

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)

David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

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

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(Rankin Inlet South)
*Minister of Community and
Government Services; Minister of
Human Resources*

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

Pat Angnakak
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Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)
*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for
Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

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Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister
responsible for the Workers' Safety and
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responsible for Immigration; Minister
responsible for the Status of Women*

Hon. David Joanasiq
(South Baffin)
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, October 29, 2020

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Paul Quassa)(interpretation): Before we begin, Mr. Keyootak, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member Keyootak, for opening the meeting. Good day, Nunavummiut who are following the proceedings. Welcome to your House as your members are starting their session.

Let's begin with Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 498 – 5(2): Caribou Management

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, caribou are a species of great cultural and economic significance to Nunavummiut. We have a robust wildlife management system in Nunavut, built upon relationships between the Government of Nunavut and co-management partners, including wildlife boards, hunters and trappers organizations, as well as provincial, territorial and federal governments. It is a flexible system built on consultation and collaboration, which allows swift action when necessary to protect wildlife.

A good example of our wildlife management system's collaborative nature is the recent lowering of the total allowable harvest of the Bluenose-East caribou herd. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board held a public hearing in Kugluktuk in March of this year to discuss the management of this herd. The board made the decision to lower the total allowable harvest for this herd at their regular meeting in June, and I accepted their decision.

Mr. Speaker, setting limits on harvesting is a step that nobody wants to take and is done as a last resort, but it is done for a very important reason: to support the recovery of caribou herds so that future generations will be able to hunt them. Wherever possible, the Department of Environment seeks input from our co-management partners on studies and surveys. We recently held consultations regarding our upcoming survey of the Dolphin and Union herd. The input from users and co-management partners in the Kitikmeot will help to inform survey methodology to ensure the herd is accurately counted. This will allow the department to develop future management plans to balance conservation needs with community harvesting.

Mr. Speaker, my department will continue to work with our partners to ensure the sustainability of all caribou herds for Nunavummiut now and in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

Minister's Statement 499 – 5(2): Therapeutic Justice Program Expansion

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon to those in Iqaluktuuttiaq and my colleagues here this afternoon.

Uqaqtii, I rise today to provide an update on the Therapeutic Justice Program.

The Therapeutic Justice Program started in Cambridge Bay in 2019. The program is focused on addressing the underlying issues associated with crime and helping offenders break the cycle of offence. The program seeks solutions outside the formal legal process that promote healing and are culturally relevant. The program works very closely with elders and community resources to offer cultural programming and counselling. Since the opening of the program on April 1, 2019, it has supported 16 clients in Cambridge Bay.

I am very pleased to inform you that in partnership with the Aqqiumavvik Society and with funding from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Department of Justice will be expanding the Therapeutic Justice Program into Arviat. We hope to see the launch of this expansion in the coming months. The Aqqiumavvik Society was an important partner in the development for the pilot project in Cambridge Bay and will help facilitate services in Arviat.

Important to the success of this expansion is an elders committee in Arviat that bring expertise and experience in healing and decolonization. In Arviat these elders will help build a model for therapeutic justice that is based on *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit*.

We are excited to work with the Aqqiumavvik Society and the community of Arviat to expand this important initiative into their community and to continue to move forward through therapeutic justice in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends)
Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Joanasie.

Minister's Statement 500 – 5(2): Extension of the Canada-Nunavut Agreement on Languages

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut, and I send my condolences to those who have recently lost a loved one in Kinngait and here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House of the one year extension of the Canada – Nunavut Agreement on Languages for fiscal year 2021-22 in the amount \$9.48 million, of which \$5.1 million is for Inuktitut services and \$4.48 million is for French language services.

Mr. Speaker, the agreement expired on March 31, 2020. Our department officials were in the process of negotiating a new agreement with federal officials. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the negotiations were delayed. Both parties decided to extend the latest agreement by one year to ensure that language funding continues to flow to Nunavut. There was also funding for the 2019-2020 fiscal year that remained unspent that we have worked with our federal counterparts to ensure could be carried forward to the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue our negotiations for a new multi-year language agreement and will update the House accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister of Family Services, Minister Akeegok.

Minister's Statement 501 – 5(2): Surusinut Ikajuqtigiit, the Nunavut Child Abuse and Neglect Response Agreement

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department recognizes we all share responsibility for children's safety and well-being and the most effective way to fulfill that responsibility is by working together. Everybody plays a role in recognizing, reporting, and responding to suspected child abuse and neglect.

The Department of Family Services, in collaboration with working group members and contributing partners, has recently completed the Surusinut Ikajuqtigiit, the Nunavut Child Abuse and Neglect Response Agreement. The purpose of this agreement is to outline the collaborative working relationship between key partners, identify roles and responsibilities, and to ensure interventions in preventing child abuse and neglect are conducted timely, appropriately, and with sensitivity and skill.

Community social services workers, along with service providers, including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, child care providers, medical, mental health, educational, lawyers, community justice staff, and others, are committed to working collaboratively to protect children by preventing harm and to respond appropriately when harm occurs.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank each of the signatories, namely, the Arctic Children and Youth Foundation, “V” Division of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and our government’s departments to this document for their collaborative input in the agreement and their commitment to upholding *Tunnganarniq*, fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming, and inclusive; *Ajiiqatigiingniq*, decision-making through discussion and consensus; and *Piliriqatigiinni* or *Ikajuqtigiinni*, working together for a common cause.

We continue to maintain accountability and transparency throughout the child abuse and neglect response process and appreciate our supporting stakeholders, respectively, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Representative for Children and Youth office.

At the appropriate time today I will be tabling the contents of the Surusinut Ikajuqtigiit Agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Minister’s Statement 502 – 5(2): Inuktitut Language Training

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good day and thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to Nunavummiut and the people of Rankin Inlet in particular.

Mr. Speaker, our language carries great importance in our lives, even things that are of serious nature, as we make continuous efforts to preserve and protect our Inuit culture, as we know in this government. Governments have always prioritized efforts to ensure that the Inuit language thrives as a living language characterizing our territory.

As I rise today before the Assembly, I would like to announce an important initiative by my department. We are making Inuit language a more functional part of our operations as we serve Nunavummiut.

In support of the Nunavut's *Official Language Act* and *Inuit Language Protection Act*, and in line with the Inuit Employment Plan, the Department of Community and Government Services is introducing distance Inuktitut language training for staff throughout the territory. To ensure the health and safety of learners and maintain social distancing protocols, courses will be offered either through Microsoft Teams or through teleconferencing.

Mr. Speaker, the course, which can accommodate 15 students, includes 30 hours of instructor-led training over 10 weeks. The first course started on September 21 and will end on November 20. Over 50 people applied. Given the significant interest, we are planning for two more courses to be delivered, one in the Kivalliq region and one in the Kitikmeot region. Once these three courses are completed, CGS has been asked by a number of other departments to plan and implement additional sessions.

Mr. Speaker, we are hopeful that this new method of providing language training will be successful in helping our public servants to be able to understand and converse in Inuktitut. Mr. Speaker, I wish all those enrolled great success as we take steps to preserve our language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister's Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, followed by the Member for Uqqummiut. Member Main.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 742 – 5(2): Reliable and Affordable Internet

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues, as well as the residents of Arviat and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the World Wide Web or the Internet, for those who surf online with their computers. In English it is called the (interpretation ends) broadband Internet, (interpretation) and we all know, Mr. Speaker, here in Nunavut, residents are using the Internet daily throughout our territory.

From the youngest child online to the elders who surf the Internet and who are quite adept at surfing the Internet, and many people chat via social media and work online, as well as purchasing items. In other words, we use the Internet in all of its realms, as some people garner income from work done over the Internet, while others are chatting with other Inuit in different communities or video chatting with relatives.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Internet access is an essential service and that has only been underlined during the COVID-19 pandemic. For Nunavummiut, I think it's

important that the Internet service not just be available; that it should be reliable and affordable.

Mr. Speaker, Internet providers in Nunavut are supported by federal funds, some of which are made available through the CRTC. I was following in the Senate yesterday, our Senator for Nunavut raised this issue and expressed his concern regarding reliable high-speed Internet access for Nunavummiut.

It's my understanding that in November 2019 the CRTC announced a call for applications to a \$750 million fund and it's my understanding that there were applications submitted by Nunavut Internet providers.

Unfortunately we have not seen any action at the CRTC level to support these providers. I'm concerned that if we don't see these dollars flow, my constituents may see increased costs of Internet service or we may see providers leave the territory. We've already had Xplornet leave very recently.

It's an important subject and at the appropriate time I will have questions for the Minister of Community and Government Services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 743 – 5(2): Qikiqtarjuaq High School Graduates

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish a "good day" to everyone in Qikiqtarjuaq as well as in Clyde River, listening to and watching our proceedings, as well as to my colleagues here. I am especially cognizant and sympathetic to residents in Clyde River who recently lost a loved one, and we sympathize and send our love.

We often recall residents who lose relatives, however, we are unable to attend or provide assistance other than remembrance of the person as well as praying for the relatives due to being in session. We are always affected by the loss of relatives in our constituencies, so I am especially thinking of those Inuit in Clyde River today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share celebratory news about recent graduates from the high school in our community of Qikiqtarjuaq. As we know, with the COVID-19 pandemic, it has changed many social practices and especially local graduation ceremonies as graduates had to undertake new practices to be safe.

In particular, since the graduates were recently feted with a graduation ceremony in Qikiqtarjuaq, I wish to congratulate them along with my colleagues as the ceremony just occurred in October although the students graduated in the springtime.

The students who graduated high school in Qikiqtarjuaq in whom we are quite proud of are:

- Henry Nookiguak
- Rita Kullualik
- Marina Nuqingak

Although these students only comprised three graduates in Qikiqtarjuaq, they were the subject of a local ceremony held recently though they graduated in the spring, mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and they now have to practise social distancing.

I want my colleagues to join me in being proud of them even though it's only three in Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are very proud of those students who graduate from school. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Member's Statement 744 – 5(2): Surusinut Ikajuqtigiit

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to express my gratitude to the Acting Minister of Family Services for his minister's statement this morning about the Surusinut Ikajuqtigiit, the Nunavut Child Abuse and Neglect Response Agreement.

I think this is some great news; something that we've been looking forward to for a number of years as it was identified in the Umingmak feasibility study and needs assessment report a number of years ago.

This is the type of interdepartmental collaboration which is essential in getting all of the four major players involved in addressing child sexual abuse in the territory together to address the matter.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very exciting news, and behalf of all children I'd like to thank the minister and the government and all of the members of the working group that worked on this document.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of the six key points which was identified in Greenland's child abuse reduction strategy and I look forward to similar announcements addressing the other five areas which Greenland is focussing on to reduce child abuse in their country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no further names on my list. Let us proceed. Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions.

