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**Tuesday, September 22, 2020**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Paul Quassa**  
(Aggu)

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

**Joelie Kaernerik**  
(Amittuq)

**David Qamaniq**  
(Tununiq)

**Pauloosie Keyootak**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
(Netsilik)

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

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

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the  
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**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Adam Lightstone**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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

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

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

**Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser**  
(Aivilik)  
*Minister responsible for Nunavut  
Arctic College; Minister responsible  
for the Nunavut Housing  
Corporation*

**Craig Simailak**  
(Baker Lake)

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

**Hon. David Joanasic**  
(South Baffin)  
*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister  
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**Calvin Pedersen**  
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Innirvik Support Services

**Box 1200**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0**

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

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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday, September 22, 2020  
Members Present:**

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

>>*House commenced at 13:32*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Member Keyootak, for your prayer. Good day, my fellow colleagues. Before we begin, I wish to inform you that Member Angnakak and Member Qamaniq will be absent from the House today.

Let's proceed. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Premier Joe Savikataaq.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 437 – 5(2):  
Turaaqtavut Accomplishments  
Year Two**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to review our government's accomplishments under the second year of our *Turaaqtavut* mandate.

After the ransomware incident late last fall and in the midst of the global pandemic, it has been quite a balance to keep our long-term priorities and our immediate needs on track. However, it is a testament to our hard-working and dedicated public service that we are able to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, over the past year the Government of Nunavut has:

- Increased the minimum wage from \$13 to \$16 an hour, making it the highest minimum wage in Canada.
- Secured funding and partnership with NTI and the Government of Canada for an in-territory addictions and trauma treatment.
- Signed the devolution agreement in principle.
- Was named one of Canada's “Top Employers for Young People” and “Best Employer for Recent Graduates” by Canada's Top 100 Employers Project.
- Built 108 housing units in 14 communities.
- Created 255 student books and teacher resources to improve Inuktitut literacy outcomes for students.

- Announced the Nunavut Mine Training Centre will be in Rankin Inlet.
- Designated the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area and the Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Government of Canada, contributing over 50 percent to Canada's marine protection goals.
- Started the construction of new community health centres in Sanikiluaq and Kinngait.
- Made Nunavut Day a statutory holiday.
- Developed and begun implementing a government-wide master Inuit employment plan and departmental Inuit employment plans up to 2023 to increase Inuit employment within the public service.
- Distributed \$4.35 million for community-led suicide prevention initiatives.
- Put the new *Public Health Act* into force on January 1, 2020 to protect the public and to prevent, detect, manage, and contain health issues.

Mr. Speaker, it's amazing how much can change so quickly, but we remain committed to grow as a territory, as resilient communities, and as successful, vibrant Nunavummiut, while we keep our territory safe and well during COVID-19. We have lots of work to do as we head into the last year of our mandate, but we're committed, we're on track, and we're here to work with and

for Nunavummiut to succeed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Acting Minister for the Status of Women, Minister Ehaloak.

### **Minister's Statement 438 – 5(2): Gender Equality Week**

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

*Uqaqtii*, September 20 to 26 is recognized as Gender Equality Week. As Minister responsible for the Status of Women, the department recognizes that we share a responsibility in advancing equality between different groups of women and men. Advancing gender equality benefits every one of us. By contributing to the design and development of policies, programs, and services, which emphasizes the importance of respecting diversity and inclusion, we create a future based on equity and equality.

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) defines gender equality as women and men and girls and boys having equal conditions, treatment, and opportunities for realizing their full potential, their human rights and dignity, and for contributing to and benefitting from economic, social, cultural and political development.

Gender equality implies that the interests, needs, and priorities of both

women and men and girls and boys are taken into consideration, without limitations set by stereotypes and prejudices about gender roles.

I want to acknowledge Gender Equality Week and support Nunavut's efforts toward recognizing the similarities and the differences of men and women, their unique roles and contributions to society, and reinforcing women and men being equal partners in the home, community, and society.

In 2019-2020 the department was approved \$600,000 in funding from the federal government for its Nunavut Women and Girls Leadership and Governance Initiative. The three-year initiative will focus on empowering and building the capacity of women and girls to take on leadership and decision-making roles within their communities. There is a need across the territory for projects focusing on leadership development for women and girls.

The department is currently reviewing proposals to move forward with projects through the Nunavut initiatives grants. These initiatives create opportunities for individuals and community-based agencies to access funding that will increase community capacity to assist women and girls in gaining skills in several areas, such as leadership, economic self-sufficiency, and self-reliance, and promote wellness and traditional knowledge. Projects like these as well as the ongoing work through Qullit Nunavut Status of Women will lay the foundation for greater action on gender equality and social change in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, to learn more about gender equality, Nunavummiut can watch microlearning videos and resources posted on the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women's social media outlets.

