

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation; Minister
of Human Resources*

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Rankin Inlet South)

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responsible for Suicide Prevention*

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John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;
Minister of Languages; Minister
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Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

Hon. George Hickey
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Minister responsible for Labour; Minister
responsible for the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission*

Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

*Government House Leader; Minister
of Family Services; Minister
responsible for Homelessness; Minister
responsible for the Status of Women*

Hon. David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

*Minister of Education; Minister responsible
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 15, 2021**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickee, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Patterk Netser, Mr. Calvin Pedersen, Mr. David Qamaniq, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Mr. Craig Simailak, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 9:59*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Paul Quassa)(interpretation): Good morning. Can you say the opening prayer, please, Ms. Towtongie.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning, our fellow Nunavummiut. Those who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, I welcome you once again and I hope you had a safe weekend.

Continuing on. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 608 – 5(2): Continued Food Security Funding during COVID-19

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say “good morning” to you. I’ll be inviting you over soon.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, last session I spoke about our efforts to curb food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic through community funding for food programs for our children and elders.

As the pandemic continues to impact our daily lives, we must ensure continued support and relief to Nunavummiut. Today I would like to inform my colleagues about our ongoing effort in food security programs.

Mr. Speaker, in November 2020, through the Government of Canada’s outbreak federal support funding, another \$1.8 million was allocated by the Government of Nunavut to support food security initiatives in-territory. Our government committed \$1.23 million in grants to the communities immediately, and the remaining \$570,000 is being held in

reserve in case communities need additional support in the future. These funds are again being distributed directly to municipalities according to community size.

We also decided to provide an additional \$50,000 to Arviat, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, and Sanikiluaq to help these communities address the extra needs brought on by their COVID-19 outbreaks.

Mr. Speaker, to date 19 communities have received funding and agreements are being finalized with the remaining six communities. I look forward to providing additional information on the community-specific implementation of this funding during our next sitting.

Meanwhile I would like to once again thank everyone who participated in the delivery of these much-needed supports and recognize the dedication of our municipalities to provide for family and community during these difficult times. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 609 – 5(2): Nunavut Arctic College's Chief Financial Officer

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you and good morning, Mr. Speaker, MLAs, and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am happy to stand here today to welcome a new key member to the Nunavut Arctic College team. In mid-February the college welcomed Nayab Khan as its Chief Financial Officer. Members, this role plays a key leadership role in the financial management and oversight of the organization. Nayab comes to the college with important financial experience in-territory and outside. We welcome her to our organization and to Iqaluit as well.

Mr. Speaker, in welcoming Nayab, I am would also like to recognize Marcelo Parungao. Members, Marcelo is no stranger to this House. In having joined the college in September 1989, first as the Director of Finance for the Nunatta Campus, in his time with the college, Marcelo has not only seen the college grow and restructure, but he has also supported a wide range of Nunavut Arctic College senior management and ministers as they explain, defend, and support the college's main estimates, operating budgets, and capital plans. He has worked continuously with our government partners and a wide range of third party funders to ensure the college is able to provide the fullest range of programs and supports it can offer.

Mr. Speaker, in his 32 years with the college, Marcelo has provided consistent, steady support and leadership. He is also known through the college community, being a welcome presence to our offices in Rankin Inlet and Arviat especially.

Marcelo will be retiring in April of this year, after two earlier attempts at retirement, and the purchase of countless one-way tickets. We wish Marcelo the best in his retirement. I personally want to thank him for his commitment to the organization. I know I speak on behalf of all who have worked with him that you will be remembered with great fondness. While I am sad to see you go, I am so happy you will be re-joining your family in Vancouver, British Columbia.

I ask all members to join me in welcoming Nayab and wishing Marcelo all the best. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 610 – 5(2): Renewed Agreement with the Winnipeg Art Gallery

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues. I also say “good morning” to the residents of Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut's fine art collection has been housed at the Winnipeg Art Gallery since 2015. I am pleased to announce the re-signing of a memorandum of agreement with the Winnipeg Art Gallery to house our collection for an additional five-year term. The new agreement ensures continued collaboration between the Government of Nunavut and Winnipeg Art Gallery on exhibitions in Iqaluit at the airport and Aqsarniit Hotel, and continued work on exhibits that tour Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am also happy to announce that later this month on March 25 the Winnipeg Art Gallery will hold an opening ceremony for Qaumajuq, the Inuit Art Centre. Supported by the over 7,300 artwork objects from the Government of Nunavut's heritage collection, Qaumajuq will house the world's largest publicly owned Inuit art collection.

The opening of Qaumajuq provides Culture and Heritage with a means to meet the obligations in the Pivaallirutivut priority area of the *Turaaqtavut* mandate, which calls for diversifying and improving economic opportunities to encourage self-reliance and provide local employment through arts and culture. My department is also committed to the conservation, protection, promotion, and enhancement of our heritage collection through the Inuit societal values Piliriqatigiinniq and Aajiiqatigiingniq.

Culture and Heritage continues to work with the Winnipeg Art Gallery to train Nunavummiut in collections management through workshops, mentorship, and various innovative training methods. I look forward to continued collaboration with the Winnipeg Art Gallery and the role they play in providing opportunities for Nunavummiut to be

involved in and experience the fine art heritage collections. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Hickes.

Minister's Statement 611 – 5(2): WSCC Virtual Services

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to provide an update on some of the service improvements the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission has introduced.

Due to travel restriction during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission has taken a flexible and adaptive approach to how they are providing service to their claimants. Claims Services are working with service providers in health care to address some of the practical barriers to providing virtual-based care plan options for injured workers. In suitable cases, services offered have ranged from general practitioner follow-ups, to specialist follow-ups, psychological care and counselling, physiotherapy home exercise plans and assessments, and vocational rehabilitation assessments and follow-up.

Mr. Speaker, these improvements are in the early days of development, but the hope is that virtual care options will eventually mean a more supportive and responsive service for injured workers and their families, a quicker resolution for employers, and a reduction in claims costs.

The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission remains committed to making northern workplaces the safest in the country, to deliver care to injured workers, and provide practical support to employers and local businesses to operate safely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 612 – 5(2): Fisheries Research and Impacts on the Sector's Adjacent Water Quotas

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. I send my regards to the residents of Grise Fiord, as I am already back in Iqaluit from my trip up there.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada needs to prioritize Nunavut's offshore fisheries of Greenland halibut and shrimp by investing the necessary funding and resources to ensure these valuable stocks are being scientifically managed.

The lack of long-term resources dedicated to these internationally shared stocks is compromising Canada and Nunavut's reputation for environmental stewardship. It is also undermining the international marketability of a sector worth more than \$200 million every year. This fishery cannot be managed on patchwork short-term funding and data that is not comparable year to year. The monitoring of the offshore fisheries must be scientific, comprehensive, continuous, stable and allow for management decisions that are based on the best possible information and modeling.

My staff at Economic Development and Transportation have been advocating for proper investments from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans into Nunavut's fisheries, as would be expected anywhere in Canada. We are prepared and ready to work with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to find a solution to this problem as it cannot continue. The solution needs to have Nunavut input as we have seen the made-in-Ottawa decisions have not been working here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Mr. Kusugak.

Minister's Statement 613 – 5(2): Long-term Care

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health is committed to meeting the needs of our elders and helping them age closer to home, in a culturally appropriate way and on their traditional land.

It is projected that 156 total long-term care beds will be needed by 2035 to address Nunavut's long-term care needs. Until in-territory care is established, placement of Nunavummiut living with dementia and other health concerns in specialized care facilities outside of the territory is essential to ensure they receive safe and appropriate care.

Mr. Speaker, to meet this, the Department of Health is working toward a new, state-of-the-art territorial long-term care centre in Rankin Inlet.

>>Applause

The Rankin Inlet Long-term Care Centre will have the capacity to provide care to our seniors ranging from supported living to more complex needs, such as dementia care. The Rankin Inlet Long-term Care Centre will fill an urgent need in the territory for senior care.

Mr. Speaker, this long-term care centre is a part of the first phase of growing our in-territory senior care capacity. We plan to construct new facilities in Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit. These new facilities will increase our capability of keeping our elders closer to home.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, aside from the added capacity to provide care, the new facilities will be designed with best practices in mind, using design techniques and materials that will enhance infection prevention and control. This will help protect residents at the facilities from serious infections, such as COVID-19. The design will also incorporate art that is culturally relevant to Inuit traditional values to help add a sense of belonging.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, not only will these facilities assist with caring for our elders closer to home and closer to their family and friends; they will also bring much-needed jobs to our communities. Community employment is important in all regions and our new facilities we will need both health care staff and support staff.

Mr. Speaker, through priority hiring and training opportunities, we will work to ensure as many of these jobs as possible are available to Nunavut Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 614 – 5(2): Ilagiitsiarniq Campaign

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Good morning, Nunavummiut. I hug you, people of Arviat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to the House to explain the significance of the purple buttons that I spoke about on the first day of this sitting.

Mr. Speaker, the purple buttons reflect a visual representation of the motion I made in the House last spring, a motion that was passed unanimously. They are intended to reaffirm our commitment to an Ilagiitsiarniq campaign in Nunavut and be a constant reminder of this commitment.

Purple reflects the courage to stand up, which leads to healing, which will put you to survival mode; you have hope and respect for others. It will become the symbol of

positive change. These buttons also reflect a commitment to act, to speak up and be part of the solution.

Uqaqtitsijii, when people see these buttons, I hope they will remember that we do support each other on a daily basis and having positive conversations. My commitment is to be a voice for inspiration. Someone else's commitment may be teaching their children about respect; fostering Inuuqatigiitsiarniq in all their relationships that they will learn to build upon throughout their lives.

Uqaqtitsijii, I want to thank the members for supporting my motion and look forward to next session to reflect on the positive conversations that take place in our day-to-day lives.

"I support by..." hunting and giving your catch to elders and those that cannot provide for themselves; you may be supporting or helping your significant other by getting up during the 3 a.m. feeding or changing. Collecting ice water for elders and those phone calls you make to those you care about, and the friendly smile and nods you do when you do "I support by..." (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements are over. Continuing on. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 857 – 5(2): Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my fellow residents of Baker Lake, good morning and I hope you have a wonderful day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today offer some thoughts on priority areas of action under the Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by first congratulating one of my constituents, Philip Putumiraqtuq, for his recent appointment to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, which is one of the most important bodies to have been established under the Nunavut Agreement.

I also want to wish good luck to all of the candidates who are standing in the Kivalliq Inuit Association's upcoming election.

Mr. Speaker, the *Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol* between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik was signed in January of 2020, a little over a year ago.

I want to add my voice to those who have congratulated Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's president on her recent re-election; Aluki Kotierk, congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, two issues that I believe need more attention under the protocol are infrastructure and the caribou management crisis in the Kivalliq. Mr. Speaker, I will start with the subject of infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, the *Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol* indicates that one of the goals of the two parties is to "... work with partners, including the Government of Canada, to make substantial progress in narrowing housing and other infrastructure gaps in Nunavut, in order to support a positive future for our communities by... developing a long term infrastructure strategy to address Nunavut's infrastructure deficit; and establishing strategic partnerships for major infrastructure projects in Nunavut with all levels of governments and private sector, including foreign investors."

Mr. Speaker, although I have only been sitting in this House for a few months, I am proud to have had the opportunity to vote in support of a number of important projects in the Government of Nunavut's capital plan.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not quite done my member's statement. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement, from my members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is requesting unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my fellow colleagues.

However, I strongly believe that we cannot do this alone, and our other partners, including Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and regional Inuit organizations, need to also make substantive and tangible contributions.

Mr. Speaker, in reading Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's recently released report on Nunavut's infrastructure gap, I noted a lot of detailed information about the gaps that continue to exist. However, I was disappointed that the organization seems to see its role as being limited to "...advocating for meaningful solutions to our infrastructure challenges."

Mr. Speaker, I do recognize that our regional Inuit organizations are not the government and they are not responsible for delivering public services and programs. However, as we have recently witnessed in relation to the Baffinland project, there is clear public dissatisfaction amongst many ordinary Inuit with how the significant financial benefits and royalties from natural resource extraction projects are being used.