(interpretation) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, who will be followed by the Member for Hudson Bay. Mr. Qamaniq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 1048 – 5(2): Nunavut Airports

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow residents of Tununiq, my colleagues and the people of Nunavut. To my family members who lost a relative, I feel for you. I am sorry I am unable to be in my community at the moment.

Mr. Speaker, during Committee of the Whole yesterday I had a question for the Minister of Transportation that I was not able to ask. I have a question that I would like to go ahead with, and so my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

I want to revisit some issues concerning airports in Nunavut. As the minister will recall, the *Nunavut Airports 20 year Infrastructure Needs Assessment* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in March 2016, almost five years ago. This important publication contains valuable information about our community airports.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm when an updated version of this document will be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel for our colleague. When you lose a relative, your community feels very far away. I’m glad you ask questions, and I am grateful when these questions are posed.

As we are still preparing the infrastructure capital needs assessment, it is still not yet completed. Once it is completed I will go through it. I cannot say as of yet when it will be tabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. I also learned how to speak English, so will be speaking in English today beginning now.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the *Nunavut Airport 20 Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment* discusses the important undertaking and feasibility study concerning

the development of a jet-capable airport in Pond Inlet. This development is needed given Pond Inlet's strategic location as the hub community of our region.

As the minister is aware, his department's annual capital estimates contain funding for undertaking studies. Will the minister commit to ensuring that this study is undertaken on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point I don't have exactly which studies we will be doing for this fiscal year, but definitely this awareness has been taken and in terms of the capabilities for each of our communities, I am hoping that there will be a special chapter within our assessment to look at this and look at what the aircraft capabilities are right now in this part of the world.

So with that, I don't want to commit to this House whether we will definitely look through those specific studies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister confirm what upgrades and improvements are planned for Pond Inlet's airport during the upcoming 2021-22 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister for Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for this. When we are reviewing in the Committee of the Whole the department's 2021-22 capital budget, there was nothing identified under that current capital for the project the MLA just mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, followed by the Member for Baker Lake. Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 1049 – 5(2): Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, and I want to follow up on some issues related to the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan.

As the minister is well aware, hundreds of municipal employees, housing association employees and all the workers in both Nunavut and the Northwest Territories participate in the pension plan.

As the minister will recall, I asked him questions earlier this year about the possibility of the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan expanding into the Yukon, which would require new legislation to be passed in that territory.

If this occurs, we will be in a unique situation where three different legislatures and three different governments would share responsibilities for the same plan.

Can the minister update the House today on the status of his discussions with the Northwest Territories and Yukon governments on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank my colleague for asking that question.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, not too much has changed since our last exchange on this topic. Mr. Speaker, the NEBS board has approached the Yukon government about the Yukon employees joining NEBS and we are still waiting for the Yukon government to pass legislation so that it could be a true pan-northern benefit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, he tabled the most recent Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan annual report during our recent September sitting.

The report stated that, “When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, markets across the globe were affected negatively and in response to these severe Market disruptions NEBS asked both the Government of Nunavut and the Government of the NWT to put in place a regulation associated with the NEBS ACT that would temporarily restrict portability (for up to 24 months) of terminating NEBS Pension Plan members. Both Governments agreed and this will go into effect on July 15, 2020.”

Mr. Speaker, these regulations were published in the June edition of the *Nunavut Gazette*. For the benefit of the Nunavut workers who are paying into the pension plan, can the minister clearly explain what this regulation means for them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question posed by my colleague. Mr. Speaker, it is correct that NEBS had worked with the Government of Nunavut and NWT to impose a new regulation in both territories that also temporarily restricted portability. This restriction was imposed for 24 months effective July 15 as my colleague said.

However, markets have since returned to normal and the losses incurred in March have now been recouped and value added. The NEBS pension committee is monitoring the markets and the second wave of the pandemic and may consider lifting the portability restriction in the 2021 year if markets remain steady. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the minister for that information. The annual report also indicates that “2019 saw the NEBS Investment Fund grow by 30 million dollars and despite COVID-19 related market disruptions in March and April 2020, at the time of writing this report the fund had stabilized itself with no negative returns.”

Can the minister confirm whether or not any direct government funding will be required to ensure the pension plan’s solvency? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To answer the question directly; I don’t believe there will be, but if there should be any changes between now and then, I will be sure to advise my colleagues on it. We are in close communication with the board and monitoring the situation as we speak, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, who will then be followed by the Member for Uqqummiut. Mr. Simailak.

Question 1050 – 5(2): Health Centres Security Contracts

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon to my colleagues and to the people of Baker Lake. I hope you guys are having a wonderful day today. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions today to the Minister of Health.

I would like to follow up on an issue raised by my colleague from Pangnirtung regarding security services at our community health centres. The minister indicated that the government had spent \$2.7 million on security in health centres last year.

Can the minister clarify which entity currently holds the contract to provide security services at Nunavut's health centres and when this contract will expire? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a mix of contracts that we have and including some with CSAs that we use in some communities with unfunded positions where previous business cases weren't approved. We currently have QC Scarlet Security Services and Twilite Security Services under contract, in addition to a number of staff that we have hired locally through CSAs and through relief worker packages. 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. Mr. Speaker, I fully appreciate that needing to provide security at our community health centres is unfortunate. However, ensuring the safety of residents and health centre staff is very important.

Can the minister clarify whether the contracts for health centre security include training for individuals who are employed as security guards and, if so, where is this training provided? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. There's a bit of a mixture. The security services are supposed to be providing training to their employees. With the turnover in some communities, it has been difficult to continue to provide training to new security service providers in the communities. That being said, this is an ongoing dialogue. As I had mentioned to a previous question of this nature, there is a dialogue with my department and with our contractors to come to a standard of training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that it can be difficult to employ and retain local employees when they don't have adequate training opportunities to prepare them for their jobs. When will the minister be putting out a new tender for the health centre security contract and will the new contract include a component for local training and hiring? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we all realize that local security service providers from the community can help deflate confrontations because they know the people and we recognize that. As an example, since May 2017, when we started these contracts, QC Scarlet has hired a total of 334 security guards, of which 94 percent are Inuit. Mr. Speaker, they know how important that is.

The challenge that we do have and continue to have is the turnover in the communities. We have some health centres where there are daily confrontations between health care professionals and residents of the community. The security service providers in those communities have to be at their shift. It's not a question of maybe. Those health care professionals are trying to provide a service and they deserve a safe working atmosphere.

I can't emphasize enough and as the member mentions, training is going to be a huge component of that and that is part of the process that we're looking at. I would anticipate tenders would be coming out, I would say, in the very near future. We do have some contracts that are expiring at the end of this calendar year, so we will be looking at, through the discussions that we're having with our current providers, on regulating some type of training component to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1051 – 5(2): COVID-19 Preparedness

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

Mr. Speaker, we all know we all know that the pandemic is still spreading worldwide and we don't know when it's going to end or if it will ever end, but we are also aware that we're trying our best to keep it out of Nunavut and out of our territory and the staff work very hard to make sure that it doesn't enter our territory. The communities are following the protocols that have been set by the government and if we keep doing so, there is less of a chance of a sickness coming in.

Mr. Speaker, could the minister give us an idea of what plans they have should COVID-19 enter into one or more of our communities? What kinds of plans do you have and what kinds of emergency plans do you have should you have to go to a community that has COVID-19? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. I think all of our communities need to have a sense of comfort in the plans that we have in place. I

appreciate the member giving me an opportunity to again further elaborate on what our plans are.

There is some case variability. If it is a restricted contact if somebody has travelled into the community and has remained isolated from other members of the community, that is a very simple process to make sure that they just keep contained and isolated and continue to meet their healthcare needs.

Where some of the complexities that may come into play is, is if there is widespread or an outbreak in a community. If somebody contracts COVID-19 and has not been maintaining social distancing, has not been maintaining the hand hygiene recommendations and has been continuing to visit other households and it spreads, we have rapid response teams that are available to immediately fly into the community and develop contact tracing and isolation protocols for the people that are impacted, and also there may be enhanced measures in the community itself; potentially school closures, potentially business closures, office closures, back to like when we first started with COVID-19.

There are different levels of reaction to COVID-19 coming into a community. I think that is why it is even more important now more than ever for people to maintain their social distancing, to maintain their hand hygiene and continuously wash high contact area surfaces. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clearly explaining that.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very glad to hear that there has been some proper planning done on this. Can the minister also indicate to us: in the case where that occurred in one community, such as if there were a case in Qikiqtarjuaq, the Department of Health would know about it and the rapid response would go into the community, and then we hear from another community with a case of COVID-19. While Qikiqtarjuaq is being addressed, yet two communities happen at the same time, is there another team that is ready to go to another community at the same time while the first community is being dealt with? Have you planned for a second community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Again, it would depend upon if there was a single case in a controlled environment where there would be a need to involve a rapid response team, but if there was an outbreak or a real concern of spreading COVID-19, then we would definitely send the team in and we do have backup teams available to go into other communities if there are other outbreaks in other communities simultaneously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for explaining that. I would like to ask the minister lastly about the comments that the minister made if cases were to arrive in the communities, and if COVID-19 were to continue spreading, do you have numbers on how many cases the Department of Health is capable of helping with?

How many cases would have to occur in Nunavut before your department would have to ask for help from outside sources? How much of a spread to other communities would there have to be before you need to ask for help from the outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not defined as a number of cases. It is the impact of those cases. If there was a high medical need, if a lot of people got very sick, we would be having to send them out to partner jurisdictions for enhanced medical care that we wouldn't be able to provide in the community or possibly even in the territory.

We do have space set aside at Qikiqtani General Hospital if necessary that we could provide that second layer of healthcare if needed, but if it was a high need, as an example, if somebody needed intensive care, we don't have that capability in the territory. So we would have to send those people to a partnering jurisdiction, which as we're seeing in the south is creating a burden with the current numbers on their healthcare system. So it is something of a great concern to me personally on how important it is to continue to follow the measures.

We don't have an exact number. If there are outbreaks at more than three communities I would be starting to look at the phone and look at calling Minister Hajdu with Health Canada who has graciously offered to be on standby in such a case with our partnering jurisdictions.

We also have the ability to move staff from within the territory around if there is a community that is safe and can deal with the loss of a couple of staff members, we could move them over into an outbreak area to assist the rapid response team on the ground. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1052 – 5(2): Broadband Connectivity Funding

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the government's current business plan indicates that the GN has "Contributed to the Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission's notice of consultation pertaining to the development of the Commission's broadband funding regime, including its governance, operating and accountability framework as well as eligibility and assessment criteria for proposed projects."

