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**Monday, November 2, 2020**

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**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable Paul Quassa, MLA**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Aggu)

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(Amittuq)

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Energy; Minister of Environment;  
Minister responsible for Immigration;  
Minister responsible for Indigenous  
Affairs; Minister responsible for the  
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Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq  
Energy Corporation*

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

**Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

**Hon. George Hickey**  
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*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial  
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Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister  
responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister  
responsible for the Workers' Safety and  
Compensation Commission*

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**Calvin Pedersen**  
(Kugluktuk)

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responsible for the Status of Women*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut****Monday, November 2, 2020****Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joelle 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 13:30

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Paul Quassa) (interpretation): Good day. Can you say the opening prayer, please, Mr. Qirngnuq.

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Member Qirngnuq. Good day, Nunavummiut. Welcome to those who are watching and listening to the proceedings of your Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Let's begin. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 507 – 5(2):  
Community Justice Committees  
Seeking Members in Nunavut**

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

this afternoon. Looking through Facebook this weekend, it was nice to see all the ghouls and goblins that were in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, community justice committees in Nunavut are seeking members to be appointed to work with offenders and victims.

The purpose of a community justice committee is to reconnect and reconcile the person who committed the crime with those who are affected by crime. Community justice committees utilize both a restorative approach and Inuit societal values to repair the harm caused and restore the harmony in the community. They provide an alternative solution to the formal criminal justice system. During the community justice committee process, all who are affected by crime have a say in shaping the justice process.

There is a community justice committee in every community in Nunavut. These committees are made up of a representative of all ages, with special regard for youth and elders in each community. Each member of the community justice committees are consulted to make sure that *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* principles are incorporated within the work of the committee.

Recently a public service announcement went out seeking individuals who want to be a part of their local community justice committee. Communities seeking members include Cambridge Bay, Resolute Bay, Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, Taloyoak, Kinngait, Pangnirtung, Naujaat, Igloodik, Kimmirut, Sanikiluaq, Coral Harbour, and Pond Inlet.

I would like to encourage Nunavummiut to contact their local justice outreach workers to consider becoming a member of their community justice committees.

I would also like to thank all those members of our community justice committees in Nunavut for their dedication and effort in promoting a peaceful and safe society.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 508 – 5(2):  
Measures to Combat COVID-19 at  
Nunavut Airports**

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for this opportunity to share some information on the preparations we have made at Nunavut Airports to make sure core services remain available during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we all know, during any situation in our communities, groceries will still need to be brought in to stock our shelves; patients will still need to travel to receive proper care; medical staff, samples, and supplies will have to be transported; and essential workers will be needed to deliver services and keep our businesses running.

Mr. Speaker, to protect the public and ensure the reliability of our transportation network, the aviation industry, including our airports in Nunavut, has adopted some very specific

measures.

To protect passengers and crew members, masks are required on all flights. These have proven to be effective, and the incidence of COVID-19 spreading within aircraft is negligible.

In addition, we have increased efforts regarding cleanliness and all our airports have been provided with an adequate supply of high-grade cleaning supplies.

All unscheduled traffic from outside Nunavut is required to report to the chief public health officer 24 hours prior to landing. Employees at our airports are monitoring inbound traffic and have been instructed to report any violations of public health orders.

Mr. Speaker, these measures are in place to protect our communities and to ensure our critical transportation system continues to operate safely. I urge all Nunavummiut to take them seriously and help us continue to keep our airports safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 509 – 5(2):  
Nunavut Law Program**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the members and Nunavummiut, as well as everyone watching the proceedings. I send you my regards.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am



happy to provide an update on the Nunavut Law Program. This cohort of students started their final year this fall. While COVID-19 did pose challenges, it did not deter the students. The law program has retained 23 of the 25 students originally admitted into the program. I would like to recognize these students and all Nunavut Arctic College students for their dedication in starting a new academic year amid a global pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Law Program students began their final year by hosting an articling panel discussion. This discussion included lawyers recently called to the Nunavut Bar, a current Inuk articling student, and the current chief executive officer of the Law Society of Nunavut. Participants shared their personal stories about articling and answered many questions posed by students.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, students also began their Clinical Law Placement Course. Twelve students were placed in five local public legal institutions to learn about the importance of clinical work. I would like to thank Nunavut Tunngavik, the Legal Services Board of Nunavut, Public Prosecution Service of Canada, Nunavut Court of Justice, and Government of Nunavut's Legal and Constitutional Division for providing students with an important learning opportunity. The remaining 11 students will complete their clinical placements next term.

Mr. Speaker, I am also happy to advise you that students welcomed Nunavut Arctic College Elder in Residence Lew Phillips to speak to them. Mr. Speaker, they also participated in weekly cultural

activities and are planning additional activities for the fall. I wish them the best, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 510 – 5(2):  
Public Housing Units Designed for  
Aging in Place**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation knows that elders are vital members of our community. If elders are to remain a part of our community, we must have homes that can accommodate their needs. A person with limited mobility may need custom countertops, light switches and sinks within reach. A grab bar can make a difference for aging people.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that there are 18 communities with units customized for elders. In Iqaluit eight more units are now being constructed. All occupants will be comfortable in their homes, whether they use a wheelchair, walker, or cane. The Nunavut Housing Corporation aims to have our newest units finished in October 2022.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation continues to offer several programs to help elders. The Senior Citizen Home Repair Program provides a grant up to \$15,000. The Senior and

Persons with Disabilities Preventative Maintenance Program provides up to \$3,000 annually. Elders who find homeownership burdensome may consider the Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Housing Options Program, which allows elders to sell their homes to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Their local housing organization takes on the maintenance and elders can stay in their home rent-free as a tenant of public housing.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the Nunavut Housing Corporation on their continued efforts to overcome some of these challenges and continue to make progress toward building stronger and healthier communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 511 – 5(2):  
Herceptin and Remicade  
Treatments Available in Territory**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to announce that the invasion that we experienced on Saturday was, like I had said on Friday, a peaceful one.

Mr. Speaker, I am very excited to stand up today and talk about two new treatments being offered in Nunavut.

The first is the drug Remicade. This specialized medication is used to treat certain chronic conditions such as Crohn's Disease. Prior to this program, patients were required to travel to a

southern hospital every four to six weeks to receive this essential medical treatment.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to be able to share with the members that the Department of Health has successfully implemented a Remicade infusion program for Nunavummiut in the Qikiqtani and Kivalliq regions.

Mr. Speaker, the training and preparation work to successfully bring the Remicade infusion program to Nunavut has led to another exciting development for expanded in-territory treatment.

Mr. Speaker, on September 11 the first in-territory chemotherapy treatment was administered at the Qikiqtani General Hospital using the drug Herceptin. This medication, which is delivered as an injection under the skin, is used in patients with breast and stomach cancer.

Mr. Speaker, having this life-saving chemotherapy treatment available in territory will allow Nunavummiut to receive their treatment without leaving Nunavut. Prior to Herceptin being offered in Nunavut, patients were required to travel to a southern hospital every three to four weeks for treatment.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that as the Herceptin program develops, we will eventually see it expanded to the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions with programs in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. Rankin Inlet is already doing preliminary work on this.

Mr. Speaker, the availability of these new treatments in territory will not only provide Nunavummiut with better access

to care but also reduce medical travel costs.

I want to sincerely thank our health care staff for the hard work and commitment that made bringing both these treatments to Nunavut possible. It demonstrates the Department of Health's ongoing commitment to improve access and quality of care for all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. No. 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) No. 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Continuing on. No. 6. Oral Questions.

I'm sorry. Members' Statements. I think I'm ahead of myself. No. 3. First is the Member for Kugluktuk, followed by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove. Member Pedersen.

**Item 3: Members' Statements**  
**Member's Statement 752 – 5(2):**  
**Kugluktuk Christmas Committee**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everybody. Good afternoon to Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kugluktuk Christmas Committee. This is a group of volunteers who love their community and love spreading Christmas joy and spirit.

Many years ago a small group of community members, led and supported by Ida Ayalik McWilliam and Rose O'Donnell, arranged an evening of

activities for kids who thought they could benefit from extra care and attention.

The volunteers organized a Santa party with food and a gift exchange for the kids. The initiative grew roots. Over the years many people were involved, eventually leading up to the formation of the Kugluktuk Christmas Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the Christmas committee fundraises to purchase food hampers for families in the community, to give every child 12 years and under a Christmas present, to run the holiday breakfast program, and to give the community a fun and entertaining two-week schedule of events during the holiday season.

Recognizing the need and effort to reach and support more families through the holidays, the Christmas committee held the first radio-telethon in 2004. The goal that night was to raise \$1,000. In a few short hours they surpassed their goal and raised over \$5,000. The telethon was a huge success and is now held annually, drawing in the generous support of the community and from friends and neighbours across Nunavut and Canada. This year the radio-telethon is scheduled for Friday, November 27, and I hope I will be able to attend.

As the need grows in the community so do the efforts of the Christmas committee. In 2012 the committee held their first annual charity Christmas gala, which is a dinner and an auction. Community members, stores, local businesses, and businesses with ties to Kugluktuk donate items to be auctioned off. The event has become a popular attraction and is always well attended. This year the gala will be held on

Saturday, November 21.

Mr. Speaker, volunteerism is at the core of the Christmas committee. Community groups play a key role in making the Christmas schedule come together.

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

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

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Groups like the Grizzly sports team, youth centre, Pinniqtut Numiqtiit and Ukaliannuit Numiqtiit, Copper Inuit Drum Dance Group, Kugluktuk Men's Group, Kugluktuk firefighters, elders committee, Kugluktuk Search and Rescue, Senior and Junior Rangers, and others take turns hosting events or game nights.

The Christmas committee receives contributions annually from local partners such as the Hamlet of Kugluktuk, Tahikyoak Heritage Committee, Kugluktuk Co-op, the Northern, Enokhok Inn, Kikiak Contracting, and Canadian North.

Mr. Speaker, here is a list of the 2020 Christmas committee members so far; as time goes on, we do get a lot more volunteers, but here is a list so far:

- Lashawna Taiapana
- Miranda Atatahak

- Chelsea Adjun
- Nadene McMenemy
- Lori Rudyk
- Marissa Mercurio
- David Ho
- Lauren Klassen

Past notable volunteers have been:

- Ida Ayalik McWilliam
- Rose O'Donnell
- Ron and Helen Tologanak
- Millie and Simon Kuliktana
- Wynter Kuliktana
- Beverly Anablak
- Mark Franche

Other notable contributors have been musicians who have been there every year for hours on end:

- Colin and Gustin Adjun
- Shawn Kuliktana
- Kevin Klengenber
- Dettrick Hala
- Kenny Taptuna
- Scotty Tologanak
- Fred Novoligak

They keep our toes tapping during these evening events.

I would also like to thank every single child that has the heart to donate their piggybank monies to this cause. It's so cute to see the little kid come up with whatever he has. He is so proud to give his donation.

This is exactly how every year we seem to be averaging \$30,000 for the children on these events. Thank you to all the people of Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I do thank those who help our fellow Nunavummiut. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North, followed by the Member for Uqqummiut. Member Main.

**Member's Statement 753 – 5(2):  
Uranium Policy Statement Update**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Wonderful day wishes to my colleagues and my constituents in Arviat and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the issue of uranium.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents and my colleagues here in this House know that I am personally advocated for mining projects that can hire multiple workers, particularly due to the fact it can result in hundreds of jobs opening and contracts for business owners, from that perspective. Nonetheless, my advocacy towards mining has limits, as I am still concerned about our environment and impacts on our wildlife resulting from mining operations, so we must always keep them in consideration as Nunavummiut.

This policy dealing with uranium or radioactive minerals is called the (interpretation ends) Government of Nunavut Uranium Policy Statement. (interpretation) It was developed in 2012, and here, Mr. Speaker, it is not a long-worded policy, (interpretation ends) not even two pages. (interpretation) I am urging the public service to update this policy, and I wish more deliberations on this front and thus why I stand today and

ask why.

