



## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)

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

**Joelie Kaernerik**  
(Amittuq)

**David Qamaniq**  
(Tununiq)

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
(Netsilik)

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

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

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

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

**Adam Lightstone**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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

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

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

**Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

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

**Patterk Netser**  
(Aivilik)

**Craig Simailak**  
(Baker Lake)

**Calvin Pedersen**  
(Kugluktuk)

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

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

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

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Hansard Production  
Innirvik Support Services

**Box 1200**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0**

**Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266**

**Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)**

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Friday, October 30, 2020**

**Members Present:**

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

>>*House commenced at 9:00*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good morning. Nunavummiut, welcome once again this Friday morning, as your members will be starting their meeting today. Please feel welcome.

Continuing on. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 503 – 5(2): Heavy Equipment Operator Training Program in Arviat**

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the Hamlet of Arviat for its coordination and delivery of multiple five-week intakes of a comprehensive Heavy Equipment Operator Training Certification Program in Arviat. The training began in September and will continue into the late fall. Once the intakes are completed, a total of 64 local residents will have received 184 training hours each in the classroom, on simulators and on equipment.

Participants are being trained and certified to operate four pieces of equipment that are common to all Nunavut municipalities and to the mining sector in general: a tractor backhoe, a motor grader, a wheel loader, and a track type tractor/dozer. This type of training program will greatly assist in offsetting the shortfall of certified heavy equipment operators in the community, with private contractors, in the mining sector and in Nunavut in general.

Mr. Speaker, the coordination and delivery of this program is made possible by significant cash and in-kind contributions from the Hamlet of Arviat itself and the direct contributions being provided by my department and by the Department of Family Services. I am pleased to report that my department provided a total of \$233,050 in

departmental program funding for this training. Departmental support is being provided under three programs:

- Nunavut Mine Training Program, \$84,025;
- Strategic Investments Program, \$109,025; and
- Community Capacity Building Program, \$40,000.

Mr. Speaker, despite the many challenges that currently exist as a result of the pandemic, my department remains committed to working with municipalities, industry, the private sector, and other stakeholders to ensure that Nunavummiut continue to have access to training and education opportunities that lead to jobs and the establishment of new businesses.

Congratulations to the Hamlet of Arviat and to all of the program participants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Minister's Statement 504 – 5(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation Qikiqtaaluk Tour**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's executive team makes efforts to travel to several communities each year. This past August our executive team visited local housing organizations in Sanirajak, Igloolik, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Pangnirtung. The executive met directly with the local housing organization board members and staff in each community.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation actively works on enhancing its support to local housing organizations to ensure that tenants and clients receive the best possible housing services. These tours provide a valuable opportunity for the Nunavut Housing Corporation's executive team and local housing officials to discuss local operational concerns and policy and planning issues.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the commitment of local housing organization board members and staff. Their efforts in helping address Nunavut's housing crisis are greatly appreciated. The local housing organization tour is an essential tool for relationship building. The tours are carried out as part of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's regular business. A tour of the remaining Qikiqtaaluk communities is planned for this winter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Joanasié.

**Minister's Statement 505 – 5(2): Nunavut Arctic College Graduation 2020**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nunavut Arctic College's graduating class of 2020.

Mr. Speaker, the 2019-2020 academic year was a challenging one. From the ransomware attack to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the college's student body had to continuously adjust and adapt to a rapidly changing learning environment. I want to thank all students for their perseverance, their commitment to their education, and their ability to find humour in these trying times.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that graduating years can be especially stressful. Thank you to those students who have successfully completed their program requirements. I am confident that each of our graduating students will do great things.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to confirm that the college will host community-based graduation ceremonies November 16 to 20 in most communities. Given the current guidelines around physical distancing, and the size of the college's facilities beyond the main campuses, adult educators in the community learning centres will facilitate the awarding of parchments and picture-taking for the events. The college will compile all graduate pictures into a video to later be shared through our communication channels.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join in these celebrations where possible. Details of the community events will be shared in advance.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2020. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 506 – 5(2): Federal COVID-19 Benefits Exempted under Income Assistance Regulations**

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Family Services has made a series of adjustments to the Nunavut *Income Assistance Regulations* in the last year to recognize new federal COVID-19 benefits intended to support vulnerable populations.



Recent changes to the Nunavut *Income Assistance Regulations* have meant:

The one-time federal Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement payment of up to \$500 was exempted and seniors retained the funding;

- The one-time federal Disability Tax Credit payment of \$600 was exempted which allowed those receiving the Disability Tax Credit to retain the funds; and
- The new Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit payment of \$500 per week for up to two weeks will be exempted for workers who are unable to work because they are sick or must self-isolate for COVID-19 reasons and cannot access other sick leave benefits.

This builds upon a number of existing exemptions intended to support social and cultural benefits. For example, all recent funding from regional Inuit organizations, child tax benefits, and the value of equipment to carry on hunting or fishing remain exempt from the income assistance calculations as well.

The Income Assistance Program is intended to support Nunavummiut in meeting their basic needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, followed by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove. Member Simailak.

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

#### **Member's Statement 745 – 5(2): Recognition of Author Paula Ikuutaq Rumbolt**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to all and to the people of Baker Lake, I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the author Paula Ikuutaq Rumbolt, who is my constituent and also the daughter of my colleague from Hudson Bay.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Rumbolt graduated from high school in Baker Lake and went on to Nunavut Sivuniksavut before attending Concordia University.

She is the author of two books which recount Inuit legends. Mr. Speaker, Ms. Rumbolt's book, *The Origin of Day and Night*, was one of five Canadian titles selected by Greenland's education agency to be translated into Greenlandic. Six thousand copies of each of the titles will be printed and distributed to schools and preschools all around Greenland.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian books were selected party based on their similarity to Greenlandic storytelling as well as the inclusion of myths similar to those in Greenland.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of Ms. Rumbolt, whose work will be shared all across Greenland as part of an initiative to promote Inuit stories, language and culture. However, Ms. Rumbolt's father is even prouder than I am and so he should be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We are very proud of the work created by Inuit Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, followed by the Member for Hudson Bay. Member Main.

### **Member's Statement 746 – 5(2): COVID-19 Awareness**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my constituents and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to speak to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has now been multiple months that this new pandemic has inundated the news, so we hear about cases throughout the world, as daily newscasts include COVID-19 updates in our country, and it is still an ongoing concern.

I am very appreciative to date of all government officials dealing with this pandemic, including the Minister of Health, our Premier, and all support personnel.

>>Applause

As it stands, this pandemic has been largely kept out of Nunavut and we should convey our pride and gratitude for that. Nonetheless, we must also empathize with our fellow Canadians, as many Canadians have died due to this pandemic, particularly the seniors. Many Canadians have lost relatives and many families are undergoing stressful and challenging times in other areas of Canada, our fellow Canadians. We must not forget the danger nor risk and the fact that it could conceivably cause many Nunavummiut deaths and we should feel fearful.

When Nunavummiut arrive from southern locales, whether it be Manitoba or other places, I have been apprised by people who went through this experience, who stated that they felt like they had landed outside of our world and finally returned to Nunavut. They were in a precarious situation and when they arrived back in Nunavut, they felt safer when they arrived home.

Mr. Speaker, we must completely comprehend the pandemic, including the stated risks and what I am fearful of occurring, which is also being discussed in our communities. Currently there are no cases of COVID-19 within Nunavut, and many recommendations put in place by the health officials are becoming ignored because residents say there is no COVID-19 in their communities.

This attitude is very scary, Mr. Speaker. I know you understand the risks, so do our colleagues, but all Nunavummiut must understand the risks associated with this pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask to extend my time for my statement at this time.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend his time for his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Main.

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I do not want Nunavut to become a victim of our success to date. Mr. Speaker, we should not feel that we are immune as a territory because we are not, and we should not feel that we are not vulnerable because we are very vulnerable. We stand, I believe, as one of the most vulnerable populations in Canada due to a number of factors.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, we must all remember as we head into the winter season, as we are currently in the fall season, we must anticipate or prognosticate what may happen over this winter of 2020-21, what kind of flu season it will be. We have no idea today.

If COVID-19 were to enter the territory, without theorizing about its entry point, some communities may find themselves facing an extremely hazardous and challenging time in the future months.

Mr. Speaker, our government cannot unilaterally succeed without the support of Nunavummiut to deal with the challenge of this pandemic. However, all Nunavummiut have to work hand-in-hand, share the hard work and monitor each other in our communities, and to have a caretaker attitude if other people are endangering themselves as we must remind ourselves who would suffer the most.

Those with underlying conditions, elders, people with respiratory issues, or pulmonary issues will suffer and they are all different.

Mr. Speaker, I personally feel that this pandemic must be fully understood by Nunavummiut and though we are not currently experiencing this health risk today, yes we may land in a very precarious situation stressing the importance of following guidelines.

Due to these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I will have questions towards our Premier about this pandemic when the appropriate time arrives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, followed by the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk. Member Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 747 – 5(2): Safe and Happy Halloween**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good morning members, and good morning to the people of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speakers, tomorrow is Halloween so I would just like to take a moment to wish all the kids a safe and a happy Halloween tomorrow and I would also like to encourage drivers, whether they be driving their cars, trucks, snowmobiles or ATVs, to drive with extra caution tomorrow to ensure that everybody has a safe Halloween.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, my son was just turning 14 years old when I first elected to this Assembly, and this weekend he will be celebrating his 26th birthday, Mr. Speaker. I want to wish him a happy birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Happy birthday to the people of Nunavut. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, then followed by Member for Rankin Inlet South. Member Hickes.