I would like to celebrate the progress we have made and continue to make in advancing gender equality to ensure that all Nunavummiut can reach their full potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanase.

**Minister's Statement 439 – 5(2):  
Support for Child Care Facilities  
during COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Hon. David Joanase** (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. To the people of South Baffin, I send you my regards.

Mr. Speaker, life can be challenging for parents and caregivers of young children. We recognize the importance of having a safe place for children at a licensed child care facility and the need to support these facilities during these uncertain times. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March, the Department of Education has been providing a variety of supports to licensed child care facilities to ensure they can continue to operate.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, following direction from the chief public health officer, all child care facilities were closed between March 18 and June 5. During that time my department worked actively to support these

facilities by funding parental fees for the first five weeks of this period at a total cost of \$885,000. This allowed facilities to continue to pay staff and cover monthly expenses. My department also continued providing operations and maintenance funding to support their monthly expenses.

Mr. Speaker, after child care facilities were permitted to reopen on June 8, my department has continued to support them by providing guidelines on enhanced cleaning and health and safety. As well, during August and September, BluMetric Environmental was contracted by my department to deliver in-person training on enhanced cleaning processes to all child care facilities and schools across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, despite the uncertainty COVID-19 has brought to Nunavut, the Department of Education will continue to provide support to parents, caregivers, and child care facilities, ensuring the health and safety of our young children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 440 – 5(2):  
Update on Housing and Progress**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the people of Coral Harbour and Naujaat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, I want all Nunavummiut to have a place to call home, but the reality is we are in a housing crisis. This is a heavy burden for many of the 2,971 people on housing waiting lists across the territory, and this is very burdensome to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, while progress feels slow at times, the Government of Nunavut has made significant headway. Since Nunavut's creation in 1999, the corporation has built a total of 1,899 public housing units at a total cost of \$760 million. The Nunavut Housing Corporation maintains 5,780 units across the territory. For fiscal years 2020 to 2022, the Nunavut Housing Corporation anticipates building 227 public housing units. These are concrete accomplishments by the corporation and it is doing all it can to build an additional 90 units each year to keep up with the growing demand.

Between 2012 and 2016 the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Housing Corporation developed a coordinated whole-of-government approach to Nunavut's housing crisis with *Igluliuqatigiilauqta: Let's Build a Home Together* and the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*. Mr. Speaker, last year the Nunavut Housing Corporation finalized Nunavut's portion of the National Housing Strategy and secured an additional \$265 million from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, which will build about 700 new housing units. Mr. Speaker, the corporation has funded the Uqutaq Society to buy two buildings in Iqaluit for transitional housing.

The corporation continues to work alongside many partners to strengthen our ability to support construction, maintenance, administration, and tenancies. Our partners include Nunavut Arctic College, Nunavut Tunngavik, Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and Iilitaqsinik, the Nunavut Literacy Council. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's leadership helped develop the Inuit Nunangat Housing Strategy, and the City of Iqaluit convened an affordable housing task force with representatives from all levels of government and industry.

I am also making sure Ottawa hears us loud and clear. I briefed the Hon. Ahmed Hussen, Minister responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, on the housing crisis in his Ottawa office earlier this year. I gave the Hon. Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs, a tour of Iqaluit's public housing units back in March. I also chaired a teleconference with both federal ministers and the territorial housing ministers from Yukon and the NWT back in June. I reiterated that we need federal investment to end this housing crisis. Both federal ministers have committed to come to Nunavut when travel to the territory is safe.

My office also reached out to our Member of Parliament, Mumilaaq Qaqqaq, when she was planning her housing tour. While logistical difficulties prevented the Nunavut Housing Corporation's officials from participating, I am glad Ms. Qaqqaq has joined our efforts to bring desperately needed housing dollars to our territory.

Mr. Speaker, housing is crucial for the health and well-being of our families and

communities. To succeed, we need made-in-Nunavut solutions and we are working diligently to find those solutions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 441 – 5(2):  
Support for Communities during  
COVID-19**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Good day. I say "good day" to my fellow residents of Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide members with an update on how the community and government services department has been supporting communities since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

My department has been working closely with the departments of Health and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs throughout the pandemic to ensure a coordinated government response.