Mr. Speaker, I do not advocate for dividends or direct cash payments to individuals. That is a short-sided approach. However, I do support a fresh look at how the wealth that has

flowed from mining and other projects can be more effectively used to address the serious infrastructure needs that exist in all of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the other issue that I want to address today concerns caribou management. As the House is aware, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated was involved in the development of the territorial *Wildlife Act*, which requires that a report to the Legislative Assembly be prepared and tabled every five years.

The most recent report indicates “Caribou are critically important to people in the Kivalliq region ... some of the greatest threats to the long-term viability of Kivalliq caribou herds include ... internet sales of meat and the associated increased harvest.”

Mr. Speaker, we have heard on a number of occasions that effective action to address this issue may require that certain sections of the *Nunavut Agreement* be re-opened in order to allow for better regulation of the intercommunity trade in meat.

I am very much open to this being done and I suggest that the *Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol* provides a starting point for discussion.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on these issues at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Member’s Statement 858 – 5(2): Appreciation of Food Donations

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to recognize during this COVID-19 pandemic, in Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, the hamlet councils and mayors have worked very hard. First of all, they were able to deliver 900 bags of groceries to all residents of Rankin Inlet, with the help of the hamlet and the fire marshal.

After Christmas, when Inuit have less money, the hamlet, with the help of NTI and the Government of Nunavut, \$575 was given to each household. This had many benefits. Kivalliq Inuit Association provided \$1,500 to purchase food. Thank your efforts.

In Chesterfield Inlet, the Catholic community was able to put food in boxes along with the mayor and council, on a volunteer basis, and distributed it to everyone. This had many benefits as well.

Lastly, the Rankin Inlet Hamlet Council, with the help of Ikurraq Deacon’s Cupboard, delivered caribou, Baffin Island fish, and seafood. They also delivered chicken. This provided a lot of help to the families in Rankin Inlet and the whole community. I recognize, thank and acknowledge them for their leadership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We appreciate those who help our fellow Inuit. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Member's Statement 859 – 5(2): Update on COVID-19 in Arviat

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues. This morning I wish to make a statement on COVID-19.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I sit here in Arviat this morning, I believe the latest case count for COVID-19 is now sitting at two. I do hope that that trend continues in terms of the downward slope in case count.

We look at the events of the past months since November, Arviat has seen 339 cases of COVID-19. Thankfully most of those cases have recovered, but I think we all know that not everyone recovered. It is important for us to look at the unfortunate and extraordinary events of the last months to understand what happened, to understand where the government succeeded in its response, and where the government did not succeed in its response.

Mr. Speaker, if you take these questions and you pose them to people on the streets here in town, you will hear all kinds of different responses. Some people say housing is the root issue here. Other ones point to the isolation hubs. Other people have strong opinions on health care and existing inequalities. Other people will bring up conspiracy theories and rumours, which I think is something we all recognize is not helpful.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I urge this appraisal to identify other issues and that is what I wish to make my statement on this morning. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I do believe it is important for the government to have a formal evaluation of the response to date in terms of the COVID-19 outbreak here in Arviat.

I do realize that I have gone over my time; I am almost concluded my statement. I would like to request unanimous consent to continue. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, it's important, I believe, for there to be a formal evaluation of the government response to date in terms of the COVID-19 outbreak here in Arviat and also, perhaps, the other COVID-19 outbreaks that have occurred in Nunavut in Whale Cove, in Rankin Inlet, and in Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, it's important to understand what circumstances, what systematic issues, and what were the main elements of the government response and what were the lessons learned to date from the response to date. My hope is that such a formal evaluation would be of use and it would strengthen future efforts to tackle public health matters, perhaps, such as tuberculosis, which we know as a public health issue that has plagued Nunavut for far too long, Mr. Speaker.

I have my own opinions on how things have gone, but at the end of the day those are just my opinions and I'm sure that my colleagues also have opinions, as do the cabinet side, I'm sure, but what I'm talking about is not a witch hunt and not necessarily a process to try to track down individuals who spread COVID-19; far from it.

What I am suggesting would be a systematic analysis of where the gaps were, where the long-standing issues were, and where things went right and where things went wrong. It is important to take these lessons when they are in front of us and to take them so that we can become stronger in the future and respond better for Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) I will have questions at a later date to the Premier on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Member's Statement 860 – 5(2): Kivalliq Inuit Association

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I send my regards to the residents of my community and the residents of Naujaat. We will be heading home on Friday.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a statement concerning the upcoming elections being held by the Kivalliq Inuit Association on April 12, 2020.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to begin by congratulating Hamish Tatty and Guy Enuapik on their acclamations for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove representatives, and extend my best wishes to Helena Malliki, Steve Mapsalak, and John Ell Tinashlu. (interpretation) I am proud of them for putting their names forward to represent their communities.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) the number of candidates for the (interpretation ends) Kivalliq Inuit Association (interpretation) vice-presidency has been steadily increasing, so I am also proud of them.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as our region gets ready to participate in this election, it is very important to reflect on its importance. The official mission of the association "...is to represent, in a fair and democratic manner, Inuit of the Kivalliq Region in the development, protection, administration and advancement of their rights and benefits as an aboriginal people; as well as to promote their economic, social, political and cultural

well-being through succeeding generations.” (interpretation) We are very proud of the Kivalliq Inuit Association.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to communicate directly with the president of the association in respect to its COVID-19 mitigation and response initiatives. In my correspondence to the president, I expressed my appreciation for the association’s work and encouraged it to support fully to the Kivalliq people and impacted communities on its expenditures and activities.

Mr. Speaker, as we move forward, I am hopeful that we will see more transparency and more accountability from our Inuit association to its beneficiaries. We need to see more openness, in respect to the agreements that it enters into with such entities as airlines and natural... .

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you for your approval.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we need to see more openness, in respect to the agreements that it enters into with such entities as airlines and the natural resource sector extraction companies.

We have not heard much reporting in terms of the Inuit impact benefit agreement from our organization and it is time to open the books to the people, Mr. Speaker.

We need to see more responsiveness in respect to the expectations of our residents in such areas as greater support for Arctic College students who attend and graduate from post-secondary programs.

We need to see more accountability in respect to the salaries and benefits paid to the association’s leadership, and I remind everyone that every penny paid to the members of this House are fully disclosed to the public on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, the voter turnout for Nunavut Tunngavik’s recent election was very low and it was quite disappointing; 12 percent, I believe the turnout was.

I want to conclude by expressing my support for measures to help ensure that the election is held safely, and I encourage all eligible Kivallirmiut to make their voices heard. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Member's Statement 861 – 5(2): Appreciation of Constituents

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker, people of Amittuq, and the people of Nunavut.

I rise this morning to voice my appreciation to my constituency of Amittuq, and to every constituent there. The reason for voicing my gratitude is because since I stepped into this House I have advocated for *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat*. Services required by our elders are amongst the things I advocate for.

Further, this includes our precious youth, and even the regular people in Nunavut. The reason why I feel so appreciative is due to their vast patience. Even when they try to request more assistance, and when I try to voice their positions here, it seems I am being ignored, but I still voice concerns of my constituents. I am shaking literally.

As to what other actions I should take is something I deliberate upon, and I think of ways to better represent my constituents. How can I make their voices heard? When I first started making statements, I would get flustered; start sweating and shaking as I spoke. Nonetheless, I was trying to fight hard for my constituents as per my campaign promises.

I do stand on your behalf, and my gratitude, although it seems my statements just bounce off, extends to each and every one of you. Sometimes, I too feel inadequate, and sometimes give up momentarily. However, my mother and elders' sage advice always pops into my mind.

The advice was that if I tried to take lessons from the hardships I endured, then it will form a foundation to become resilient and that is what you now hold. As an MLA, you are the subject of much discussion, as well as others slandering you, belittling you and even with all of these distractions; I always keep trying to move forward.

For your forbearance and patience over these last three years, I am truly appreciative of these three years, and I wanted to voice my gratitude by rising today. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 862 – 5(2): Weekend Visit to Grise Fiord

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently returned from a constituency visit to Grise Fiord around the end of last month where I held a constituency meeting with the hamlet council.

The council was entirely composed of women, and they had very ambitious ideas resulting in their proposals which were quite monumental, and I wanted to express my thanks to them. I was able to meet with them as their MLA, as I represent three smaller communities, and sometimes we feel like an afterthought to the government, as not much action seems to be taken.

There seem to be no projects either in the smaller communities. I stated that since I am also a member of the Executive Council because of their votes for me, I was able to become a minister and expressed my sincere gratitude to them, and I am also thankful to all the constituents who voted me in.

However, though I took pride in the community, they are in a stressful situation, which I could feel because of some issues with their community water tank. The floor was starting to buckle or weaken, so they were only able to fill it halfway this year, but it looks like that water will not last until the summer season to refill the tank and they stated that.

They were appreciative of the Department of Community and Government Services' initiative to send water by freight plane, and these water bottles will start to be delivered this week. They are concerned about this current water shortage, however, they continue to try and maintain operations.

I am both proud of the community and their gratitude that they wanted me to voice, and they were thankful for receiving assistance from the government, but they still need more assistance. I think all constituencies all want more assistance when they face challenging issues, but when you represent smaller communities, some of the facilities we would also like are not as prevalent as our funds are limited.

Nonetheless, they are working quite diligently, these communities we represent, so I wanted to voice my appreciation to them publicly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Member's Statement 863 – 5(2): Appreciation of Winter Sitting

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I rise to voice my gratitude. Firstly, to my fellow residents of Netsilik, I say "good morning."

Mr. Speaker, the reason for my gratitude is because within this House many levels are working together figuratively and literally. The highest level here is where the people are working really hard, and I think they are indefatigable as they never seem tired, and I am very grateful to them.

The middle level is also part of this House, and we can see them across from us working untiringly both for their communities as well as their families. They also work hard on our behalf obviously. Whenever we voice our constituency needs and ask for assistance to deal with emergencies or whatnot, we work hand-in-hand, and they too fight hard to provide assistance.

Additionally here, at the lowest level includes our own assistants, our pages and others who service our needs while we are meeting, and sometimes when we request information, it is researched and provided to clarify the issue. Without their assistance, our voices would fall flat on the ground.

Although this is a short commentary, Mr. Speaker, I want to share this happiness with my colleagues for the kind of collaborative work that happens here, and I urge you all to work cooperatively in the future and arrive at a consensus. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Member's Statement 864 – 5(2): Appreciation of Winter Sitting

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I didn't wink in the last week. (interpretation) I was even asked where I went. (interpretation ends) Rob and rest of the management and directors of family services, this one is for you.

Uqaqtitsijii, last week I had the world around my neck; today I have to showcase. Unfortunately my husband doesn't remember where he got it from, but there are, I think, 27 traditional tools sitting in here, so I would love for you gentlemen to help me figure out which ones are the tools.

I stand today because, unfortunately, I wasn't here last sitting and I really want to thank Iqalummiut, Nunavummiut, and especially everyone here. Three weeks have come by so fast for me this sitting because it was so good to be here. (interpretation) Since my name is Sheutiapik, (interpretation ends) I listen to every question and in between sittings, I'll be saying, "Remember that question from...?" (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Have safe travels.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Member's Statement 865 – 5(2): COVID-19 Vaccinations in Pangnirtung

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. Today I rise to announce that in Pangnirtung, residents will be able to receive the first dosage of the COVID-19 vaccination. The details were all planned out between the hamlet and the Department of Health officials which resulted in the community hall being opened.

They started this morning, and I was informed earlier that many residents were queuing up for the vaccinations. I believe we are all aware of the seriousness of the situation in Nunavut, as it is constantly bombarded on the air, and many questions and statements have been made practically every day of this session.

Questions continue to pop up, especially on schedules or in offering potential solutions for scheduling as it has been the sole issue being prioritized so that we can deal with this pandemic and discussions in this House have revolved around it daily during our session.

I really appreciate Pangnirtung residents today who are going out to get vaccinated, along with all of the parties involved in the planning. We want to see it move forward successfully, and to have it go off without any hitches during today's vaccinations. I encourage everyone, as the vaccination team visits your community, to at least go get vaccinated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 866 – 5(2): COVID-19 Vaccinations in Constituency

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Kimmirut and Kinngait.

Mr. Speaker, I too wish to make a statement on the scheduled vaccinations specific to South Baffin.