On August 12, 2020 the Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission announced \$72 million in funding from the Broadband Fund for a number of projects in the NWT, Yukon and Northern Manitoba.

Can the minister clarify how much funding has been provided by the CRTC for projects related to connectivity and broadband in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was unfortunate that when the CRTC made those announcements, they did not include funding for our department. I don't have that particular detail of funding in front of me, but I'm sure to get it and respond with the details with my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, to the minister. (interpretation ends) I will look forward to getting that information.

As the minister will also be aware, the issue of broadband connectivity was raised in the Senate of Canada yesterday; broadband connectivity for Nunavut communities that is. During these proceedings it was noted, and again I'm quoting our Senator for Nunavut; "One internet provider has announced that it will withdraw from the territory by the end of the year. Federal subsidies ran out months ago for a second provider which serves 67 percent of Nunavut's households outside of Iqaluit. The lack of new funding assistance means that thousands of households are at imminent risk of losing the internet." It goes on from there, Mr. Speaker.

Can the minister tell us today what discussions he has had with the federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry on this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Technology has come such a long way in this short time. I remember when I was wireless internet back when I was a kid. My mother would write a note on a back of an empty cigarette pack and I would have to deliver it to my neighbours, wait for that message to come back, and provide that service. We have come a long way.

As far as we have come a long way, sometimes it is still faster to run across the street unfortunately at times like this. I have had some brief discussions or some discussions with my federal counterparts by telephone and I look forward to more as the months proceed.

We have just finalized a two-part study for where we want to see internet service, broadband service go in our territory.

In the first part of that study we were gathering information of what we have and what the private sector would like to see and so on.

In the second phase we were working on seeing how we can channel our first findings into some hard facts and reality that we could present to partners and possible partners in the federal government or Inuit organizations and what have you.

We hope to have that ready by the winter session, Mr. Speaker, and by that time we will have a much better idea of those costs, but we are always trying to relay the need for internet service and better wireless service for our fellow Nunavummiut with our federal counterparts. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

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) I hope the minister will continue those discussions with his federal counterpart. It is my understanding that the funding is in place. There is a pot of funding that has been applied for but for some reason the funding has not flowed. I would appreciate the minister underlining that as much as possible.

Mr. Speaker, my last question is: as the minister is aware, a new entity called the "Panarctic Communications Consortium" was recently formed. This entity is a partnership between SSI Canada and the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation.

Can the minister clarify the extent to which his department has been working with this new entity in respect to the Government of Nunavut's proposed fibre infrastructure project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad my colleague brings up the fibre issue. That is one of the exciting, I think, areas we are looking at going to in Nunavut. It is very important we do get involved with fibre.

The other exciting that is happening in this whole scheme of internet and wirelessness is the low-Earth orbiting satellites that are being deployed. There will be hundreds of low-Earth orbiting satellites that we will be able to access that will be focused to Nunavut communities. Internet is fast now but it will 10 to 20 times faster. It will be almost the speed of fibre in all communities in Nunavut.

We look forward to being a part of that and I look forward to having meetings with the providers of the low-Earth orbiting satellites in the coming months when we are able to meet in person and more freely to travel in this country.

In terms of working with the consortium that my colleague brought up, our senior levels have had communications with them and have had some discussions about where that group is going and how they want to get there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, immediately followed by the Member for Gjoa Haven. Member Netser.

Question 1053 – 5(2): Status of Naujaat Airport Replacement

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to initially direct my questions to the Minister of Human Resources and I had informed him beforehand, nonetheless, I have changed my mind.

Yesterday I wanted to ask this question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and I will use time during our winter sitting to ask more questions to the Minister of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, there have been plans in place for years to replace the terminal building at the airport in Naujaat. Can you give us an update today on what is happening for that community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank our colleague for his question on this topic. This project will move ahead in this fiscal year, although it is slightly delayed and the engineering design drawings had to be completed, but they are still underway with the drawings.

However, I can now say that these plans were approved by regular members to proceed with this project and the five projects for airports at five communities are mostly related to terminal buildings and they were approved. This project will go ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, he just alluded to the fact that there was a delay in the project due to the drawings for the air terminal building being delayed.

Can you give you an answer in the House today as to why there was a delay in these design drawings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were two communities we tried to do advance work in the previous fiscal year to have them ready for the fiscal year we are in now.

However, if you recall, the GN computer systems crashed and caused several months delay requiring catch up, and immediately after we had dealt with it, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the globe and no travel was allowed into or out of the territory.

These were the two main reasons for the delays, nonetheless, the completion date for this project will not be delayed and this is part of our plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank you for that information. Now, communities are supplied by sealift and when delays occur and then the supplies are not available until the next sealift, especially when talking about construction materials, the lack of materials causes further delays, which is understandable.

What I would like to know is: when is the timeline for the completion of the terminal building for Naujaat? Is the project supposed to be commenced next fiscal year? When do you anticipate the project being completed, if that is possible and if he has the information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our officials were able to conduct some community visits at the end of September where they went to the five communities to present the designs and the outlook.

We just received them this week and we are starting our review. We anticipate that during the next sealift season we will be able to ship up the materials, so the work would begin and be completed in the following year. That's what our plan is, but the final details and follow-up to the projects, I could try to provide more information at a later time on those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1054 – 5(2): Franklin Expedition Legacy Initiatives

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hello to the community, as well as to my family watching me, and a special hello to Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak who says he is watching the sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Mr. Speaker, I was chairing Committee of the Whole yesterday so I did not have the opportunity to ask questions.

As the minister will recall, I tabled correspondence in the House last year concerning the important work of the Franklin Interim Advisory Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the committee has been working hard to identify ways that the legacy of the expedition can benefit the community of Gjoa Haven in respect to infrastructure and economic development.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister update the House today on how his department's Tourism and Cultural Industries Division has been supporting the important work of the Franklin Interim Advisory Committee? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't have the specifics on what work has been done to date with the working group, but from what I understand our regional office has been involved in terms of figuring out how to advance this from the tourism point of view. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, the correspondence that I tabled identified the need for enhancements and expansion to Gjoa Haven's airport.

Mr. Speaker, in order to support the growth of the tourism sector in relation to the Franklin Expedition legacy, although I recognize that the tourism sector has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to look forward to the future.

Can the minister indicate what enhancements are planned for Gjoa Haven's airport in the coming 2021-22 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In yesterday's proceedings with the Committee of the Whole there were a number of projects that were listed for that particular project that were not listed, but I want to assure and I need to get back to the department whether that is part of our small capital planning, and I could get the information back to the member whether the Gjoa Haven airport is part of this because there is components in that small capital that gets done in the fiscal year that is done at the operational level. So I want to get back to the member with the documentation if there is any. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for saying that he will get back to me with some documentation on the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Can the minister update the House on how his department has been working with Parks Canada and the Department of Culture and Heritage on Franklin Expedition legacy projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our department is very serious in terms of helping out Parks Canada in terms of the advisory council on the Franklin Expedition. In fact, our Director of Tourism is a board member, so we placed a very senior member of our department on that advisory board and hope that any work that is being done through advisory board will get support through all levels of government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, who will then be followed by the Member for Netsilik. Member Lightstone.

Question 1055 – 5(2): Victim Services

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice and they are regarding Victim Services.

This week I have made multiple references to Greenland's *Killiliisa* strategy to reduce child sexual abuse.

Mr. Speaker, as I had indicated, one of the six areas of this strategy identifies the importance for victims of child sexual abuse to receive treatment to recover from their traumatic experience and the need to address the lack of supports for victims and their families.

Mr. Speaker, my first question for the minister is: what supports does Victim Services have available to children who have become victims of sexual abuse? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question.

The Victim Service Branch of the Community Justice Division is responsible for the implementation of programs that support victims of crime; the member is correct. The victim care program is dedicated to providing clients with front-line care, public education, and awareness of victim's issues.

The Nunavut Victim Travel Support Program provides funding for victims of violent crime to travel and participate in court proceedings outside of their home communities. The Victim Assistance Fund provides funding to community-based projects and culturally relevant activities that assist victims of crime, and these include children and their families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week in response to my question, the minister indicated that there were roughly 209 registered sexual offenders who have committed crimes and been convicted of crimes against children.

Mr. Speaker, of those 209 perpetrators, how many child victims were there and how many of these children received assistance from victim support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. I don't have that level of detail of information that the member is looking for, but I can find that information for the member so that we can share them in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1056 – 5(2): Caring for Medical Travel Clients

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

Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my questions to the Minister of Health. As we know, the COVID-19 pandemic is still in force throughout the world, and many concerns still exist as we see daily Nunavummiut travelling in and out of the territory for medical travel and treatments, usually from one of our communities to other places that provide the services.

Can the minister provide a clear and succinct description of the policies? The Department of Health has policies related to all medical travel and health care. It can include the need to stay at hotels while they are travelling as well as when they are going to be returning home. These policies outline what care and services are provided while the medical patients are out for medical travel at any time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the aspects of medical travel, as I'm sure many of us are aware from either personal experience or family experience or through friends or community members, is that they have to be cleared by the medical team to travel.

Once you are deemed that you are capable of travel that's when you would enter the isolation hub. So at that point you should be able to, although you know the food is delivered and everything, but you should be able to live in the hotel on your own or with your medical escort if you are approved for one.

So there hasn't been an incident to my knowledge where health care has impacted people's isolation stay in that manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I noted, as people travel in and out of the territory they're required to stay at isolation hotels where different people have different lifestyles.

Some individuals, and specifically medical travel clients, may be sensitive to materials used at hotels while others may be fine.

Can the minister clarify what guidelines are in place to address the specific needs and sensitivity of medical travel clients, and how do staff at the hotels ensure that these guidelines are followed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So whenever somebody is going into the isolation they are asked if they have any special requirements, whether that be food sensitivities or health requirements, and then would be worked with that specific traveller to make sure that those needs are being met.

I will take an opportunity that I neglected to respond with in a question last week. One of the real advancements of the isolation care has been the ability of a specific email address of isolationrelations@gov.nu.ca. It is separate from our patient relations who deal with the medical travel.

If anyone is in isolation and has concerns, there are onsite staff at every isolation hub, but there is also an email address: isolationrelations@gov.nu.ca where concerns can be brought forward and would be dealt with at that in that manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am finding that the more questions you ask, the more clarification can be provided, so if you don't ask any questions then you will never comprehend the discussions.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our government needs to take all the necessary steps to protect our people even when they are traveling and staying in hotels. Some medical travelers are concerned about what they will face when they have to stay in an isolation hotel. Will the minister commit to tabling a copy of the guidelines and procedures that must be followed at isolation hotels where medical travel clients are required to stay before returning home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that information is available on the Government of Nunavut's Health website. All the forms and the conditions are on there. If time permits and I can get cabinet approval to table those items, I will bring it forward, but we do have limited times available and without cabinet approval, I am not permitted to table items unlike regular members as they can table anything they want.