This was last updated perhaps in 2015, close to when the last uproar occurred in the Kivalliq region over this issue, making it a Nunavut-wide issue when Baker Lake was fighting the Kiggavik uranium mine application, and it was discussed by the Nunavut Impact Review Board where they reviewed the application. Also, since that time, the proposal wasn't approved and the uranium issue kind of went sideways. I think we should consult Nunavummiut about whether they support uranium mining or not, and whether we should be talking about this matter and if Nunavut should have that, Mr. Speaker.

I have not seen any discussions about this important matter in any of the policies I have read. I personally am disconcerted as it impacts our caribou herds, and in representing my constituents of Whale Cove and Arviat who will be severely impacted when the caribou move because of a mine's impact. This is just one of the myriad issues associated with uranium and radioactive minerals in our region and also in Manitoba, which has many deposits along with those near Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, due to its importance, I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 754 – 5(2): State of Clyde River Arena**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am rising today to speak about our constituents, especially our youth.

Now, in my constituency there are two communities, Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, and recreational facilities and arenas in particular are getting quite antiquated and old, as some facilities haven't been renovated in many years, and especially the case in my other constituency community.

I have received correspondence from residents of Clyde River about their local arena, as it is becoming quite dilapidated and some areas are no longer safe and it is used heavily by local children, as most arenas are used quite heavily by local youth and it keeps many children occupied during these months. It's not just youth, as adults also take time to use recreational skating when they are not playing games.

I have received many letters on this subject and I also brought it up to the previous government's attention. Many residents of Clyde River have sent letters asking for assistance and help about the age of their arena and wanting a Zamboni. I will be asking questions on this subject to the minister responsible for hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. No. 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) No. 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. No. 6. Oral Questions.

Member for Tununig, followed by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu. Member Qamaniq.

**Item 6: Oral Questions**

**Question 1070 – 5(2): Driver's Licences**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and they concern the issue of driver's licences.

Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents in Pond Inlet contacted me last week regarding their application to renew their driver's licence. Mr. Speaker, my constituent informed me that they were told by the government that their application to renew their driver's licence would take up to two years to process. Mr. Speaker, does the minister consider this to be an acceptable situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qamaniq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, his

department's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities has been to "provide training for locally-based driver examiners in conjunction with municipal partners." Can the minister confirm how many residents of Pond Inlet have received this training to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In November 2018 there were two people who received the training, but they haven't been appointed to date. There haven't been any more people taking the training in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qamaniq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, his department's current business plan also indicates that one of its priorities for the upcoming 2021-22 fiscal year is to, and I again I quote, "Expand connectivity to the Motor Vehicles Information system to Government Liaison Officers."

Can the minister confirm when Pond Inlet's government liaison officer's office is scheduled to be connected, and can the minister clarify the impact that the recent ransomware incident has had on this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the community of Pond Inlet, it's one of the fortunate communities that are now connected as part of this for getting the motor vehicles licence applications directly. That has been in place, from what I understand, since August. Ransomware did have an impact, but our department has been moving forward to getting other communities connected, and I'm happy to say that Pond Inlet was one of those communities that were connected as of August. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 1071 – 5(2): Parliamentary Representation**

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier and they concern the issue of Nunavut's parliamentary representation. I don't want him to think that I have forgotten to follow up on some of the unresolved matters.

As the Premier will recall, I asked him for an update last week on the status of the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments. Information published by the federal government indicates that Nunavut's two seats on the board are currently vacant.

Earlier this year the Premier's department called for nominations to the board. I'm wondering if the Premier can confirm who he has nominated for appointment for the board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry that I don't have the names of the nominees we have presented, but I did provide those names to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to ask in the House so that it could be for the record so people know. He did show me on the phone, so it would be good if he would tell the public.

Mr. Speaker, as the Premier will be aware, Nunavut's Senator recently introduced the Bill S-214, which is proposed legislation to amend the *Constitution Act* in respect to the property qualifications required for appointment to the Senate. If passed by the Parliament, the legislation would eliminate the real property requirement for residents of Nunavut to be appointed to the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of modernization legislation. Will the Premier commit to formally expressing our government's support for its passage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will most definitely look into that matter. Mr. Speaker, as we're aware,

a lot of Nunavummiut don't own real property within Nunavut, so I think this is a good step in the right direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question concerns Nunavut's parliamentary representation in the House of Commons. As the Premier is aware, Nunavut's Member of Parliament is currently on an extended leave of absence, and I am confident that I speak on behalf of all members when I say that we wish her a full and speedy recovery. Can the Premier confirm that the MP's office continues to coordinate with the Government of Nunavut on matters of mutual concern and that it remains available to assist residents with federal programs and services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can confirm with the member that we still work with our MP's office and other than our MP having a bit of time off, it's work as usual. Her offices are still open and we still communicate with her office. The business that has to be done will still be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, followed by the Member for Uqqummiut. Member Akoak.



**Question 1072 – 5(2): Engagement with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association**

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

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Premier.

As the minister will recall, I asked him questions in March of this year concerning the Government of Nunavut's responses to resolutions that had been passed by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association at its annual general meeting. Mr. Speaker, at that time he assured me that the government's responses to the association's resolutions would be provided in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, it is now almost the end of the year. Can the Premier tell me today when the government's responses will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have responded in a timely manner. Like I said, the time before that, it was not in a timely manner and I still apologize to the Kitikmeot Inuit Association on that, but this year we have responded in a timely manner. As for tabling, it's not a requirement, but I'll look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the Premier made a statement in the Legislative Assembly concerning the Government of Nunavut's "engagement" with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. In his statement he said, "On January 21, 2020 Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Nunavut renewed their relationship through the signing of the Katujjiqatigiinni Protocol, asserting our organizations' commitment to work together on our shared priorities."

Mr. Speaker, can the Premier clarify how the Government of Nunavut approaches its relationship with Nunavut's three designated Inuit organizations, including the Kitikmeot Inuit Association? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's relationship with the three RIAs is good and whenever I'm invited to one of their board meetings or their annual general meetings, if there are no conflicting schedules, I do go and when the ministers are invited, they do go. We have a very good working relationship with all three RIAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier will be aware, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association has been

working on a “due diligence” process in respect to the proposed acquisition of TMAC Resources. As the Premier is also aware, the federal government is undertaking a “national security review” of the acquisition.

Mr. Speaker, can the Premier clarify how the Government of Nunavut is engaging with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and the federal government in this process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Mr. Speaker, I just didn’t get the last part of this question. Can he please repeat it? I was just preoccupied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Please repeat the question, Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you. I’ll read the whole question again.

Mr. Speaker, as the Premier will be aware, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association has been working on a “due diligence” process in respect to the proposed acquisition of TMAC Resources. As the Premier is also aware, the federal government is undertaking a “national security review” of the acquisition.

Can the Premier clarify how the Government of Nunavut is engaging with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and the federal government in this process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, at the staff level we are talking with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and the ED&T minister has been having phone calls with the president of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, so we are engaging with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 1073 – 5(2): Repairs Needed for Clyde River Arena**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to everybody watching and listening to the proceedings in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, as well as my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As I stated earlier in my member’s statement, recreation centres and arenas in the smaller communities have needed work for a very long time. Some of them are falling apart because of overuse. They are heavily well used in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I have been receiving correspondence from my constituents in Clyde River who are concerned about the arena in Clyde River due to its deteriorating state.

Can the minister explain what planning has been done for the arena in Clyde River and is the department working with the hamlet to update it because it's too old now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. Mr. Speaker, these arenas in Nunavut all have maintenance work done throughout the year, and annually, twice or three times and even up to four times is the local arena upgraded.

The arenas have all had concrete lining for the base, and pipes are installed to improve the freezing times for the ice, and after the concrete is laid down, they also get funding for artificial surfaces that can be used for summer months such as soccer and to ensure it can be used during the summer. There are also replacements, such as the sidings and windows and netting for the public areas.

It's regrettable that in Clyde River there are no current projects underway at the moment, but I can identify at a later time what improvements will be on the books. Mr. Speaker, I can also say to you that in following the plans and the budgets that we have, there is \$20,000 that will be used for improvements and we have used that amount to date, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that explanation. Mr. Speaker, can he also outline the other issues related to the need to repair the arena, as the interior is quite dilapidated, and when, if not in this fiscal year, whether or not the hamlet will receive funding for those repairs? Can the minister identify in which fiscal year he can inform the residents of Clyde River when the repairs would begin and if that will occur at the Clyde River arena? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, absolutely, Mr. Speaker. With respect to which fiscal year the arena in Clyde River will be renovated, I don't have the information in front of me and I don't want to hazard a guess. Once I have the information, I will provide it to my colleague and I will write to the hamlet's mayor on this, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify when the Clyde River arena can receive an ice-making machine? As there is no Zamboni locally, the hockey players themselves have to shovel the ice surface in between periods to have a clean surface for the next period. This is becoming a problem for the employee because it's difficult to ensure the ice is usable without a

Zamboni or machine. Can the minister clarify or provide us information on the arena for Clyde River, if there are any plans in the next fiscal year or when for a new Zamboni? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are funds we set aside for renovations at our local arenas, and most of the renovation funding is used to make repairs on the arena.

With respect to the ice-making machine, the residents of Clyde River would have to apply specifically for the Zamboni from CGS. There is a form that the community can fill out to apply for the funds and perhaps through that fund, maybe the community can apply for the Zamboni. That is what I can convey, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 1074 – 5(2): Revised Uranium Policy Statement**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in response to a written question I posed on March 12, 2020, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation stated in response to a

question I put, I asked when or if the government has plans to revisit and/or revise the Uranium Policy Statement, and the response was, “At the present time the Government of Nunavut has no plans to revisit or revise the policy statement. The principles remain largely the same and the policy is as applicable today as it was in 2012.”

The 2012 policy was based on work which was conducted in 2011, and so my first question for the minister is: did that policy development work include consideration of the devolution of responsibilities from the federal government? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It’s reassuring to know that this policy is then devolution-proof.

Mr. Speaker, my next question is on the policy, the fifth pillar listed on the policy is, “Uranium exploration and mining must have the support of Nunavummiut, with particular emphasis on communities close to uranium development.” My question is: how does the Government of Nunavut determine whether support exists or does not exist? Is it through the use of plebiscites or, if not, what measure is used to determine support?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any mining that does occur in Nunavut does have a strong emphasis on where they're closest to the community and it's either through the Nunavut Impact Review Board reviews that we go through this and the communities that are closest are often the interveners as part of the project. When we're reviewing the environmental impacts or any of the social impacts that are taking place, our government and our departments go to the communities closest and go through reviews, such as if it has anything to do with caribou, we regularly rely on the communities in that area or the impact it will have in terms of shipping or routing. We treat every one of these developments and look at it in those lenses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My interpretation of that response is that it's very difficult to determine whether or not support exists. I believe that's the reason why plebiscites exist in terms of determining what the official wish of a community is on a particular issue.

My last question for the minister on this policy statement is that it refers explicitly to the exploration and mining of uranium. Mr. Speaker, exploration and mining are only part of the development cycle when it comes to

mining. Particularly on uranium, there's nuclear waste and there are by-products from mining which have to be treated in special ways due to the properties of the mineral.

Does the Government of Nunavut's Uranium Policy Statement apply to the disposal of nuclear waste or uranium by-products in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this policy it states that this development...with the uranium policy, it adds more compared to any other resource development that is taking place. As part of the uranium policy, if the product is going to be for peaceful purposes and international agreements are in place which would include in terms of safe disposal of uranium. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 1075 – 5(2): Marine Infrastructure**

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are also for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and they concern the important issue of marine infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, we did not collude into asking the Minister of Economic Development today.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, his department issued a request for proposals in October 2019 for a “Comprehensive Marine Infrastructure Scoping Study.” I was pleased to note that this project’s scope of work will include an examination of marine infrastructure needs in the two communities that I have the honour of representing in this Legislative Assembly: Nauyasat and Coral Harbour.