**Member's Statement 748 – 5(2): Safe and Happy Halloween**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member from Arviat North-Whale Cove just mentioned, we have been living under COVID-19 restrictions for a number of months now.

Mr. Speaker, I received some concerning news just recently that Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is about to be invaded. You heard me correctly, Mr. Speaker; we are going to be invaded. There is going to be number of ghosts and ghouls and goblins...

>> *Laughter*

...invading Nunavut across the territory tomorrow.

My sources have told me that there are going to be a number of superheroes as part of that invasion that are going to make sure it stays as peaceful invasion, and I hope that everyone does follow the recommendations by my Member from Hudson Bay and everyone does safely and make sure it is a safe Halloween. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 749 – 5(2): Appreciation of Volunteers in Rankin Inlet**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be the scariest, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow I will be dressed up as the Minister of Health.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Since this morning is a Friday morning, I want to offer my gratitude to my fellow Rankin Inlet residents and which is the reason for standing before you today.

When we underwent that alarming situation this spring, as COVID-19 was really upfront in the spring, and to date the pandemic has not changed in terms of affecting people, but it seems more Inuit are no longer worried about this pandemic and this attitude is very risky.

Nonetheless, I wish to thank the residents of Rankin Inlet as they seem to have become better versed in social cohesion, and you can see the cooperative spirit, which was already quite strong has become even stronger today.

Now, people are assisting one another by ferrying foodstuffs, assisting their fellow residents and the search and rescue society in Rankin Inlet has worked diligently all summer to try to ensure their resources are ready when assistance is required if any sort of health emergency should occur, so we thank them for their preparedness.

Additionally, the local organizers who offer our youth summer baseball and soccer games have turned their attention to hockey, and the people who undertake these tasks are volunteers, and we have quite a number of them in Rankin Inlet who provide entertainment opportunities for children so we are very appreciative of their volunteer work.

I also want to acknowledge this fall's program classes called "*Aulajaaqtut*". That is what they are called in Rankin Inlet and they started making parkas, hats and mittens for winter. They were pooled together and they handed out many hats and mittens at the dance hall, and for the people who are unable to get warm clothing, this allowed them to get warm parkas. I am very grateful to them.

Lastly, I would like to thank the fire fighters in Rankin Inlet for their work in fighting fires. While most of us flee flames, they run towards the fire to fight it. I thank them and the people of Rankin Inlet greatly as they take very good care of us every winter. That is what I wanted to talk about that Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Member Joanasié.

**Member's Statement 750 – 5(2): Inuit Myths and Legends during Halloween**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning to the people of South Baffin, firstly. Today, my youngest sister is celebrating her birthday, so I wish her a wonderful birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the dress-up day called Halloween. However, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) ghosts, goblins and ghouls (interpretation) are the equivalent of certain Inuit tales about scary spirits we have spoken of in our legends for millennium, albeit during Halloween is when we try to scare other people using stories and such.

As an example: “Can the smiley ghouls please come up and show their face.” Little diddy songs such as that were part of Inuit legends on *Qallupilluit*, *Ijirait* and *Tarriaksuit* and so on, and Inuit should use their language to tell more stories and to tell them to Nunavummiut.

I also encourage everyone to be safe and it is scary sometimes to see polar bears. Just as an example, in Arviat, or in other communities. Please make sure you watch out for them so that your children will have the safest and happiest and they will be going through scary times tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Member Pedersen.

**Member's Statement 751 – 5(2): Safe and Happy Halloween**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My thoughts and prayers are with Kuglukturmiut this morning as they are dealing with a death last night. I am sorry I can't be there to help you all, but I'll be there in spirit. Also, for Halloween tomorrow, I am kind of sad that I won't be there.

Halloween and Christmas are my 2 favorite holidays and I am always there to do my very best to scare all the children, especially the parents that are bringing the children around. So watch out, I might be there, just maybe.

I'd also like to thank Sabina Gold and Silver for supplying treats for all the Kitikmeot children. They announced yesterday because of COVID-19 regulations they are changing it a bit, but I would like to thank them for supplying treats and some games following COVID-19 restrictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Let us proceed. Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) Acting Minister for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Savikataaq.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to Oral Question 1004 – 5(2): Housing Issues**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to supplement an answer I provided on October 23, 2020. The Member for Netsilik requested information on renovation of vacant housing units.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation officials have contacted the Taloyoak Housing Authority. The housing manager tells us that they are working very hard to bring vacant public housing units back to livable conditions and allocate them to families in need.

There are seven units requiring mould remediation, major repairs, or both. Two units are uninhabitable and are set to be demolished to make room for more housing units. I want to highlight that the Nunavut Housing Corporation plans to tender construction of 10 additional public housing units in Taloyoak next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) Let us proceed. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Alright. (interpretation) Let us proceed. Item 6. Oral Questions. Thank you. First, the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, who will then be followed by the Member for Tununiq. Member Angnakak.

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

##### **Question 1063 – 5(2): Fiscal Situation**

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everyone. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Finance and they concern the government's fiscal situation.

As the minister will recall, the federal Order-in-Council to increase the Government of Nunavut's borrowing limit to \$750 million was approved just over a month ago on September 20.

As the minister is aware, an increase in the NWT government's borrowing limit was also recently approved by the federal government and it has been reported that the NWT government recently issued \$180 million worth of bonds to convert short-term debt into long-term debt, I guess taking advantage of the lower interest rates.

Can the minister clarify if our government will be doing something similar, and can he also indicate what plans he has with respect to our increased borrowing limit which now stands at three quarters of \$1 billion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance and Chair of the Financial Management Board, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question. All three territories had requested to the federal government an increase in the borrowing limit. We felt at that time it was just an opportunity. It is a fairly cumbersome process to request an increase in the borrowing limit.

It is not like our credit cards where we get these notices sometimes or they're trying to encourage us to increase our credit card limits. That being said, Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of utilizing that space. The space is available for potential future large scale projects where we would have to capitalize a large scale project.

Again, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the limit itself, I don't anticipate using any more of it, and we don't anticipate needing to convert any short-term debt to long-term debt through a bond issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the minister for his response. During the Legislative Assembly's sitting last month, the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation informed the House that QEC had awarded a contract for the Arctic Bay Power Plant before federal funding from the Arctic Energy Fund has been approved. The federal government did not approve this funding and it is my understanding that the QEC now needs to pay for this project from its own resources.

Can the Minister of Finance confirm how this will impact the government's overall debt position and fiscal situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As most members are aware, the majority of our current debt burden, if you want to call it that, is lines of credit for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. We have guarantees on those lines of credit. Again, a line of credit is only utilized to what's needed, so there wasn't any significant change in the borrowing limits available to the Qulliq Energy Corporation and they were able to use existing lines of credit to be able to support that capital need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal, provincial and territorial finance ministers held their most recent bi-weekly teleconference last Friday. As we are all aware, the federal deficit is at record levels as the consequence of emergency spending that has resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the minister is aware, we are now halfway through the 2020-21 fiscal year. Can the minister clearly indicate today what our government's deficit is projected to be by the end of the current fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under normal circumstances, I would be able to give a clear answer to that question.

Mr. Speaker, as the Premier has mentioned many times, including myself, there are a number of negotiations ongoing with the federal government, which we still haven't finalized a lot of the numbers that are coming in. I am projecting probably that it's the largest deficit in Nunavut's history, similar to the federal government. That being said, there are a number of agreements and negotiations going on with agreements that will hopefully reduce that to a more palatable number. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, followed by the Member for Baker Lake. Member Qamaniq.

#### **Question 1064 – 5(2): Mary River Phase 2 Development Project Proposal**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow residents of Tununiq, as well as Nunavummiut and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Premier.

As the Premier will recall, he signed a letter on Tuesday of this week to the president of the Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation concerning the Mary River phase 2 development project proposal. In his letter the Premier wrote that “Our nine outstanding technical concerns with the phase 2 proposal are considered to be resolved. As such, the Government of Nunavut is prepared to participate in the continued phase 2 proposal environmental assessment and public hearing.”

Can the Premier clearly explain how the government determined that the technical concerns have been resolved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work with Baffinland officials to mitigate the effects that we're concerned about during phase 2. Like the member stated, all of our current concerns have been met and we are satisfied with the questions that the Government of Nunavut had. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qamaniq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier's letter also states that "If the phase 2 assessment process is delayed further, we acknowledge the potential termination of the Inuit Certainty Agreement [between Baffinland and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association] would represent considerable loss of opportunity for Inuit, Nunavut's economy and investor confidence."

Mr. Speaker, in August of this year, elected representatives of Pond Inlet, Igloolik, Sanirajak, Arctic Bay and Clyde River jointly wrote to the President of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association expressing collective concerns around the Inuit Certainty Agreement. The Premier was copied on this letter.