It is publicly available information and I can provide the member specific hard copies and links to those sites outside of this House so that he can forward to those any community members that may benefit from that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1057 – 5(2): Office of Patient Relations

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon and I say “good day” to the people of Pangnirtung. This afternoon I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. I have a lot of questions on health.

During our present session a question was posed to the Office of Patient Relations, and as members we provide the phone numbers to our constituents on numerous occasions. This office is where people lodge complaints if they feel they didn't receive proper care. When they respond by phone or email, we don't know the exact details of those complaints and we have no idea how many people have made complaints and what the reasons are for those complaints.

My first question to the minister is: does the Office of Patient Relations collect any statistics on the type and frequency of the issues and how are they handled by the Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. Any time I get a chance to flaunt the benefits of the Office of Patient Relations I'm going to take the opportunity to do so.

Mr. Speaker, we do track the types of complaints. I don't have a full listing and the complete breakdown, but the most predominate complaints are patient care and medical travel escorts are the most common themes across all three regions.

In the Kitikmeot, there is another little category called “attitude” that was put in there. That is an issue as well that gets looked into fairly frequently. We do track it on a semi-annual basis, so I do have the numbers until June 30 for this calendar year.

And actually probably due to the restrictions on medical travel and our numbers have drastically decreased and the number of complaints brought forward. There were approximately 410 last year and we are about 209 to June 30 of this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He has already responded to part of my question, but I would like to ask again.

(interpretation ends) While I appreciate the Office of Patient Relations as they handle many complaints and it is very useful for a lot of our constituents to contact patient relations.

I understand the service is not always readily available for a lot of our constituents. I'm wondering if the minister will be tabling a report on the activities of Patient Relations, including statistical types of issues, as you have already stated, information on how those issues get resolved and any general trends in the issues that have been identified.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly sure how to answer that question right now. We have been basically putting the information together for internal use. As far as to make it a public document as far as a tabling document that is not legislatively required, I would have to speak to my officials to see the complexity and how that information would be tabulated to be able to be a tabling item. I would have to look into it to see what that report would look like as far as what information would be in there.

I'll just qualify my response why I'm a little hesitant, Mr. Speaker. We do have some communities where there are only a few complaints brought forward and if we isolated those cases and gave reasons why, people could figure out who those people are. There would be privacy concerns with that. That is my only hesitation on that.

I have no problem with sharing general information on patient relations. I think it's very important that people realize how often that office has benefited people. My office, even just up to this point this calendar year, has dealt with 230 client/patient issues that were brought to my attention through members around this room. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please note that the time for question period... . Mr. Main.

Motion 091 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, that question period be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and question period has been extended by 30 minutes.

Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, followed by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove. Member Angnakak.

Question 1058 – 5(2): Sexual Offenders

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Acting Minister of Family Services, and I just want to say I note how timely this minister's statement is because it fits right into some of the questions that I'm going to be asking the minister today.

I want to follow up today on the issue of protecting Nunavut's children against sexual offenders and abuse.

As the minister is aware, one of the fundamental principles of the *Child and Family Services Act* is that its paramount objective is to "promote the best interests, protection and well-being of children."

The law also clearly states that children are, and again I quote, "entitled to protection from abuse and harm and from the threat of abuse and harm."

As I noted earlier this week in my questions to the Minister of Justice, one of the observations made by the Representative for Children and Youth was that "investigations [into abuse] were inconsistently conducted into these circumstances and steps to reduce the potential risk of further exposure and/or harm to the young person(s) involved were not taken due to a lack of adequate options available for both victims and offenders, or because keeping a family unit together, despite safety concerns, was prioritized."

Can the minister provide a clear description of what specific actions he has directed his department to take in response to these concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member seems to be always one step ahead of me in terms of asking questions that I'm about to present to the House, so it

becomes difficult to say I had done this, but in all seriousness, the department has done a lot and I applaud them.

As acting minister, I get briefed on this and I get the documents that have been done to date, and later today I will be tabling what is called Surusinut Ikajuqtigiit, which is the Nunavut Child Abuse and Neglect Response Agreement. This has been a very collaborative work with all agencies and that's going to lead to more work towards helping and supporting our children from any harm. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I heard a clear description or a specific action, so I do look forward to his tabling of the document and I will read with care what has been done, and maybe if I feel I got more questions, I will get back to him on those specific things.

In reading his member's statement and the reference that the minister made to Surusinut Ikajuqtigiit, I know that the Government of Nunavut's Inuusivut Anninaqtuq Action Plan indicates that one of the ways that it will "enhance" its response to child abuse is to develop an "interdepartmental and interagency child abuse response protocol." I'm not sure if they have different names, so perhaps the minister can confirm if this protocol has been finalized and will he commit to sharing it with the Members of this House, if it is a different working group. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this agreement that I will be tabling does reference the need for a protocol with those that deal with children and that unfortunately have to deal with the children that are in harm, but this protocol is one that goes straight into it in terms of how that is delivered throughout the government and with other agencies.

The difference between what I'm calling an agreement and a protocol is that with the agreement, there is a working group that is led by the Department of Family Services that's interagency and outside agencies all together, but a protocol, with our strict legislation in terms of privacy and the need to work with children in care, that would be contained in the protocol. That's the difference that I'm talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. I really do look forward to seeing that tabled document, and I'm sure the

minister can expect more questions, perhaps, on this subject, either in the remainder of this sitting or in the next.

As the minister will recall, the 2018-19 annual report under the *Child and Family Services Act* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly at its sitting of October 22, 2019, a little over a year ago. This report indicates that one of the responsibilities of its new coordinator position was to ensure the provision of “training on child sexual abuse investigations for frontline service providers.” I’m wondering if the minister can confirm how many frontline social workers and other service providers have received this training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don’t have the exact number of how many have been trained, but that training is ongoing and is being implemented by the department with the frontline staff. I don’t have the specific numbers in terms of how many have received training, but I want to assure the members and this House that training does take place for our social workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1059 – 5(2): NNI Policy and Real Inuit Companies

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to ask questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I put in a written question to the department it seems like years and years ago, but it was earlier in 2020, regarding the activities of Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti Policy Review Committee, and I would like to thank the minister for his response to my question.

The reason I put in this written question was I continue to hear concerns from Inuit business owners who manage and control their own companies, I continue to receive concerns from these types of businesspeople that they are being put on the same playing field as Inuit-owned companies that only exist on paper, and I believe the minister will know the situation I’m referring to. They’re commonly referred to as potato companies, or there are other less parliamentary names that I won’t mention here.

Mr. Speaker, on page 2 of the response to written question under the agendas for this committee, I’ll quote from the response to written question. “To discuss the situation with 100% Inuit owned firms bidding on major GN contracts where no Inuit control or management is apparent.” My first question to the minister is; I’m concerned about this situation that is mentioned in here. What is the minister’s position on this situation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do share that concern too to see if they're 100 percent Inuit-owned and operated. With that and through that agenda, as the member might be aware, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated holds the Inuit registry and with this latest review, they have developed different criteria of what is deemed as an Inuk company. We continue to advocate and talk to NTI. If there are concerns as a possible potato company, we bring it forward through this review and that's what these agenda items would be covering. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The question is: what can be done about this situation? In the response to written question, this issue was on the committee agenda in November 2018 and it was again on the agenda in July 2019, and I'll quote from the response to written question. It says, "The GN continues to see a bid cap as an effective remedy." My second question for the minister is: has a bid cap been brought forward in terms of a potential remedy to this situation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it has been brought forward and through the NNI process and through our regulations, it is required that we solicit input from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on this and we have sent that letter and asked for comments on this. No decision has been made yet regarding this from me or the government at this point, as it is being on the consultations side. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I'm glad to hear that the government brought that forward.

My last question for the minister is: when will an answer or when will a decision be made on whether or not a bid cap will be put in place to make the playing field more fair to the real Inuit-owned companies who are working in our communities and building wealth inside our territory as opposed to sending their profits elsewhere? When will we see a decision on this matter? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for continuing to raise this and I applaud that because we do need to make that decision. I would have to say that it is imminent, but it has to be a government decision. I don't know what the decision will be, but I am bringing it forward. As I mentioned, we have to go through the consultation process first. Once that's done, it is upon me to bring it forward to our government and that's something that I'm planning on doing, but I don't have a firm date in terms of when that's going to happen. Once that decision is made, I'll be very happy to make an announcement to my colleagues and to the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1060 – 5(2): Nunavut Bureau of Statistics

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and it is in relation to the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics.

Mr. Speaker, in my countless efforts in conducting research on child sexual abuse in the territory and across the country, I have yet to see statistical information regarding the impacts of child abuse in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, this is a major concern for me, considering the effects that it has on our children and how rampant it appears to be across our territory. My first question for the minister is: has this ever been a priority for the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the best of my knowledge, this is not one of the statistics that the bureau does because Family Services and the Department of Justice keep those statistics. I can't fully confirm if the statistics bureau keeps any statistics on it, but we have two other departments that do deal with statistics on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for pointing out that those departments, Family Services and the Department of Justice, are responsible for maintaining that type of statistical information. It's unfortunate that over the last two years while I have been trying to get access to that information, it's apparent that that is not available. Mr. Speaker, this is a matter that is of great importance to the youth of this territory and has had a dramatic effect on so many countless Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, as far as I know, it is unknown how serious the situation is and as with any report or study, the first step is always conducting a needs assessment or a feasibility assessment to determine the extent to which the problem is. I would like to ask the

minister if he would commit to directing the bureau of statistics to conduct a survey to determine how widespread the matter truly is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to argue with the member how serious it is because it is serious, child sexual abuse is serious, but just coming up with numbers, whether the numbers come from Family Services, the Department of Justice, or the statistics bureaus, the numbers are still there.

We're doing our best to stop child sexual abuse. Mr. Speaker, no child should have to go through child sexual abuse, never. No one should have to go through that. We know it's a problem. The government knows it's a problem. The member knows it's a problem. The public knows it's a problem and we have to deal with it. Getting statistics is just one form, but we have to go to the root of the problem and deal with it in that manner.