My question is to the minister: can he confirm the schedule for site visits to these two communities and can he clarify what impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on this project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for the question related to the scoping. That has been near and dear to my heart because it impacts all Nunavummiut in terms of the docks.

For sure, I had high expectations that the scoping would be done this year, but due to COVID it has been very difficult and the community visits that were being planned were put on hold and to this day I don’t have a firm schedule in terms of which communities we will be visiting and something that I’m committed to working with my departmental staff and the consultant that’s going to be doing the scoping and determining how best to get to the communities. At this point I do not have any schedules for when our consultants would be travelling to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That kind of throws off my next question, but can the minister confirm, after the consultations are done to the communities, that he will provide copies to the mayors concerned and to their respective MLAs? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>>*Audio going on and off*

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Now that threw me off, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you. Our major stakeholders, as part of this work that we were going to do, were with the hamlets, the Legislative Assembly members, and the hunters and trappers organizations. Those are the three major organizations within the communities that we will be working very closely with. There will be a report and yes, definitely, those reports will be made available for those three entities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for that adequate response. We will be expecting the report once it’s completed.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, information published by the government indicates that the contract for the “Comprehensive Marine Infrastructure Scoping Study” was awarded to the engineering company Worley Canada Services. Can the minister confirm how much the government has paid the company for this work to date? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies; I do not have the specific dollar amount, but it is publicly available, as this was a request for proposals. Once I get that information, I would be very happy to share it with my member colleague on this, but it is publicly available through our request for proposals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 1076 – 5(2): Caribou Management**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues and everyone back home.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Environment.

As the minister will very much appreciate, the health of our region’s caribou herds is of paramount importance to our people. As the minister will recall, he recently received

a copy of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board’s most recent annual report. The report indicates that:

“The Government of Nunavut’s Department of Environment also conducts a Kivalliq caribou telemetry program each year. Between 45 and 50 caribou are collared in order to track caribou movements. The information is also used for road effects research, and the department found caribou movements were affected by the Meadowbank Mine road near Baker Lake. The department will continue working with industry to try to mitigate the situation. The GN also conducts spring composition surveys on the Qamanirjuaq herd. Even though the last survey of the herd in 2017 showed a slight increase in herd size compared to 2014, the ratio of calves to cows still points to a continued decline in the herd since 2008. A survey of the Northeast Mainland herds three sub-populations was planned for June 2020.”

Can the minister update the House today on the status of these departmental initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qamanirjuaq herd is the biggest herd in Nunavut right now and we are monitoring it. The member is correct; there was a slight increase in the last population estimate survey. We do use satellite tracking collars to track the movements of the herd and also for their range, and the composition surveys are done yearly. I don’t have the results of

the composition survey in front of me, though, but it's a way of tracking the trend of how many calves survive from the fall 'til the spring, which gives you a good trend on the recruitment into that population. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Information published by the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board also indicates that, and again I quote:

“Today's satellite collars are very lightweight, with newer Global Positioning System collars weighing only about 900 grams each, or less than two pounds – a third less than the older collars. Although the technology described in this section is useful and currently the best way to get this information, the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board recognizes that some people do not like collaring caribou, and some Elders and others still oppose it. New ways of collecting this information are being looked at.”

Can the minister describe how his department is working with the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board to explore less invasive methods in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do work with the

Qamanirjuaq caribou management board and we have our department and environmental workers in there as part of the board members and also staff that attend their annual meetings.

Mr. Speaker, I know there is some opposition to putting collars on any wildlife species there, but when you put a satellite collar on a caribou, it is very useful data; you know where that caribou is. I think it's every three or five days it gets an update and you know where that caribou is at that time and it's on for two years. It's very useful data in terms of tracking their migration routes, tracking if their wintering area is changing, where their calving area is changing. It does give you a lot of data and once you put the collar on, there's no maintenance on it other than getting the data.

Mr. Speaker, the member is correct; these satellite collars are a lot lighter and plus they're drop collars now. We don't have to catch the animal again after a two-year period. The collar will fall off and will be retrieved by our staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Mr. Speaker, information published by the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board also indicates that, and again I quote:

“The problem of increasing meat sales in the Kivalliq region of Nunavut continues, although actual numbers of



how much meat is being sold are not available. Without a quota or proven conservation concern there is little that can be done to regulate this source of caribou harvest. However, programs already being worked on like the Kivalliq Harvest Reporting Project, and community monitoring can help provide messages about the importance of sustainable harvesting and harvest reporting.”

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that this issue was raised during the minister’s recent appearance at Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated’s annual general meeting in Cambridge Bay. Can the minister update us on his discussions with the members of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated’s board of directors on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be glad to update the member on my involvement in Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated’s annual general meeting in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, yes, the topic did come up about the sales of caribou meat and I made it clear that the *Nunavut Agreement* is very clear that beneficiaries, Nunavut Inuit, have the right to buy, sell, trade, or barter their legally harvested wildlife. Until the claim changes, that is the position that will be there.

Mr. Speaker, the government is not here to infringe on the right that Inuit have under the land claims. Even if a total

allowable harvest is put on a caribou herd, the Inuk that legally harvests that caribou or any other species still has the right to sell that legally harvested wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, I brought it back to the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated board that if they want to amend the change so that NTI, not the government, I’ll make it very clear here, if NTI so chooses to suspend any of the Inuit rights, such as the sale of caribou meat, it’s within their power if they change the claim, but the government is not here to infringe on the beneficiaries’ right to sell caribou meat. I know it’s not an ideal situation, but the claim is what it is and we live by the claim. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 1077 – 5(2): Drinking Water**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to you, my colleagues, as well as the people of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, the provision of safe and clean drinking water to our communities and residents is one of the key responsibilities of the government.

As the minister is aware, his department’s business plan indicates that it has been working to finalize a new “Drinking Water Strategic Framework.” Can the minister update us today on the

status of this work and will he commit to tabling the new “Drinking Water Strategic Framework” in the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our colleague is absolutely truthful in his assessment about the fact that here in Nunavut, we need clean drinkable water. I have said on many occasions here that we have some of the cleanest water in the whole world, and when water is delivered to our homes, it has to be the cleanest water available. It must not be dangerous to our people, so that we can drink, eat and wash in the best possible water available here in Nunavut. This is our goal that we are working towards, and are planning to ensure that we can move forward with the best options. We are still working on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Department of Community and Government Services has been working on a new “emergency water treatment plant.” Information published by the department indicates that it will be “self-contained, containerized and suitable for air freight delivery to communities.” Can the minister update the House today on the status of this project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue surrounding clean drinking water is very complex and large. Additionally, we have seen throughout the past years that some communities are faced with water problems, and some communities still face that to this day, Mr. Speaker.

With that being the case, trying to get clean potable water in every community is difficult, as water treatment plants are not readily available, but if it can be airlifted to a community, as that is what we are exploring, to see if we can get a mobile water treatment system, as my colleague stated truthfully.

However, the work is still ongoing and the system needs more work, as past water treatment systems could only be shipped up on the sealift containers, so we were looking at a more contained system that can clean the water and that can be airlifted into communities in cases of emergencies, so the work is still ongoing, Mr. Speaker. We would like to see it once it's completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for providing an update on the work they are doing.

(interpretation ends) As the minister may be aware, Kugaaruk experiences a recurring phenomenon every five to seven years during which sea water

enters our community's drinking water supply. Although boiling the water helps, it is not a full solution to the problem.

Will the minister commit to having his department contact the Municipality of Kugaaruk to examine options to address this problem? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Water treatment issues are never the same in our communities. If the water has any type of infestation, then you must boil it for several minutes to kill off the bugs and it becomes usable.

In some cases, such as my colleague mentioned, in our dialect the water becomes salinized by salt and when it is too salty, it becomes undrinkable. We have faced that in some communities. There are also water filtration devices that can remove the saltiness and we have used various methods to desalinate the water.

Mr. Speaker, we can work with his constituency communities to help desalinate the water supply if that is the case and we can brainstorm on ways to deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 1078 – 5(2): Air Bridges and Transportation Bubbles**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister will recall, when I raised the issue of establishing an air bridge to Sanikiluaq during our September sitting, he publicly acknowledged the community's unique circumstances.

At that time he indicated to me that work was underway to address the situation facing my constituents, where they currently have no way of traveling on scheduled flights to other Nunavut communities without first going through a southern isolation gateway and spending 14 days in isolation.

Can the minister update me today on what progress has been made to establish regular flights between Sanikiluaq and Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The progress is that it's still continuing to be in discussions with our department in looking into this. With the letter that has been provided from the hamlet and yourself to me, this has initiated a lot of good working relationships between the departments. One of the progresses I would say is the coordination of the charters that are taking place in and out of Sanikiluaq within the departments and agencies of this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's comments and even though the government coordinates throughout their departments in getting people in and out of Sanikiluaq, it doesn't help the general public or other people who want to get in and out of the community.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, there are deep family ties between Sanikiluaq and a number of communities in Nunavik. Constituents of mine have expressed support for establishing a common travel area or bubble between the two regions.

Can the minister update me today on the status of his department's discussions with the Department of Health with respect to making this a reality in time for the Christmas season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of identifying what bubbles to which part of the country we go to, it gets looked at with a very good lens from our health department in terms of where we can go and where we can't go. This is an ongoing discussion and deliberation with what looks like the second wave that's impacting throughout the country. This has huge impacts in terms what's going to happen in Christmas. I think we all witnessed what the British government is now doing in terms of reacting to their second wave.

These are very serious things that our health department, along with our officials from transportation and other departments, look and try to make those determinations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On August 6 of this year the federal Minister of Transportation announced \$75 million in new funding to support essential air access to remote communities. The announcement also indicated that the federal government would be seeking bilateral agreements with provinces and territories to ensure continuity of services for at least six months.

When I raised this issue during the September sitting, the minister indicated that Nunavut's bilateral agreement was still being negotiated. Can the minister update the House today on the status of the agreement and will he commit to ensuring that it is shared with all Members of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm working closely with Minister Garneau's office and Mr. Vandal's office in coming up with a public announcement to the Nunavut-specific agreement. It is coming forth and once that is, it's going to come out through a news release that's available to all of the public and I look forward to

sharing that to my colleagues here too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu followed by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove. Member Angnakak.

**Question 1079 – 5(2): Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission. I want to follow up today on a number of different issues that I have been raising in respect to the sale of liquor and cannabis in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission issued an announcement in May of this year indicating that the government was accepting cannabis retail licence applications to operate physical cannabis stores and online stores in Nunavut.

In June of this year the commission called for community input on a proposal that had been submitted from an Iqaluit entity to sell cannabis. The deadline for submissions was at the end of August.

Can the minister update the House today on the status of the commission's review of this application and can he confirm what other applications have been submitted to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Minister Hicke.

**Hon. George Hicke:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to check with my officials to see exactly where the status of that application is. The latest information that I had is that they were analyzing the submission and going some back and forth with the proponent. There has been one application to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, I have heard a number of concerns from constituents regarding the extent to which federal CERB benefits that were introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have contributed to increased purchases and consumption of alcohol and drugs.

During this past summer I myself saw extremely long lines almost every day outside of the Nunavut Liquor Commission's beer and wine store. Can the minister confirm whether or not the volume of alcohol sold at the beer and wine store during the pandemic has gone up, gone down, or has it stayed the same? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hicke:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That data gets analyzed throughout the year and I haven't had a

chance to go over that information yet with my officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be following up with the minister, perhaps, in the next sitting.

In August of this year the government issued a call for new members of the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Board. The role of the board is to “work with the Minister of Finance on matters of policy, legislation, and administration relating to the responsible sale, distribution, and consumption of alcohol in Nunavut.” Can the minister confirm what names he has brought forward for appointment to this important board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member and other members that actually put forward nominations of constituents to sit on the board.