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this month, residents of Kinngait were able to receive a vaccination shot, and then Kimmirut residents were vaccinated next. As well, I too appreciate the dedication of our vaccination teams and the residents who went for their shots.

Mr. Speaker, the second round of vaccinations will be available shortly with the COVID-19 Moderna vaccine. They will start in Kimmirut on March 29, where the Qaqqalik School will be the venue, and starting from 9am up to 8pm. There is a phone number to call, which is 939-2217.

In Kinngait, they will also have the second vaccination round, which will commence on April 1 to 3, so the entire three days will occupy the recreation facility and it too will start at 9am and run until 8pm, and they also have a phone number you can call: 897-8820.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hamlet and the community for supporting this as it goes forward and the Department of Health team. I encourage everybody in the South Baffin to make sure you get your second vaccination, and my time to get a shot is coming up at the end of this week.

This will be my first vaccination. I encourage everybody in the South Baffin to get vaccinated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) Minister of Education, Mr. Joanasie.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 1217 – 5(2): Policy on School Closures during Community Funerals

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question asked by the Member for Tununig on March 5, 2021 regarding school closure policies for community funerals.

Mr. Speaker, my initial response stated that the school calendar year consists of 165 days. However, it is actually 195 instructional days in the year. District education authorities have the discretion over determining whether to close the schools for students for reasons such as a funeral or weather conditions in a community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 1257 – 5(2): Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier and they concern the issue of the *Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol* between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my member's statement today, I believe that Nunavut's infrastructure gap and housing crisis require urgent action, which is why I spoke in

support of taking a fresh look at what tangible and substantive resources can be contributed by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the regional Inuit organizations.

From the Premier's perspective, can he tell the House today if these organizations are currently contributing sufficient resources to address Nunavut's infrastructure and housing crisis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on many fronts. In terms of infrastructure, right now we're working on one major project. Well, we're working on several, but one major project that is getting good headway is the addiction and trauma treatment centre for Nunavummiut that is going to be built here in Iqaluit. We have signed an agreement to fund between Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the federal government, and our government.

Mr. Speaker, as for if the Inuit orgs are contributing to infrastructure, just a few years ago the Qikiqtani Inuit Association signed an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for the marine protected areas in the High Arctic and they will be building infrastructure from the funding that the federal government gives them on their benefit agreement in the affected communities. Any funding that we are requesting from the government, if we feel that it will benefit Nunavummiut and will further cause our ask to be enhanced, we ask for help and we work with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and with the Inuit orgs.

Mr. Speaker, another project that we are working with or that we support is the Kivalliq hydro-fibre project that the Kivalliq Inuit Association is working on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier, for your response. You mentioned a couple of projects you guys have been working on with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. I'm wondering if there are any other projects on the horizon that there's a partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated that you can elaborate on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One that was signed recently but not infrastructure was the pathfinder agreement that Culture and Heritage, I believe it's Culture and Heritage, signed between the three parties for funding agreements for getting more Inuktitut language instructors and specialists.

Mr. Speaker, the projects that we work with the Inuit orgs are not always NTI, as most of the projects are with the regional Inuit organizations, and if I can just read them off here,

Mr. Speaker: the Grays Bay port and road is we are working with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association; the Kivalliq hydro-fibre, where that's with the Kivalliq Inuit Association; Qikiqtarjuaq port proposal; the sealift improvements under the Oceans Protection Plan; and the harbour projects with the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area for Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier, for the response. My personal preference as the top priority is the Kivalliq hydro project that would be for Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my member's statement today, I also believe that we should be prepared to reopen certain sections of the *Nunavut Agreement* if that is what is required to effectively protect our Kivalliq caribou herds. Can the Premier update the House on what specific discussions he has had with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated under the *Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol* concerning this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not brought up the sale of caribou meat within Nunavut since the *Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol* was signed, but I did bring it up at the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated board meeting in Cambridge Bay. Mr. Speaker, I was at that board meeting and I was asked about caribou meat sales at that time by one of the board members. My response was and it always has been that as a government, we are bound by the *Nunavut Agreement* and any beneficiary has the right to buy, sell, trade, or barter their legally harvested wildlife. I explained that.

I also said at the board meeting there that if Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated wanted to, they could open up the agreement and my suggestion was that they could control the sales of caribou meat. They could open up the agreement and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated could control the sales of caribou meat within the territory. They could. I made it clear that we have no intentions of doing it and that responsibility should be with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated so that they can manage and control the sales of caribou meat within the beneficiaries of Nunavut.

At that time the response from the board and from the NTI president that currently they are not looking at that. They would rather that we address it through total allowable harvests or non-quota limitations. That was the response I got from them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1258 – 5(2): Transportation Bubbles and Common Travel Areas

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I have been raising questions and concerns since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic about the need to accommodate Sanikiluaq's unique circumstances in respect to travel to and from the community.

During our fall sitting, I spoke about the deep ties that exist between Sanikiluaq and a number of communities in Nunavik. At the time the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation informed me that his department was working with the Department of Health to examine the feasibility of establishing a travel bubble between Nunavik and Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, the warmer months are fast approaching and I know that my constituents will want to have clear information about the travel between the regions, including travel by water. I have received a number of questions from constituents about the timetable for reopening travel.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of establishing a travel bubble or common travel area between Nunavik and Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from Mr. Rumbolt. Mr. Speaker, I have more than daily conversations with our chief public health officer. Recently this was one of the discussions we had was about the possibilities of creating "bubbles" with Sanikiluaq and some of the Northern Quebec communities. Mr. Speaker, the chief public health officer is still looking at those possibilities.

Mr. Speaker, when we're talking about creating "bubbles," there are so many different variables that are at play, including some restrictions and some concerns from the communities both of Sanikiluaq and the "bubbles" that could be created with those communities. It is something that our chief public health officer is still exploring, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister mentioned in his response that they were in talks. That's much appreciated by the community for sure. I wonder if the minister can elaborate a bit on what specific factors and measures, such as the number of active cases of COVID-19, will be used to determine when it's safe to reopen travel between the regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The obvious ones are there, that they would probably be like no cases in our territory and/or none in the community that wants to create a “bubble.” There are also concerns about cases in Northern Quebec, if there are any. You also have to consider if the communities that we would like to create a “bubble” with actually want a “bubble” created or not. All those come into factor, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister stated, he has been in daily talks with the medical professionals and it is my understanding that there have not been any COVID cases in Northern Quebec in the communities that Sanikiluaq communicates with. There haven't been any cases of COVID for several weeks now. I'm just wondering if the minister can provide a more definite timeline for establishing a travel bubble between the two regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is one of those questions where you wish you could give a definite answer, but as definite as I could get is definitely maybe sooner than later. I don't have a definite timeline, Mr. Speaker. I'll continue to have conversations with our chief public health officer and I know that gentleman is very hard working and he is in contact with the chief public health officer from the other province and they are working on those. I hope that we will be able to work out a “bubble” with those communities sooner rather than later. That's as close as I can get, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Question 1259 – 5(2): Mental Health Facility for Gjoa Haven

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. I do apologize to the minister that while I'm asking questions, I do not face you. According to the cameraman, I have to look at the camera over here.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, as the minister and my colleagues will all be aware, I will not rest until I have exhausted every option to address the mental health needs in the community of Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clearly explain what steps need to be taken to establish a mental health facility in the community of Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>>*Laughter*

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. (interpretation) The issue of mental health and problems associated with it are very important in Nunavut and I am pleased that the Member for Gjoa Haven is constantly raising it here or outside of this House and it is great that he is working diligently here.

Mr. Speaker, the mental health facilities and other health facilities are usually included where a mental health facility may have best benefits to Nunavummiut. If a facility were to be established there, what benefits will there be? We have to include other areas when we consider such facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been brought to my attention that the perfect facility for a mental health building is available for purchase in the community of Gjoa Haven. It has six established offices, a board room, a reception area, two washrooms, a small kitchen and two separate entrances.

Mr. Speaker, despite our government's general policies of not providing capital funding for such projects as shelters or transition housing, I do note that this policy has been overlooked for such projects as the Cambridge Bay women's shelter or mental health facility in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us whether he would be prepared to consider providing funding so that Gjoa Haven can have a dedicated place to deliver much-needed mental health services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's great to see that we have that available in Gjoa Haven. We like these to be created and I would like to look into it. We just cannot rubber stamp such requests. We would be willing to come and see what Gjoa Haven is requesting. Thank you.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You are welcomed to come to the community of Gjoa Haven and see what we have.

Mr. Speaker, this Assembly's last capital plan will be brought forward in the fall. It would give the people of Gjoa Haven so much hope to see that their need for a mental health facility in the community was being included in that plan.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to considering Gjoa Haven's need for a mental health facility and including this project in his department's upcoming capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would love an opportunity to go to Gjoa Haven and do a community visit there. We will definitely have to talk about that and see if we can't have a visit in your community.

In terms of a commitment for the fall, I committed to my colleague in the previous question that the infrastructure he spoke about and the need for the community is something that our department could look at and we will see what happens from that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1260 – 5(2): COVID-19 Response Evaluation

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have previously asked questions to the Premier on forward-looking planning in terms of the COVID-19 response and those were my questions around the need for a recovery plan or consideration of a recovery plan for Arviat. Today I wanted to ask about looking in the other direction, looking at the events of the past months and evaluating the government's response to date in order to learn and to become stronger.

My first question for the Premier is: what work is currently being done to evaluate the government's response to COVID-19 and who is conducting that work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever there are COVID cases in a community, an outbreak, the first priority is to stop transmission, it is to stop the spread of COVID-19 within that community, and try to treat anyone if treatment is needed for it.

Mr. Speaker, once that is done, once the disease is out of a community, an evaluation is done. The chief public health officer and the health department work on that and they see what worked, what not have worked, what could they have done better, what more could they have done, and there's a debriefing and evaluation done on every community.

Mr. Speaker, right now, to the best of my knowledge, we're not working on a Nunavut-wide based evaluation, but I can assure the member that it is done to every community after the outbreak and after the community is deemed COVID-free. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Ma'na*, Premier. It's good to hear that there is an evaluation. I think that what I would hope to see in the case of this most recent outbreak in Arviat, which is by far the largest and the longest lasting outbreak, would be something a bit customized, recognizing the magnitude of what has happened here over the past months and recognizing the impacts that it has had on the community and on people.

For Arviat for the current outbreak, has cabinet given consideration to conducting a formal evaluation of the government's response to this Arviat outbreak? I'm not just asking about the health department; the whole of government, which I believe is the term that comes up often. Has the cabinet given consideration to conducting a formal evaluation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Cabinet has not given a formal direction in that way, but the government is always working with communities. As for Arviat there, the government departments have been working diligently and on a regular basis with the Hamlet of Arviat. They have been more than helpful to us. There are regular teleconferences with them. The Department of Community and Government Services works with them, the Department of Health works with them, the Department of Justice works with them, and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation works with them.

Mr. Speaker, we are here to work with the communities. In Arviat's case, the member is correct, that's the biggest and longest outbreak and I want to commend Arviarmiut for doing their part and their share. I know it has been long, it has been hard, and I applaud Arviarmiut. Like the member said this morning, there are two cases left, two. That is a really good, low number. In the beginning two was a scary number; now today that is a

very good number. I sure hope that we can see a whole bunch of zeroes and get COVID out of Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, evaluation is done over any incident that happens to any community, and in Arviat we will be looking at that and we will be working with the hamlet and having meetings with them, each department, and say what worked really well, what could we have done better. Any incident in Nunavut, whether it be COVID or any natural disaster, once we have dealt with the issue, whether it's a natural disaster or COVID in Arviat, an evaluation is done so that we can improve. It's not to lay blame. It's so that okay, if this happens again, what can we do better next time? What really worked well and what didn't work well? That is ongoing to any major issues that we have here in Nunavut. 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) *Ma'na*, Premier. I do agree that the response has been...we really do appreciate the elements of the response.

In terms of learning from the experiences, the Premier just described an evaluation that sounds like it may be in the works, hopefully, and the outbreak, of course. Can the Premier please clarify whether he will consider conducting a formal evaluation that is open to the public and also open to regular MLAs such as myself so that we can, as a whole, learn from this experience and hopefully strengthen response to future outbreaks, maybe strengthen our response to things like tuberculosis?