We can get statistics from the bureau of statistics, but those numbers would still be the same as whether the numbers came from the Department of Family Services or the Department of Justice. The numbers would still be the same and the numbers are too high. Whatever that number is, the numbers are too high. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately I respectfully disagree with the minister on that matter. I understand that it is the responsibility of Justice and Family Services to maintain that type of information, but like I said, neither of those departments knows the true extent to which child sexual abuse actually is. No one knows which community is most affected. No one knows which area needs the most support or additional resources. Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter remains that a large portion of child sexual abuse and sexual assault in general does not get reported, so neither of those departments would have that complete information.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that a comprehensive strategy is necessary to address the rampant child sexual abuse that is occurring in our territory. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the first step is identifying the true extent. I believe that what Greenland did was conducting a voluntary study amongst their population to ask who has been affected by this and they had an extremely high rate of participation in that survey and I believe that Nunavummiut would also have a positive reaction to such a survey.

I would like to ask again if the minister would commit to requesting the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics to conduct a similar voluntary survey amongst Nunavummiut to determine

how many or what proportion of the territory has been affected by child sexual abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have departments that deal with that with the effects of child sexual abuse or sexual abuse and we want to the victim services as much resources as we can and we only have so many resources. Yes, it would be nice to know a number, but we have those numbers, Mr. Speaker. We have those numbers. We have two departments that deal with the numbers.

Mr. Speaker, not just anybody can interview a child for child sexual abuse; you have to be trained, you have to know. You don't want to re-traumatize the poor child who has already been sexually abused. You have to have trained personnel. They have to know how to speak to that child. They have to do it in a manner that will not harm that child again.

Mr. Speaker, we have two departments that deal with that and I believe that's adequate. That's my answer for now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Member Netsser.

Question 1061 – 5(2): Therapeutic Justice Program Expansion

Mr. Netsser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to raise my second question to the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, her minister's statement reads that "The Therapeutic Justice Program started in Cambridge Bay in 2019. The program is focused on addressing the underlying issues associated with crime and helping offenders break the cycle of offence." It goes on further to say that "The program seeks solutions outside the formal legal process that promote healing and are culturally relevant." I applaud the minister for her statement. It goes on to say that the department "works very closely with elders and community resources" and other cultural programs.

Now, my question is, she also mentioned that she hopes to launch this program in the coming months. Which communities has she targeted? I believe that each community has an elders committee. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. The first program that was held in Cambridge Bay which started in 2019, the funding was received from Justice Canada. Through this program, because it has been so successful, with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's support, we have signed a joint contract to run the program in Arviat.

I can assure the member that with the success of this program, we will be seeking extra funding so that we can run the same program in other communities, but that hasn't been decided yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for responding to that. My next question is: when does her department expect to receive more funding from the federal government? This is a really successful program in terms of getting the offender rehabilitated right in the community instead of he or her just becoming a number within the justice system. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Department of Justice is looking to ensure that and we will be submitting to Justice Canada for more funding so that we can run this program in another community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those who commit crimes in the communities, whether they are adults or children, really need to receive help. Is the minister's department targeting young people or adults? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Department of Justice, we haven't selected another community yet, but we will approach Justice Canada for extra funding. The targeted groups are between the ages of 19 and 38 to 40, around that age, and it's all demographics, men, women, children, youth, so the program is geared towards a variety of our residents in our community. I believe, in Cambridge Bay, there were some members that were from outside of Cambridge Bay within the region who participated in the program in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1062 – 5(2): Power Plant Replacement for Arviat

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to ask questions to the Minister responsible for the Energy Corporation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) the power plant currently in use in Arviat is aging. It was built in 1971, I believe. Our power plant is operating well. The power has been running continuously in Arviat, but looking at the age of the facility, it's starting to become a concern if it broke down in the winter or if it caught on fire because it might put the residents of Arviat in a state of emergency.

My first question for the minister is: when does the energy corporation plan to replace the power plant currently being used in Arviat with a new facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Arctic Energy Fund is federal government funding that we received and this funding program will last until the year 2027. The member is correct; Arviat's power plant was built in 1971. The Arctic Bay Power Plant project had been identified to receive Arctic Energy Fund, but because of circumstances, the project was awarded before we received the approval from the Arctic Energy Fund. As Mr. Simailak had stated, this is a good or bad news story; the bad was that we lost Arctic Bay under the Arctic Energy Fund, but the good news is now that funding will be used for the new plant in Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) That is good news. (interpretation) Great to hear indeed, as Arviarmiut will now be able to anticipate the new power station in the future. When can the minister report back on when the timeline for the construction phase would be and what amount of funding is allocated towards that project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Under the Arctic Energy Fund, we received \$175 million in funding from the federal government for some new power plants within Nunavut. Arviat and all the communities that will be receiving new power plants, geothermal and environmental studies are being done within those communities that are slated for new power plants. I can inform the member that for Arviat, the completion date would be for March 2027. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) The Hamlet of Arviat is currently pursuing a renewable power project in cooperation with a renewable energy company called NRStor. My last question for the minister is: will the minister commit to consulting with the Hamlet of Arviat on this proposed or planned new power plant so to ensure that those two projects can work together to the greatest extent possible? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Again I thank the member for his question. The Qulliq Energy Corporation has been aware of the Hamlet of Arviat pursuing other types of power within their community, and I can assure the member that we will work with the hamlet to ensure that there's no duplication of services and that we work together so that the community gets the best power for the community itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members will note that the time for question period has expired and we will proceed to No. 7. (interpretation) Written Questions. No. 8. Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) No. 9. (interpretation) Replies to Opening Address. No. 10. Petitions. 11. Responses to Petitions. (interpretation ends) No. 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. 13. Tabling of Documents. Acting Minister of Family Services, Minister Akeeagok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 310 – 5(2): Surusinut Ikajuqtigiit, Nunavut Child Abuse and Neglect Response Agreement

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to table the Surusinut Ikajuqtigiit, the Child Abuse and Neglect Response Agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) No. 14. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) No. 16. (interpretation ends) Motions. (interpretation) No. 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 20 minutes.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:34 and Committee resumed at 16:09*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, colleagues. 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. Good afternoon, members. We wish to commence with the review of the 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice, followed by the Department of Environment and, if time permits, Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 51?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 51 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2021-2022 – Justice -- Consideration in Committee

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. 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 Ehaloak, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today I would like to introduce my colleagues. To my right is Deputy Minister Stephen Mansell, and to my left is our Capital Planner, Kevin Murray.

Mr. Chairman, I appear before the committee today to present the Department of Justice's 2021-22 capital plan. We are seeking approval of \$11,351,000 for the Department of Justice's capital expenditures for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

The Department of Justice continues to work closely with its partners on the construction of the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility as we enter year three of the project. There is \$10,051,000 allocated to this project for 2021-22.

The Department of Justice has spent \$41,156,554 to date on the project, out of which \$29,373,554 has been contributed by the Government of Canada and the remaining \$11,783,000 by the Government of Nunavut. The project will be completed over two phases.

Phase 1 is the construction of a new state of the art correctional facility. This phase is well underway with the exterior of the building 90 percent completed, and 35 percent of the interior masonry block work completed. We estimate phase 1 to be completed in October of 2021.

Phase 2 is the renovation of the existing Baffin Correctional Centre. Phase 2 is planned to start after the completion of phase one and should be completed by October 2022.

While reviewing the details of the project, the project management team noted deficiencies and errors in three main areas: design errors and omissions; code compliance; and scope changes. Several of the identified areas are essential for health and safety of both inmates and staff in the facility.

The project does not currently have sufficient contingency to cover the cost of those errors and omissions. The project's contingency was 2.6 percent, which is lower than the standard 5 to 7 percent. The lower contingency was necessary because there was only one bidder on the project. The single bidder came in higher than expected and cost savings had to be found to proceed. The project was scaled down to reduce costs and the contingency was decreased.

It was thought at the time that without these savings the project would not have been able to proceed and the Government of Nunavut would be at risk of forfeiting over \$50 million in federal funding.

In an effort to reduce costs going forward, the Department of Justice and Community and Government Services met in October 2020 to identify further areas for reduction. At that meeting a few aesthetic or non-life safety measures were cut resulting in cost savings of \$240,000.

Although we are working to reduce costs and identify cost saving measures, the Department of Justice feels strongly that the correction of the errors and omissions identified is essential. For this reason, the department has included a further \$1.5 million toward our 2021-22 capital estimates. This is done in abundance of caution to ensure funding is available to meet our financial obligations.

Due to its age, the Kugluktuk correctional centre, which is the Ilavut Centre, has been facing structural concerns and requires some emerging renovations. We have requested an approval of \$400,000 for the design stage of this project.

The Department of Justice is seeking approval for \$900,000 in the minor capital budget. Our minor capital includes:

- Five new vehicles for Corrections Division;
- Acquiring a new snow removal equipment for the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility;
- Exterior painting of the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility;
- Installation of a new window at the Cambridge Bay Probation Office;
- Installation of a new camera at the courthouse;
- Courthouse library renovations; and
- Building maintenance and improvements covering the repair and maintenance costs associated with vandalism and emergency repairs at the seven correctional facilities and the Nunavut Court of Justice building.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness concerning its review of the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice. The department's proposed capital budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year is \$11,351,000. This represents an increase of approximately 64.5 percent from its 2020-21 capital budget.

The standing committee recognizes that the construction of the new Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre will significantly increase Nunavut's capacity to house adult male offenders within the territory.

During September of 2020, the Legislative Assembly approved *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021*. The bill included \$1.5 million in proposed supplementary funding for the Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre project. The proposed supplementary funding was deleted during the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole. However, this amount appears to have been added to the department's proposed 2021-22 capital estimates for this project.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee to review her department's proposed 2021-22 capital estimates, members received an update on Inuit training and employment levels at the construction project. Information provided by the department indicates that "a full staffing review will be completed and a business case will be submitted in 2020-21 for new staffing level requirements." The standing committee looks forward to receiving a copy of the review.

The standing committee is pleased that the department is moving forward with renovations to the Kugluktuk Ilavut Healing Centre. This project had previously been included as part of the planning studies budget of the Department of Community and

Government Services. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, a commitment was made to provide a copy of the business case for the project.

The department's proposed 2021-22 capital estimates include funding for a number of minor capital projects.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members questioned the necessity of a number of the proposed projects, including the amount that has been budgeted for painting at the Rankin Inlet Correctional Healing Centre. Members also note inconsistencies regarding the department's proposed vehicle acquisitions. The standing committee encourages the minister to begin the practice of tabling, on an annual basis, detailed information concerning the department's actual expenditures on minor capital projects.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. General comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll cut to the chase. On this additional \$1.5 million that has been brought forward I am a bit unclear in terms of the timeline because the substantiation sheet provided to the committee is dated September 29 and, the minister's opening comments mentioned efforts to reduce costs going forward in October 2020.