Mr. Speaker, I'm currently looking at adding two positions to the board and the paperwork is sitting on my desk right now. Thank you.

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

### **Question 1080 – 5(2): Impact of COVID-19 on Kivalliq Medical Travel**

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

Mr. Speaker, I noted on Halloween that the Department of Health issued a press release regarding changes to medical travel for medical clients from the Kivalliq region. For the benefit of the listening public, can the minister elaborate on how these changes may impact medical travel plans for Kivallirmiut in the coming weeks? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we answer questions in the House, we want to make sure that the information gets to the people that we want to have that information so that they can go into their decision-making with full information.

Mr. Speaker, like I said in the press release, we recommend all patients who have medical travel scheduled to contact their local health centre, not the medical travel coordinators, but just to make sure that there is no confusion over this information, Mr. Speaker, I'll take the question as notice. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister has taken it as notice. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik.

**Question 1081 – 5(2): Air Travel in Nunavut during Pandemic**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation regarding his earlier statement.

I wish to understand this clearly, hence my question about the transportation challenges and travel in particular, specifically unscheduled travelling. He stated that there is a 24-hour notification requirement for the chief medical office to be informed prior to any unscheduled flight landing.

Mr. Speaker, I want to clearly understand, which is why I ask if this would also involve international travel notifications. Mr. Speaker, that's my question. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes and also, during the COVID-19 pandemic, sometimes we have had to deal with emergency landings when flights had to land here. Sometimes we get less than 24-hour notices as it becomes an emergency and they have no time to prepare.

Nonetheless, I am especially grateful and wish to thank our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Michael Patterson, and his office, as they are dealing with these matters immediately as they arrive. Sometimes they are dealing with unexpected flights that land in the middle of the night, but this will continue to be our objective as

unexpected flights mean that we get an urgent message about that emergency right away to the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our fellow Nunavummiut must know what's happening during the global coronavirus pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, this matter of emergency landings is what I spoke to earlier, although it may not be a concern to larger communities. However, in looking at our smaller communities, if any emergency landing took place from an international flight, they would run into accommodation problems.

Our communities have small hotels, such as my home community of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak. How would that impact a community and does the department have any contingency plans for that type of matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that applies throughout Nunavut to all communities, and communities are also developing emergency plans, as many hamlets are required to make plans, either in conjunction with the Department of Health or from other departments. These plans usually have scenarios, such as if a plane had to make an emergency landing, what would be

triggered and who would respond.

Our employees generally have emergency plans in place so that they are prepared in any emergency. Further, if any plane is going to land, the health centre would be notified immediately as well as to see if accommodations are available and, if not, they would have to identify a sleeping area somewhere in the community.

There are emergency plans, but not every community has them currently. However, these issues are usually included in any type of emergency plan, so they do think of contingencies, and usually a lot of plans are in place that would deal with an emergency landing in a community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period has expired. Continuing on. No. 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) No. 8. (interpretation) Returns to Written Questions. 9. Replies to Opening Address. No. 10. Petitions. No. 11. Responses to Petitions. No. 12. (interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

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

#### **Committee Report 032 – 5(2): Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act**

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

Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The report has been received and Bill 25 will appear on the order paper for Wednesday, November 4.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) No. 13. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) No. 14. Notices of Motions. (interpretation ends) Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

### **Item 14: Notices of Motions**

#### **Motion 092 – 5(2): Appointment to the Executive Council of Nunavut – Notice**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, November 4, 2020, I will move the following motion:

(interpretation ends) NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Margaret Nakashuk, Member for Pangnirtung, be appointed to the Executive Council of Nunavut.

At the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my



motion today. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

**Motion 093 – 5(2): Appointment of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut – Notice**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, November 4, 2020, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Mr. Graham Steele be appointed as Information and Privacy Commissioner, effective January 11, 2021.

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

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

**Motion 094 – 5(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again give notice that on Wednesday, November 4, 2020, I will move the following motion:

(interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet

South, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until February 22, 2021.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. There are no more. No. 15. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) No. 16. Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Item 16: Motions**

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. (interpretation) Please proceed, Mr. Main.

**Motion 092 – 5(2): Appointment to the Executive Council of Nunavut**

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

(interpretation ends) WHEREAS section 60 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Executive Council of Nunavut shall be composed of persons appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

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

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Margaret Nakashuk, Member for Pangnirtung, be appointed to the Executive Council of Nunavut.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**An Hon. Member** (interpretation): Question.

**Speaker**: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

>>Applause

(interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Motions. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? (interpretation) There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Lightstone.

### **Motion 093 – 5(2): Appointment of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut**

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 61 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides that the Information and Privacy Commissioner is appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly to hold office for a term of five years during good behaviour;

AND WHEREAS Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts, who has been serving with distinction as the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut since November 15, 1999, is retiring from office;

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

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Mr. Graham Steele be appointed as Information and Privacy Commissioner, effective January 11, 2021.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to the motion before the House.

Mr. Speaker, the territorial Access to Information and Privacy Act is an important piece of legislation which fosters government transparency while preventing the unauthorized use or disclosure of personal information held by departments and other public bodies.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut, who serves as an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly, fulfills a number of important functions under the legislation.

In addition to providing independent reviews of decisions made by public bodies with respect to requests made under the Act, the Information and Privacy Commissioner may offer formal comments on proposed legislation, as well as providing public education on the Act.

Mr. Speaker, every province and territory in Canada has established a position similar to that of our jurisdiction's Information and Privacy Commissioner. At the national level, the federal Privacy Commissioner and the federal Information Commissioner provide annual reports to Parliament on matters falling under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada. Most of the office-holders are lawyers by profession.

As the House will recall, Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts has served as Nunavut's Information and Privacy Commissioner since 1999. Her most recent reappointment took place in 2015. She has also served as the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories since 1996, when the legislation was first introduced.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the Management and Services Board issued an Invitation for Applications in January of this year for the position of Information and Privacy Commissioner, in anticipation of the pending retirement of Ms. Keenan Bengts.

As a member of the Management and Services Board, I took part in our recent selection and interview process for this position, the timeline for which was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The board was very pleased to unanimously recommend that Mr. Graham Steele be appointed to serve in this role.

Mr. Steele was a Rhodes Scholar and practising lawyer who has had a distinguished career that spans over three decades. Mr. Speaker, he is a published author with extensive professional experience in the field of access to information and protection of privacy. He has held a number of appointments and positions, including:

- Law Clerk at the Federal Court of Appeal;
- Chairperson of the National Administrative Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association;
- General Counsel of the Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia;
- Assistant Professor of Business Law at Dalhousie University's Rowe School of Business; and
- Member of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly and Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the

board has recommended an extremely well-qualified candidate for this important position and I look forward to unanimous support for the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. All those in favour of the motion. (interpretation ends) All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Motion 094 – 5(2): Extended Adjournment**

**Mr. Main:** *Uqaqtitsijii*, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until February 22, 2021.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**An Hon. Member** (interpretation): Question.

**Speaker:** All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Motions. (interpretation) Continuing on. First Reading of Bills. 18. Second Reading of Bills. No. 19. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 35, 37, and 51 with Ms. Angnakak in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:18 and Committee resumed at 15:49*

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

**Chairperson** (Ms. Angnakak): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 35, 37, and 51. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good afternoon, members. We wish to commence with the review of the 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Family Services, followed by the Department of Culture and Heritage and, if time permits, the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt.

Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 51?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 51 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,  
2021-2022 – Family Services –  
Consideration in Committee**

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes. Thank you.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** For the record, Minister Akeeagok, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments. Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson and colleagues, to my left is Yvonne Niego, Deputy Minister, and to my right is Dwayton Tonge, Director of Corporate Services.

My colleagues, I am pleased to be here today to present and discuss the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates for the Department of Family Services. The Department of Family Services is requesting a total of \$1 million in capital funding for 2021-22. This will address renovation plans, office space, and

tenant improvement and replacement plans for vehicles, furniture, and equipment across the territory. Addressing these needs will improve service delivery, employee productivity, and better functionality of existing space.

(interpretation ends) Madam Chairperson, the department is committed to strengthening the delivery of quality service to Nunavummiut. This includes the provision of income assistance, assisting clients to enter and remain in the labour market, and supporting children, youth, and family. This capital request is critical in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of program service delivery in the communities across Nunavut.

I look forward to your ongoing support as we work to better serve communities across the territory. (interpretation) I now welcome any questions or comments that members may have as we proceed. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Akeeagok. (interpretation ends) Before I go to the co-chair for opening comments, I just want to get clarification again for your (interpretation) official's name.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): In English it is Tonge; in Inuktitut it is *uqaq* (tongue). Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) Does the co-chair of the standing committee have any comments? Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Family Services.

Madam Chairperson, the Department of Family Services' proposed capital budget for '21-22 includes two line items: a renovation project for the department's headquarters at the Arnakallak Building in Iqaluit and a small capital budget for projects, including repairs, renovations and replacement of equipment, including vehicles. Members appreciated receiving updated details on the department's proposed expenditures over the five-year period of the capital plan, although questions were raised regarding the choice of vehicle replacements.

The standing committee recognizes the need to ensure that staff have adequate and comfortable space in which to carry out their duties. While members support the proposed renovations at the department headquarters, the minister is also encouraged to address, as a priority, the need for suitable office space as well as renovations, repairs, and upgrades to furniture and equipment in the department's current offices in all of Nunavut's communities.

Madam Chairperson, standing committee members have been given to understand that instead of planning for future capital investments in establishing such facilities as shelters, the department is encouraging community-based societies or hamlet organizations to undertake such planning themselves and

submit proposals for operations and maintenance funding. The standing committee looks forward to reviewing the department's guidelines in support of this process.

It is well known that volunteers in many of Nunavut's smaller communities take on numerous causes and eventually burn out. Communities need more support to effectively address such critical issues as homelessness. Members look forward to reviewing the department's latest homelessness survey report.

Madam Chairperson, the Department of Family Services is responsible for a number of electronic data management systems in such areas as child and family services, income assistance, and career development. The standing committee encourages the minister to provide regular updates on any developments and upgrades of the electronic systems that the department manages as these are often costly investments.

Madam Chairperson, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Family Services. Individual members may have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. We're dealing with Family Services today. Corporate Management. Are there any general comments? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main (interpretation):** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Welcome, minister and your officials.

(interpretation ends) Just a very short comment, I'm concerned about the ongoing development of this case management system. I know we had some brief discussions on this last month when supplementary carryover funding was requested. I have been trying to understand that situation better as to why there has been such a delay in rolling out that case management system. It is an important tool that is needed and has been needed for a number of years and I'm concerned that it's not yet operational. That ends my comments. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Family Services. Corporate Management. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1 million. Agreed? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) The department is requesting \$300,000 to renovate its headquarters in Iqaluit's Arnakallak Building to accommodate increased numbers of staff. How many additional workstations will be required under the revised floor plan for the Arnakallak Building renovations proposed for this upcoming fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson**: Mr. Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Speaker. (interpretation ends) Through you, if I could ask Mr. Tonge to respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairperson**: Mr. Tonge.

**Mr. Tonge**: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We're still working with CGS right now to determine the actual need for the office. We're looking at the space that's currently available and the need of the office to do the restructuring of the cubicles within the office. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson**: Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) When the department is working on office renovations or let's say, replacing furniture, does the department work with communities to provide surplus furniture or maybe equipment to places like shelters, youth homes, or other spaces? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson**: Mr. Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok**: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The department uses, as all government does, is go through the surplus policy that's in place, which we then surplus it to the government before anything else. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson**: Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I know it's very difficult for this department to access capital funding. Just judging by previous years' budgets, it seems to be kind of, I don't want to say last on the list, but quite a hard fight in terms of competing needs within the government.