Can the Premier commit to conducting an evaluation that goes beyond the normal government operations evaluation, internal work, in recognition of the unfortunate and extraordinary events of the past few months? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't commit to such a large scale, that's almost like a public inquiry type of thing.

Mr. Speaker, every time there are incidents, I'll go back to the very first time where we thought we had a case in Pond Inlet (Mittimatalik) where there was a false positive. We learned from that and when we did actually have a case in Nunavut, we took what we learned from that incident and used it when we had an outbreak in Sanikiluaq, when we had our first cases there.

Mr. Speaker, we will be looking at this as a whole, like is there more that we could have done in Arviat, what worked and what didn't work, and the hamlet has been doing so much there for Arviarmiut. The regional Inuit organizations have done a lot for

Arviarmiut. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated has done a lot for Arviarmiut. It's not just the government; we have done a lot. Is there more we could have done? Is there more we should have done?

Once Arviat is COVID-free, all the players that were working in Arviat will look at it and there will be an evaluation done, which is the normal process of any incident and we will look at that and see how, if there's another outbreak, which I sure hope there will be not another outbreak to this scale in Nunavut... I would like it if there were no more COVID-19 in Nunavut again, and to help us on, anyone listening, make your appointment and get your vaccine. That's our best defence against COVID-19. Get vaccinated. It's there in the communities. If your community has not had the vaccine yet, make an appointment. If your community has, they always leave some behind for people who want to get vaccinated. Please help us get rid of COVID and get vaccinated.

As for going back to the evaluation, we will be looking at what worked well and what could have been done better in Arviat as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towntongie.

Question 1261 – 5(2): Caribou Management

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the residents of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment and they concern the issue of protecting the health of our Kivalliq caribou herds.

I believe, as my colleague from Baker Lake, that caribou in the Kivalliq are in a crisis. A lot of it is due to overhunting and Internet sales.

Mr. Speaker, information published earlier this month by the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board indicates that the organization has been working on a Kivalliq harvest reporting project.

Can the minister describe the extent to which his department has been cooperating with the board in this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We partially fund the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board and it is their project. I am not aware of exactly if we're involved in it, but if we are asked for any assistance, then we will gladly comply. In terms of if we're doing any actual on-the-ground work with them on that

project, I can't say for certain that we are, but we support such projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot of us in the Keewatin have seen with our own eyes some caribou meat in the garbage dump and some on the land, and there are pictures that are taken of wastage of caribou meat. It is quite shocking.

Can the minister describe what specific actions his department is taking to work with our region's hunters and trappers organizations? It's mainly because wastage of caribou meat or killing caribou in the NWT is very quickly covered by media, but when it occurs in the Keewatin, there is hardly any media coverage. Can the minister work with the hunters and trappers organizations to increase media and public awareness of the importance of reducing meat wastage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work with our hunters and trappers organizations. Nobody wants to see caribou meat wastage and it's against the law. I have stated in this House many times that if anyone sees any caribou meat being wasted, they can report it to the conservation officer and the conservation officer will investigate the event or the incident. It's *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*. It's simple. They didn't waste meat. They only harvested what they need and they used what they harvested.

At times caribou meat wastage is a problem. We've had pamphlets before and we've had campaigns just to make people more aware that it's against the law. I'm sure that most Nunavummiut know that caribou meat wastage is against the law. I know that most Nunavummiut don't purposely waste caribou meat; there are some bad apples in there. We will work with the hunters and trappers organizations to get our campaign out more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is just some unprofessional hunters; not all. In seeing caribou wasted at the garbage, the law is often not applied. Even if we report to the renewable resource officers, it is not applied.

It is very difficult to track down who has done it even if pictures have been taken, but in saying that, information published by the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board indicates, and it is right here, that "An issue of concern is the potential impact on the herds and their habitat of the proposed Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link project."

Can the minister indicate how his department is working with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and the Kivalliq Inuit Association to address this concern? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to go back a bit to the caribou meat wastage first, when caribou meat wastage or any kind of meat wastage incident is reported to the conservation officer, the conservation officer will investigate it, and the member is right, a lot times it is hard to prove who wasted the meat. If you can't prove it, that's about where it ends unless someone is willing to say "I saw this person do that." It is investigated and if you can't pinpoint it on someone, then it just stays open or it gets closed.

Going to her question there about the Kivalliq hydro-fibre project; that is an initiative that the Kivalliq Inuit Association, it's their project, and they are the main "spear-headers" of this project. If this project gets approved, it will be a part of the NIRB process in order for us to get project approval, so I think we are getting ahead of ourselves. Once the project is approved, then a project proposal would be submitted to the NIRB process.

I'm sure there would be the same type of process for the Manitoba portion of it, so we will wait and hear about the project before we jump to conclusions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 1262 – 5(2): Katujjiqatigiinniq Project

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to everybody.

My questions are for the Premier and they concern the issue of *Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol* between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik.

Mr. Speaker, I noted with interest that NTI has recently issued a request for proposals for external consultants to write the organization's next annual report on the state of Inuit culture and society; a document that is required to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly under Article 32 of *Nunavut Agreement*.

As the Premier is aware, one of the provisions contained in the *Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol* between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik is the requirement to develop a formal Article 32 policy and a formal information sharing agreement between the two parties. Can the Premier indicate when these two items will be finalized and tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Both of the items that the member is questioning have been signed by myself and Aluki Kotierk, the NTI president, so the information agreement and the Article 32 policy are both signed-off, and tabling is not a requirement, but I can look into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Premier's willingness to look into that. I think it would be very beneficial for all of us to see.

The *Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol* between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik indicates that two parties will "Identify, plan and support our shared goals in the development of social and cultural policies, programs, and services and their delivery as agreed to by both parties."

Mr. Speaker, as the Premier is aware, discussions are currently ongoing between the federal government, the territorial government and NTI about what federal programs can be transferred as a part of devolution negotiations. I believe that we should be open to transferring responsibility and resources to NTI so that it can be directly accountable for the development and delivery of programs in the areas of language and culture, that are currently being delivered by the GN.

Can the Premier indicate if this topic has been addressed in the context of the *Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is a part of the devolution negotiation team. It is a tri-party agreement between the federal government, our government, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

They are a part of the devolution talks and any agreement we come to they will be a signatory to it too. Through legislation right now, the Government of Nunavut is a service provider for the services that are currently being offered right now.

We are open to discussions with them and we have discussions with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on how we can work better together on many fronts. In terms of the exact transferring certain service providers, we have not gone down that path yet. 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 appreciate his response. It leads me right into my last question.

Mr. Speaker, ideas like the one that I have suggested may be considered as aspirational, but I believe that we should be more open to thinking outside of the box and be willing to look at making changes, including legislative changes if necessary.

Mr. Speaker, NTI's board of directors is holding its next meeting later this week in Baker Lake and I anticipate that representatives from the cabinet will be invited to attend some of these proceedings. Will the Premier commit to having the issue brought up with the board of directors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct, Nunavut Tunngavik is holding a board meeting in Baker Lake and all of cabinet will be there to attend.

We are having a meeting between Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and cabinet on Thursday morning, so I look forward to that meeting. I know that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated did do a study on self-government. I have not seen the final report of that study they had done. If the board members there bring it up, then we will discuss it, but currently I don't see a need to bring that up right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1263 – 5(2): Airport Infrastructure

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was starting to fall asleep back there.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. I want to revisit the issue of the new airport terminal buildings that the department is planning to construct in a number of Nunavut communities, including Naujaat.

As the minister will recall, he wrote a letter to me last September in which he indicated that "A decision will be made to procure and complete the design for all five smaller terminal buildings together. Firm timelines for construction will not be available until the design is complete and for the five smaller facilities a design should be complete in early 2021."

Can the minister confirm if the design for the new Naujaat airport terminal building has been finalized and will he commit to providing a copy of the design to the community's

municipal council and the office its Member of the Legislative Assembly?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the design should be ready by now because the next step is to do the tender. We are planning on doing the tender for all five communities for this spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I don't think the members actually ever fall asleep here.

>>*Laughter*

Your first supplementary question, Mr. Patterk Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) We don't fall asleep; I was just joking.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Last week the minister indicated in the House that his department plans to issue one tender for the construction of five new airport terminal buildings in five different communities. Can he clarify if this means that one contract to construct all five airport terminal buildings will be awarded to a single entity? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can't confirm if it is going to be one entity or not. The tender is designed in hopes that we can find cost savings, and if it is for all five.

With these five, four of them will have very similar designs; the fifth one being Kimmirut, which would be a smaller building, so it will be different. For the four, they would be a very similar design, so this is one way. What we are trying to do is figure out how to keep our costs down as a government in trying to determine whether one contractor can do it or not. I would have to go and refer back to the specifics of the tender, which hasn't gone out yet, to determine whether we are actually looking for one or for multiple. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Normally when tenders are issued in various different communities, in this case they would have five separate tenders. He seems to be indicating that it will be one tender for all five communities, which could lead to a serious problem.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify if his department plans to construct the construction of five new airport terminal buildings to occur simultaneously? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This funding is in partnership with the federal National Transportation Corridor Fund. Through the 75 percent-25 percent arrangement, we are hoping that all of these will be covered through that, and it is one that through the tenders coming up for the five, in terms of part of that tendering, as part of it, will come the scheduling, which would be part of the construction side in terms of how long this would take.

Whether that's going to be five immediate or that, we are leaving that with that the companies in hopes that we can come up with creative ways of getting our projects into our communities and getting them built in a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Question 1264 – 5(2): Niqihaqut Project

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I recently made a statement regarding the Arctic Inspiration Prize and Taloyoak's winning submission called the Niqihaqut project.

Mr. Speaker, this project includes a sustainable and monitored harvest, as well as a cut-and-wrap facility to collect, prepare and distribute country food to the community.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Harvesting Transfer Fund under the department's Country Food Distribution program supports initiatives to improve the local harvesting economy and increase access to affordable country food.

Can the minister confirm if the Niqihaqut project is eligible for support under this program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for questioning me on this. The Nunavut Country Food Distribution Program is available for the hunters and trappers and for any harvesters.

From what I understand, this project is specifically with the hunters and trappers organization, and a lot of our country food programs are being done through the hunters and trappers organizations. So I'm looking forward to having our department work closely with Taloyoak hunters and trappers in getting this country food program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the very good response. (interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, his 2020-21 letter of expectation encouraged the corporation to seek new investments with an emphasis on local harvesting.

Can the minister commit to having the Nunavut Development Corporation review a potential partnership with the Niqihagut project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If that conversation has not started yet, yes, I would be committed to doing that. The Nunavut Development Corporation is always looking for partners in terms of trying to get our economy growing and based on what we read about the project, those are the very things that I think will give our Nunavut economy a boost. 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 his response and his thought of the community.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Niqihagut project also involves the development of a management plan for a proposed 90,000 km² Aviqtuuq Inuit Protected and Conserved Area. (interpretation) Aviqtuuq is a beautiful area and has an abundance of wildlife. (interpretation end) The purpose of this initiative is to "...protect the region for future generations but allow Inuit to remain in control of their traditional territory while creating economic opportunities." Can the minister indicate how his department can support this initiative? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do apologize to the member, but this is one that I can't support at this time. As you might know, our government sent a very strong message to our federal partners saying that we need to ensure that there are no new conservation or marine protected areas until we have completed our devolution agreement.

With more conservation areas coming, all the new ones, that sort of impedes on what our devolution agreement is. We need to have our own control of our lands and waters, and through federal initiatives like this where more conservation areas are being brought in, that gives us less opportunities as cabinet here and in the House in giving us our determinations for the future on what we want to do with our lands and waters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1265 – 5(2): Foster Parents in Nunavut

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning everybody, and to the people of Kugluktuk, I understand there is a storm this morning, so stay safe out there.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this sitting, the minister rose in her place to appeal to Nunavummiut to become foster parents. Although we all wish it were not the case, we do need these individuals and families to provide safe homes for vulnerable children. I do understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many of the government's campaigns.

Can the minister provide an update on what actions and activities her department has undertaken over this past pandemic year to recruit more Nunavummiut to become foster parents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that very good question.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, because of COVID, they have been going on the radio and recruiting. Normally in each community they do different activities. They may actually be at NorthMart, going house to house and having open houses. My hope also is, recently, our foster parents per diem went up as well, so hopefully after COVID-19 that will entice families to become foster parents. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. I am happy to hear that the per diem has gone up and I hope that it results in many more homes for these children.