So I am a bit unclear in terms of the timelines here that are in front of us. As well, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to bring the committee's attention that the math on page 1 of 6 on the substantiation sheet does not add up. So it's unclear whether this additional \$1.5 million is going to be recouped from somewhere and the total project costs are going to stay at \$89.4 million with the GN Vote 2 cost at \$32.499 million, or if the cost are going to add up. It is unclear from where I sit, Mr. Chairman. I'll note that for the record that the math on the substantiation sheet for this \$90 million contract is incorrect. So I guess I'll have questions on this matter. That ends my comments. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: General comments. I am seeing none. Go to page E-3. Justice. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures, \$900 million.

>> *Laughter*

\$900,000. My apologizes. It's been a long day already. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So, I guess my first question is regarding this new substantiation sheet which is dated September 9, 2020. When did the department decide that they would need an additional \$1.5 million to be sought in this budget? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I will have Deputy Minister Mansell answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) After the original funding was removed in September, we, listening to the MLAs, commenced the process to review the project as quick as we could to identify areas to remove from the project. We did that. However, the final thorough review that we did to find \$240,000 in cuts was not completed prior to the final requirement for us to put forward further funding in order to get it before you today.

So we were undertaking two processes at the same time in order to get the request to you as we were concerned about the budget for the project. As well, we were undertaking the requested review of the project to determine what we could remove.

The final tally of what we could come up with wasn't done before the final requirement for us to get the substantiation before you. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So my question was: when was the decision made that this additional \$1.5 million was going to be added, because the deletion of funding from the supplementary bill happened on September 22, and so I'm trying to understand how the department took that decision, which was a clear decision made in this House, and then proceeded forward in terms of this additional \$1.5 million? What was the timeline in terms of the department's work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After that date when the \$1.5 million was deleted from our supplementary appropriation the work started the day after to add this to our 2021-22 capital estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So the day after the decision was made in this House the department started the work to add an additional \$1.5 million into this year's capital estimates, and while that was happening, the department was looking for cost savings which ended up... . The minister's remarks reference cost savings of \$240,000, so why the additional amount of \$1.5 million? If my math is correct, it should be somewhere around \$1.26 million. So could I get a clarification on that? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The capital estimates were submitted prior to the deadline. The \$240,000 that the department came up with in cost savings came after the deadline, so that is why the numbers don't jive. The member is right; it is \$1.26 million after the cost saving of \$240,000, but because we had a deadline to submit, we put in the \$1.5 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The minister's opening remarks also mention on the second page, it says "Several of the identified areas are essential for health and safety of both inmates and staff." I think it is important to state that I don't think we want to put anybody's health and safety at risk.

What is the dollar amount or what is the cost to pay for these essential health and safety items that the minister refers to, because there are some items that were in that supplementary appropriation last month. Whether they were essential or not, I think that could be argued. What is the cost to deliver on the essential items? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reviewing the items after the committee had told us that we need to cut and find cost savings, the \$240,000 were items that didn't need to be needed in the facility because of health and safety to our members and our staff, and the \$1.26 million that we're asking for is what is required to ensure that our facility meets the health and safety of staff, the inmates, and the community itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess I'll just get clarification. The minister's comments say, "Several of the identified areas are essential." I'm trying to understand which ones are essential and which ones are not. I'll refer to the list of items that was provided last month. There was a list of items and we have an itemized in terms of the cost of each of these items. What is the cost to address only the essential health and safety items out of this list of needs? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I'll ask Mr. Murray to respond to the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Murray.

Mr. Murray: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The costs are with regard to the personal protection devices for the staff. If you're not familiar with them, staff use those if there is an altercation. They reach down to their side and hit the button and then an alarm goes off in control and we know to go to that area.

One of the other items is for our scanner that will allow us not to have to skin search our inmates, which will cause extra trauma. We want to try to prevent any extra trauma. It is a healing centre, so we're about helping to heal.

One of the other items that were included was the inline macerator, which was a request from the city. We've had multiple incidents where clothing has gone out into the lines of the sewer in the city that has caused extra expenses for the city. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Okay, there are some of these that are essential for health and safety and then there are some that are not, right? I'm disappointed that it appears there was a copy-and-paste from the list of items that was voted down in this House and that the department didn't reduce their "ask" because it appears that committee members are being asked to decide again on a matter that was already debated in this House.

In terms of new information that's in front of us, I'm not seeing a lot of new information. I mean, I'm trying to decide. I would like to put forward a motion to reduce this budget, Mr. Chairman. I'm unsure how much the motion should be for because I feel that addressing essential health and safety issues is absolutely justifiable and something I would be willing to support, but the non-essential items, I personally don't support those at this point.

I'm trying to do the math here; I'm not an accountant. There have been cost savings of \$240,000, which reduces the need for an additional \$1.26 million. Would the minister be willing to discuss with her officials what the cost would be to address the essential health and safety items, perhaps, Mr. Chairman? It's up to the minister at this point.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I would like Mr. Mansell to respond to the member's comments and questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I understand the member's questions and I'll share some new information. First, I'll go

through the list of what we removed from the project and one of those is one of the things we talked about in September.

Removal from the project, we removed a key scan for the medium-security unit cells. When an inmate leaves the cell, the cell locks behind them and they would have to go get a guard to open the cell. For medium security, they can come and go during the day to watch TV or that kind of stuff, so we were going to give them probably something to wear that would let them into their cell until it was locked for the night. We have removed that, so they have to get a guard to open the cell now.

We removed key scans for the emergency response team. They were going to have a scan system that let them freely through the building. Now the control, which is the central control unit of the building, will let them in as they go rather than them scanning in.

The removal of the key scan for inmates was \$125,000 in savings; removal of emergency response was \$135,000 in savings.

We removed a skylight in the programming space. It was to allow natural light, but it's not a life safety issue. We removed drywall from the corridors and we will now paint directly on the cinderblock instead of drywall. We had intended on hiring local artists to do murals and sort of motivational things on the walls. We removed those at a savings of \$75,000.

We removed a secondary air horn. When somebody comes into the building that's unauthorized, an air horn goes off. We had a backup air horn and we removed that for \$5,000.

One of the issues we talked about in September that we cut back was the meal carts. We removed those from 12 to 5 and now we're just going to adjust our meal delivery services in order to use the five.

We were going to purchase a new gun locker; we're just going to use the old one from the old BCC at a savings of \$5,000.

Then we were going to cover the ceiling and stucco to hide some of the ductwork; we're not going to do that at a savings of \$25,000.

Of the things we talked about in September, the only one we actually cut back on was the meal carts for a savings of \$70,000.

Now, if we go to the stuff from September, we don't have the math, but we could do it quickly for you and I'll go through the items one by one again and we can add up the numbers.

Bunk bed footholds needed to be redesigned in order to ensure they had no ligature points. Ligature points are something where someone can hang themselves. It's \$55,000 to fix that.

Floor drains needed to be added to reduce the risk of flooding and mould. It's \$77,000. We had a mould issue at the BCC and it was precisely for this type of reason: lack of adequate drainage.

Code compliance, so an inline sewer macerator, which was requested by the City of Iqaluit, at \$100,000, the City of Iqaluit has requested that a number of times from us because when inmates get upset or try to cause a scene, they flush things and the BCC consistently causes problems for the city's sewer line. The macerator is like a big garbage disposal that chews everything up before it gets into the sewer line, so that is \$100,000.

Snow fins to divert wind and snow off of the roof; we conducted a study after the roof was constructed and we realized that without the fins there was a risk of overload of snow on the roof. That is \$250,000, but again, it is something that we didn't think we could cut.

The floor unit at the Inuit cultural skills programming building coated with epoxy at \$180,000; we felt that the current plan for the flooring just wouldn't stand up to the use for programming space and for an Inuit cultural skills programming space, so we didn't cut that.

Scope change issue, again, we have talked about this body scanner. It is \$250,000. I know it sounds like a lot and I know an airport body scanner might not sound like something that is really necessary at a jail, but we are consistently skin searching, or commonly known as "strip searching" our inmates when they leave the facility. That is in order to avoid them bringing in contraband into the facility. A strip search is harmful to inmates and also to staff. Particularly for inmates who have a history of sexual abuse in their lives, this is emotionally devastating to have this happen again and again, especially if you are going to court regularly or you are on town crew or that kind of thing. The scanner wouldn't just be Aqqigiarvik; it would be for the women's facility and so we wouldn't have to do that anymore. You would just go and stand and that works.

We were also going to offer it to the RCMP for their use because the RCMP, as many of you might know, just had a pretty damning report about their use of strip searching. They could bring the people over, do the scan, go back in the car, and go to the cells in the RCMP. So that is \$250,000.

Some of the stuff that Kevin talked about, like personal protective devices needed to link the staff and the facility with a communications system. I don't think we couldn't have cut that. That is pretty vital to ensure that our staff can communicate amongst themselves and with the central part of the building.

The heated meal carts we did cut down on, as we said. So in September that was \$120,000, and I know that was the one that got some negative feedback, so that is now \$70,000.

Additional camera for the exercise yard: upon inspection, blind spots were identified in the exercise yard. I think we can all agree it is vital to be able to see all the parts of the exercise yard. The initial plan had a blind spot. The additional camera is \$55,000.

Skirting under the QCHC to strengthen it; we have a consistent problem at BCC of people trying to get underneath and feed contraband in and that kind of stuff. We thought it was vital to build up the skirting underneath to ensure that no one can get in and no one can get out, and that is \$50,000.

The young offenders program shed had to be moved. This wasn't something that they realized in the initial phase, and the reason why we had to move it was simply to get construction equipment into the site. That was \$35,000.

Lastly, an air duct needs to be moved because there was a design error and it is flowing through the dining table units. That is \$35,000 as well. Again, that was something that we just didn't think that we could cut.

That's a total of \$1,267,000 for all the stuff we just talked about. As I say, we found \$240,000 and the \$240,000 was tough, actually. The things we cut for \$240,000, I mean, they would have helped the facility for sure. There's not a lot left in phase 1 of the project to cut. There really isn't. Phase 2 of the project is rebuilding the BCC as a programming and learning space. If there's any more cutting, unfortunately it would have to be phase 2. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Mansell, for the detailed breakdown. I'm just trying to get clarity on the amounts here. \$1.26 million is the amount that was mentioned, and then there were cost savings of \$240,000, but the budget increase for the project as presented is \$1.5 million. What would happen to the rest of the money that's allocated? Is it going to replenish your contingency fund? It won't make it into much of a contingency fund, but it will go into that purpose. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the remaining \$240,000 would go into a contingency fund if the \$1.5 million was approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I request you as Chair for a five-minute break, at your discretion, Mr. Chairman, to discuss this new information with my colleagues. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. We will take a five-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 16:47 and resumed at 16:58

Chairman: Thank you. I call the committee meeting back to order. We left off with Mr. Main. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for allowing us to take a break.