Are there any outstanding applications or avenues of funding open regarding

shelters or other facilities in Nunavut? I guess I'm asking specifically about federal funds. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just last week the federal government announced what they call the Rapid Housing Initiative. They funded the major cities, but for the rest of the provinces and territories, we're being asked to submit proposals for any to help with the homeless for any of the shelters. We are going through that, what the Prime Minister announced for what's related to the federal funding, and we're working on that.

I don't have a specific response on whether there is anybody outstanding. This is a new initiative that we welcome and hopefully we will get something in terms of getting more shelters throughout the territory. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) The Rapid Housing Initiative is a new one that the department is looking at to apply for funds possibly. Are there any other existing funding applications that you're waiting for a response on? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, there are other federal initiatives that we are

trying to pursue. Just a couple of weeks ago our acting housing minister along with myself, there has been a federal initiative that they have been wanting to roll out that doesn't quite fit within our spectrum in terms of how to deliver it. We have been trying to propose different options so that federal dollars can come into this territory. We've got that initiative.

With the Rapid Housing Initiative, it's one of the works that have been underway through the federal-provincial-territorial meetings that have been dialogued in terms of the need for more federal dollars. This one is that we are hopeful that we will get some federal funding geared towards this. Our department continues to look at other federal departments in terms of what's readily available.

I think one of the best practices and something that I was very pleased to be part of was this transitional housing that just opened up in Iqaluit. Through a very strong society here that they have went and looked through all various pots of money, not just with the federal government; with Inuit organizations and our government in terms of figuring out how to partner.

There is money available and it's being targeted in different ways. The best solution that we have found to date is through a society where they can try to gain access in different pots of funding. Through these initiatives, our department is taking the best practices and trying to apply them and help the hamlets or societies through by trying to provide some guidance and guidelines in terms of how to open up a shelter. It is through this wonderful work from the



societies and along with our departments in terms of figuring out where to access funds. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) On the subject of transitional housing, there's an item included or brought forward and it's now on the preplanning list of projects under Community and Government Services. As I recall, there's no specific community listed; it just says "transitional housing." I know that the recent hidden homelessness report focused on results from four communities, including Arviat, but in terms of that transitional housing preplanning item, at what point will decisions be made as to which communities will be targeted for that capital? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As an acting minister and getting briefed on a number of these initiatives, I was very optimistic and very pleased that there is a lot of work that is taking place in terms of trying to secure funding, especially through the federal one. Under the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, there is an application that is under review that would help with shelters throughout the territory.

There's also a good commitment from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in terms of wanting to help financially in terms of putting shelters outside of the capital. Those are the ones that are being

undertaken. We don't have specific communities in terms of where to focus our efforts yet. This is one of the reasons, as I have stated in this House, is that we do provide guidelines and look for societies and/or hamlet organizations to come up and put some proposals in through this. I think it's going to take a combination of all efforts. I'm optimistic that it will come, but we don't have it targeted that we will go to this community or this community at this point. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I wonder if the minister could elaborate a little bit more on the commitment from Nunavut Tunngavik he just mentioned. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The funding is through the food security project and I'll have to go through my documents in terms of exactly what the dollar figures are, but it's work that has been proceeding with our department in terms of how to provide more security to our residents. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Okay, so it's not about transitional housing; it's about food security, so that kind of clarifies it a bit for me.

On the computer systems, I'll just ask for an update on the case management

system in terms of where it currently sits. The department recently requested carryover funding of over \$2 million for this project. Where does it currently sit? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Madam Chairperson, through you, could I ask Deputy Minister Niego to respond to that? Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Niego.

**Ms. Niego** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) For the case management system, there had been a contract in place and then due to issues with following through with the contract, that contract has folded. We are now engaging in a new one, building upon what was initially built with the first contractor. There have been hours and hours of data put together and owned by the department, so that is secure.

One major issue we've had is in the reporting. The reporting mechanism within the system is one area of concentration within the new contract so that we can use the system for our needs, which would be data and research readily available so that we can make good, sound business decisions out of that data. With the first contract, we weren't advancing fast enough and well enough in that direction. With the new contractor, that is what we aim for. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) What's the new aim or completion date for this new system or when would it be rolled out? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It's going to depend on the request for proposals that will be coming out or is out. The timelines would be defined through that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) If you have a system that's not yet working, what is currently used in place of this case management system? What are your staff using to track enquiries or cases? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As a result of what hasn't been working or what has been working, I think the department realigned the reporting relationship with the social workers or the caseworkers and through that, there's a direct link between headquarters and the frontline staff in terms of how to get that data now. All that work, as part of the case management work that's going to be needed, that has been done.

Right now at this point it's reporting structures within the staff up to the headquarters in terms of trying to be consistent in terms of what is being

reported. It's one that's being worked on very closely with all our staff at the headquarters level and at frontline. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) What is being used as a case management system in the meantime? Are they using paper files or is there a program that's being used? What is used currently to manage the cases under the department? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It's right now a mixture of reporting, it's through paper trail, and also the senior staff or the staff have put an Excel sheet in terms of getting all the data. As the deputy minister mentioned, while they were working on the first case management, there was a lot of data collection that took place within our frontlines and through that, that's a lot of the work that's being done internally right now, but we hope that there's going to be a smooth transition to put data entry into a new system that's being built that we have not really defined yet. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I think this is my last question, to your relief, I'm sure.

There has been \$3.45 million put into this project so far and now it's back to

another contractor or another RFP is going to go out. At the end of the project, based on the department's estimates, what would be the total cost? Based on the best information available to you right now, what would be the total cost of this case management system? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I think what has been expended to date and what was approved through the capital carryovers or the supplementary appropriations last month, I think if we combine those two, it would be the total cost for the data system. I don't have that readily available with me as that was a part of the supplementary appropriations last month, but through you, Chairperson, if I do get the total amount, I would be happy to share that at a later time. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) Next person on my list is Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My first question is going to be in relation to the Arnakallak Building renovation. The topic of beach safety has been an issue of rising concern in Iqaluit for a number of years and for good reason. People are dying on the beach. There's public intoxication almost 24 hours a day. Children no longer feel safe to play on the beach. This is an issue that must be addressed and I know that this isn't exactly the appropriate time to do so, but I'll keep my questions related to the Arnakallak Building.

Given that there's a major safety issue along the beach right behind the Arnakallak Building, I'm curious if there are any safety concerns with the building, the facility, or its surrounding areas. That's my first question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the member for continuing to advocate for safety across the beach and that area. Our staff share that concern too because they are right in that area for public safety, but for the purpose of this capital, we are focused on the Arnakallak Building itself and putting security cameras within the area, within the building itself. That has been our focus.

I don't believe that there have been any discussions between the public safety, such as the RCMP, the City of Iqaluit, and our government in terms of how and where we're going to start putting cameras to protect the public and public areas. That's the extent that I'll say at this point, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In the minister's response he indicated that the Department of Family Services' staff themselves share the safety concerns. I would like to ask again: what exact concerns do employees in the Department of Family Services at the Arnakallak Building have? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The building itself has safeguards and it has a security system and along with the cameras. That's the security that is in place right now in terms of protecting our staff security-wise. For outside, the comments I get from the staff are the public drunkenness that is there and to date there has not been any violence towards our staff, but it's something that they witness too and it's a shared concern. I think that shared concern needs to be addressed through a public safety lens and something that I would look to the RCMP, look to the City of Iqaluit, and whoever has public safety initiatives to combat this. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The minister keeps referring to the security system in place and cameras and whatnot, and I'll get to that next, but first my next question is: what sort of safety concerns to the building and the staff themselves? Does the Department of Family Services have recurring issues of vandalism or trespassing? Are there any other sorts of safety concerns within the building and the staff? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Madam Chairperson, through you, could I ask Ms. Niego to respond to that? Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Niego.

**Ms. Niego** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) To date I have been working out of the building for three years now, I believe, and the majority of concerns that I'm aware of are staff witnessing things outside of the building, not mainly on the beach. There's actually the parking lot side away from the beach that is also an area of concern due to a lot of pedestrian traffic flow between downtown and a residential area.

There have been many fights, domestic assaults, and then some incidents within the shacks along the beach. During the daytime is when our building is occupied, we don't have staffing there at night on shift work, so it's all witnessed during the day. Any incidents are reported to the appropriate authorities and in fact, I think, have led to a lot of issues being addressed by our staff. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Ms. Niego, for that response. It does seem a bit concerning. I did not realize that staff had witnessed fights and domestic assaults and other issues with shacks on the beach.

When staff have concerns with issues that occur outside of the building, I was curious: does the building have any external surveillance equipment? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, but they're all

focused into the building, not outside to the public area but within the parameters of the building which our staff occupy. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. Ms. Niego has also mentioned that staff had shared their eye witness experience with the RCMP. Has any of the surveillance or security footage ever been shared with the RCMP as well? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. We're sort of straying away, so I remind you that we're talking about capital, if you can keep your questions to that, but I'll ask the minister to answer your question. Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In relation to this capital funding request for the renovation of this facility, is the department considering expanding that external surveillance coverage? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Madam Chairperson, no, at this point no, we are not. The one with this request that is under here is to realign the cubicles and the offices and add more office space within the inside of the building. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I understand that this request is for creating additional office space, but it sounds like the staff themselves are also concerned for their own safety. My next question is: has the department ever considered expanding its external surveillance coverage for the facility? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Not at this point. I think what the member is alluding to is that it is public safety and how we're going to start putting video cameras into public areas. That requires a bigger debate than fixing up our buildings and it's something that until that debate has been done and been presented to all, especially for people or authorities that have focus on public safety, if we're going to participate with that, we need to have a government discussion on this.

A majority of our buildings do have cameras, but they're facing inwards to our buildings. If we're going to start taking pictures or cameras to the public, then the public should be made aware of those things. It would be a very good deterrent from my perspective and something, if need be, I would be supportive of, but I think it's the bigger picture that we really need to have that debate with our government, with city officials, and with the RCMP and whoever has authority.

Clearly something like this would need the lens of a privacy commissioner to look into it too because there are a lot of

privacy concerns that I'm sure that the public would raise, but it's something that I think warrants a good debate and I applaud the member for continuing to raise that to our department, but I think it's much bigger than renovating our offices. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I understand the minister's response that this is a larger picture issue and an issue that needs to be discussed across the government. I'm curious if the minister has ever taken it upon himself to begin that discussion, but I know that this is going beyond the current issue at hand, so I would like to ask my next question. Will the minister consider expanding the external coverage area of the security system? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I don't think that is a capital question and something that I'm not comfortable responding to, especially as Acting Minister for Family Services, looking into this particular building. At this point I don't have a firm position on this. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. Are you done? Just before I go on to the next name, just to pick up on Mr. Main's questions, I wonder if the department can provide, at a later date, a substantiation sheet for the case management system because it's an ongoing capital project under this department. Is that possible? Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. When we were deliberating the supplementary appropriations last month, there was a substantiation sheet that was available. I'm sure that we can make that available for our members on this and it's a project that has been before this House and something that we're willing to share with the members for any of the substantiation sheets that are active within the projects. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. That would be greatly appreciated. The next name on my list is Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Welcome to the minister and staff.

I don't have very much in line for questions, but we have always talked about homelessness in our smaller communities, which is serious and we all know that everybody knows it. They talk about the lack of suitable buildings or facilities to use as shelters, especially in Nunavut's smaller communities, and you say it's problematic.

Problematic, I think, is from the government itself because there are empty staff housing units in some communities which stand empty most of the time and they can be used as shelters. That's why I say it's problematic from the government, not the community itself.

There are also community representatives who have always asked about refurbishing surplus buildings and made into shelters. That's where I say

that some government staff housing units stand empty that can be made into shelters. You don't need to build another building.

My question is: how does the department work with the communities to access such buildings as surplus government facilities or empty housing units or empty staff housing units to provide safe shelters, use homes or other spaces to support Nunavut's vulnerable residents? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I think one of the key things and something that I will continue to advocate for is to have communities set up either a society or go through the hamlet organizations, one or the other. I think the expertise is in the communities themselves and something that would be very good in terms of getting homeless shelters.