I have been given to understand that occasionally social workers are sleeping in their offices with affected children because they have literally nowhere else to go. If this is the case, this situation is highly unacceptable and needs to change as soon as possible.

Can the minister clarify whether these types of situations are indeed happening and if so, how often do they occur and in which communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any social worker spending an all-nighter in the work place, but I am aware of sometimes, depending on when a call comes in, they may have to be at the office either to get supplies if it is an infant, or waiting on arrangements for care for the evening, or the next few days to follow. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I commend our social workers for the work they do, which can be very demanding and very stressful. I would also like to express my appreciation to the foster parents who open up their homes, and their hearts to children who need a safe and secure place to go.

Will the minister commit to working with social workers, foster parents and communities to find more ways to provide safe and comfortable places for children and youth to stay when they cannot be in their own homes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am very committed. Thanks to the support of this House, in the last two budgets there have been increases to our department, and hopefully in the years to come we will continue. My hope is that we have more than one social worker in each community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member Adam Lightstone. I apologize. (interpretation ends) Mr. Lightstone, Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak.

Question 1266 – 5(2): Staff Housing

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As the minister will recall, I have asked a number of questions concerning the issue of the corporation's policies and practices in the area of staff housing. When I first raised the issue with the minister in October 2019, I pointed out the inequitable situation between the number of Inuit employees living in subsidized staff housing and the number of non-Inuit employees living in subsidized staff housing.

Mr. Speaker, at that time, the ratio was 85 percent of non-Inuit in staff housing compared to 30 percent of Inuit employed in staff housing. The situation has not improved. The information that was provided by the corporation in response to my most recent written question on the issue indicates that now, almost every one of the corporation's non-Inuit employees live in subsidized staff housing. That is 89 out 90, Mr. Speaker.

Meanwhile, the corporation's Inuit employees remain constant at 30 percent. I would like to ask: does the minister agree that this inequitable situation needs to be addressed? Yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good afternoon to everyone watching and to my colleagues in this House.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation is an electrical utility commission. The number of positions that require professional accreditation; for example, our engineers require professional engineer designation, many of our operation employees require Red Seal certificates, and most of the positions are filled by non-Inuit.

I'm sure everyone in this room agrees that hopefully in the future we will have more Inuit holding the engineer certificates or their Red Seal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response.

Mr. Speaker, in response to my written questions, the Qulliq Energy Corporation pays roughly \$6 million a year for its staff housing program, with an average subsidy of nearly \$2,000 per unit per month. This includes utilities, such as water, sewer, garbage, and electricity. Mr. Speaker, the cost of the Staff Housing Program is passed on to the ratepayers.

Mr. Speaker, I have been consistently pointing out the need for the government to encourage more of its employees, especially higher income employees, such as electrical engineers or those with Red Seal designations, to become homeowners. Doing so will help make it easier for the government to make staff housing available for lower income employees and those in entry-level positions, a significant number of which are filled by Inuit.

I would like to ask: what is the Qulliq Energy Corporation doing to encourage the highest paid employees to become homeowners? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The member is correct; we do provide a subsidy of almost \$2,000, but when it comes to employees in staff housing, the Qulliq Energy Corporation pays for the municipal services, but the Qulliq Energy Corporation employees also pay a flat rate for their fuel. The power itself is paid by the employees themselves and anything over and above the flat rate for the fuel is paid by the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

We are working diligently with the Qulliq Energy Corporation staff to ensure that we always encourage employees in our staff housing to get into homeownership. We support homeownership and we will guide them and assist them in becoming homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. That was some interesting information.

As I previously indicated, I highly believe that those who can afford homeownership should be encouraged to get out of subsidized staff housing to make more room for those who actually need it the most.

Mr. Speaker, currently figures show that 100 percent of non-Inuit employees in executive, middle management and professional level positions all received staff housing.

As the minister did indicate that she encourages employees to leave staff housing, I would like to ask the minister to clarify whether or not employees in the Qulliq Energy Corporation will be eligible to participate in the Government of Nunavut's down-payment assistance savings matching program that is being developed by the Department of Human Resources and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm not going to answer for the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, but I don't think the corporation differentiates between a Qulliq Energy employee or a public service employee or a member of the public. If anyone wants to apply or try to build or buy a home, I'm pretty sure the Nunavut Housing Corporation will accept those employees who are Qulliq Energy Corporation employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period has expired. We will proceed. No. 7. Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Budget Address. 10. (interpretation ends) Petitions. (interpretation ends) Responses to Petitions. (interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.

Members, before proceeding further, we will take a break for lunch and report back at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 12:00 and resumed at 13:29

Speaker (interpretation): Good day. Thank you for returning. Let us proceed with to the Orders of the Day. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Workers Safety and Compensation... (interpretation) I apologize. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Hickes.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 370 – 5(2): WSCC 2018 Annual Report

Tabled Document 371 – 5(2): WSCC 2019 Annual Report

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table two reports; The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's 2018 and 2019 annual reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Joanasié.

Tabled Document 372 – 5(2): Nunavut Arctic College 2019-2020 Annual Report

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, and good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report 2019-2020. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeegok.

Tabled Document 373 – 5(2): Country Food Distribution Program 2019-2020 Annual Report

Tabled Document 374 – 5(2): Strategic Investments Program 2015-18 Consolidated Reporting

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to table two reports; The Country Food Distribution Program 2019-2020 Annual Report, and the Strategic Investment Program 2015-2019 Annual Consolidated Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Minister of Education, Mr. Joanasie.

Tabled Document 375 – 5(2): Letter: Chesterfield Inlet DEA Workshop and School Heated Garage

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to table correspondence I wrote to the Chairperson of the Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority regarding the workshop or industrial classroom and school heated garage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Let us proceed. Item 14. Notices of Motions. (interpretation ends) Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 111 – 5(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes this present sitting, it shall be adjourned until May 27, 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. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**Bill 66 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Nunavut Elections – Notice**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, I will move that Bill 66, *An Act to Amend the Certain Acts Respecting Nunavut Elections*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Pedersen.

Bill 67 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act – Notice

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, I will move that Bill 67, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Motions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Rumbolt: 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. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Rumbolt.

Motion 111 – 5(2): Extended Adjournment

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, members.

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until May 27, 2021.

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.

Motions. (interpretation) No. 17. (interpretation ends) First Reading of Bills. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek the consent of this House to waive the notice period so that Bill 66 can be read for the first time.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking consent to allow for the first reading of Bill 66. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is an agreement. Please proceed, Mr. Lightstone.

Bill 66 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Nunavut Elections – First Reading

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 66, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Nunavut Elections*, be read for the first time. 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.

First Reading of Bills. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek the consent of the House to waive the notice period so that Bill 67 can be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking consent to allow for the first reading of Bill 67. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is an agreement. Please proceed, Mr. Pedersen.

**Bill 67 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
– First Reading**

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member of Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 67, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, be read for the first time. 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.

First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) No. 18. (interpretation ends) Second Reading of Bills. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek the consent of this House to waive the notice period so that Bill 66 can be read for the second time.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking consent to allow for the second reading of Bill 66. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is an agreement. Please proceed, Mr. Lightstone.

Bill 66 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Nunavut Elections – Second Reading

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 66, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Nunavut Elections*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

Speaker: To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. As Bill 66 is a House Bill, it is immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek the consent of the House to waive the notice period so that Bill 67 can be read for the second time.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking consent to allow for the second reading of Bill 67. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is an agreement. (interpretation) Please proceed, Mr. Pedersen.

**Bill 67 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
– Second Reading**

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 67, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. As Bill 67 is a House Bill, it is immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Continuing on. No. 19. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66, and 67 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

In accordance to the authority provided to me by Motion 107 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a five-minute break so that we can set up for the committee.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 13:41 and Committee resumed at 13:49*

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66, and 67. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the review of the supplementary Bills 60 and 61, followed by Bill 66 and Bill 67. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 60?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 60 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2020-2021 – Consideration in Committee

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

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to have the witnesses appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, Minister Hicke, if you could please introduce your officials and then continue into your opening comments. Minister Hicke.

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right I have the Minister of...Deputy Minister of Justice. I don't think you want my job, Stephen. ...Deputy Minister of Justice Stephen Mansell and Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance Dan Carlson.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I appear before you today to present Bill 60, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2020-2021*.

Through this bill, the Department of Justice is seeking an additional \$10 million to increase its 2020-21 appropriation to \$137.7 million.

Mr. Chairman and members, this increase is required to cover budget shortfalls in two areas; first the department is projecting a shortfall of \$7 million in its Law Enforcement Branch. This shortfall relates to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's deficit driven by extra duty pay, higher unit costs for detachments, and retroactive pay for regular members.

Second, the department is seeking \$3 million for its Corrections Branch. This shortfall relates primarily to staff overtime and casual salaries the department paid out over the year.

Mr. Chairman and members, I am here today as the Minister of Finance, but please know that as Minister of Justice, I will be working closely with my departmental officials and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to better manage these costs in the year ahead. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. We've just got to pause for a second. Okay, thank you. I would ask members to go to Bill 60, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2*. I would ask you to go to page 4. Department of Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Total Law Enforcement. Are there any questions? Seeing none, Total Law Enforcement. Not Previously Authorized. \$7 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you.

An Hon. Member: Mr. Rumbolt.

Chairman: I hear my name but I don't see where it is coming from. Sorry. Mr. Main. Sorry, Mr. Main, go ahead, please.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Maybe if you could just clarify that vote that just happened. Are we allowed to still ask questions on this? Technical issues. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Yes, Mr. Main, I will allow questions. You can go ahead. Thank you.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My first question is regarding budgeting within the Department of Justice. I went through Justice's business plan. I don't see any mention of changes to the budgeting process or specific mention of these supplementary appropriations which seem to be a bit of an annual event.

Within the Department of Justice, are there any plans within the upcoming fiscal year to improve the budgeting process and, if so, what are they? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, if Mr. Mansell could respond to that question, please.

Chairman: Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The member is correct; the issue with our overages in our budgeting isn't a business plan priority, but it is a departmental priority, where on the law enforcement side we are

working with the RCMP right now to get a better understanding of their needs and ensure that the department and the RCMP are working together to ensure that the detachments in the communities as well as headquarters are properly staffed and budgeted.

As well, on the corrections side, we are working to identify efficiencies with respect to overtime and scheduling. We have the new facility coming online, so that is a bit of an unknown, but we are doing our best to ensure that that is properly budgeted as well. Our hope is that as a department, we will have better business cases in the future, with better substantiation and better projections on our needs, and that is a departmental priority and we are working with our partners to do that. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. Would it be fair to say that within the Department of Justice there is a desire to see these annual supplementary bills be done with or reduced? Would it be fair to say that this is something that the department would like to see? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first response is: absolutely, yes. There are some caveats in there that sometimes it is uncontrollable, such as this year, as an example, just in the Corrections Branch, we had 108 corrections officers that had to go through two weeks of isolation which we still have to backfill those positions. So it is very hard to account for that.

Like Mr. Mansell had mentioned, there is a lot more work going into business cases that may have been put forward in the past for increased support, whether it be through the Royal Canadian Mounted Police contract, or through the Corrections Division, that maybe lacked some of the substantiation needed for a fulsome analysis to support such business cases. So as Mr. Mansell had mentioned, there was a concerted effort to beef up that side of things, as well as to look at right-sizing budgets with more accurate forecasting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I would look forward to the day when we can see a more accurate budget so that we don't have to consider these supplementary requests.

In terms of law enforcement, I'm looking at the overages in the briefing material. There are unit costs, over-time, and then retro-pay. If I add up the amounts in the unit costs, it adds up to about \$9.3 million. Under Law Enforcement, the ask is for \$7 million. I wonder if we could get an explanation of where the other \$2.3 million is going to come from. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like a government operation, if there are surpluses in other areas of business, we reprofile them to cover off any deficits, but to get into some level of detail, through you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mansell would probably be best suited to respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The minister is correct; there were some line items in the RCMP budget that weren't over spent, and so that has made up some of the costs, but the majority of the difference is the federal government will be covering their portion of the deficit as well. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The federal government, covering their portion of the deficit; how does that work? Is that a normal occurrence or is this just something that you were able to secure this year. I believe it is 75-25, or please correct me if I'm wrong.