My question for the Premier is this: does the Government of Nunavut formally endorse and support the agreement that was reached between Baffinland and Qikiqtani Inuit Association, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Inuit Certainty Agreement that the Qikiqtani Inuit Association negotiated with Baffinland; I commend the Qikiqtani Inuit Association to being proactive for their members and getting them the best deal possible for their members. That agreement is between Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Baffinland and we as the government were not part of the negotiations, and we are not part of the benefitting agreement. This agreement is between Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Baffinland.

Mr. Speaker, it's not the government's place to say whether we support it or we don't support it. It's for the people of Qikiqtani to pass judgement on that, and I commend the Qikiqtani Inuit Association for being proactive for their members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qamaniq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier's letter that he sent this week to Baffinland was copied to the federal Minister of Northern Affairs and the President of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

However, it was not formally provided to the mayors representing the impacted communities, the chairs of the hunters and trappers organizations representing the impacted communities, or the Members of the Legislative Assembly representing the impacted communities.

Mr. Speaker, will the Premier commit to ensuring that any and all future letters that he signs on behalf of the Government of Nunavut concerning this project are provided to the Mayors, hunters and trappers organizations, and Members of the Legislative Assembly representing the impacted communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I responded to the letter, and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association speaks for the Inuit of Qikiqtaaluk. That's their regional Inuit organization. I responded to the letter and I carbon copied the appropriate people that needed to be part of the information, and if any Inuit in Qikiqtaaluk have concerns with their regional Inuit organizations, then that's who speaks for them and they can speak to their community director. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member of Baker Lake, followed by Member for Netsilik. Member Simailak.

#### **Question 1065 – 5(2): Dental Visits**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

I listened with interest to the questions posed by my colleague from Netsilik who expressed concerns regarding visits from the eye team and the audiology team. In Baker Lake it has been noted that the visits by the dental team are few and far between. Can the minister clarify how his department determines the frequency of visits to the communities to deliver dental services, and in particular, how the number of dental visits to the community of Baker Lake is determined? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each region has a dental contract of the service provider is dictated to how many service days that they are obligated to provide in each individual community.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure we are all aware that COVID-19 has had an impact on the ability to be able to travel around the territory for a period of time and even still, travel to the territory.

As an example, Baker Lake is contracted to be provided 100 dental days per year, and it is typically based on population and demand during the analysis of what service is needed for a community during the contract creation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I believe that a lot could be done at the community level and especially in our schools to address dental health. Can the minister describe how his department works with high schools and with the Nunavut Arctic College to recruit Nunavummiut into the dental field and to train and certify dental workers who could provide ongoing dental services in their communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In each community we have community oral health coordinators that are tasked with working with the schools and working with the public on dental prevention and there is training provided with that.

There are still a number of communities that are going through the recruitment process, but to my knowledge we don't have a specific program with Nunavut Arctic College. We do the training ourselves for these community oral health coordinators, and there is one in Baker Lake. Although I will, as I mentioned in my earlier response; COVID-19 has had an impact where earlier this year the grade 7 and under school aged children were assessed earlier this year and the treatment has been delayed and likely will not occur for another two or three months. 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. In a large community like Iqaluit I note that there are two permanent dental offices which provide a number of dental services. I do recognize that not every community can sustain a large dental business; however, having adequate dental care on a regular basis is important. Will the minister commit to reviewing the delivery of dental services in our communities and bring forward a plan to increase the number of dental service providers across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate the member asking that question. There is a misconception that the Government of Nunavut operates those dental clinics. Those are private businesses where entrepreneurs have decided to put a

dental clinic in here in Iqaluit. That option is available to all communities. If there is a dentist that is willing to put a practice in a community, I would welcome that opportunity, especially in some of the larger communities.

Mr. Speaker, when we do our contract analysis and when we look at putting out RFPs, that is the type of thing that we do; we take a look at the demand in the communities and that is how we dictate to those contract recipients of how many days that they are mandated to provide service in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 1066 – 5(2): Polar Bear Management**

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

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, his department’s current business plan indicates that it has been working to finalize the M’Clintock Channel and Gulf of Boothia polar bear analysis projects.

As the minister is also aware, these subpopulations are important to the communities of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk.

Can the minister update me today on the status of these projects, and will he commit to tabling a copy of their findings and recommendations in the Legislative Assembly after they have been completed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member asked about the two subpopulations the M’Clintock and the Gulf of Boothia polar bear subpopulations; both of their population estimate surveys have been done, but due to COVID-19 restrictions we have not been able to do the community consultations. Once we get the community consultations done, we will be putting forward recommendations for a total allowable harvest to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

Whether it stays the same, decreases or increases; that’ll be the survey results and the community consultations will determine that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He responded to my next two questions, but I will ask them for clarity.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, hunters and trappers organizations periodically submit polar bear credit requests. These requests are considered by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the responsible Regional Wildlife Board. The Department of Environment's role in the process includes providing confirmation of available credits. Can the minister confirm the current status of available polar bear credits for the M'Clintock Channel and Gulf of Boothia polar bear subpopulations? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the information on how many credits of those two subpopulations have right now. I will get back to the member and inform him what the polar bear credits situations are for both of them the M'Clintock and the Gulf of Boothia. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll await minister in order for him to provide that information to me.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, he made a statement in the Legislative Assembly just over a year ago concerning the implementation of the Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan. In his statement he indicated that a harvest sex ratio of up to 50 percent females will be adopted for all polar bear subpopulations in the Nunavut Settlement Area. Can the Premier update the House today on the status of the implementation of the Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct that Nunavummiut did agree through their regional wildlife boards and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board about the Nunavut Polar Bear Management Plan. One of the biggest differences was the sex ratio for one male for one female. A lot of the local hunters and trappers organizations were not happy with having to harvest two males for one female, and we have listened to the people of Nunavut and the local hunters and trappers organizations. Effective since this new management agreement was agreed to, the sex ratio harvest within Nunavut is one for one sex female. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 1067 – 5(2): Nunavummiut and COVID-19**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to ask questions to our Premier regarding the coronavirus.

Mr. Speaker, earlier during the member's statement, I spoke about this matter that I am leery of, and it is this comment, "Nunavut has no cases of COVID-19," and we keep hearing this argument whenever health guidelines are being advocated by health officials if they don't wish to comply. They keep stating that there are no cases of COVID-19 within Nunavut, and that these guidelines are too excessive and that people shouldn't follow them.

Now, in hindsight if we were to suddenly be placed in a precarious situation, then we would have to follow religiously. I think too many people are lax in thinking that way. Personally, I am alarmed by this pandemic. Therefore I submit this query to our Premier and how he would respond to Nunavummiut who continually state that since there are no COVID-19 cases in the territory, these overbearing guidelines should not be necessary and we will be fine.

(interpretation ends) What message does the Premier have for Nunavummiut who feel that they are safe from the threat of COVID-19? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad the member brings this up because we are not safe from COVID-19 in Nunavut. We are doing our best to keep it out of Nunavut. We have put travel restrictions that are not popular, 14 days isolation, and we have been asking Nunavummiut ever since COVID-19 was discovered that it was in Canada, social distancing, wash your hands, if you're feeling sick, stay home, take precautions.

Mr. Speaker, we say that COVID-19 is not in Nunavut, but when and if it comes, we will not know until it's here. We have some people who have the disease and have no symptoms. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Nunavummiut to take the precautions that the chief public health officers and that the Government of Nunavut has been requesting for Nunavummiut to do. Take these precautions. If we take these precautions and COVID-19 was to come into Nunavut, then we can mitigate the spread and the bad effects that it will have on Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we want to provide a visual context, I was deliberating on this matter and perhaps if I can find out what the Premier's perception of this issue is and I want to ask him about it.

As an example, if we look at Nunavut in the context of a single house sitting in the middle of the tundra, and all of our loved relatives inhabit this dwelling, during the darkness of the night, while our loved ones are sleeping, a carnivore starts growling, to use a polar bear as an example, a belligerent bear. Mr. Speaker, I imagine everyone here would start looking for a rifle and ammunition to try to scare off or kill the predator that is threatening their family as they could possibly endanger everyone inside. We must not relax or forget that there is in that context still a dangerous predator outside and that it may try to enter anytime during the night or day.

Mr. Speaker, what kind of visualization does the Premier have to try to explain this pandemic that can be understandable, such as the example I used with the predator? I wonder how our Premier envisions this unseen threat so that Nunavummiut can take proper aim at this threat all winter. We will have to use that all winter and not forget that dangerous animal or polar bear that is endangering us. Is that possible to do as the people of Nunavut? We must never forget the dangerousness of the threat we are facing. I thereby ask the Premier his thoughts on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The COVID-19 pandemic is just itching to enter Nunavut, and we are aware of it.

Nonetheless, we are using specific protective measures such as the isolation hubs for residents to stay at for the 14 day period, and the secondary precautions we urge residents to follow, such as washing hands frequently, limiting visits, social distancing with no large gatherings. If we adhere to these guidelines, then COVID-19 will have a smaller effect if it enters our territory as smaller numbers of people would become infected.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that if COVID-19 entered our smaller communities or some of our vulnerable communities, the scenario could be infections in the hundreds. As Nunavummiut, we suffer from overcrowding and some residents have underlying conditions, along with those with respiratory illnesses or even those with (interpretation ends) diabetes (interpretation) who have problems with sugar.

If any resident is already suffering from an ailment or sickness and they are infected with COVID-19, then it would endanger the entire household, and especially our beloved elders because COVID-19 is especially dangerous to our elders.