In terms of surplus government buildings, this is where, as part of this, the Department of Family Services can definitely help the communities to try to see if there are surplus buildings that the government owns that could be converted. That's definitely doable and something that I think has been done in some cases, but when it comes to GN staff housing, those are dedicated for Government of Nunavut staff housing and it's the determination as a government as a whole how they will be filled and if there are any vacant houses, it doesn't translate to converting that to something else immediately.

Those staff housings have been identified in terms of the number of

positions that are in the community and the number of staff that will be staffed in that community. It's something that if they start converting that, then from the staff housing side you won't have enough housing. It's a dilemma that our government faces on a daily basis and something I applaud our family services staff in terms of trying to coordinate all this.

It's one that I think if we have that society or municipal that's advocating for this and they identify a building and if it's a surplus building from the government because... . As governments, the first right of refusal is to go to the departments and even if it's not going to the Department of Family Services, they can advocate very strongly that it goes to the community, which is next on the line for surplus buildings. There's a process in place that's there and I think that if we use that, we can see more shelters in the communities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. I don't think there are a lot of surplus buildings in any community. I think it's very hard for a community to come up with that kind of space on their own. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I don't understand how long a government staff housing unit has to stay empty just so that we can't house some people who really need it. It's just a comment.

My next one is, the *Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey Report* was tabled already and I have noted that Gjoa Haven has no respite spaces and no

homeless shelter. Madam Chairperson, the population in Gjoa Haven is just the same as the population in Cambridge Bay. They do have something, but we don't. I'm just wondering why. The report indicates that a continuum of service is needed.

What consideration has been given to allocating capital funds to create and provide respite spaces in communities which are facing the highest rates of homelessness and overcrowding and which have the highest cost of living? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The member has been a very strong advocate of homelessness and I applaud that and as an acting minister, I was very pleased to provide him the guidelines in terms of how to try to get a homeless shelter into the communities. As one of the members were asking me in terms of what other funds are out there, I was pleased that we're waiting for applications through the federal government.

I think that what we liked about the transitional house here in Iqaluit is that there were multiple funders and multiple partners and one of the big partners that was on this one is the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, which has different streams of seed money or other money, and we're trying to find out what this Rapid Housing Initiative is so we can submit our proposals into this. I'm very optimistic and I think that if we go through these routes and go through these and work with the communities and our regions, along with our headquarters, we will start seeing some



of these.

Like you mentioned, there's sometimes no space for any community. What transpired here in Iqaluit is a good example that it can be done if you go through the right channels in terms of working with all the partners. I'm looking forward to or I should say the minister will be looking forward to seeing this expand to the communities and something that I support as an acting minister and an active minister for this government is to see it past Iqaluit and start seeing it in a lot of communities.

The report that you mentioned really shows that it's not just in one spot; it is in every community. I don't have a solution and I don't have it within these capital estimates for the \$1 million that we have it under. We are trying to address that through our operations and maintenance by having work with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and other federal partners, along with our Inuit organizations, to come up with a very concrete plan that we should help combat this homelessness. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Simailak, it's now your turn.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Welcome, minister and your officials as well.

Closely along the lines of Mr. Akoak's questions, but mine is for safe shelters. How is your department working with communities across Nunavut to ensure or to first verify which communities require safe shelters, and how are you guys working to bring that to fruition, to

make it a reality? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. There are safe shelters across the territory. We don't publicize where they are necessarily because they are designed to be safe and to go be where they are. There are at least four safe homes within Nunavut that is taking place. If anybody wants to be designated as a safe home, I encourage the communities or residents to have this dialogue with the Department of Family Services. The way we have been doing this is through our operations and maintenance and where we create safe homes, it is through that that we're trying to increase our safe homes throughout the territory. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for the response, minister. In Baker Lake the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has been busier now more than ever, ever since we became unrestricted with alcohol. Has your department assessed what infrastructure Baker Lake requires to provide safe shelters?

To give you more detail, there used to be a *qimaavik*, but the building was condemned a few years ago because of asbestos and other infrastructure issues inside that building. It's a very old building. Has your department assessed Baker Lake as to how they can help provide a *qimaavik* again? Thank you. First question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I want to thank the member for clarifying this because in this department we've got to define what a safe home is, whether it's a safe home or family violence shelters, and those are two different operations and the department deals with them in a different way.

As I mentioned, under the family violence shelters within Nunavut, currently there are four across the territory. As you mentioned, Baker Lake is not in that anymore and definitely I got a nod from the deputy minister that there is work underway in terms of Baker Lake specifically in terms of seeing how to get that back. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, minister. Safe homes are under O&M, just so that everybody knows, okay? (interpretation) Are you done? (interpretation ends) Okay, the next person on my list is Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Welcome, minister and your officials.

If someone had asked this question already, please inform me, Madam Chairperson. The Uquutaq Society in Iqaluit opened a new site this past month where they will provide shelter beds as well as transitional housing beds. The society's representatives have indicated that there will be fewer shelter beds available in the city when the new facility opens, and it has opened.

What steps has the department been

taking to ensure that there will be adequate shelter beds available for Iqaluit's homeless, especially as the winter months get colder? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It's a very worrisome situation because of the many homeless people who are actually homeless. Our employees in the Department of Family Services try to help people in different situations, trying to find them a place. We use the Uquutaq Society to see where we can find more room and there are different places where people go and shelter, including this new one so there is more independent housing. We are always trying to find more space for them. Up to today it has not been completed yet as to how many beds we can find in Iqaluit. We are concerned about it, but we're working seriously about it on behalf of the homeless people in Iqaluit. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My other question, so the department's 2021-22 draft capital estimates for small capital list includes five new vehicles and information provided to the standing committee indicates that four of the new vehicles will replace vehicles that are costly to maintain while one additional vehicle is being purchased.

A vehicle for Pond Inlet that had been purchased in 2019 and it's now impossible to fix after an accident so the one that broke down in Pond Inlet... .

Is there a plan to replace that in 2021-22. I'm thinking that in 2022 they could get that at sealift time. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, that vehicle will be replaced in Pond Inlet. It's part of our capital request this year. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The vehicle that was involved in an accident was a pickup truck. The vehicles you will be purchasing, who decides what kind of vehicle that you're going to be replacing for Family Services? Madam Chairperson, I would like a response to that, please. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We work with the Department of Community and Government Services. They are told this is the kind of vehicle we need and if we need to carry children or use them for emergency purposes and the department finds the appropriate vehicle for them and tell the department this is what kind of vehicle you're going to be getting and this is how much it's going to cost. That's how we try to plan it and do it. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It also states

that the vehicle is non-repairable. Will it be possible to put that out as surplus vehicle as is? Can it be made available for public tender? We just finished with government write-offs and things like that about a month ago. Will that vehicle be available for public tender or not? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. When vehicles are deemed to be surplus after they are surplus, then the decision is made as to whether they will be disposed of or other steps that they want to do as to disposing them. There is a policy already in place that we follow. Thank you, Madam Speaker...sorry, Madam Chairperson.

>> *Laughter*

**Chairperson:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This is my final question. In Pond Inlet there was a decision about a possible family violence shelter. I don't know if shipping was delayed for the materials for Pond Inlet. There was going to be a family violence shelter built. When I emailed you, there was no note about whether it was going to be transported by sealift or if it has been taken off the list. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. For the community of Pond Inlet, Family Services is still discussing it and how they will use the funding, and this

initiative is still proceeding. At this time our employees are finalizing it and when the two groups agree, then this will be brought forward. It is the same, and if it will be brought forward, they still have to finalize the extent of the work to be done, and how they would bring that up.

This is still being developed by our employees, so I am unable to provide an actual date when it would be completed. However, our workers are working on the file and I am glad they are continuing that work. In looking at that, we would want it properly completed, and we really need this in the communities, and I appreciate my colleague's continuing to verbalize this to my attention and to this House. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I want to ask a very brief question. It might have been asked earlier, but you had mentioned the community shelters and you identified that you encourage each community to apply through some kind of funding requests for under programs that could be available dependent on each year.

Shelters are required for people who are either leaving abusive relationships or for other reasons. Is the requirement for individuals or groups that they own a home in order to proceed to be identified as a shelter, for example, a volunteer person helping in these situations? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

It can be either one as they see it working in both cases of a homeowner or an individual tenant which would require a slightly different set of policies due to the housing authority's rules, but the Department of Family Services can help to identify a safe home with the Inuit who wish to help.

I encourage Inuit to put their names forward and to discuss that idea with their local workers, and I appreciate our colleagues' push to create that in our communities, and for your ongoing support on this file, as it really assists our employees and I thank you all. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for your response. Madam Chairperson, the communities do want to be able to support others, but we often face housing shortages while other units are overcrowded. Some units are not full, but if a community wants to find a safe home, I imagine that it would require space for children as it may become more problematic. Are you only looking at single people or would the whole family be allowed to go to the shelter or is this only possible if you are a single individual? Can they apply to become a shelter? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Akeeagok, if you wish to answer the question since we are only dealing with capital issues. Mr. Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank you for those questions. Yes, if they have children, the

home that will serve as the safe home, if they will be used, requires the assistance of the police or if the social worker makes that determination, then the person who is going to the safe home has to also be assessed. They have to ensure that the children are not placed in a dangerous situation. If that is the case, they would be placed there, but there has to be an assessment beforehand. They are all assessed to see if they are acceptable.

If you have children, you would have to notify the worker if you need to use a safe home for a bit, and there are multiple ways the social worker can deal with the financial requirements, such as the amount per person, so these details are what are discussed and if anyone wishes to find out more information, they can request information by asking our employees on what the requirements are.

This is a big issue and we have to look for this avenue and we are willing to accept any help that is offered in this area, as this is important and it is always better to make plans to prepare for that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you as well. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Family Services. Corporate Management. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1 million. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I want to thank my staff for all their tireless efforts. I also thank you for approving the capital expenditures and I know that we will work hard to ensure that the supports are there and that our department will work hard to ensure that we move forward.

Although the matter may be small, they are dealing with a large issue and with that being the case, we need to ensure our plans are comprehensive. We also want to incorporate what the members were bringing up as they are listening to the statements and we prefer to take them into consideration and that we need to deliberate further on this issue. We want to make more progress, and I am thankful to you all for approving our appropriations for the capital plans, so I thank you all along with our people. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) Sergeant at Arms, will you escort the witnesses out, please.

### **Bill 51 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2021-2022 – Culture and Heritage – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairperson:** Okay. Now we're going to look at reviewing Culture and Heritage. I would like to ask Minister Joanase if you would like to start with your opening comments. Minister Joanase.

**Hon. David Joanase** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

I am pleased to appear before the committee to present the Department of Culture and Heritage's 2021-22 capital estimates.

Madam Chairperson, the department works toward ensuring that the Government of Nunavut preserves, develops, and enhances Nunavut's culture, heritage, and languages for all Nunavummiut.

Madam Chairperson, the capital estimates for the Department of Culture and Heritage for the 2021-22 fiscal year is \$500,000.

The department is also working hard to address the need to display and preserve our heritage within the territory. Through the collaboration with other partners, the department displays parts of our Heritage Collection in the territory. The department is committed to addressing Nunavut's long-term vision for the storage of heritage collections and to support economic development initiatives that build on and add value to heritage, arts and tourism sectors within Nunavut. Therefore the department is requesting \$500,000 for the capital estimates to be used for current and future heritage infrastructure across Nunavut under our heritage facilities contribution funding. We provide this funding to non-profit community-based organizations and municipal corporations for the development and/or renovation of heritage facilities or relevant associated structures and objects.

Madam Chairperson, I will be pleased to respond to any questions that members of the committee may have. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) Before I go to the co-chair, Minister Joanasié, can you introduce your staff for the record? Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To my left is Deputy Minister Teresa Hughes and to my right is Director of Corporate Services Wendy Bens. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good evening, minister. Good evening, Ms. Hughes and Ms. Bens. It's always a pleasure.