How does that arrangement come about in terms of getting the federal government to cover? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. Although it is on a 70-30, so the member was very close. That is exactly why we are going through the exercise now. We have had occurrences in past where any deficits that were brought on by the "V" Division weren't supported by the federal government. So again, that is where the budget exercises... I think the increased communication with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and their finance division, with our folks within the Justice department, have been able to come to a lot more of a clarity on what some of their projections and wants are, even just as far as some common language.

I will have to say, and I have said it a couple of times over the last few weeks, that I think there's an unprecedented amount of transparency and accountability with the Department of Justice and with Chief Superintendent Amanda Jones. There has been a great cooperation amongst both parties to help make sure that we have proper budgeting forecasts and some more appropriate business cases to support any future investments as well as my ongoing dialogue with Minister Blair as an example, to bring more recognition.

Again, I have said it before; we're the only jurisdiction in Canada that does not have access to any of the First Nations Inuit policing dollars that are available in every other jurisdiction in Canada. That's an ongoing dialogue that I'm hopeful will lead to some

more support so that we can actually look at approving and authorizing some of the business cases that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police put forward that better support our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I fully support the minister in his endeavours to try and secure some more federal funding. That pot of funding that the minister just mentioned has come up several times over the past number of years and I'm trying not to get far off track, Mr. Chairperson. I do apologize, but I think it is important.

What specifically is stopping Nunavut from accessing that pot of funding? Is it the way that the federal government has set up? Is it due to our geographical location? I would just like to understand why we are not allowed to access that yet? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question that I think the answer would depend upon who you ask it to. Again, I do not want to taint any discussions. I think the way it was set up originally to support mainly First Nations policing on reserve or Aboriginal policing, I don't want to say networks or whatever, but enforcement agencies to be able to better support. I think there's always just been a lack of recognition.

Again, I think my argument is very sound. If you look at jurisdictions across the country we have the highest per capita population of indigenous residents, yet we are excluded from all discussions. I will say that there has been movement in this file where we are included in ongoing discussions were regarding First Nations and Inuit policing.

I think it's a step in the right direction and some of the personal conversations I have had with Minister Blair lead me to be more optimistic going forward. I think it is very important to acknowledge that those decisions need to be made very soon.

We all saw the impact of the Non-Insured Health Benefits funding coming in mid-stream throughout the year and the impact on the inability to be able to budget and forecast unexpected revenues such as the agreements that we were able to accomplish in the current fiscal year leading to Health for probably the first time ever to my knowledge that it's never come forward with a sup. So I do look forward to hopefully next year having the same practice with the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickee. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I think I just have one more last question for law enforcement. I

should say that I really do appreciate some of the things going on within the RCMP, particularly the extra attention to sexual abuse cases investigation as well as recruitment training of Inuit. I think there are great things happening there.

Are there any examples of cost control measures that have been put in place within the RCMP? I don't want to penny-pinch with something as important as policing, but are there any examples of things that have been done to save funds for other purposes? That's my last question on this. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of examples of some low-hanging fruit, as I'll call it, some of the relocation expenses have been curtailed as far as flying in personal effects. In addition to that, one of the steps that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police "V" Division has taken is to extend their lifecycle on vehicles by adding a year or two where available, obviously with the equipment being assessed on its usage.

Those are just a couple of examples, but I can say, again, like I had mentioned during my appearance as Minister of Finance for Bill 59, there has been an extraordinary amount of oversight and communications, including myself, sitting on the financial briefing with "V" division officials and with my departmental officials and going over all the finances on a line-by-line basis.

Again, so that we're speaking the same language and so that we understand the situation that they're in and they understand that some of the agreements of the requests where they put in needing 18 officers, we recognize that, but it's hard to substantiate business cases when we're making do with relief officers, increasing further expenses there, so having more oversight and to be frank, putting a lot more work into the business case model so that we know what our communities need and we can help support the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Again, they do a lot of fantastic things in the communities, but they acknowledge and we all know that they can do more as far as community engagement, not just the law enforcement side, but to engage our youth, to engage different groups and support within all of our communities. Right now they're very hampered with their workload. We want to be able to give a full, not just the law enforcement side of the RCMP, but the community engagement and a lot of the initiatives that they partner with us that they can put more efforts into if they have the capacity to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. We've already had an agreement on the \$7 million, so I will move on to Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Total Corrections for the \$3 million. Are there any questions on that section? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I must have all the questions here in Arviat. If there are any in Iqaluit, I believe they are allowed to ask. It's just a joke.

Looking at corrections, this is also a frequent supplementary bill and something that comes up. The briefing material mentions casual and relief staff within corrections. I wonder if the minister could explain, the Minister of Justice or the Minister of Finance: what's the difference between a casual staff member and a relief staff member? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I kind of bobbled this one a little bit earlier in a line of questioning. It is a little bit different in corrections, so just to add some clarity, if Mr. Mansell could give a more formal response. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) A casual staff is someone on a casual staffing agreement, which is a four-month contract. Those staff would generally have specific hours and shifts at the correctional centre where they come in. Relief staff are on a relief staffing agreement, which is sort of an as-and-when needed agreement, so they would be called in. We rely on relief staff when staff call in sick or when there is no one to cover a shift.

Part of the reason we use quite a lot of relief staff is to try to cut down on overtime, so you're not calling in someone who is on a regular schedule to come in and cover for someone else because that would be overtime. That's the difference. Relief is called in when needed; casuals have a four-month contract that are often renewed and they have a set schedule. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When we look at this overage, which is staff overtime and casual salaries; \$3 million, which facilities specifically was this incurred at? Is this across all of the facilities, is it specific to BCC, Makigiarvik? I'm just interested in which facility. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the exact figures with me, but I would have to say that the large bulk, most if not almost all of the funds that were short on this is at the Baffin Correctional Centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That is where I'm kind of scratching my head because if it is continually running over the budget, I'm not a finance expert obviously, but shouldn't the budget be adjusted upwards so that it would capture the normal amount of overages?

Maybe I'll answer my own question. The minister mentioned 108 staff going through two weeks of isolation. Was this isolation in the territory, or is this people travelling? Maybe if you could explain how COVID affected the budgeting or the budget. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll answer the member's question, and then if the Chair will indulge, I'll go a little bit into his first part.

The way I understand it, when the COVID lockdowns first started occurring, if anyone had any type of a sniffle, they were told to stay home and isolate for two weeks. So this wasn't out of territory. It was people that were scheduled to work. They might have been in contact with somebody or a household member of somebody that was under investigation for COVID symptoms. So they would have been directed to stay home out of the abundance of caution.

With regard to the forecasting, a large chunk of this overtime, as well, comes from critical incidents in the facility, which are very difficult to forecast. We have seen some spikes in recent years of incidents happening at the Baffin Correctional facility, which leads to the need to bring in extra staff, which obviously hits in the overtime. When there is an incident going on, it is very difficult to rely on relief staff for something that can be, in some cases, quite dangerous. We want to make sure that we have appropriate staff in the facility that can address the incident that is ongoing, so that is where the bulk of that comes from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Thank you for answering.

What critical incidents happened? Was it a riot type situation? I'm just trying to understand what the unforeseen critical incidents were that impacted. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the level of detail, through you, if Mr. Mansell could respond, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thankfully in the last fiscal, we didn't have what we would categorize as a riot at the Baffin Correctional Centre.

A critical incident can range from a fight amongst inmates, an assault on a guard, inmates locking themselves into their cell, inmates flooding their cell. There is a whole range of it, but it all requires overtime and more staff to deal with.

In 2020-21, the 2013 incidents that we would consider such that we would probably have to call in other staff for support. Just to add, another thing that causes quite a bit of overtime or unforeseen need for staff is when we have to accommodate other staff, staff who are out sick or requiring accommodation due to the stress of the job. We had 25 of those in the last fiscal as well, so that's another unaccounted for expenditure. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that information. That burnout issue is something that I wanted to ask about because, from my understanding, it's very difficult for retention of the staff and for increasing Inuit employment, that the department give them the most positive work environment possible. I know that there is hope that the new facility will improve things in terms of the burnout rates and what Mr. Mansell just mentioned.

My last question is: what is the trend on the burnout issues? I'm saying burnout, but I mean, work-related trauma, amount of leave that staff have to take to recover, is that sitting at kind of a stable amount or is it increasing? That's my last question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, Mr. Mansell would probably have that information at his fingertips. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

Mr. Mansell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I mentioned, this last fiscal it was 25. In the last few years that has been around the number. It fluctuates a little bit, but that's around the number of our staff that we're accommodating for various reasons. The member is correct that we're hoping the new facility will help with that. It's a state-of-the-art facility and we're hoping that it improves work-life for our staff.

As well, to address the situation, we have also entered into a counselling agreement for our staff. All GN staff have access to counsellors over the phone, but corrections staff in particular have a second level of support that they can get one-on-one counselling at any time, and the folks who provide that have specialized knowledge in helping people in a peace officer role. We have found since we have implemented it that we've had some really good feedback from our staff about those efforts. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon and welcome.

I don't have very many questions. I do want to ask, though, in regard to corrections. It's from the document I have in front of me. It says "The Department of Justice is dedicated to improving operational efficiencies." Can I get an idea on how you're going about doing that? I know one thing that Mr. Mansell said that you're using more temporary staff versus those on casual so you don't have so much overtime, but what are some of the other ways that you're trying to address this? The overtime concerns have come up before in the past, so this is kind of reoccurring. What are you doing to address that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate the question. I think it is important to recognize that the Baffin Correctional facility is long overdue for a replacement or renovation. It wasn't intended to actually even do a lot of what we're forcing it to do right now. There is obvious concern with staff and inmates on making sure that it's a safe work environment. That has been brought up a couple of times now on how important that is.

In addition to that, one of the things that we're really excited about is a new software for scheduling which will help show a lot of these pressures, like Mr. Mansell mentioned earlier about bringing in people that are full time or on a casual staffing action, calling them in forces overtime. We're using relief workers in the most appropriate way, instead of using the same small pool, where it can be fleshed out a little bit more.

Again, I can't help but to reiterate that we are hopeful that the new facility will bring a much better working environment for staff and our clients to make sure that there will be less stress in that manner and there will be a lot more safety measures in the new facility. As Mr. Mansell mentioned, it is up to today's standards of a detention facility, unlike the Baffin Correctional facility, which is long overdue for its facelift. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Mr. Mansell mentioned that staffing have the opportunity to receive counselling and I think that's a great thing. That's a question I think I had before in the past and it's good to know that that opportunity exists, that they could have especially one on one. I think that's very important, but I'm wondering: can the minister tell us how many staff are affected by burnout and where you've had to replace them? What's the percentage? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickett: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very hard to classify "burnout." There are a number of different reasons why employees may need to be accommodated. There could be new physical limitations; post-traumatic stress. There are a number of different factors where people may need to be accommodated.

As Mr. Mansell mentioned, there were 25 this year and it's a fairly stable number without too many peaks and valleys around there. It would be hard to classify on a per-instance out of that 25 of what the root causes were. In addition, 2 out of 25 is already a fairly low number, so if we were to get too specific, it could have an opportunity to have some privacy concerns as well too. Like a lot of the things that we talk about, if there are numbers that are less than five, we don't report it.

I don't want to get into too deep of a discussion on what some of those numbers are, but the reasons, I think, are the most important thing to look at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I appreciate where the minister is coming from, but at the same time I'm reading from a document and it does say "burnout rates amongst staff" have put a big emphasis on all of this overtime, so that's why I'm asking the question. If you say 25, well, actually I don't even know how many staff you have there, so I don't know what the percentage is. Are we talking about the high percentage rates that you have to rehire staff?

That's why I asked the question is I'm reading from this documentation right here and it's the reason why the \$3 million is there for overtime. I just wanted to make that comment. I think it is important to share. I don't want to hear personal information. I certainly, like you, wouldn't want to jeopardize anybody's privacy, but I think just overall, I was just trying to get a picture of what's going on within the facility. I don't have any further questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you for your comments. Moving on. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got a few different topics of questions under the Department of Justice. First, the minister did indicate that the RCMP is now under increased level of scrutiny with their expenditures and budget requests, which I'm glad to see. I'm also glad to see that there was an increased level of detail provided in the briefing material for each of the items outlined under the RCMP. For example, every item indicates it exceeds the initial budget of X million dollars by X million dollars, and it even goes as far as including percentages of information. That's really great to see, but that same level of detail was not included in the corrections portion.