During this time CGS has worked with its partner departments to engage and inform municipal councils and administration regarding the GN's response to COVID-19. CGS believes that it is important to ensure the priorities and interests of local governments are incorporated into GN-managed projects and initiatives all the time, but especially during an unprecedented time such as this.

Early on, CGS recognized that the implementation of COVID-19 directives in Nunavut communities would mean increased costs to local governments. That is why my department dedicated \$2,250,000 toward ensuring municipalities have additional financial resources to provide essential services and implement COVID-19 preventative measures. This amount includes:

- \$2 million to purchase materials and supplies or increase staffing to implement COVID-19 directives within municipal programs and services;
- \$250,000 to hire additional staff to assist with the 2020 sealift or to provide additional supervision for recreational programs.

CGS has also engaged municipalities in the development of guideline documents to support the delivery of municipal programs and services during COVID-19 and consulted with each municipal council on the priority project that needed to continue and which required skilled labour to travel to communities during this time.

CGS was also a partner in helping to organize and deliver desktop exercises to assess the potential implications of a COVID-19 outbreak in a community. To date these in-person sessions have been facilitated in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's municipalities provide essential frontline programs and services to Nunavummiut. As such, CGS will continue to make engaging communities in the territory's continued

response to COVID-19 a priority. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 442 – 5(2):  
Nunavut Essential Workers Wage  
Premium**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide an update on the Nunavut Essential Workers Wage Premium. In June we launched this program to encourage essential workers in Nunavut to stay on the job by offering financial support to essential workers earning less than \$25 per hour and to their employers.

We first made the program available to employees of organizations that provide critical health or social services to vulnerable sector Nunavummiut like licensed daycares, food banks, and shelters. We then expanded the program to reach employees across a range of sectors, from transportation and logistics to retail and food services industries, and others.

Mr. Speaker, through this program, the GN has to date provided \$1.5 million to increase the wages of nearly 1,000 employees working for about 55 different organizations in Nunavut. In total the program will supplement wages for about 400,000 hours of employment territory-wide. On top of this we have provided an extra \$150,000 directly to employers to recognize the higher administrative costs they may face. The

Government of Canada has provided the funding for this program.

Mr. Speaker, all the eligibility criteria and application information can be found on the Department of Finance website. I strongly encourage all employers in eligible sectors to apply for the Nunavut Essential Workers Wage Premium.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to remain on Item 2 until the ministers' statements are complete, as we only have one left. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister is seeking unanimous consent to extend the time allowed for ministers' statements. Are there any nays? There are none and we will continue with ministerial statements until they are delivered. (interpretation) Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 443 – 5(2):  
Made-in-Nunavut Reusable Masks**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. I thank you for allowing this to proceed.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut have come together to combat the coronavirus in many innovative and resourceful ways. One I wish to highlight today is our efforts to develop reusable, made-in-Nunavut masks.

Mr. Speaker, my department, in partnership with the Nunavut Development Corporation, took swift action to ensure our communities were provided for. To date my department has

received and distributed a total of 14,700 washable reusable masks to Nunavut communities, essential services organizations, airlines, businesses, travellers, retailers, isolation hubs, and health centres across Nunavut. With another 300 masks expected to be delivered and redistributed within the next few weeks, this will bring an end to the department's project to produce and freely distribute 15,000 reusable masks in Nunavut.

This project created direct income for a total of 45 seamstresses in the communities of Arviat, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Taloyoak, and Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, this project met an immediate need critically. It has also stimulated further purchase orders from governments, mining companies, municipalities, and more. Though the guiding principle of Pilimmaksarniq, this project will help seamstresses and related Nunavut business generate more income and benefits, all the while ensuring Nunavut has access to reusable masks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements are done. Let's proceed. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

**Item 3: Members' Statements**

**Member's Statement 667 – 5(2):  
Storm Damage to Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to the community of Sanikiluaq for its

response to the recent storm that caused extensive damage to some of our critical infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, as you and my colleagues will be aware, a severe storm passed through the community earlier this month. High winds ripped the roof off of our municipal office and heavy rains caused extensive water damage to the interior of the building. The community's hotel also suffered significant damage from the storm.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the municipal leadership and staff for their quick response to the disaster. Getting the municipality up and running again under these circumstances has required a great deal of effort and hard work.

Many community partners have also stepped up to help, including Almiq construction, which has provided a building to be used as temporary office space.

Mr. Speaker, before coming up to Iqaluit for our sitting, I had the honour of hosting Premier Savikataaq on his visit to the community. I want to thank the Premier for personally taking the time to come to the community to view the damage first hand and to meet with community leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to express my appreciation to Minister Kusugak for his department's support to the municipality, which has been excellent.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions at the appropriate time today on the status of the government's response to this situation, but I want to conclude by asking all members to join me in paying

tribute to the strength of Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, followed by Member Pedersen. Member Towtongie.