Madam Chairperson, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness concerning its review of the '21-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed capital budget for the '21-22 fiscal year is \$500,000 for its ongoing capital contribution program to renovate heritage facilities across Nunavut.

The department's capital contribution program is allocated to non-profit community-based organizations and municipal corporations for the development or renovation of heritage facilities. According to documentation provided to the standing committee, a total of 22 community entities have received funding through these agreements since the 2016-17 fiscal year. The standing committee looks forward to receiving further detail on the specific work that has been done on

heritage facilities across Nunavut with the funding provided through this program.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to discuss his department's draft '21-22 capital estimates, members were given to understand that the department may be considering future capital plans for a new heritage centre. Members look forward to receiving updates on this proposal as a significant number of Nunavut's artefacts and historic artwork continue to be stored in facilities and museums outside of the territory.

The standing committee notes that while the Department of Culture and Heritage supports Nunavut's Public Library Services, it rarely makes any capital investment in library infrastructure. Given the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in facilities such as libraries being closed to the public for extended periods of time, members have suggested that further consideration be given to improving digital access to collections and other library services and encourages the minister to work with his staff to explore opportunities in this area.

Madam Chairperson, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed '21-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Culture and Heritage. I am confident that my colleagues will have comments and questions as we proceed. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. We're reviewing Culture and Heritage. Are there any general comments? Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good evening, minister and your officials.

I want to speak briefly about this matter as, ever since I was elected, the Department of Culture and Heritage has always had the smallest budget. I believe it is \$500,000 and it hasn't changed over the past three years.

I wonder why, when we as Inuit in looking at the territory as a whole, we are all different in how we handle our environments, as we all have different animals and hunting techniques, regional variances in clothing and other aspects of our culture that we Inuit use daily and the stuff we deal with on a daily basis like hunting or school. There are specific skills that can be used to create some income for Inuit, and our government keeps stating that Inuit culture and language must be preserved. We represent Inuit mostly. I want to speak about this issue, Madam Chairperson.

I believe that the Minister of Culture and Heritage must work harder, especially when the cabinet meets on capital plans and future projects, by looking at both small and larger capital projects. I would like to see a fund of about \$5 million for culture and heritage, and that would be good to see and we would be able to provide benefits to our Inuit, in looking at the cultural aspects.

Work is also underway to look at funding the construction of a heritage centre or a heritage building. When hamlets can only apply via applications or by non-profit societies that deal with these issues, if we were to look at a new building, it would require a lot of funds to do that. I just want to provide more

support to the minister in that if we are looking to construct a building, many members have spoken in this House that there are many buildings not used in our communities; in your communities as well.

I think you should look at other ways as the Department of Culture and Heritage. Perhaps we can look to reuse empty buildings or that are not in use, either by renovating the space. I have always seen the budget set aside for renovations as there is usually a pot of money set aside for that. Yes, \$500,000 can be utilized and we can put it to good use.

If we were to look at our cultural foundation, I am unsure how to make more suggestions, although I am always looking to add to it. I am not being antagonistic to our culture nor am I against this department. However, we can all remind ourselves that youth are our future and we should teach them how to make harpoons, gaffs, kakivaks, and other equipment that are not really built today by younger people, but we can still teach them how and there are already courses I imagine.

I think I can urge you more as the Department of Culture and Heritage. If we look at our culture, there are many things still not out there. In your capital estimates, I don't necessarily have to ask you questions; just let it pass. When we look at the capital estimates, when will the Department of Culture and Heritage be requesting \$5 million from the government?

I just wanted to comment on that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Thank you. General comments? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to keep it succinct, and we all want to support the Department of Culture and Heritage in their funding appropriations.

In looking at the local libraries in the communities, they are quite useful to most communities and offer many benefits. However, the library in Arviat is becoming quite antiquated and it is becoming more of an eyesore. I hope that in the future budgets we may look for more funding towards libraries.

This isn't the first time I have spoken about libraries and I will continue to bring it up in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. General comments? Seeing none, go to page F-3. Culture and Heritage. Directorate. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The substantiation sheet for heritage facilities mentions on page 2, it says, "Seven facilities awarded, \$500,000." Does the minister have information regarding which facilities received funding? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can he clarify if he is asking about 2020-21? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Mr. Main.



**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 2019-2020, the funding from last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To identify the communities, they are the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay and Piqquhilirinikkuq Iihautinik, (interpretation ends) the Kitikmeot Heritage Society, (interpretation) in Gjoa Haven, (interpretation ends) the Netsilik Heritage Society, (interpretation) there are four here in Iqaluit...no. Chesterfield Inlet, Kivalliq Inuit Association, and I think three in Iqaluit. Those are the communities that were provided funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The one the minister alluded to in Chesterfield Inlet, if I am not mistaken, the Kivalliq Inuit Association wanted to build a new facility specific to heritage purposes related to the community's placement in historic stories. How much has the Department of Culture and Heritage been involved in that work? What involvement do you have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Kivalliq Inuit Association have started the construction on the heritage centre. In 2018-19 they were given funding of \$400,000, and they were given funding through our capital estimates, but also

through operations and maintenance, they were provided \$200,000 from our department for 2019-2020 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'm aware that we're dealing with capital estimates, but I would like to clearly understand what the minister just said. Has your involvement stopped or will you be involved every year? Has the Department of Culture and Heritage signed an agreement for that with the association? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently we don't have a signed agreement for the facility in Chesterfield Inlet for operations and maintenance or how the building will be utilized. We haven't signed an agreement to date, but I think we will be receiving requests for annual operations and maintenance funding. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (Ms. Angnakak): Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Your voice suddenly changed.

>> *Laughter*

With regard to whether community libraries are becoming too dilapidated and whether they require any renovation work, does the Department of Culture and Heritage track, for instance, if this building will require renovation this year

or this project will need to be placed as a priority? Does the department have a tracking system in place or do the communities have to put in a request on their own to renovate their libraries? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We don't own the community libraries. They are not government assets, so we don't keep track on when they need to be renovated or upgraded to date, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) My last question is: if there are capital needs around community libraries, where would individual communities direct their requests to? Would it be to the Department of Education? Is there a funding pot within Culture and Heritage, or is there anywhere for them to apply for capital support? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point we don't have a specific pot of funds for libraries' capital. We do have this \$500,000 for cultural projects and yes, I'm not entirely sure whether or not past applications or proposals have included libraries to this date. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Simailak, it's now your turn.

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Welcome, minister and your officials.

There is a heritage centre in Baker Lake, but it is located in the old city hall. I would like to understand that if it is so. That's my first question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, there are differences in the types of heritage centres in Nunavut, as we are unable to fund all of the centres and we can only fund some applications we receive. I think they received funding last year towards that, but if you can just wait for a moment.

Thank you. In 2020-21 the Hamlet of Baker Lake was given funding for the heritage centre renovation project. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are you done? I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage. Total Capital Expenditures. \$500,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Culture and Heritage?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Any closing comments, minister?

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson and

members. I was happy to provide information based on the questioning I received and I am especially grateful to my employees who were able to be present.

Perhaps just a short commentary on heritage and capital estimates, although we heard a suggestion to increase the funding, not every community has a heritage centre. However, we will still try to incorporate ideas since we have a limited budget, and we try to do with what we have.

We would like to thank the communities that do have the resources and using Mr. Kaerner as an example, there are also some buildings that are showcasing traditional tools. I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. We will set up for the next session with the QEC.

*>>Committee recessed at 17:23 and resumed at 17:27*

**Bill 51 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,  
2021-2022 – Qulliq Energy  
Corporation – Consideration in  
Committee**

**Chairperson** (Ms. Angnakak): Okay, we're on now. Good afternoon. I would like now to ask Minister Ehaloak: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, I do. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Does the committee agree to let the officials appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** For the record, Minister Ehaloak, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good afternoon to those who are watching.

Madam Chairperson, to my right is Jamie Flaherty, who is the Acting President for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and to my left is Rick Hunt, who is the Acting Vice-president of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Madam Chairperson, energy-efficiency initiatives are taking place in our communities as we meet here today. I am pleased to inform you that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has resumed upgrading Nunavut's existing street lights with environmentally-friendly LED bulbs. This week crews are replacing street lights in Grise Fiord. Over 500 LED street lights will be installed in Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet, Igloolik, Taloyoak, and Kugaaruk by the end of the fiscal year.

New energy-efficient technologies are helping us to reduce our carbon footprint and to improve our impact on the environment. LED street lights also save on energy costs for hamlets, while making our streets safer and brighter for all Nunavummiut.

Street lights in Iqaluit, Kugluktuk, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Clyde River have already been upgraded with

the help from federal funding opportunities. Some of these communities have begun to see savings in operations and maintenance on their street light electricity bills. Further, LED street light replacements in the 14 remaining communities will take place over the next four years.

Madam Chairperson, the expansion of the street light replacement project is made possible through the Government of Nunavut's considerable \$2 million contribution from carbon tax revenue funding. With this financial support, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has been able to deploy environmentally conscious technologies, while positively impacting and creating savings for our communities. The corporation actively seeks more energy-efficient projects like this to bring a brighter and cleaner energy future to Nunavummiut.

That concludes my opening comments and we are now ready to take questions. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, minister. I just wanted to point out that the handout that we got for your opening comments is not the same as what you read, so there seems to be a difference and I am not sure why. Was there a different version? Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I can start over with the proper document. I apologize to all the members.

Madam Chairperson, I appear today to support the Qulliq Energy Corporation's request of \$500,000 to help upgrade the territory's street lights to energy-efficient LED street lights. We are

seeking the second instalment of funding as a part of \$2 million in capital funding requested over four years, which started with \$500,000 in 2020-21.

Madam Chairperson, our government is interested in taking steps to reduce our [reliance] on diesel and lower our harmful emissions of greenhouse gases. This is challenging in Nunavut, but the Qulliq Energy Corporation is keen to do what it can to help.

With the requested funding, the Qulliq Energy Corporation can replace the conventional street lights in Gjoa Haven, Coral Harbour, Whale Cove, Sanirajak, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Arctic Bay in 2021-22.

Because LED lights require significantly less energy than conventional bulbs, the Qulliq Energy Corporation requires less diesel to keep them lit. LED lights use less energy than conventional street lights while producing more light, providing Nunavummiut with brighter and safer communities.

Additionally, while the upfront cost of each bulb is significant, we expect the costs to maintain these lights will be less over time. Our municipalities pay the Qulliq Energy Corporation for the electricity to operate their street lights. By using higher efficiency bulbs, it will generate savings for our communities.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation is committed to helping the Government of Nunavut uphold its commitments to the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*. The corporation is able to do so by providing Nunavummiut with energy-efficient solutions that lessen the use of non-renewable resources and reduce our

territory's environmental footprint.

Madam Chairperson, this concludes my opening comments and I would be pleased to take questions. Again I apologize for the first opening comments. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on the Committee of the Whole review of the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

The standing committee recognizes that the Qulliq Energy Corporation's four-year street light replacement project is being funded by revenues from the federal carbon tax. The standing committee supports the intent of the project and encourages the minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on its progress.

Although the standing committee recognizes that the majority of projects contained in the corporation's capital plan are not funded through the Legislative Assembly's appropriation process, members have raised questions concerning the status of a number of the corporation's major projects, including its new headquarters building in Baker Lake and new power plants in Arctic Bay and Kugluktuk.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Main. We are here to discuss the street light replacement project only. Are there any general comments? General comments? None? Let's get on with the questions. This is listed under Finance. This is Total Capital Expenditures we're talking about. It is \$500,000 and it is to discuss the street light replacement project. Any questions? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) The minister's opening comments mention generating savings for the communities, referring to the lower power bill for municipalities that have to pay the QEC for electricity to operate their street lights. Have there been any estimates of how much cheaper LEDs would be for the municipalities? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the member for his question. I'll give an example of a community that's going to be saving on LED lights. Currently in Coral Harbour we have 99 conventional bulbs and with the conventional bulbs at 100 watts, they pay \$61.66 and then at 250 watts they pay \$75.86. With the new conventional LED light bulbs at 60 watts, they will be paying \$21.81. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) It's good; it will be cheaper for the municipalities by about two-thirds. It will be two-thirds cheaper for municipalities to operate their street lights.