In the first bullet under Corrections it does identify that the department expects to spend about \$3 million more for staff overtime and casual salaries more than they initially budgeted, but like I said, the initial budget was provided for all RCMP items, but it was not included for the corrections. My first question is: as you have indicated, Corrections

expects to exceed their budget for overtime and casual salaries by \$3 million, but what is the actual original budget for that item? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The original budget was \$37,819,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks, minister. I see that the entire budget for the branch of Corrections was \$37.8 million for all items, including indeterminate salaries and possibly overtime and casual salaries might be included in that, but as most of this \$3 million is due to overtime and casual salaries, I was wondering if there was an actual original budget that was associated with these two items. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that level of detail with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to my next topic, earlier in the pandemic, a number of inmates were released or put on early release. I can't recall the exact term to sort of alleviate the crowding in the facilities. I was wondering how many inmates were released and if that had caused a reduction in the amount of overtime and reliance on casual and relief staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those decisions were made, again, through cooperation with the courts on inmates that had low level of risk to the public. At the end of the day the facility still needs its staffing complement, so it would have no bearing on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Justice. Corrections. Total Corrections. Not Previously Authorized. \$3 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$10 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I will ask members to go to Bill 60 in their legislative binders.

Bill 60, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2020-2021*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2021. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$10 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 60 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 60 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Just very briefly, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the support on this.

I know it's quite a challenging endeavour sometimes when you're working with corrections and law enforcement. It's so based on the amount of incidents that occur. We do again look forward to improving some of our forecasting abilities as well as to be able to back up some business cases to be able to bring further improvements and efficiencies.

I thank the members for their support on this and look forward to ongoing discussions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. On behalf of the committee, I thank you and your staff for being here and answering the questions. With that, Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out and we will take a very brief break while we set up for Bill 61, I do believe it is. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 14:30 and resumed at 14:31

**Bill 61 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2020-2021 –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: I call the committee meeting back to order, please. We're moving on to Bill 61. I will ask Minister Hickes: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Singular, Mr. Chairman, one witness, please, if the committee will indulge me.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to have the witness appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, Minister Hickes, if you could please introduce your official. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just because the seat is still warm from him, I kept Dan Carlson, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It's my understanding that before we start, you have a motion that you would like to put forward. Minister Hickes.

Committee Motion 013 – 5(2): Amendment to Clause 8 of Bill 61

Hon. George Hickes: That's correct, Mr. Chairman. Just to cover a typo, Mr. Chairman, I move that the English and French versions of clause 8 of Bill 61 be renumbered as clause 7, I move. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Thank you. Now I ask Minister Hickes to go into his opening comments. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the members' support.

I am here today to present Bill 61, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2020-2021*. Through this bill we are seeking \$58,495,000 in additional capital spending authorities for 2020-21, the current fiscal year. If approved, these spending authorities will allow us to advance three initiatives.

First, we are seeking \$2,595,000 for the Department of Community and Government Services so it can pay outstanding land lease costs to municipalities. Mr. Chairman and members, when reviewing old records, we determined that our government currently occupies 16 lots in seven different communities without having been granted formal land tenure by the municipality. The list is in the briefing materials. By paying these municipal land leases, the Government of Nunavut will resolve legacy administrative issues while helping municipalities prepare and maintain new lots for development.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman and members, the Department of Community and Government Services is seeking a non-cash appropriation of \$18.1 million so it can extend the Nunavut Energy Management Program to six more communities. The Government of Nunavut has already launched similar programs in the Kivalliq and some communities in South Qikiqtaaluk. Through this type of program, the Government of Nunavut enters a long-term contract with a firm to improve the energy efficiency of Government of Nunavut buildings through upgrades and renovations. The Government of Nunavut ends up with better buildings and benefits from lower energy costs going forward. Mr. Chairman and members, through this bill, Community and Government Services is seeking Assembly approval to make a stream of payments to improve Government of Nunavut capital, though it does not actually need to spend the cash this year.

Thirdly, Mr. Chairman and members, we are seeking \$37.8 million to provide the Nunavut Housing Corporation with the resources it needs to purchase residential units. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is actively considering an opportunity to acquire several one-, two- and three-bedroom units located in various Nunavut communities. The Nunavut Housing Corporation already leases these units for staff housing and is engaged in discussions about whether to purchase them outright. By agreeing to the supplementary funding, the Assembly provides the Nunavut Housing Corporation the resources it needs to finalize a purchase arrangement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. We are going to start off in the beginning of Bill 61 and it's Community and Government Services. Not Previously Authorized. Local Government Services in the amount of \$20,695,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On the lots issue, the briefing material mentions that some of these go back quite a ways. It mentions

“prior to the *Nunavut Agreement*,” but then I’m looking at the list of lots here and particularly the land farm and the trade school. Those were only developed in 2010 and 2011. My first question is: why weren’t these issues picked up on a decade ago when these new assets were developed? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From the research of recognizing these lots, the bulk of the non-reporting stems between 1996 and 2012, so that would encompass the time frame that the member mentioned with the trade school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The briefing material mentions that “CGS has improved and modernized its approach to lands administration” and it says, “In recent years there’s a database.” This database did not exist back in 2010-11? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don’t have the exact date, but it has only been the last few years that that new database has been used. Before that, Community and Government Services did condition ratings on buildings, but to actually go through the land title tenure process was a separate analysis. These issues were identified, obviously, prior to the new software coming online, but in the meantime those mitigating measures have already been taken. This is cleaning up old, historical issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Some of these are going back quite a way. I guess the Kugaaruk Tank Farm one is the largest single line item in this list here. I just was looking for confirmation that these municipalities won’t be negatively impacted by having this inflow of cash in terms of their municipal funding formula, that they won’t be dinged because these mistakes were not picked up on earlier. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can assure the member that that won’t be the case. In fact we used today’s rates to determine these numbers, so they’re actually getting more money than if the land title transfer would have occurred at the point of time that the lots were taken possession of. It was felt very early on in the identification of these lots that the title hadn’t been properly transferred. There were a lot of unknowns to a certain degree, but instead of going through legal recourse and going through lot by lot

arguments, where there wasn't enough information to substantiate that the title transfer was done correctly, we are erring on the side of just doing the right thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. I just have one last question on this CGS item, and it is about the energy management program.

This has been previously carried out in other regions of Nunavut, and this one in front of us is for the North Qikiqtaaluk. Is this the last region to have this energy management program put in place, or are there other areas of the territory where there is opportunity for the government to save utility costs? That is my last question on this one.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question. I think in the history of this type of model, when we brought in a pilot program some years back and we were actually showing the benefits of it, we were looking at expanding it. So this brings it into another area of the territory.

We will continue to explore. The Kitikmeot region as an example doesn't have any energy management funds set up, so that is something that we are going to continue to look forward and look to grow this type of a management model. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. We are on Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Local Government Services. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$20,695,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. On the next page, page 5, Nunavut Housing Corporation. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. \$37,800,000. Any questions? Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just a couple of questions on the corporation buying these units from NCC, the Nunavut Construction Corporation.

(interpretation ends) It states (interpretation ends) on the fourth bullet, the Nunavut Housing Corporation inspected 126 of these units so far, while these units will require repairs and renovations.

My question Mr. Chairman, wouldn't the landlord be responsible for the renovations prior to selling these units to the Nunavut Housing Corporation? That is my question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the lease arrangements with the contract that we have right now, or that Nunavut Housing Corporation has right now with the contractor entity, we are responsible for the operations and maintenance through the lease contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: I have one final question. Wouldn't it be cheaper for the housing corporation to...? Let me rephrase my question. Did they do an analysis on whether it would be cheaper to build new units as opposed to buying these units outright? They seem to be quite old. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, when we are building new, obviously the cost in today's dollars, it has been quite increased over the years. That being said, one of the reasons why we did an assessment tour, if I can term it like that, of Nunavut Housing Corporation staff actually going into these units and doing an assessment on the quality of them, these are ones that are deemed in very good condition, so that we feel there would be a very easy turnover. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll follow up on Mr. Netser's questions there. In the briefing material it says "...purchasing units at a reasonable price would generate a positive payback for the Nunavut Housing Corporation..." This is a substantial sum of money; \$37 million. What can the government do with \$37 million? This is one thing. How many years will it take in terms of saving the rent for this to generate a positive payback for the housing corporation? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is somewhat dependent upon the final purchase amount. We are looking at a positive payback within an eight-year timeframe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Does the housing corporation have a strategy or a policy when it comes to dealing with the private sector or privately owned assets or is it just a case-by-case basis, the housing corporation can purchase private assets whenever it sees fit, or is there some sort of guidance that is given, say, from the board level to the corporation in this regard? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll very briefly give a little bit of history on this. These are units we currently lease and they are actually held in over-hold right now using an expired lease agreement. The company in question approached us to offer to purchase the units, versus 'piecemealing' them out across different organizations, in which case, because our lease is expired, we could have been in a position to put out over 10 dozen staff out of those units and having to replace the units. It is an opportunity to increase our asset base.

Again, why I'm here right now is to appropriate the dollars. Nunavut Housing Corporation would not be able to go outside of their allocated budget to do something like this. This is, again, an opportunity that arose fairly suddenly. There have been some ongoing discussions of which COVID-19 has obviously had an impact on, but when we saw the opportunity now to get this in before fiscal year-end to hopefully come to an agreement, it increases our asset base as far as infrastructure, but it also stabilizes those 100 plus employees that are currently in these units and actually frees up more money for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to look out for future leasing opportunities with the budget that is allocated to them already that is currently being expended on these. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister.

I think where I'm trying to go with this is: if you want to free up money, another thing the housing corporation could look at is selling staff housing units that you own. That would free up a lot of money. I am not expecting us to have a debate on that here today, but the housing corporation on the one hand is the largest landlord in the territory and has access to through the Assembly, significant sums of money and so the housing corporation already has a huge footprint when it comes to housing in Nunavut.

Acquiring privately held assets, it shrinks the amount of privately owned real-estate in the territory. It gives the government a bigger footprint. I don't know. Is that the direction the housing corporation would like to go? If so, then maybe the housing corporation should be proactively approaching other landlords; Northview, what have you, and saying "Hey, we would like to purchase that building that we are leasing from you."

There doesn't seem to be a strategic direction on this. In some cases, yes, the housing corporation will lease a staff housing unit; in some cases they will build, and where the middle ground is or how those decisions are made is far from clear.

Getting back to this matter in question, this would give authority to the housing corporation to purchase, and the briefing material says "...some or all of the units that have been inspected," so the end decision is the housing corporation's if this is approved.

Has the housing corporation decided what they will do if there is a private company within the community, let's say, it's an Inuit-owned company, and if there is an interest expressed in one of these buildings, would the housing corporation be open to working or to seeing ownership change hands from one private owner to another? (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you look at the Nunavut Housing Corporation's budget, it's very clear what is capital and what is operations and maintenance which will be used for leasing. There is quite a detailed level of the figures involved. They're allocated an X amount of dollars to build staff housing and an X amount of dollars to lease staff housing.

With regard to the suggestion of the member, our current surplus policy wouldn't allow that. If we deemed that we had a building that we didn't need, it would first go to options to another government department. If there was no further interest, then it would go to the municipality, and then if there was no interest, it would be offered out for public sale. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I was referring to assets owned by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I believe that it is possible for assets to change hands from the housing corporation to private ownership; for example, the Tenant to Owner Program, which has been a long standing program under the housing corporation where tenants can purchase their own units if they are approved.

In terms of what they are trying to do here, and I think Mr. Chairman, the real reason I have concern about this purchase, or proposed purchase is that it does not increase the amount of units in Nunavut. It would save the government some money over eight years, it would pay for itself, but the real missing piece is the homeownership. We talk about homeownership, we talk about homeownership. What does it have to do with this bill? Well, for all I know there are government employees in some of these units who would be interested in a condo corporation, which is a form of homeownership. My understanding is that the housing corporation has not investigated the potential for condo corporations, so if the minister could confirm the housing corporation has or has

not looked at the condo corporation model for any of these units in question; these 124 units. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would probably be a question best posed in another venue in as far as it doesn't have a lot of bearing on this bill per se. I will say that I do disagree with the member that it doesn't have an opportunity to bring new units into inventory.