However, if residents followed all the precautions identified by the chief medical officer, and we followed those guidelines properly, even if the pandemic arrived, then the numbers of seriously ill or sick patients needing treatment in the south would be lower.



This is why we continually advise Nunavummiut to try to properly follow the precautions. Though people may state the pandemic hasn't arrived yet, we have no idea when this pandemic might enter because it could suddenly appear. If we take the proper precautions, then lower numbers of infected people would surface and not threaten our loved ones and relatives. So we should take all the precautionary measures and follow the guidelines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends): I thank the Premier for his response. Does the government have a plan around communications going into the winter of 2020-21 for this?

I asked this question, Mr. Speaker, because we don't know what this winter will bring, and the Premier made some pretty good points in his responses to my first question, but I am concerned that maybe, you know, here in this House we say things but they don't always get to the ground level. I could think of musicians, elders, people in Nunavut who have a strong voice who would be able to spread the message about how to deal with this threat in the coming winter.

Will the Premier consider with his cabinet colleagues, of course Minister of Health and others, consider working on a winter campaign including celebrities, including elders, including Inuit organization leaders to remind us all what we should be doing to keep our fellow Nunavummiut safe from this threat? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Premier for Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been sending the message out. I know there has been a public service announcements about getting your flu vaccine. If you have the flu and COVID-19 then it is a lot harder for your body to recover.

I know the Minister of Health did get his flu shot, and he has always encouraged Nunavummiut to get their flu shots, and Mr. Speaker, I have been in regular communications with the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated president, Ms. Kotierk, and I know she has also been informing Nunavummiut of the safe practices we should be doing to keep COVID-19 out of Nunavut and also to mitigate and lessen the effects of COVID-19, and I am thankful she has helped out in the messaging.

Yes we can look at some kind of campaign to remind Nunavummiut. We have been doing, but to remind Nunavummiut that these are the stuff that we have to do, and Mr. Speaker, I think COVID-19 is not going anywhere. We have to learn to live with it.

We are very hopeful that a vaccine will be forth coming, but until that then we have to learn to live with COVID-19 and we have to learn the "new normal" I guess they call it, of how to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 if it should come in.

If and when it does come in, we want to make sure that we can have a rapid response to it, and I know Doctor Patterson's office has a rapid response team ready to go into any Nunavut communities if there should be a case or an outbreak and there will be severe travel restrictions in that community if there is an outbreak, but Mr. Speaker, yes we can look at revitalising a campaign for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause.*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, followed by the Member for Aivilik. Member Kaernerck.

### **Question 1068 – 5(2): New Power Plant for Sanirajak**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning people of Amittuq and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, just recently in the past month, our community suffered a power outage lasting four days, and because of this, our hamlet declared a state of emergency for the community. My attempt to assist the community was quite stressful and difficult as I spent over 12 hours shuttling back and forth between my home and hamlet officials.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful to the Qulliq Energy Corporation for sending technicians to repair the generators in Sanirajak. Now, the minister is aware that our local power station is amongst the oldest remaining facilities.

Can the minister indicate when we are going to get a new power plant, or do you have it already listed in the capital plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. I really appreciate the municipality's efforts to keep the community safe during the power outage that the community was enduring. Unfortunately due to weather it took the Qulliq Energy Corporation staff some time to get there, and when they did get there, they worked diligently with the municipality.

Under the Arctic Energy Fund, the \$175 million in funding under this program, there are seven communities that will be getting diesel power generators, and I can assure the member that I do not have the list of communities with me right now, but I can check for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is pleasant news to hear, yet Sanirajak can be included for the primary reason that it is now one of the oldest buildings remaining.

When you have to endure ongoing days with no heat, it becomes very challenging very quickly. When would the minister be able to provide information on whether Sanirajak will be included, as I feel it should be on that list of capital projects or plans? When can the minister inform me if Sanirajak is going to be included in that instalment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. As the staff are watching the proceedings, I can get the information to the member by Monday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me try to remain standing for a longer period by trying to complete my line of questioning, as it is Friday today.

Mr. Speaker, the hamlet declared a state of emergency in my community which did provide some assistance and actually resulted in faster assistance, and I also thanked the people who undertook that work when we first arrived for our fall sitting.

I wonder if the minister can include some suggestions perhaps that I would like to offer. In Sanirajak there is an opposite facility across from the community or (interpretation ends) DEW line (interpretation) facility that operates independently with their own power generation.

Now, if Sanirajak is not going to be included in the list of capital projects, I wonder if the Hamlet of Sanirajak can request a study to determine how to hook up the DEW line facility and our community power lines, or even just an emergency connection if a new power plant isn't feasible for Sanirajak. I wonder what other options or alternatives can be considered in communities that have that possibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his concerns and I appreciate that he has worked with the municipality when it comes to their state of emergency. Honestly that is the first that I have heard of a member coming to the Qulliq Energy Corporation and saying, "Can we connect to another site?"

As there are many communities across Nunavut that do have DEW line sites like my hometown of Iqaluktuuttiaq, it is an interesting comment and an interesting question, and I can assure the member that I will have to work with the staff to figure out if this can actually be done. I will get back to the member, and again, I appreciate your concerns for your community when your community was going through the state of emergency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 1069 – 5(2): Medical Travel to Winnipeg**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the people of Coral Harbour and Naujaat. This morning I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Health.

Now, patients who originate from the Kivalliq region generally go to Winnipeg for medical treatment, although some patients get sent here. However, most emergency medical cases or those requiring emergency surgery are sent down to Winnipeg.

We are hearing on the news that the number of COVID-19 cases in Winnipeg or actually in Manitoba is increasing, and it is mentioned across various news mediums. Many of my constituents are deeply concerned about Winnipeg possibly being closed down as it would affect all patients out on medical travel. I would like to ask the minister if that is the case first of all. That is my question to the Minister of Health this morning. Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have also been following a number of jurisdictions in Canada that have had a spike in cases and it is concerning to me as the Minister of Health as we do rely on other jurisdictions for emergency care and even just scheduled medical procedures.

Mr. Speaker, I will say that every one of us has a personal obligation to make sure that we are taking all of the measures possible to keep ourselves and our families safe, especially when we are travelling in areas where COVID-19 is active. The government can't have someone following every person around. Be careful what you are touching, be cautious with common touch areas, and make sure you're clean.

With specific regard to Manitoba, I am not aware of any issues yet. Again, our health team would continue to follow and has regular communication with partner jurisdictions and typically there is always a backup plan as well of another jurisdiction where medevacs could be diverted to for care. We are continuing to follow and I want to assure all members that we always have backup plans for issues like this where a jurisdiction may be closed or may be restricted for certain levels of care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I note that I fully am aware, having worked with him the last couple of years, he is very on top of his file and I appreciate that. I would also like to tell the House that my constituents back home, especially the health centre and their staff, have really been vocal on the issues that arise and they go through the local radio and inform them of what the department has been telling us all along, so it is not without information.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister: does he have any communities or territories that in case Winnipeg closes in terms of getting our medical people down for emergencies, does he have any other territories like Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yellowknife, etcetera? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The easy answer: yes. The more complicated answer: it depends on what the issue is.

If somebody is going down for a cardiac issue or a motor vehicle accident or an ATV accident, depending upon what type of care would be needed, if a jurisdiction would be closed for certain circumstances, what the health need or what the care need would dictate where we would send that person and our health team... . Before the medevac is even issued, we know what the cause or what the issue is, so that is when they already start looking at what hospital can take the patient, so that would include which jurisdiction. It would be case specific. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I am hearing the minister that in an emergency, they will not be ignored and that they therefore assurance that the medical department will ensure that they are looked after. Can he confirm that? Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking for that confirmation to put all of our residents at ease. We always have a plan. There are a lot of variabilities to those plans on the, as I have mentioned, case-specific circumstances, but absolutely, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Written Questions. Item 8. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation) Item 9. (interpretation ends) Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation) Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. (interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

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

#### **Committee Report 031 – 5(2): Bill 37, Legislation Act**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 37, *Legislation Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We have a copy of it and Bill 37 will appear on the order paper for Monday, November 2.

(interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committee on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motion for the First of Reading of Bills. (interpretation) 16. Motions. 17. First Reading of Bills. 18. Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) 19. Consideration in Committee in the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 35 and 51 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 10-minute break.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 10:24 and Committee resumed at 10:39*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Good morning, colleagues. Nunavummiut watching, welcome. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following to deal with: Bills 35 and 51. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning. We wish to continue with the review of the 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Environment, Nunavut Arctic College and, if time permits, the Department of Family Services. 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 – Environment – Consideration in Committee**

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. For the record, Minister Savikataaq, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is the Deputy Minister of Environment, Jimmy Noble, Jr., and to my left is the Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment, Mr. Steve Pinksen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Welcome to your officials. We're on Environment. Program Management. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2,250,000. This morning we will starting off with Ms. Angnakak. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning. I don't have very many questions, but I would like to start off my questions by actually, as I did before, thanking the department for the wonderful job that was done at the Sylvia Grinnell River. Many Iqalummiut really enjoy the space that has been created. It was just such a great opportunity when you want to get away from the town to be able to go and have your barbecue or camping and that.