Mr. Chairman, discussing this with my colleagues, we're satisfied with the department's explanation and information that they have provided us. I would like to note our appreciation for allowing us to delve into the details, Mr. Chairman. I realize it's not normal for a budget of this size for a committee to get so interested in the details of a project, but in some cases it is warranted and I think the committee's ability to request information of the government is important.

I'll be voting in favour of approving what the department has proposed here, but I would like to note that in order to get to where we are today, in terms of the budgeting process and the reasoning as to why this project was brought forward with a 2 percent; a 2.5 percent contingency is concerning, and in terms of federal funding being required being referenced, the justification for why this allowed to come forward with a 2 percent contingency is disappointing as are the numerous errors that must have happened in the design review process particularly on issues of code compliance.

It is my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that these are supposed to be caught during the design review phase of and project not necessarily once it's proceeded into construction. So I do appreciate what the department's done in terms of looking for cost savings and would encourage the minister to continue to use that approach for this project to ensure that any additional funding requests that come forward will be minimized. We don't want to skimp on health and safety, but we also do not want to over spend on unnecessary items, I feel in general.

I guess I'll request just request a clarification on these total amounts on the substantiation sheet if the minister could explain the total amounts, total project costs and total GN Vote 2 cost. It appears that they haven't change from the older version of the sheets. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say thank you for supporting our completion of our Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility and I

appreciate that the members drilled our department on why we should keep this and why we shouldn't keep things. I appreciate that this government, through all of our departments when we do apply for large projects like this, that its reviewed and looked at very carefully so we don't have to go through this process, so we don't have to fight about why and we want to make sure that our contingency fund is at the amount that would be able to finish a project.

For myself as a minister for a huge project like this, to me this is a learning curve as well and I appreciate all the members' efforts and support. For your question, I'd like to ask through you Mr. Chairman for Mr. Mansell to answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I believe the member is right and it's possibly because of the last minute of some of getting this information and that the substantiation, I think, does need to be updated somewhat. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So maybe I'll just get it on the record for clarity. So the new projected total project cost is going to be what figure and the total GN Vote 2 cost is going to be what figure? I just like to get that clarified. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one moment.

Sorry, Mr. Chairman. Just one moment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe through you, I'll get Mr. Mansell to answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The numbers we have are reflected in the substantiation sheet of \$89,499,000. If there's a necessary for an update, we can follow up with the committee right away to get the final number for the member. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. The last name on my list: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few questions on your minor capital projects. I'm going to start off with your correctional vehicles replacement. In

your opening comments you mentioned five new vehicles for the Corrections Division, but according to your substantiation sheet, you only require four. I wonder if you can explain why the difference. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The five new vehicles that we're requesting is one truck for the Baffin Correctional Centre, one F-150 truck for the women's correctional centre, one vehicle for the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility, and two new trucks for the new QC, the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility.

To the second part of the member's question, I'll ask Mr. Mansell to answer. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell: I thank the minister for the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it was the addition of the second vehicle for Aaqqigiarvik. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also in your substantiation sheets you talked about buying snow removal equipment. I wonder if you can explain to us why the need is to buy a Bobcat for the corrections facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason for the Bobcat is the current area was small enough that the snow could be removed with a shovel. With the new facility, the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility, the area, the compound itself is now a lot larger and the fence itself is like over 15 feet high, with like in-turns coming in so that anybody can't crawl out. It's a lot harder to shovel snow over the fence, so that's why the department is asking for new snow removal equipment for the new Aaqqigiarvik centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know a little bit about Bobcats and I don't think you're going to get one that's going to put snow over a 15-foot fence. How are you going to remove the snow from inside the fence with a Bobcat? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the fencing, there will be gates that open so the Bobcat will be able to go in and out of the compound area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like an explanation now as in why you would go with purchasing a Bobcat to use for yourself rather than contract out the service to an as-and-when contract where somebody would come and remove it as you request it. If you could explain that, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I'll ask Mr. Murray, my capital planning expert, to answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Murray.

Mr. Murray: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue with that, we've had other areas around the building that we've had contracts like that in the past and due to the way that we use the yard at different times, it runs into an issue with being able to rely on somebody else to come and clear the yard when they have other contracts. The issue is with snow build-up in that yard, we have the potential to have guys have the ability to climb over the fence. That's why we required to do that for the safety of staff and the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past when you had to contract this out, how much was it costing you annually in order to remove snow from around your building? Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to relate this to the actual purchase of a machine and doing it yourself compared to contracting it out. If they have the information, I would like to know what this is costing annually. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't actually have those figures in front of us, but we can find it for the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first thing I think about is you're purchasing a piece of machinery and now there's going to be a requirement for somebody to operate this machinery and now this piece of machinery is going to fall into your fleet and every so many years it's going to need to be replaced. It's very difficult to justify the purchase of this machine compared to if you contract it out if we don't know the numbers. I think it would be interesting if we could have these numbers so we can compare. I'm wondering if the minister is willing to comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just the Bobcat itself would have a 10-year lifecycle, so it would have cost savings to our department compared to hiring a contractor. Again, as Mr. Murray had stated, sometimes the contractor is not as reliable as if we had our own Bobcat in our fleet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the purchase of this piece of equipment, will you now be coming forward in the future with requests for a new PY to operate this machine? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we would not come for extra funds. We do have staff within our facilities that can operate the Bobcat. 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.

I don't have many questions, Mr. Chairman, but I want to address the issue. We are pushing hard to keep track of the money and the budget for this project to make sure it's within budget. If this is going to happen again in the future, there will be debates in the House. A project needs to be planned properly beforehand to make sure there are no problems afterwards for us and to future MLAs.

Mr. Chairman, I would like the department and future ministers to carefully consider what I want to say, although I do not have many things to say, and not many questions to ask. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Just being a comment. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As my cabinet colleagues are sitting in the House as well, I can assure the member that this is a lesson learned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qirngnuq. Last name on my list, Mr. Pederson.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've just got a couple of questions and now hopefully I found you some money.

The beautiful Rankin Inlet's healing facility is due for another paint job; \$100,000. I cannot really see justification for that. I think that could wait another five years to get a paint job. Yes, it will need it eventually, but we pass through there every time we are coming and going on these trips. Well I do anyway, but every time I pass through, I am like man that is a beautiful building. I really do not see the need to spend a \$100,000 very soon on painting the building, so maybe perhaps you can use that \$100,000 and put into the facility here and hold off on a paint job for another five years for that place. I really do not see the importance that; just physical appearance. I mean that building is not going to breakdown in the next five years if it does not get a paint job, so it is just one comment that I have and I have another question as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason for the painting every year is to make sure that as every building depreciates and erodes, if we wait say three, four, five years to repaint it again, it may cost more than a \$100,000.

I have been asked before. I ask the same question myself; "why can't we just refurbish it so that it does not have to be repainted", and I was informed that that would cost the Department of Justice \$2 million if we put siding on it, that it did not have to be repainted, but as the member stated, the \$100,000 to repaint it every year is needed. As I stated, because of erosion and depreciation of the building, it would just cost more if we had to do it five years from now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I kind of disagree, but hey. Well, that building is still going to be there and it will get its paint job regardless.

Moving on: the Ilavut Centre project scope, I was wondering if in that scope you included the CCTV cameras. When it is a correctional facility, and I had the benefit of working there for almost a decade, and I know this place needs a CCTV camera for the health and safety of all the inmates, the staff and the community. So I am just wondering if you can commit to putting that into the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Kugluktuk facility, the centre requires renovations and upgrades to accommodate current and future staff and clients. This includes replacement of aging exterior structural envelope, expansion of usable therapeutic program space, increasing client capacity, provisions of adequate water and sewer storage and installation of emergency backup generator and services, and additional office space to provide community correction staff with safe working conditions.

We are also going to include our community corrections employee who works in an office outside of the facility, and we will include an office in that facility. That will be a cost savings to the department and through the savings we will not have to pay for office rental space. As to the CCTV cameras, we will take it into consideration and we will get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will perhaps only have two questions. I would like to hear an update about Inuit employment numbers working at the Qikiqtani healing facility as of now, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am trying to find my numbers here. Mr. Chairman, currently our Inuit employment within our corrections facilities is at 47 percent across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for your response. I'll speak in English. (interpretation ends) Your department proposes in your 2021-22 capital estimates includes \$60,000 in funding for renovations to the court law library.

The capital project substantiation sheet indicates that the renovations will streamline the library. To what extent will this impact services offered by law library? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I will ask Deputy Mansell to answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the law library at the courthouse over the last number of years, the department has noticed that the usage of the library has gone down and particularly usage by the general public. We still have lawyers that go in and court staff that go in, but the general public often doesn't use that library.

And, part of the reason is it is set up like a law library and it is not that user-friendly for the general public. So part of the streamlining process is to increase the access to electronic databases, increase the access to public legal information, and decrease some of the old outdated law texts that are in the building.

By doing that we are hoping that we can keep the level of service we have for legal professionals but also encourage Nunavummiut and the public to use it as well and to increase their ability to access legal information.

So the long answer to the short question: the impact on services, we hope it will improve service for the public and public access to the building. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Justice. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures, \$900,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page E-6. Corrections. Total Capital Expenditures. Any questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wanted to ask about the Kugluktuk project. Is this the correct page to ask about it?

I just wanted to inquire about this facility. I think it's great that the department is continuing to support this facility in Kugluktuk and it's somewhat unique and that it is located outside of a regional centre. I believe it's a type of a community-based facility that would be great to see more of in the future.

It mentions "hazardous building materials assessment" and I'm looking at the project budget here. I guess you don't know what the results of the hazardous building materials assessment will be, but has the project budget taken that factor into account if, for example, there is asbestos? I know that can be very expensive to deal with. So has this been included in the budget for this project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I will ask Mr. Murray to answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Murray.

Mr. Murray: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the number that you see there is a budgetary number. Once we have completed the design phase, then we will be able to more accurately have a firm number for you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So the total project costs are estimated at \$4.5 million, so what type of contingency factor is included in this budget? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I'll ask Mr. Mansell to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Mansell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At the planning stage we will have a better idea of the final total, but that's our estimate and speaking with Corrections, we can assure the member that the contingency on this project will be within national standards of a building, which would be around seven percent. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. That's reassuring and no further questions. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. No further names on this page. Corrections. Total Capital Expenditures, \$10,451,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page E-2. Justice. Total Capital Expenditures, \$11,351,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree we have concluded the Department of Justice?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank the members for the support they have given to the Department of Justice on our facility as I am looking forward to the completion of this facility, which would be a great opportunity for our inmates to go through counselling, through support, help them with their mental illness or their struggles, so that when they do go back into the community we can assist them so that they never come back.