**Member's Statement 668 – 5(2):  
Rankin Inlet's Response to  
COVID-19**

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I say "good day" to the people of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet. Even though they're a small community, there were two graduates, Amber Aggark and Kayla Issaluk. I congratulate them.

Now, with the advent of the novel coronavirus warnings, Rankin Inlet residents realized they were facing a serious threat. Residents were so disconcerted that they blocked off all terrestrial access to the mine as the worries were that COVID-19 could be transmitted from southern workers.

I wish to thank our source of assistance, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Minister of Community and Government Services, who provided pertinent information via teleconference with MLAs. The KIA president, Kono Tattuinee, we thank you along with the hamlet councillors and Mayor Harry Towtongie of Rankin Inlet.

Our cadre of regional and local leadership, although they had alternatives other than what was taken, that of blockading the access road meant no local transmission of the virus. I

thank the Government of Nunavut for assisting our local people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 669 – 5(2):  
Turaaqtavut Mandate**

**Mr. Kaernek** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my fellow residents of Amittuq. I empathize with the people of Igloolik. I regret that I can't be there with you. I also send my regards to the people of Sanirajak.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the *Turaaqtavut* mandate, which our Premier just alluded to, and I wanted to elaborate further. It is a source of pride to see more infrastructure projects initiated here in Nunavut, and I feel some pride in these projects that were mentioned as being future projects.

Now, when we first became MLAs, we created this *Turaaqtavut* mandate for all of Nunavut and to incorporate it for our elders, and indeed for all Nunavummiut. It is composed of fine words, which seem to be implemented when large projects are begun, and it is related to what our Premier mentioned just now. I wanted to remind this government that under this mandate, we have to ensure that we incorporate more elders' knowledge related to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat* as it applies to capital priorities. I did not see any reference to its incorporation.

Many people had real expectations with the creation of Nunavut in 1999. Twenty

years have passed, yet many Inuit still have expectations of local infrastructure projects, and to see our government undertake more Inuit cultural practices. Many adults who weren't elders back then are now our elders today. With this perspective, it is unfortunate that many of our elders who held these expectations of an Inuit style government have all passed on.

Now, I want to pressure this government on these goals. When we reach question period, I will have questions to the Premier. More emphasis needs to be placed on *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat*, the Inuit language, and cultural practices within government operations. I have continued to maintain that these will not disappear in our immediate future.

Mr. Speaker, my statement is still quite long, so I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Kaernek** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleagues for giving me that extension.

As I stated, many Inuit appreciated the creation of Nunavut, and that Inuit would be strengthened as a result. And further, there is that statement above our Chamber, "Nunavut is our strength." As I stated earlier, many Inuit had expectations, albeit many elders have passed on.

I want to further encourage our government to deliberate on better options, such as equality, and here I mean equality for our communities. If you look at Iqaluit, it would be prohibitively expensive, but we need to equally distribute infrastructure projects within the operations of our government.

Many Inuit voted to approve the agreement and future Nunavut government. Many Inuit now have frustrations as it seems that many promises have yet to be fulfilled, and perhaps we would have made more progress if we had remained in the NWT. Many residents now feel that things were much better during those days.

Personally I believe that our expectations are still realizable, but we have to voice them more forcefully as Nunavut is our strength. If it is indeed our strength, then we have to ensure our elders are included more proactively when speaking about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat*. We have to do that in all of our regional government operations.

Now, we added the issues related to Inuit employment within government in this House and that more Inuit need to be hired to work within government in order to strengthen our government operations. This is what I wanted to speak about, but since it was quite lengthy, I believe more needs to be done to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat*.

Let me reiterate and clarify that the previous MLA for Quttiktuq, Isaac Shooyook, believed in *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangat* and wanted it incorporated more deeply, and he has

gotten older while I am still quite young. Let us indeed try to incorporate the Inuit culture, traditions, and especially service provision to have this government provide more assistance.

When we reach question period, I will have further questions about the *Turaaqtavut* mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, for allowing me this opportunity.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Member for Uqummiut, followed by Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove. (interpretation) Member Keyootak.