In speaking about the Sylvia Grinnell River, which is where I'm going to be asking my questions, I think I asked before and although I didn't see it this summer, I would like to make another request that the barbecue pits, the camping areas that have been created, to see if the department or the minister would be agreeable to look into that. We have a lot of people in Iqaluit and a lot of people use that park and there's quite a line sometimes to wait to use those barbecue pits. I'm wondering if that's something that can be looked into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can look into it. We will work with the parks committee to look into it to possibly, if they agree, that we should make more than... . We will do it, but we will definitely look into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his positive response. I hope that something can be done.

The park is wonderful, but I guess there's always room for improvement and I'm wondering if the department... Maybe they work with the park committee, I don't know, but is there a way where you have a process where when somebody has an idea on how to improve the park, is there a way or do people know how to provide this kind of input? Is there a process now that can be used? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the ways they can do it is talk to the committee park members or just complete the survey that is there in the park for when visitors are there visiting the park. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, can you tell us who the park committee members are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the names of all the park committee members, but I will get back to the member to make sure that I give her the names of the park committee members for the Sylvia Grinnell River. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I would like to move to the bridge that originally there were plans to build a bridge over the river. I'm wondering if this would be something that the department working with whoever is relevant to work on this project with would look at doing that, looking at seeing if that can actually be done; maybe a walking bridge? When I talked about increasing the number of barbeque pits, perhaps that's something that with a walking bridge can also accomplished. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is quite a difference between increasing a few barbeque pits and making a bridge across the river. Mr. Chairman, the government of the day dropped the project before due to costs and I'd say we're not in a better fiscal situation in terms of looking at whether a bridge should be made across the river or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask this question. In the opening comments on page 3 about parks, I would like to ask about the umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement for territorial parks. Which IIBAs have been completed? I hope my question is clear. That is the question I wanted to ask, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The parks that I mentioned have been completed, but two of them are still being worked on. Kugluk and Kinngaaluk are the ones that are being worked on and the communities, if they wish to have a territorial park, they can work through the hamlet council and then the Department of Environment will consider the proposal. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Have there been any requests or do you know of any communities that have requested to develop a park near their communities? That is my question. Thank you. Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. From my recollection, no communities have requested a territorial park, but the communities are quite free to ask. Thank you. Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Chairperson. Once the parks are established, are they visited by tourists or people who have come into the community? I'm sure it has been more than one year that parks have been around. Does the Department of Environment keep track of how many visitors go to these parks? Thank you. Madam Chairperson.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Some of the territorial parks are utilized more than others, but this past year is very different because of the COVID-19 situation and people from outside of Nunavut are not free to come into Nunavut, so some of them are not really well utilized, but the one in Iqaluit was extremely well utilized this past summer. I was asked about the one in Iqaluit and there had been 15,000 vehicles that entered the park. I don't have statistics for the other parks though. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you as well. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Now, with the COVID-19 we are discussing, if the pandemic eventually dies down or is gone, how will we look to return to tourism? I imagine there are plans already, or perhaps is this something we haven't planned for? I'm wondering about visitors to the park who would travel from other parts of the world, and I am unsure where that would be. I would just like to understand if we have any plans, hence my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairperson**: Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, if COVID-19 eventually passes us by and tourists are again able to travel from outside of Nunavut, then they may travel here to visit our parks. However, the Department of Environment's territorial parks are used mostly by local residents in the majority of cases as it is right adjacent to the community. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson**: Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This will be my final question. The minister stated earlier if any community is interested in establishing a territorial park. What can be the starting point for trying to establish one? Who would have to initiate it if a community has an idea to start a park? Madam Chairperson, that's my question. Thank you.

**Chairperson**: Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Any community that wants to establish a park near the community, the hamlet can write to me or my department advising us of their desire to establish a territorial park. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): He's done. Mr. Simailak, you are next.

**Mr. Simailak**: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Welcome, minister and to your officials, good morning.

Looking at your opening comments on page 3, you mention, "We will continue to monitor and maintain infrastructure in all of our territorial parks and campgrounds," and at the very end there, including the campground territorial parks in Qausuittuq, Mittimatalik, Pangnirtung, and Inuujaarvik in Baker Lake, but I don't see anything on your capital projects for Baker Lake. Is there anything planned for that in Baker Lake? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson**: Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you Mr. Chairman, Madam Chairperson, sorry Madam Chairperson. I will have to get back to the member on that. I don't think there is anything planned, but I can't say for certain. Thank you, Mr. Chairman...Madam Chairperson.

>>Laughter

**Chairperson:** Yes, it gets confusing sometimes, eh? Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the minister for his response and I look forward to the further response. Going over to your small capital projects and park development in Baker Lake, there is Thelon and Kazan Heritage River development, but in there it looks like nothing has been since the 2018-19 fiscal year. Why is that? Is that because it's all set and ready to be used, or what's going on there? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It gets confusing; that's right, but Madam Chairperson, we just received the federal funding for the IIBA for the Heritage Rivers and those are separate from parks and special places. They have their own category and we just received the funds. Thank you, Mister...Madam Chairperson.

>>Laughter

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are you done? Mr. Kaernerck, it's your turn.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just doing some quick reading. Good morning, minister.

(interpretation ends) For the research lab in Igloolik, how much will the department be spending on that facility? Is there any money aside for any projects or is there any renovation money for that Igloolik research lab? (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We have budgeted \$750,000 to renovate that building. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. I will just move along. I have a few questions, so I am just going to go with the flow, I guess. I wonder: the Department of Environment's Small Capital Projects are decreasing every year.

For instance, for the fiscal year of 2020-21 it was \$1.5 million, and for the next fiscal year it dramatically dropped to \$625,000. What's going on there? What accounts for the decrease? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I believe there has been no decrease. We are still budgeting for \$1.5 million. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Will the department be also increasing that budget? For instance, for these hunters that go for compensation, are there any plans for next year to increase Environment's budget, or will it be the same again? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Our budget has been the same for quite a few, several years, and what the member is talking about is on O&M, and that budget will be coming forth this winter for programs for the hunters. Our capital budget has remained the same. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Do you any further questions. Mr. Qamaniq, you are next.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to go back to your opening comments from yesterday. The Member for Baker Lake spoke to it a little bit. For Pond Inlet, Tamaarvik Park has been included in the list and the Department of Environment will continue to maintain the infrastructure and yet there does not seem to be any money in the budget for the Tamaarvik Park in Pond Inlet. Is it in the planning stage or is there going to be any funding put into it in the future? Is there anything for Pond Inlet? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The camp grounds in Pond Inlet and Baker Lake are minor capital. Campgrounds are smaller. Territorial Parks are usually little bit outside the communities and are bigger, and we have funding for that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I don't have many more questions, but I would like to ask: also in Pond Inlet at Qilalukkat, it has been said it will be turned into a (interpretation ends) territorial park, (interpretation) and there it is, it has no snow and no trail to it for vehicles or ATVs. They can only go there by ATV and the

trail is getting rutted deeper and deeper all the time. Will there be any funding if the hamlet council requests funding? Can there be trail work done on that or will there be no trail allowed to be built there? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The trail we would be looking at we know would be quite an expense and right now there's no plan, but there would be further review. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Perhaps, though there is snow on the ground now, next summer, would you have a visit to the location prior to any preplanning of any sort to see whether there would be restrictions for ATVs, for example, in the future? As you know, it's an archaeological area and it's going to be a (interpretation ends) territorial park (interpretation) in the future. It's about a mile away from the community. Madam Chairperson, I wonder if he would respond to that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This summer, yes, they could go and see the Pond Inlet area. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are you done? I have no more names. (interpretation ends) Anybody else? Okay. Environment. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2,250,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Environment?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Okay. Minister do you have any closing comments?

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to thank my staff that are here with me and all the other staff that are not here that put all of the work and effort into making a budget that makes sense so that the members can scrutinize it and ask us questions and justify it. I thank the members for keeping us on our toes, and have a good weekend once you're done today. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, will you escort the witnesses out, please.

Welcome, Minister Joanasie, would you like to start with your opening comments?  
Minister Joanasie.

**Bill 51 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2021-2022 – Nunavut Arctic College –  
Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good morning, Madam Chairperson and committee members.

I am very pleased to present to you the Nunavut Arctic College draft 2021-22 capital estimates. In this presentation I will outline Nunavut Arctic College's plans for the funds.

As outlined in our Schedule 2 summary sheets, the college is requesting \$2 million for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The breakdown of funds include:

- \$200,000 for that Kitikmeot Campus facility development;
- \$500,000 for small capital;
- \$1 million for ongoing lifecycle; and
- \$300,000 for information technology infrastructure.

I am happy to confirm that construction continues for the Kitikmeot Campus facility. Work on the site resumed on June 11, 2020 after the winter shutdown in October 2019. COVID-19 restrictions created a delay in the start of the work, but the Department of Community and Government Services believes the project will be completed as scheduled and before the start of the next fiscal year.

(interpretation ends) Madam Chairperson, the small capital allocation supports the college in meeting its daily operational needs, including vehicle maintenance and replacement, furniture, computer hardware and software. Most of this funding is earmarked for the maintenance of Nunavut Arctic College's cars, snowmobiles, and all-terrain vehicles. For Nunavut Arctic College programs, like the Environmental Technology Program, Piquusilirivvik, or the Nunavut Research Institute, this maintenance is especially important.