I would like to thank my colleagues, the Department of Justice, for all the hard work that they have done to ensure that all the information I receive, I can give back to the House when you ask questions. At this time I want to thank the members and I really appreciate what you have done for the department. Again, like I stated, this is a learning curve, especially for me, with such a large facility. The next time I come for it, I'm going to make sure that the contingency fund is 7 percent. I would like to thank the members. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Thank you also for answering the members' questions. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. We will go right on to the next department, if you can hang in there.

Thank you. I would like to now call the committee meeting back to order.

Okay, we will try again. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. I would now like to ask Minister Savikataaq: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Savikataaq.

Bill 51 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2021-2022 – Environment – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would. 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 Savikataaq, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments. Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right I have Jimmy Noble, Jr., the DM of Environment, and to my left I have Mr. Steve Pinksen, the ADM for Environment.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to introduce the Department of Environment's capital plan for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

For this fiscal period, the Department of Environment is proposing a capital budget of \$2.25 million. This expenditure will permit the department to concentrate on two program areas: wildlife management and parks and special places.

Within our Wildlife Management and Wildlife Research divisions, we will be spending \$370,000 on the replacement of old mobile equipment. This equipment is used for patrols to ensure compliance with the *Wildlife Act* and other legislation and to support wildlife research activities.

The Wildlife Management Division will also be spending \$750,000 on renovations to the research lab in Igloolik to create a safe and good working environment in which staff can deliver the department's mandates and programs. The wildlife offices renovation budget for 2021-22 will be committed to the research lab in Igloolik.

Mr. Chairman, our territorial parks and special places have an important role in the protection and promotion of Nunavut's outstanding natural and cultural heritage, and they

provide positive recreation and tourism services to meet the needs of Nunavummiut and our visitors. All our work is done in keeping with the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Territorial Parks.

The major project of the division in the 2021-22 fiscal year will be related to the development of infrastructure for the new Agguttinni Territorial Park north of Clyde River.

We will continue to monitor and maintain infrastructure in all of our territorial parks and campgrounds throughout Nunavut: Owayok in Cambridge Bay, Sylvia Grinnell and Qaummaarviit in Iqaluit, Katannilik in Kimmirut, Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga in Rankin Inlet, Kekerten in Pangnirtung, and Kugluk in Kugluktuk, including the campground territorial parks: Tupirvik in Resolute Bay, Tamaarvik in Pond Inlet, Pisuktinu Tunngavik in Pangnirtung, and Inuujaarvik in Baker Lake.

We will also continue the development of infrastructure as recommended in the new master plan for the Kugluk Territorial Park in Kugluktuk and for the new Kinngaaluk Territorial Park in Sanikiluaq.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's capital plan is focused in the areas that clearly support the needs and priorities of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 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 Environment. The department's proposed capital budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year is \$2.25 million, an amount which has not changed since the 2018-19 fiscal year.

The department's proposed 2021-22 capital estimates provide funding for facility renovations and small capital projects, which include the replacement of mobile equipment and the development of infrastructure in territorial parks.

On September 10, 2019 the federal and territorial governments announced \$4.7 million in federal funding under the Canada Nature Fund to support the establishment of a new territorial park near the community of Clyde River.

The standing committee continues to encourage the minister to begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly which details the department's activities, expenditures, and initiatives in relation to Nunavut's territorial parks system, in addition to containing information concerning such measures as the annual number of visitors to our parks. This type of reporting would be of benefit to all members in evaluating the impact of the parks program. The standing committee also recommends

that the department's annual reporting provide detailed information concerning its usage of terrestrial and marine mobile equipment and other capital assets.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are there any general comments? General comments? None? Go to page I-3. Environment. Program Management. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2,250,000. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and officials. I have just a couple of quick questions to begin off the evening.

The minister had recently made a minister's statement about the Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park. Would the minister refresh our memories as to how many campers enjoyed the park this summer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't state the exact number of campers, but there were approximately over 15,000 vehicles that went into the park and we don't know how many persons could have been in the vehicles. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, I hadn't properly phrased my question. I meant to ask: how many camps were set up in the park this summer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were a slightly over 100 tents in the campground this summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that, over a hundred number, sorry. Thank you for that figure over a hundred camps were set up this summer and I was one them. It was an enjoyable summer, as always I was grateful for the department's management of the campground.

My next question is: with regard to Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park, how many campgrounds are there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not quite sure how to answer this. To the best of my knowledge they can camp anywhere they want. We have barbecue areas set up, but I don't think there are any regulations of where they can set up a tent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't recall the exact number, but I do believe it's something around the range of 30-some-odd campgrounds within the territorial park. Maybe that might refresh the minister's memory, if the minister or his officials might be able to determine the actual figure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry that I misunderstood the member's question. There are approximately 35. The member is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So there are 35 campgrounds, and on any given year there are almost always all used up, and this year there was no exception with over 100 different camps. It just goes to show that the number of campgrounds is insufficient to meet the demand. Now I do understand that you don't necessarily need a campground to set up a camp, but my next question is: when was the last time that there was an expansion to the number of campgrounds at the Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't come up with the exact year. It's been a long time and the park was very well used this summer a lot because we encouraged Nunavummiut and Iqalummiut to stay here and enjoy the outdoors because of COVID-19. It has been a while since there has been any expansion of the number of campgrounds we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On any given year those 35 campgrounds are filled quite quickly. My next question is: does the minister have any intention on expanding the number of campgrounds at the Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would have to come from the parks committee. If the parks committee wanted us to look at the expanding the number of campgrounds that are available then we would definitely look at that.

Between their recommendation and the amount of area that would be available for more campgrounds, we want people to enjoy the camp, but we want them to also enjoy the “outdooriness” of the area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I guess I’ll follow up on my colleague’s questions. He’s arguing for improvements to the territorial park in his home community. I would like to advocate for the establishment of a park. I believe Arviat Territorial Park has been in the works for quite a while and I guess. I’ll ask the minister for an update. Has there been any new information provided to the minister in terms of the process to establish the yet to be determined territorial park in Arviat? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct that Arviat was slated to get a territorial park there, the Nunavut territorial park, but due to polar bear safety concerns, the hamlet decided that that was not a good location for a territorial park. We are waiting on the Hamlet of Arviat to see if they want to proceed with a different location, so we are just on a holding pattern for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Are there parameters within which the community can select which site they would like to become a territorial park? Does it have to be within a certain distance of the community, because in some cases you know there might be infrastructure that would be required, say a road, or maybe a bridge to access the park? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There would be some parameters, I am not sure exactly what they are, but it would be in case if there was Inuit-owned land, or some other lands or some other lands that were there, and distance would have to be within a reasonable amount. We have money to develop these territorial parks, but like the member said, if they have to build a \$1 million bridge to get to the other side of the river. All of that would be considered and we would be working with the hamlet of the community to come up with a reasonable area that could be a park. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll just encourage the minister to work with the mayor, who you may know quite well, to move that process forward. It is something that is a great potential benefit to the community in terms of tourism potential, et cetera.

When it comes to bear deterrence equipment that the department currently has in Arviat, I had asked the question to the minister the other day, is the capital equipment that the department has in place sufficient to deal with the polar bear issues which seem to be increasing year by year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the equipment that we have for deterring bears in communities is adequate. Some communities have more than others depending on the pressure of the bear problems within the communities, but yes the capital equipment we current have is adequate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So if a request is made to the department from within your department in terms of, I do not know, we need a new vehicle specifically for bear deterrence work, or we need additional bear traps, what budget would that be pulled out of? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it is mobile equipment, it would come from small capital. If it was like a bear trap, then I think it is still small capital because they are not that cheap either, but the bulk of the bear deterrent equipment is mobile equipment that we use in the communities other than the firearms and the cracker shells, rubber bullets that are used to deter polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I hope I am not getting too far into operations here, but you have a bear hotline in Arviat where people can call any hour of day and it is a very valuable service. I have called that number myself a few times, in fact. How many communities have that type of service and is there a capital cost associated with establishing a bear hotline of that sort? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The polar bear hotline in Arviat is the only one within Nunavut, but the majority of, I'd say, very close to all of the conservation

officers have cellphones and their cellphones... . The numbers are readily available from them and the conservation officers should have their work cellphones at all times so that you can call that number and get hold of an officer if you need to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. I'll go back to the issue of territorial parks. During the Assembly's consideration of your 2019-2020 capital estimates the standing committee recommended that your department begin a practice of preparing an annual report to the Assembly on its expenditures and activities related to the territorial park system.

So your predecessor committed to providing these reports. When will the first annual report be tabled in the Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working on that and we expect it to be completed this coming winter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. That's exciting. I think all the regular members get excited when they hear the words annual report.

>>*Laughter*

In terms of funding applications for third-party funding, the departments had difficulty bringing forward or getting approval to bring forward... . To get approved in terms of building new wildlife offices, and in terms of accessing outside funding and if that would help the department. The Canada Nature Fund is a source of funding, I believe it's been accessed with the new park near Clyde River. I think that rings a bell.

Is that Canada Nature Fund a potential source of funding for other needs that the department has? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That nature conservation fund is more of a fund that would be used if you make a conservation area. So there is a trade-off. You give a conservation area and then you get some money to put infrastructure or to manage that conservation area. I don't think that would work in terms of the Department of Environment using it to build a conservation office building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So, it's tied to a conservation area so given that the Premier has indicated that no new conservation areas until devolution is completed, there might be a roadblock there but maybe the minister can talk to the Premier?

I'm thinking of Arctic Bay, which I believe is at the top of the list for a new wildlife office. In any event, if there was any way that could be accessed to help meet that community's need, I'd think it could be considered, but that's not really a question. It's just a comment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister you want to comment? Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Tallurutiup Imanga and Tuvaijuittuq, we have negotiated in tripartite negotiations between the QIA, the federal government, and us and an IIBA has been signed there and affected communities from there are getting benefits and they are getting multipurpose buildings, but that is through the QIA. We're not a part of the benefactors of the IIBA, but there are benefactors from the IIBA from that area.

Just to let the members know, we have put more than 50 percent of Canada's marine conservation areas and protected areas towards Canada's commitments just from within Nunavut waters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: All done? Mr. Rumbolt.

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

Chairman: Thank you. There is a motion to report progress and it's not debatable. All in favour of the motion. Opposed. Carried. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Good evening. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 51 and the 2021-22 capital estimates and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Ms. Nakashuk. The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

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

Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for October 30:

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 35
 - Bill 51
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Friday, October 30, 2020, at 9 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:00*