I don't have any further questions. I would just like to commend the corporation on this initiative and I'm happy to see that Whale Cove will be included in 2021-22. (interpretation) On behalf of the residents of Whale Cove, I thank you, minister. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) Mr. Rumbolt, you're next.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. I just have a couple of quick questions. First I want to talk about the conventional light bulbs. What is the life expectancy of the conventional light bulbs compared to the newer LED lights? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Unfortunately we don't have that information right now, but we can find it for the member. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The reason I asked that question is because I think it was asked before and I think they mentioned something about lasting about ten years, but on my walks throughout the city in the evenings, I have noticed several LED

lights that are already faulty. I'm just wondering if the department is doing checks on these new LED lights and see if they're actually living up to their expectations. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The LED lights that are installed in Iqaluit are a different supply, so they are looking at different types of LED light bulbs. Because Iqaluit, Kugluktuk, and Cambridge Bay were the first communities to receive the LED lighting, the Qulliq Energy Corporation is still looking at trying to find LED light bulbs that are not going to be defaulting in our communities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you. With that being said, are you suggesting that all the light bulbs in Iqaluit may have to be replaced again with newer LED lights? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'll ask Mr. Hunt to answer the technical question that the member is asking. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Hunt.

**Mr. Hunt:** No. We are having some issues with certain amount of LED lights in Iqaluit and other communities, but it's only a certain percentage. We're looking into the issues that we're having and with those particular lights, but it's only

sporadic issues right now.

**Chairperson:** Thank you. Next one on my list, next person is Mr. Pedersen.

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good evening, minister and your officials.

I just have the one question. I noticed over the years that one of the problems with the streetlight was vandalism with individuals throwing rocks and pretty well busting the lights. I wonder if these new LED lights are a little sturdier and can withstand rocks being thrown at them. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the member for his question. That was one of the things that the Qulliq Energy Corporation looked at. Before the project started itself, we looked at different ways on how they can't be vandalized and the street lighting that has been selected for our communities does have the conventional oval with the steel casings so that the light bulbs cannot be busted. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Ms. Ehaloak. I don't have any more...oh, Mr. Simailak, over to you.

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

I would imagine that there's a supply of the old style light fixtures across the territory. What is to become of those if you're going to start installing these new LED lights? Are you going to use them

up first or sell them off somewhere else, or what's the plan? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The old light bulbs will be shipped out to be destroyed in a facility and we won't be putting them into our community landfills. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Okay, you mentioned a few communities in your statement here: Gjoa Haven, Coral Harbour, Whale Cove, Sanirajak, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Arctic Bay. What is the timeline for the rest of the communities to receive these LED lights so that our hamlets can start saving money? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We hope to have all the communities done by... . Just one moment; I'm just trying to find the date. In 2024, hopefully we will have all of the communities done by then. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just to get back to my first question there, what about the existing stock that's not used across the territory for light bulbs and the light fixtures? They are two separate components. What's the plan with those? I would imagine that quite a bit of money has

been invested in buying those materials.  
Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just to get the question correct, so you're asking about the old supplies from the old...? Well, those, again, will be shipped out of the communities and shipped south to be destroyed. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Next person on my list is Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Because the Qulliq Energy Corporation is using quite a bit of money on these lights, are these warrantied LED lights that (interpretation) have deficiencies? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. There is no warranty on the purchase of the LED lights. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are you done? I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) It's under Finance. Total Capital Expenditures we're talking about under this program is \$500,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Do we agree that we have concluded the QEC?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Does the minister have any closing comments?

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. First of all, I would like to thank my colleagues at the Qulliq Energy Corporation and all the staff who work very hard, especially during COVID, to make sure that our communities remain and have their electricity.

I would like to thank the members here today and I look forward to when all the municipalities will be able to have cost savings with their street lights so that they can use their funds for other programs and services within their community, which is much needed, like mental health and programs and services for alcohol and addictions. Thank you very much. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. We will take a couple of minutes here just to set up for the next department.

*>>Committee recessed at 17:48 and resumed at 17:49*

**Bill 51 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,  
2021-2022 – Legislative Assembly  
– Consideration in Committee**

**Chairperson:** There we go. Mr. Quassa.

Okay. (interpretation) It just keeps shutting off. (interpretation ends) Okay, here we go. Now let's start again. I would like to now ask the Speaker of the House, Mr. Quassa: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Mr. Quassa.



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, I would like officials to accompany me here.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Does the committee agree to let the officials appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** For the record, Mr. Speaker Quassa, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With me is someone who is no stranger to this House, (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk, John Quirke. (interpretation) I'll just proceed with my brief comments to you.

I am pleased to appear before you and members today to present the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

As members will note, the proposed 2021-22 capital budget is significantly less than what was requested for approval for the 2019-2020 and 2020-21 fiscal years. The proposed 2021-22 capital budget will be used for minor capital projects, including equipment upgrades and furniture replacement for offices of Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Office of the Legislative Assembly, and the offices of independent officers of the Legislative Assembly.

That concludes my brief opening comments. We will try to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) I'll open the floor for general comments. No general comments? I'll open the floor for questions. Questions? Oh, yes, I guess I should say that. We're talking about the Office of the Legislative Assembly. Total Capital Expenditures is \$250,000. Agreed? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. While I have the opportunity, I would like to ask at least one question to the Speaker.

If I understand correctly, our Legislative Assembly here was supposed to be an office building when it was first being built and then they changed it into a Legislative Assembly plan. In the coming years, do you have plans to build a new Legislative Assembly if there is money available and where it would be built? Have you identified a lot in Iqaluit that could be used for that purpose? That is my final question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Quassa.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. That's a very good question. I will make a brief comment about it and my official will supplement it. The plan is going ahead. We will need a new Legislative Assembly. The plan is still there and we have been discussing the lost as well. As to where it is, I won't get into that, but I would appreciate John Quirke to complete my response to explain this.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Quirke.

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Well, it's not in the capital plan. It was at one time, but it was

removed when other projects were deemed to be of higher priority than the Legislative Assembly building.

The land is in place; it has always been place since I secured it way back in 1999, actually. It's located close to Apex, close to the school area, and it overlooks all of Frobisher Bay. The land is big enough that we secured it not only for a Legislative Assembly building but for a heritage centre.

In terms of making that a possibility, basically it would be a commitment of the government as a whole to set aside the money to allow for the building of such a facility. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Okay. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Pursuant to our rules, I move that we stay in committee so that we can complete the review of the Office of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Madam Chairperson

**Chairperson:** Does the committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Okay. Is that your last question? Okay. Mr. Qirngnuq, you're next.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Welcome, Mr. Speaker and your official.

I also have a short question. I'm sure this has been discussed. We see flags. There's the Canadian flag and the Nunavut flag flying at the Legislative

Assembly, but the Legislative Assembly does not have its own flag.

In our community like the hamlet offices or the Legislative Assembly constituency office, I'm thinking that it would be nice to have a flag. Have there been any thoughts about that? I would like to know, Madam Chairperson, hence my question. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** I'm not sure if it's a capital question, but I'll ask Mr. Quassa if he would like to answer the question.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I understand the word "Aulaqutik," "Saimatik," and its words for flags. I don't quite understand. Where would they be located? Outside of this building, all communities have flags up. I'm not sure what he's referring to. Maybe I can get clarification on what and where he is envisioning as being hung. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you. I just want to remind the member that we're talking about capital, but the Speaker has graciously answered your question. Would you like to respond? Thank you.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Madam Chairperson, if it's going to be considered in the future under O&M, but I could ask it at a later sitting. Madam Chairperson, I think you understand that. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you as well. Are you done? (interpretation ends) Okay. Mr. Lightstone, you're next.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to follow up

on Mr. Main's questions and the response that was received. I believe that in the response, it was indicated that in order for the Assembly to secure capital funds to construct the new facility, it would require significant government...I think the term was "commitment."

My next question is, it's definitely a capital question, but it's kind of related to capital planning and the capital planning development process. I'm curious: how would the Assembly go about securing such a commitment from the government through the five-year capital plan? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Quassa.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. It's probably not that difficult, but maybe it's better if my Clerk responds to that question, if it's okay with you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Quirke.

**Clerk:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Well, based on what happened in the past and how things work these days, and in particular for the Legislative Assembly building, first of all, it would assist if the Full Caucus agreed that such a facility was required and that it would follow through with the government through cabinet and the Financial Management Board approving the project and putting the money in the forecast for the next five, six, seven, or eight years. That process would be available to us, but it would start off in Full Caucus agreeing that the facility is required and then cabinet following through by actually putting the money in the forecast. Thank you, Madam

Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Lightstone, that was it? Okay. I don't have any...oh, Mr. Qamaniq. Sorry, I almost forgot you, Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation) With the documentation presented, I was thinking that with the allocations for our offices here in Iqaluit, is there nothing allocated for our offices in our communities? I'll ask that first. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Quassa.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'll respond with this and then Mr. Quirke will supplement it. The Members of the Legislative Assembly have a four-year term and their offices are in use for those four years. Usually when there are new members or when there are elections for new members, the offices in those communities are given equipment upgrades or furniture replacement. That's the usual practice. We also know that within the year the computers and other equipment can break down and items are purchased to replace them, but I would like Mr. Quirke to supplement that if it's okay with you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Quirke.

**Clerk:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just to add onto what the Speaker said, sometime by June of next year, 2021, you will receive correspondence from my staff asking you to take count of inventory in your constituency office. We will ask you the state of the

equipment, if the chair is broken or the table is broken, whatever the case may be. Once we get your inventory sheets, a decision will be made, okay, in Pond Inlet, for example, the filing cabinet is broken or the chair is broken, we will be replacing that equipment. Yes, there is money in the communities where the member resides, what is the constituency office, which means all 25 communities, so the money is there. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I was remiss to say when I first spoke to welcome you, Mr. Speaker and your officials, as you are not usually sitting at the witness table. You have a chair up there.

With regard to my colleague's question, I understood that he stated, (interpretation ends) "We all have offices in our constituency, in our community," and I guess his question was: can we install a flagpole and put a flag where office is located in our communities? I think that's what he was trying to ask. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq, for the clarification. I think that makes it a little clearer. Mr. Quassa.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I think I finally understand it clearly now. I'm sorry if I misunderstood it earlier, my colleague. I believe you can make a request for that. Well, is it a flagpole for your offices? Do I understand that? I believe every one of you can request that. Well, you can make a request if you wanted something like that. Maybe the Clerk can add to that.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Quirke.

**Clerk:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Well, it really boils down to what we're renting on your behalf. I'm pretty confident that most of the offices, the landlord doesn't have a flagpole in front of the building and I don't know whether they would be willing to install a flagpole for you. If they approach us, I suppose we would just modify the lease and increase the lease payments, etcetera, but it would boil down to the landlord providing it because we don't have it in our plans to supply each community with a flagpole, but never say never. If the landlord is prepared to install a flagpole, then we would suggest charging it back to the annual rental fee. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Quirke. I don't have any more names on my list. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Total Capital Expenditures. \$250,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Do members agree that we have concluded the Office of the Legislative Assembly?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Okay. Mr. Quassa, do you have any closing comments? Mr. Quassa.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank you for approving our small budget for the year. I would just like to thank my colleagues for approving this budget.

That's it, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness out. We have concluded the Office of the Legislative Assembly and I will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good day. (interpretation ends) 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 proposed 2020-21 capital estimates. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Main. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion.

**An Hon. Member** (interpretation): Question.

**Speaker:** All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation) No. 21. Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets tomorrow morning

at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for November 3:

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 Tuesday, November 3,  
2020, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:11*