Madam Chairperson and committee members, Nunavut Arctic College's largest capital request is for ongoing lifecycle. This funding allows Nunavut Arctic College to conduct repairs and replacements to its facilities to maximize their life and use. These funds will support many projects, including backup generator installation for the Iqaluit campus, fuel tank and boiler replacements at Nunavut Arctic College facilities, painting, and repairs to floors and windows. Notable allocations will go to the community learning centres in Sanikiluaq, Naujaat, Arviat, and Baker Lake.

Members of this committee have raised questions about the assessment report of the Nunavut Arctic College facilities. Staff at the college have been directed to prepare this report for tabling this November and I look forward to the discussions around plans for these important capital assets.

Madam Chairperson, (interpretation) the ransomware attack on the Government of Nunavut's IT system and the COVID-19 pandemic have placed different stresses on the college's IT system and supports. This delayed the IT strategic plan. We are back on track and we will continue implementing that plan.

I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have on this proposed capital budget with our request. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Joanasié. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let the officials appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Agreed. Okay. For the record, Minister Joanasié, please introduce your officials and you have already done your opening comments. Can you introduce your officials before we go to the opening comments? Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To my left is the Acting President, Rebecca Mearns, and to my right is Marcello Parungao and he is our finance guy. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you. Does the chairperson of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Again good morning, members. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates for Nunavut Arctic College.

Nunavut Arctic College's proposed capital budget for 2021-22 is \$2 million. This funding will be allocated to the final warranty stage of the Kitikmeot Campus facility in Cambridge Bay, and to three non-community specific projects to address small capital, ongoing lifecycle repairs and information technology needs across the territory.

The standing committee recognizes the important role played by the college's three regional campuses and was pleased to note that once the Kitikmeot Campus project is completed, all three campuses will be fully operational. Members have been given to understand that plans are underway to expand trades training infrastructure in the Kivalliq region and encourage the minister to continue working closely with industry partners and others to ensure the most effective methods of program delivery are considered. Members look forward to updates on the government's comprehensive mining strategy which will

hopefully inform the college's decisions on how to best proceed in this area. Members continue to support the concept of providing more trades training programs in communities other than the regional centres.

Nunavut's community learning centres are critical to providing community-level programming for adult learning opportunities and post-secondary education. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to present Nunavut Arctic College's draft 2021-22 capital estimates, members were once again given to understand that the college had still not completed its Nunavut-wide assessment of the condition and physical status of Nunavut's community learning centres. It is not clear why there has been such an ongoing delay. A number of Members of the Legislative Assembly have raised concerns regarding the conditions at the community learning centres in their constituencies. The standing committee encourages the minister to address the needs for repair, upgrading, or replacement as a high priority and to provide a detailed list of which communities will be seeing major upgrades and renovations to their community learning centres within the next five-year capital plan. It has further been noted that including child care space in any new community learning centre infrastructure provides a very positive benefit for our adult learners.

The standing committee recognizes that the current COVID-19 pandemic has put additional pressures on all aspects of program delivery at the college, including its information technology infrastructure. Members appreciate the efforts that are being made to ensure that college students have the devices they need to remotely access programming for their studies. Despite the uncertainty of these times, members encourage college representatives to continue developing and finalizing the college's Information Technology Strategic Plan as a priority.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates of Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you. Madam Chairperson.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Chairperson. I'll try to make it brief. I would like to welcome the minister and Ms. Mearns.

Our chair's opening comments were very informative and I do second everything. It seems like the community learning centres have been put on the backburner. Using Whale Cove as an example, they have been waiting many years to get a new community learning centre. They built a brand-new community learning centre with a daycare centre.

In Arviat, the other community I represent, they don't have a daycare and I have been informed personally that people who wish to take courses or who are already taking courses are not finding any placements and the existing daycares have long waiting lists as they are full, and it is becoming a barrier to local students. I am clamouring for a daycare separately so that my constituents who wish to take courses can do so without a barrier for their advancement that way.



If we could look at perhaps the two-year or even three-year period that I have been requesting an inclusion of a daycare to all new (interpretation ends) community learning centre (interpretation) funding allocations, we should have money set aside, as I have queried the minister on this issue. I have anticipated the inclusion of a daycare, yet no daycare has been included. I wonder why that is the case, as I can't see the reasoning why.

We have high volumes of unemployment in our community, and education is a path to job opportunities and earning money, and opening doors for new opportunities. Why aren't we setting aside substantial amounts for that or even a common design that would allow the community to get closer to realizing this facility included in their learning centre when it required renovations and add that to the centre? All new facilities should include additional funds for that. Why aren't we seeing more funding specifically for that purpose? I don't know.

This would allow communities to start increasing local capacities and capabilities in many communities. Perhaps as a regular member, the reason may be that I am not vocal enough to convince this government of the need, or perhaps in just approving previous budgets, I wonder if the government even hears our requests. I am getting suspicious that this government is spurning us.

Some communities have (interpretation ends) community learning centres (interpretation) that are amongst the oldest facilities in the territory while others have a lack of capacity as they are too small. To use Arviat as an example, the population is over 3,000 residents and over that possibly. Our community learning centre has limited capacity as (interpretation ends) 3,000 people, three classrooms, (interpretation) which is way too inadequate if you look at the total population. This has caused the local hamlet to undertake an initiative to begin programs outside of the college system. The capacity is too small and residents want a larger centre.

In looking at (interpretation ends) trades training (interpretation) and opening doors for a career includes construction, carpentry, electrical and (interpretation ends) plumbing, (interpretation) as these should actually be taught within our local communities, again, we have the challenge of a community learning centre being too small and not enough resources and no capital dollars set aside for those opportunities, so I am saying it once again so it can be heard, and to see a better future where we see money set aside for the community learning centres. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) General comments? Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, with respect to our colleague representing Arviat North-Whale Cove, I too support his stance as well as that of our chairperson for this committee, as he stated in his opening comments that within the House, many members are disconcerted about facilities. Yes, this is a concern I share with colleagues.

In Sanirajak, if you look at the learning centre, it is quite old. It was used previously for another purpose and once it was no longer in use, then it was given to Arctic College and now it's a community learning centre in Sanirajak.

Further, I do say on numerous occasions that the school is way too small. That's not the only challenge we have. The community learning centre is too small and both the school and the community learning centre have no daycares built into them.

Looking at your opening comments, you stated and I support setting up a generator at the Iqaluit campus. That building is brand new and even though it's new, there is a request for more capital funds. I wonder how the funds are allocated to these projects.

I complain all the time about the situation in my constituency community, yet I don't see any capital dollars set aside for resources. I'm also not trying to place blame, as I'm trying to represent my community as best as I can, and perhaps if I start speaking up, there can be more considerations made for my fellow residents of Amittuq. Additionally, Madam Chairperson, as you mentioned repairs and renovations, it is very likely that our community learning centre in Sanirajak will just be painted and prettied up so that it is not much of an eyesore. We would really like to see an addition to the building because most of the buildings we have there are old, including our community learning centre.

Using the Baffinland mine as an example, residents of Sanirajak and Igloolik are employed there on a rotation basis, and the Kitikmeot Mining Training Centre is over there. I would like to urge Arctic College to be given the opportunity to take training programs, not just as heavy equipment operators in the mine but to get Red Seal certification as electricians, plumbers, and journeyman trades. You have to consider the trades.

People are very able. Even if they don't have Red Seal certificates, they can fix a skidoo, a vehicle, or a skidoo. They are very adaptable and innovative. I know of people like that in my community and that is also the case in Igloolik. Even though we see newer models every year, without reading anything, they assess the vehicle and see where the deficiencies are and try to fix them. After they do fix it, they find out what the deficiency was. Here this person was, haven't read anything.

I continually speak about those who don't have certificates but are quite capable, but their only challenge is the paperwork. When they try to apply to Arctic College, they have paperwork to do and if they make a mistake, it's unfortunate that they don't get accepted because of that mistake. I believe this needs further review, Madam Chairperson.

Some people don't like to go work in other communities and they prefer staying at home while attending school and being with their children. I want more attention paid to them.

Sometimes I don't know what else I can say. I get anxious when I rise on behalf of my constituents as I will not be heard once again. Ever since I came here, I speak Inuktitut

because it is my language and culture, and I am proud of it myself. When I look at myself, I wonder, “This young person is very good at speaking Inuktitut.” I was told and something I hold onto is I should not be embarrassed of my language. That is the advice my late mother gave to me.

More effort needs to be put on language issues for the benefit of young people. With that being the case, even though what I am saying may not sound so good, our needs and desires also have to be heard. When I go back home, I get disappointed with myself, but I am told not to give up and I get encouraged. This challenge has always been a barrier, but I am told to move forward, not backward.

When will this finally be seen? Maybe I should start tabling documents in the House that show how old the facility that I refer to really is. I won't be told what further action I should take on this matter. Even though I keep trying to voice these issues, I don't know where they go. Maybe my words are just turning into smoke here.

I will continue to look for ways to address this. I believe the only way I can do it is to look for solutions with your assistance. I think it's possible if we work on it together. If we adopt the Inuit culture further, we can overcome our problems and move forward by working together.

