that even though it seems like the smaller communities are being ignored, we do empathize with them and we try to provide different programs for them. Sometimes it doesn't show through here, but I very much look forward to projects getting started through the different funding proposals we submit. With that, members, I want to sincerely thank you.

Also, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) as part of these closing comments, I know my Deputy Minister, Bernie MacIsaac, had lots to say during these proceedings. I just want to highlight to you and to give thanks for the many years of service he has done for this government and for this territory, for the many years that he has done for this territory. As many of you know, he has worked in different roles within the federal government, within the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and in several roles with our Government of Nunavut, as his background is on geology and he has roles to being the deputy minister and a very sound deputy minister for this department.

I have to regret that we are going to miss him as he enters his retirement and this is his last appearance in this House, so I just wanted to acknowledge and thank the Premier for giving him the tenure for being the deputy minister of this fine department. I am truly going to miss him and as members, I want to give thanks to him for the service that he has done for this department and for this territory, and I wish him well back in Nova Scotia and I hope he talks to those Nova Scotians in terms of helping the indigenous people over there, in terms of working very well with us. I know he is going to bring it back there and parts of Nunavut are going to follow him.

I give thanks and I give thanks to every one you for providing me full dialogue with our capital estimates. On that note, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok, and also a happy retirement to Mr. MacIsaac from all of us and from the territory. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: My apologies again. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials. Thank you.

Also, there's a report progress and it's not debatable. All those in favour. All those opposed. Carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Good evening. Thank you for working hard once again. No. 20. 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 Bill 51 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee on the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Keyootak. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. 21. (interpretation) Third Reading of Bills. 22. (interpretation ends) *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets tomorrow at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for October 29:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions

12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 51
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 29, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:56*