By purchasing these units, it frees up nearly \$5 million in leasing budget that is available to the Nunavut Housing Corporation to go out into the private sector to lease additional units across numerous communities. It does have an opportunity to substantially increase our staff housing stock available for employee staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister for the response. If the housing corporation is going to aim to turn this around and increase the stock of staff housing, will they be targeting the decentralized communities, which appear to be the ones that these units are proposed to be purchased in? Those decentralized communities are also the ones that have the highest rate of forced sharing for government bureaucrats or government employees. Would that be the housing corporation's plan if they are going to turn around and seek additional leased units? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There would be a couple of factors that I think would go into consideration along the lines that the member is suggesting; one would be availability of additional units available in different communities for leasing that are currently not being utilized by the Government of Nunavut or other entities. The second part of it, I believe, is the continual analysis of where our pressures are for staff housing in various communities across the territory.

One of the things that the Nunavut Housing Corporation continuously looks at is where access to units or unit availability is very dependent upon staffing requirements in a community. It was raised last week at one point that, as an example, through the Minister of Environment that there are a lot of competitions that are being held up by lack of staff housing. This may open up opportunities to look at some of these hard-to-fill positions that are staying on the books for years in some cases because there is no availability of housing.

I do hope that there will be some private interest out there from private organizations to develop more properties that would be available for leasing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I do hope that does happen, but this whole staff housing file, the more I learn about it, the more problematic it is and I'm concerned that the new allocation policy is not playing out very well on the ground at the community level and I'm unsure as to what exactly the issues are within human resources.

I don't have any further questions, Mr. Chairman. I would just like it on the record that I'm concerned about the lack of action on homeownership within the housing corporation, by "action" I mean dollars and I'm also concerned about the housing corporation's gargantuan footprints in terms of the housing markets in Nunavut. I believe that the private sector does have something to offer and I'm not sure if this is the right direction for the housing corporation to go. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you for your comments. We are on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department. \$37,800,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go back to page 2 of the bill. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 2, 2020-2021. Schedule 1. Capital Appropriation. \$58,495,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Now I will ask members to go to Bill 61 in their legislative binders.

Bill 61, reprint, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2020-2021*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on page 3. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2021. Vote 2: Capital. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$58,495,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 61 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 61 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes, closing comments, please.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the members' support in cleaning up some of these old records that I'm sure the municipalities that are involved will appreciate the closure of these lot title transfers as well.

I'm also very excited to see the Energy Management Fund increase its opportunity and footprint across the territory. I think it's just going to continue to reap financial benefits as well as greenhouse benefits. I think it's a very important initiative and I'm happy to get the support from the members and look forward to expanding the program wider. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. On behalf of the committee, I thank you and your staff for being here and answering the questions. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out. We will take a 10-minute break while we set up for the next department. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 15:01 and resumed at 15:20

**Bill 66 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Nunavut Elections –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman: Good afternoon, members, and welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. I would now like to ask Mr. Quassa: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Mr. Quassa.

Speaker: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to have the witnesses appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, Mr. Quassa, if you could please introduce your witnesses and then continue into your opening comments. Mr. Quassa.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me here are the (interpretation ends) Chief Electoral Officer, Dustin Fredlund, (interpretation) who is to my right, and farther over there is our Legal Counsel, Sara Siebert.

Thank you. I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide opening comments concerning Bill 66, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Nunavut Elections*.

I'll be speaking English.

(interpretation ends) As members will recall, the *Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut on the Conduct of the 5th General Election* was considered by the Committee of the Whole at the Legislative Assembly's sitting of September 29, 2020. The Management and Services Board subsequently gave direction for the drafting of the bill that is before the House today.

Bill 66 implements a number of recommendations that were contained in the report of the chief electoral officer. I will take a few moments to highlight the main provisions of the bill.

Bill 66 amends both the *Hamlets Act* and the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* to provide a requirement for leaves of absence of members of municipal councils seeking election to the Legislative Assembly. This requirement is broadly similar to existing provisions in the *Public Service Act* respecting leaves of absence for members of the public service.

As members are aware, section 41 of the *Nunavut Elections Act* currently provides that the Commissioner in Executive Council "may order the withdrawal of a writ for a constituency if, after consulting with the Chief Electoral Officer, the Commissioner in Executive Council is of the opinion that it is impracticable to hold an election in the constituency because of a disaster or similar event." Bill 66 expands this section to allow

for the withdrawal of a writ if the chief electoral officer certifies there is a risk to the health or safety of constituents.

Bill 66 introduces a new requirement for the chief electoral officer to establish and maintain a provisional voters list of Nunavut residents who are 16 or 17 years of age and who will be eligible to vote in territorial and municipal elections upon reaching the age of 18. This initiative supports the ongoing work of Elections Nunavut to engage youth in the democratic process.

Bill 66 makes a number of improvements to existing provisions concerning special ballots and emergency voting procedures. These are intended to facilitate Elections Nunavut's ability to respond to unusual situations that may be faced by Nunavut residents wishing to exercise their right to vote.

Section 104 of the *Nunavut Elections Act* currently provides that voting hours at polling stations on election day are from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central Standard Time in all Nunavut communities. Bill 66 achieves greater equitability for our communities and residents by changing this provision to refer to local time.

At present there is no limit on the number of anonymous contributions that a financial agent may accept on behalf of a candidate. Bill 66 introduces a new limit of \$2,500 in total anonymous contributions that can be accepted.

Bill 66 also makes a number of technical amendments to various provisions of the *Nunavut Elections Act* and the *Plebiscites Act* in respect to such areas as terminology and publication requirements.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments and I look forward to responding to any questions that the members may have. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are there any general comments that any members would like to make at this time? Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, (interpretation ends) Speaker (interpretation) and our legislative officials who are here.

With respect to Bill 66, I understand the issues based on the last election where areas that were disconcerting were changed, and since this is just an amendment, and our elections body known as (interpretation ends) Elections Nunavut (interpretation) will be very busy dealing with various elections this upcoming fall. Since they have proven themselves as being capable of administering the elections, I thank them.

Now, with respect to the actual bill, I don't have too many questions on this, as we already were consulted and had an opportunity to ask questions on Friday. It is basically just an amending bill and I don't have any issues and agree with them all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Any other general comments? Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me. This is regarding the anonymous contributions limit listed as being \$2,500. I have a question related to that, just to cite the example of our colleague, the MLA for Quttiktuq, David Akeagok as the flights to the High Arctic and transportation costs, since some of us MLAs have a second community and air travel is quite expensive. Is this included in this section or are they under a different section? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. Mr. Quassa.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought it was just a general comment initially but it came out as a question, which is fine too. Perhaps, if the Chairman does not mind, I would like Mr. Dustin Fredlund to respond to the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Fredlund.

Mr. Fredlund: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. In regard to the \$100 anonymous donations and the flights, they are two separate issues and all the flight issues are dealt with in another section. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't see anybody...Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Speaker and to your officials.

On the top of page 2 you mention about 16 and 17 years of age. Does that mean they will automatically be on the list so that they can be eligible to vote when they're 18, automatically they will already be on the list, and once they reach 18 years of age, they can be checked off to be eligible to vote? Are they pre-registering? I guess that's what I'm asking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. They will not be able to vote immediately, however, once they reach 18 years of age they will be eligible to vote. This is just in preparation. If it is alright with you, Mr. Chairman, Justin Fredlund can elaborate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Fredlund.

Mr. Fredlund: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question, Member for Baker Lake.

You are correct; it is an opt-in, which means it is not automatic for the 16 or 17 year olds. They have to still want to be on the voters list and they will fill out a form and sign it,

saying that they are eligible and they want to be on the list, and when they turn 18, they will automatically be put onto the voters list and they will be notified of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Fredlund, for the response. I assume that parents will be involved as well so that they know what is going on, because they are still minors. I don't know if that is a privacy issue or not, but a lot of parents like to be involved to make sure their children are looked after by their parents without... . The parents want to be involved, and the parents, I assume, will be involved, they'll be notified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to mention, if he recalls, for the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, 16 year olds are eligible to vote today. I just wanted to comment on that. If it is okay with you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Fredlund can supplement that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Fredlund.

Mr. Fredlund: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the supplementary question from the Member for Baker Lake. My office will work closely with the privacy information commissioner as well as the Representative for the Child and Youth in Nunavut. We will break no laws when it comes to engaging our 16 and 17 year olds. We appreciate that there are many aspects to privacy and considerations for our young people.

I won't speak specific to obtaining parental permission because at 16 years old there are different rules for different levels, as the speaker did identify. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just reiterate what Mr. Simailak has said regarding engaging our youth at a young age. I commend and applaud you for including this. I think it is really important that we engage our youth at a very young age in politics and I just want to say "thank you." That is just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for your comment. There are no more comments. I will now ask members to go to... . Mr. Main. It is hard to see Mr. Main from my angle, and I'm relying on other people, so it's not my fault.

>>Laughter

I'll ask members to go Bill 66 in their legislative binders, please. Bill 66, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Nunavut Elections*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 16. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 17. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 18. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 19. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 20. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 22. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 23. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 24. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 25. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 26. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 27. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 28. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 29. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 30. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 31. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 32. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 33. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 34. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 35. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 36. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 37. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 38. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 39. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 40. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 41. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 42. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 43. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 44. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 45. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 46. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 47. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 48. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 49. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 50. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 51. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 52. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 66 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 66 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Any closing comments, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let's all go and vote. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you and I apologize. It's just a suggestion on clause 11 and I'll just spit it out really quickly. It's just on using the term "provisional voters list." I would just like to request that the chief electoral officer consider using a different term. I believe that in British Columbia they use a list of future voters, a future voters list, which sounds catchier and maybe it's better for the youth. It's just a comment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for your comment. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out. We will immediately go to the next bill.

**Bill 67 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
– Consideration in Committee**

Thank you. We're now moving on to Bill 67 and I'll ask Mr. Speaker, if you have witnesses that you would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To my right is our Clerk... . Yes, we would like to have witnesses here with us.

Chairman: Thank you. Do the members agree for the witnesses to appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa, if you could please introduce your official and then continue on into your opening comments, please.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I went too far ahead. Sitting next to me is no stranger to this House, our Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. John Quirke.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide some brief opening comments concerning Bill 67, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

As members will recall, a motion was adopted unanimously during our recent fall sitting to recommend the appointment of Mr. Graham Steele as Nunavut's new Information and Privacy Commissioner. I am pleased to inform members that Mr. Steele relocated to Iqaluit earlier this year and has taken up his duties of office.

I'll be speaking English, for your information.

(interpretation ends) Bill 67 brings certain sections of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* into line with similar provisions in other statutes that concern independent officers of the Legislative Assembly in respect to the application of the *Public Service Act*, the authority of the Management and Services Board, and the eligibility of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to participate in the public service superannuation plan.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments and I look forward to responding to any questions that members may have. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are there any general comments? I guess I could open it up; if there are even questions at this point, I'll allow questions on the opening

comments. Is there anybody? Seeing none. I'll ask members to go to Bill 67 in their legislative binders, please.

Bill 67, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 67 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 67 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Any closing comments? Mr. Speaker, closing comments?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleagues for their complete understanding of the amendments. I'm just thanking you once again for allowing us to appear before you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out. This concludes the wish of the committee for today, so I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon. No. 20. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 60, 61, 66, and 67 and would like to report that Bills 60, 61, 66, and 67 are concluded and are

ready for third reading, and that one committee motion was adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

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

Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickey.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 60 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2020-2021 – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 60, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2020-2021*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 60 is ready for assent.

Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickey.

Bill 61 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2020-2021 – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 61, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2020-2021*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 61 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Bill 66 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Nunavut Elections – Third Reading

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 66, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting Nunavut Elections*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 66 is ready for assent.

Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Pedersen.

**Bill 67 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
– Third Reading**

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 67, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 67 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 16:

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 58
- Bill 62
- Bill 63
- Bill 64

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) In accordance to the authority provided to me by Motion 107 – 5(2), this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 16, at 10 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:51*