I just wanted to make those comments. Thank you, Madam Chairperson, for giving me the opportunity.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Kaerner. I just want to remind members that we are talking about capital. If you have anything outside of capital, there are other options or other ways you can raise those issues with the minister. Mr. Qamaniq, you're next. General comments on capital. Thank you.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Based on your opening comments, you stated that “Most of this funding is earmarked for the maintenance of Nunavut Arctic College's cars, snowmobiles, and all-terrain vehicles. For Nunavut Arctic College programs, like the Environmental Technology Program, Piqqusilirivvik, or the Nunavut Research Institute...” Is there any money available here? It looks like there will be surplus funding to be used for these types of projects.

Madam Chairperson, our land is very steep and the airstrip is in the middle of the community. There are no pedestrians allowed on the land surrounding the airstrip. The school is quite far from some parts of the community. Maybe not today, but is it possible to put some money aside so that Nunavut Arctic College staff and students... ?

I'm not sure if vehicles are provided to take them back and forth from the residence to the school, but there's the Environmental Technology Program, the Piqqusilirivvik, and the research centre in Cambridge Bay. I don't know whether those small capital allocations are just for those programs, but if it's possible, I would like to see the Pond Inlet

Community Learning Centre acquire a vehicle or even a van. I want that to be considered by the government, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. (interpretation ends) It's Nunavut Arctic College. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2 million. Any questions? Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good morning, minister and your officials. It's a pleasure to see you in the Assembly again. I'll try to keep my questions short and brief.

Madam Chairperson, over the last few years I have indicated that a number of potential jobs that are available to our income support recipients does require class 5 or general driver's licence. I also pointed out that our communities lack resources to provide driver's training to those potential candidates.

My first question to the minister is, as I have been requesting the college to fill this gap or the void, I would like to ask if the college has since looked into potential capital costs with rolling out a pilot project for this initiative or going even further and rolling it out across the territory. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Can I get clarification on his question? Is he asking the college is preparing for a class 5 training program for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. Of course training would be under O&M. Mr. Lightstone, if you could clarify your question.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As I have indicated, I have raising this issue with the college for a few years now and my question was whether or not the college has begun the review of the potential capital cost implications of introducing a pilot project, either that or rolling it out across the territory. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for the clarification. No, we haven't gone that far yet in looking at what the capital implications would be. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I have been raising this issue for quite some time now and I'm a little disappointed in the minister's response. I would like to

ask or enquire why the college has not even considered this and looked at the potential capital cost of such a program. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I appreciate the member's question. I think the different priorities have been competing in this regard, so I don't the college right now has a priority for what the member is asking for at this moment. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are you done? Mr. Main, it's your turn.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) The minister's opening comments mention on page 2 the assessment report of NAC facilities. Can the acting minister explain this assessment report? Is this one focusing on community learning centres that have been discussed previously or is this an assessment report that covers all facilities? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It's to cover the existing community learning centres needs assessment. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) What can we expect in this report? Are there recommendations in there in terms of communities that need investment in their community learning centers? Are there ballpark cost estimates in terms of projects that it can be or is it simply a snapshot of where your current assets sit at this point in time? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the member for his question. I understand that there's a great amount of interest around this report, but it's taking a look at what the college's existing assets are and what the needs are around those assets. I think it's important to note that every single community has a learning centre, and the college works in trying to address the needs with our ongoing lifecycle, for example, but the needs are far away from what our budget can allow for in addressing all the needs. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Former Minister Netser, the letter of expectation to the Chairperson of the Arctic College board

mentions on, I think, the third page, it mentions “I ask that Nunavut Arctic College finalize a long-term capital plan by March 31, 2020 which places priority on the territory’s community learning centres. For too long, community learning centres have not been prioritized and it’s time to change this.” The minister had asked for a long-term capital plan by March 31 of this year. Can the acting minister update us on where that work is at? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This community learning centre assessment report would help us inform how the capital plans going forward would look like. This is the first step in that process. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) When will the college have a long-term capital plan finalized? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I’m not entirely sure if there’s a set date or timeline when we can expect something that the member asks. However, like I said, the needs assessment report for community learning centres will help us identify further how we’re going to be going forward and things will start to look a lot clearer once that report is out. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you to the acting minister. It’s my understanding that this assessment report is not going to be a long-term capital plan. The minister of the day directed the board to develop this long-term capital plan by March 31 of this year. We’re now about five or six months past that. In terms of delivering on this ask from the previous minister, has the college set a goal post or do you have any date that you have set by which you will have a long-term capital plan developed? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If you may allow the acting president, Ms. Mearns, to elaborate a bit on this. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Mearns.

**Ms. Mearns:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As the minister mentioned, this CLC assessment report is the starting off point for our discussions around the capital needs of

Nunavut Arctic College. Now, this is only one aspect of the capital needs at the college. Obviously CLCs are one part of how we deliver programs throughout the territory and it goes beyond just the physical buildings for the delivery of programs too.

To date, as I understand, the long-term capital plan has not been completed, but certainly in the time that I am working here, I am committed to continue the work that I have started with our board of governors as well as their staff at the college to look at the overall capital needs and how we find a way forward at the college. I think that all of this goes hand in hand with a lot of the work that is happening simultaneously at the college.

As we have mentioned before, we are working towards a ten-year strategic plan at the college as well, and the items identified within that plan will also feed into identifying what the capital needs will be to run certain programs, to expand on the programs that we run currently.

I think this is going to be an ongoing process and there is a lot of information to bring together and a need to tie those plans together to ensure that one, we are one looking at our community needs, looking at the needs that we have for whether it is Inuit employment planning and looking at the types of opportunities that we want to make available within our campuses and within our communities.

This report provides that starting off point. It does look at the physical assessments of the buildings, but I think there are ongoing conversations that need to happen with the members here in the House, with our communities, and also with our staff and faculty and students at the college to look at what the future looks like and what those capital needs would be in association with that. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) *Ma'na* for the additional information. I agree there is a lot of information for the college to take into consideration, but I think it's important that there should be an end date to your planning process and plans need to be rolled out and they need to be implemented, but I would like to take the opportunity to compliment the college on their work, on the ten-year strategy, which is not just on the capital side of things but I think that's a really important process that you have been going through.

In terms of the capital side of things, are there any third party funds that the college can access? Are there any pots of money nationally that the college is looking at or has applied to in terms of the capital needs? It just seems like we don't have enough dollars as a government to do what we need and what communities need. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, the college is always open to partnering with different entities outside the government. Of course, federally, we have been able to benefit with the Nunatta Campus here. It was 75 percent paid for by the federal government and we continue to look at different opportunities around that, as well as any other, whether it is campus or community learning centres. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Does the college currently have any capital-specific applications out to different organizations or federal partners? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Not that I'm aware of; I don't think there are any proposals that are out from the college as of yet. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) In the minister's letter of October 29 following up to the standing committee appearance, it provided a list of ongoing lifecycle items which were omitted from the substantiation sheets provided last month. I'm going down the list of projects and when it comes to these community learning centres, I see repairs, repairs, repairs, repairs, repairs, so I don't see a lot of reference to equipment or expansion. Would it be fair to say that at this point in time the college's approach to the capital needs on the community learning centre side is just to keep the lights on basically, to try to keep the buildings in usable shape? Is that kind of the priority at this point in time? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under small capital is I think where we cover for vehicles or buying new whether it's all-terrain vehicles, cars, or snowmobiles, and that sort of thing, but to his point, yes, I think at this point the college does... I'm not even entirely sure when the last the community learning centre was built. I think it might have been in Grise Fiord, if my memory is still intact. We work with what we have on either building new and/or expanding on the community learning centres, but yes, the purpose of the ongoing lifecycle budget is to address any maintenance that needs to happen in order for those facilities to be up and running. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.



**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. As these assets age, it's my understanding that the costs are just going to go up in terms of as facilities age, you need to pour more and more money into them to the point where it doesn't make any sense to keep maintaining a facility that's falling apart and then the need for a new facility becomes more justifiable in terms of the financial side of things.

In terms of this Kitikmeot Campus development project, so the cost breakdowns here on page 3 of 5, there was a \$977,000 contingency allocated for this, for the \$19 million project. I think that's a reasonable amount within the percentage that you would want to see. Has that contingency been exhausted at this point in the construction? My understanding is the building is pretty much complete there in Cambridge Bay. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I cannot answer the member's question at this point, but I think we will have to look into whether or not that contingency has been used up or not and I can notify him at a later date. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) The reason I ask is the...(no audio)...

(interpretation) Thank you. Okay. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) The substantiation sheets provided to us indicated that this Kitikmeot facility, the project will include connecting the student residence and daycare to a domestic water system, removing the need for trucked water, right? We were told that it was going to be included in this \$19 million budget, but then it's also included under the ongoing lifecycle items for this year, so it appears that that particular task has been moved over to ongoing lifecycle.

The minister provided correspondence indicating that it was about \$250,000. I'm given the impression that the contingency for this \$19 million facility has been exhausted and that the \$250,000 cost is now going to be absorbed under ongoing lifecycle, even though this a brand-new facility and it's my understanding that ongoing lifecycle is to keep your existing facilities operating. I wonder if I can just get the minister's confirmation if that's indeed why the \$250,000 item has been pushed over to ongoing lifecycle. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the member for his question. We were in Cambridge Bay for the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Annual

General Meeting and had the privilege of having a quick tour of the facility and it was quite interesting to see firsthand.

In terms of his question, it's quite detailed and if you will allow, can I get the acting president, Ms. Mearns, to respond on my behalf? Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Mearns.

**Ms. Mearns** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) As the minister had responded, this has been included in the ongoing lifecycle. I believe, when we presented at standing committee, it was located into substantiation sheets. This is an ongoing lifecycle cost and we are working to look at that project and ensure that it's appropriately where it should be, and so this is for the single student residence, which is a separate building from the Kitikmeot Campus. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) The substantiation sheet for the Kitikmeot Campus development says, "The project will also include connecting the single student residence and daycare to the domestic water system, removing the need for trucked water," so then we see the exact same need or thing is included in two different substantiation sheets. I'm trying to understand how it jumped from one to the other. I'm not arguing that it's not needed; I'm trying to understand why it wasn't possible to deliver this under the \$19.2 million budget as was planned. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Maybe I can ask Mr. Parungao to account for the spending on the member's question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you. Mr. Parungao.

**Mr. Parungao:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The old water truck for the student single residence in Cambridge Bay is actually not part of the new building. I have been talking to the dean responsible for the Kitikmeot Campus and we were advised that it's going to be a long process if we would let the old water truck be part of the building or part of the project. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you. Before I pass it back to Mr. Main, I see the clock and we're going to 12 noon. Usually we conclude at that time on Fridays, but if members agree...sorry pardon me. Mr. Rumbolt will talk about it better than I will.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As you stated, we're close to twelve o'clock and in order to continue, we need to seek approval and it's my understanding that

there's only one more person who would like to speak to this. Pursuant to our rules, I move that we stay in committee so that we can complete the review of Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Better said than how I would have done it. Do all members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Okay. Mr. Main, back to you.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Okay, so I'll just try to wrap up my questions on this.

My understanding now is that it wasn't budgetary constraints that led to this being moved over to ongoing lifecycle. It's more like an issue of timing in terms of it will take longer to do this plumbing job connecting them to the utilidor. I would just like clarification if my understanding is correct on that. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The member's understanding is correct. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Okay, so out of the \$19.2 million that has been budgeted for the Kitikmeot Campus development, and you're very close to the end of the project, there's only \$200,000 being asked for in terms of warranty. Is the project going to come in under budget or is it at budget? What does the picture look like? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If I may have Mr. Parungao respond on my behalf. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Parungao.

**Mr. Parungao:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As far as my latest reporting is concerned, I think the project will be under the \$19 million. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) When will you have the final costing for that and how much under budget are you anticipating it will come in? \$10, \$200,000, a million? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If you can have Mr. Parungao respond on my behalf again. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Parungao.

**Mr. Parungao:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Usually before the end of the fiscal year we will have the final number, and I believe the project is 90 percent completed. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I guess my last line of questioning is on the mine training strategy work. This is a strategy that would have a lot of capital implications and so I think it is important.

In the minister's correspondence to the committee it states that "Regarding the status of the mine training strategy, the Department of ED&T is overseeing the strategy, therefore ask them for an update on the mine training strategy." As it pertains to capital needs, what is the college's involvement in the development of the mine training strategy? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The college has been involved in the strategy and we are looking at what that would look like. While discussions on mine training, people might think that it's an image of a separate entity or building. The college sees it as a natural progression for the trade school that we currently have. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you for letting me get in one last question with my one second.

I would beg to differ from the minister's response there. I think that the mine training strategy needs to include more than just looking at the facility in Rankin Inlet. I think that the mine training strategy needs to include community-level opportunities and bring the training closer to where the Inuit are. The college's annual report on page 17, the 2018-19 annual report under the new Industrial Training Division, it makes specific reference to employment-specific training at the community level in our community learning centres.

Industrial training, it's my understanding that that is targeted at mining camps and that sector.

My last question for the minister is: can the minister confirm that the work on the mine training strategy, as it pertains to capital, will not just be limited to looking at the needs of the Rankin Inlet facility, that community learning centre needs, equipment, capital, expansion of community learning centres, that that will be something that is part of the mine training strategy on the college's side? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The college would work in conjunction with our plans going forward and yes, in keeping in mind the community learning centres and what can be offered at the local level, I think there is huge potential and the college does have a portable heavy equipment operator simulator program. There's currently a fleet of 12 units that can be used and four per region. That's a program that can be and is used right now and we will continue to expand on those going forward. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, minister. Next one on the list is Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Minister and your officials, welcome. Can you please elaborate on what else can be done for communities outside of the regional hubs that do not have the luxury of walking down the road to go into trades training? Is there anything being planned for Baker Lake specifically? As I mentioned numerous times now, Baker Lake is now, for lack of a better term, a mining town and there are a lot of people who want to get into trades training, but they cannot leave their home for other reasons. First question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the member for his question. The current reality is that a lot of Nunavummiut can take the plane and go to Kangiqsiniq to partake in any of the trades training programs that are currently offered.

In terms of planning forward, trades training as a whole, how much we can offer it at the local level, it would have to be very well planned out from many different moving pieces. That's where we're at now. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Joanasié. I would just like to remind members that we're talking about capital. If you're going to talk about training, it has to be linked to the actual capital project. Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'm getting to that.

Have you guys made any plans or looked at other infrastructure that could be brought in, for example, a mobile trades training centre? I do know Red River College in Winnipeg does have these mobile trailers that they bring around to communities that do not have the luxury of a trades training centre. Have you looked at maybe pursuing that avenue for these other communities? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The portable heavy equipment operator simulators, the college purchased eight additional ones from CM Labs Vortex Suite of Mobile Simulators, they are called. It brings the total fleet to 12. There are four portable simulators dedicated to each region. These simulators introduce heavy equipment operators in simulating ways using a blend of technology and actual controls of each piece of equipment, such as backhoe, excavators, dozers, wheel loaders, and I believe motor graders. Our Minister for ED&T had talked about these earlier. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the minister for his response. Will the minister commit to looking at other avenues, such as the mobile trades training centre, like what Red River College is using? With that they train other trades-related positions that people can get trained in and gain a successful position. It could be at the mining. It could be at one of the contractors in any community. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We can definitely look at this further and I thank the member for his consideration. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are you finished? (interpretation ends) Okay. The next person on my list is Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson, for recognizing me. I don't have a lot of questions. This document from yesterday on the questions that were asked by the standing committee states that with regard to small capital, plans have been made for various vehicles. There are four for Clyde River, (interpretation ends) ATVs, (interpretation) three (interpretation ends) vehicles, seven snowmobiles, three outboards, one boat, one canoe, (interpretation) and there are different items that they want to move forward with in Iqaluit. There are 20 skidoos. Can you clearly explain if you request that many capital items for the communities? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank her for the question. The vehicles are geared towards program instruction, for example, the (interpretation ends) Environmental Technology Program (interpretation) or Piqqusilirivvik. They mainly use vehicles for those programs. That's what they are for, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are you done? Mr. Qamaniq, it's now your turn.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I know you want us to refrain from speaking about what I mentioned earlier, but I'll ask a question on it.

Now, in Pond Inlet the mining company operating near our community provided \$10 million for the establishment of a mine training centre for North Baffin. They had initially announced this on their own to the people of Pond Inlet. The former member who is my immediate predecessor, who has since passed away, Joe Enook, advocated hard for the support of this House on the development of the project.

There are two heavy equipment operator simulators in Pond Inlet. An Inuktitut term should be made for what are called "simulators" in English. Maybe Taiguusiliuqtiit can come up with a term for that in Inuktitut so that we can speak confidently in Inuktitut and because we are proud of our language.

I feel there isn't enough support by the Government of Nunavut and we are most affected in Pond Inlet with the mine in Mary River. I also want that considered by the Nunavut Arctic College board on the future use of the equipment. There are already two simulators that have been up there in Pond Inlet for two years now. If I can get a response to that, I would appreciate that, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. It's not really a capital issue, but I will ask the minister if he would like to respond to the member's question. Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank you for that comment. The regions of Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot have staff in place that's going to be mainly focused on mining and there would be a staff person in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. When I was asking questions on their documentation, I was wondering if funding can be made available for a vehicle or a van that can be used by the community learning centres in Nunavut. Can funding be made available from the funds that are allocated for the expansion of community learning centres or can you consider providing half of the funds that are required and my constituents can fundraise the other half? Is that possible? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. For vehicles that are more geared toward instructional purposes, we do request funding, but in addition to that, if we are going to be considering these items, we can look for options on that, but I can't definitively say that we will provide funding to any community for vehicles to transport their students. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are you done? (interpretation ends) Okay, I have no more names on my list. Nunavut Arctic College. Total Capital Expenditures. \$2 million. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Do members agree that we have concluded Nunavut Arctic College?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** I would like to invite the minister to make his closing comments.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for the questions that were asked this morning. As I mentioned earlier, I'm going to get back to the questions that I said I would get back to.

I also thank officials from Arctic College, the acting president and Mr. Parungao. I believe he's long overdue for retirement, but this may be his final appearance here, so I would like to thank him again. Have a good day. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Chairperson:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you please escort the witnesses out. I'll rise to report progress. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Ms. Angnakak.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Ms. Angnakak:** 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 be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Rumbolt. To the motion.

**An Hon. Member:** 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. Just a reminder that there's a meeting of the Full Caucus this afternoon at two o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for November 2:

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 37
  - 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 Monday, November 2, 2020, at 1:30.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 12:18*