**Member's Statement 670 – 5(2):  
Search and Rescue Volunteers of  
Qikiqtarjuaq**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to the people of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River and those listening to and watching the proceedings. Good afternoon to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate people in my riding and to especially acknowledge the search and rescue operators who give of themselves unselfishly. I apologize again. I would like to acknowledge the search and rescue operators who help Nunavut unselfishly. Their work is performed on a volunteer basis and they undergo very rigorous practice exercises to be able to do what they have to do. Again, they offer their services on a volunteer basis and help the people of Nunavut tremendously.

Just this past spring in Qikiqtarjuaq there was an operation and because of the changing conditions around our community, the search and rescuers needed more volunteers, so I was a part of that operation. Sometimes search and rescue workers conduct recovery operations and in the end, one just wants to find even the body, if the person has passed on. That is what happened this spring when the sea ice broke up and we had a hunter die as a result. They did find the body, which was fortunate. I will name the people who were involved if time permits.

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

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

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

I want to name the members of the search and rescue group as they were instrumental in retrieving the body of the deceased this spring, and I want to thank them publicly along with my colleagues by naming them here:

- Jaypeetee Kullualik
- Gamailee Nookiguak
- Joeline Kokseak
- Goatamie Audlakiak
- Jaypatee Nookiguak
- Loasie Kooneeliusie

They were part of our group during the most intensive part of the search, and in those situations when the body is found,

one is grateful to at least retrieve the body. We have to voice our pride in their successes, as the search and rescue teams work tirelessly to find the missing hunters. I wanted to share that with my colleagues, hence my statement today on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, followed by the Member for Pangnirtung. Mr. Main.

**Member's Statement 671 – 5(2):  
Isolation Hub Survivors during  
Pandemic**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge the people of Whale Cove and Arviat who displayed ongoing diligence and patience in enduring the 14-day isolation period. For 14 days, they were ensconced in a hotel or, in English, at an (interpretation ends) isolation hub.

(interpretation) Firstly, I apologize to my constituents who underwent the 14-day isolation period in the past couple of months. I have heard from many of you; I acknowledge your concerns and displeasure as I was conveyed many of the disappointments experienced. It caused hardships for many people in my riding and I appreciate your patience. They went through the 14-day isolation period to ensure the COVID-19 virus doesn't enter Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, elders as well as new mothers and patients requiring long-term treatments have undergone this practice. To use an example, an individual from my constituency went down south with

an escort in order to undergo treatment, and then they had to endure another 14 days in an isolation hub. However, an emergency arose on their second-last day of isolation, causing them to leave the hotel for the escort's treatment. After medical treatment of the escort, they had to restart the 14-day isolation period over again. When they returned to Arviat, I had a dialogue with the patient who shared the fact they ended up being at the isolation hotel for 29 days, which is quite an experience. Such enduring patience they have and such stoicism.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in light of the harrowing and difficult experience our people have to endure for their medical treatment, our medical patients, elders, youth, and many Nunavummiut went through this protocol.

Now, the media also conveyed the fact that Members of the Legislative Assembly are exempted from this isolation requirement as part of their legislative benefits or, in English, (interpretation ends) an exemption. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I sympathize with the people of my riding and was not pleased to hear that MLAs are exempted.

Mr. Speaker, even as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to stand with my constituents to prevent COVID-19 from entering Nunavut. I have publicly stated to my constituents on radio and now here for the public record that this legal (interpretation ends) exemption (interpretation) I have will not be exercised by me. If I am required to go south, I will undergo this isolation protocol that constituents experienced, and perhaps I can empathize more fully with the conditions they relayed by going through this hardship.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that MLAs are exempted from this isolation protocol or, in English, this (interpretation ends) exemption for elected officials, (interpretation) it will not be exercised. In order for my constituents to fully understand this requirement, I will have questions for the Minister of Health at the appropriate time regarding this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, followed by the Member for Netsilik. Member Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 672 – 5(2):  
Joseph Akulujuk Achieves Private  
Pilot Licence**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, as well as to the people of Pangnirtung. Today I would like to recognize a person from Pangnirtung, a young person that has been training for two years at the First Nations Technical Institute in Tyendinaga, Ontario, at an aboriginal flight school.

I would like to express my pride in Joseph Akulujuk from Pangnirtung. He was recognized and received his private pilot's licence and he can now pilot small planes. He is also continuing to advance his training and working to get a commercial licence. I would like to recognize him and be proud of him. He is a young person from Pangnirtung. Let us celebrate him. I know that the people of Pangnirtung are very proud. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Let's be proud of the accomplishments of our young people. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik.

**Member's Statement 673 – 5(2):  
Issues around COVID-19**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk, the people of Taloyoak, and to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to this issue as my subject. People in leadership feel for our students' situation as our priority is to provide the best education available. This is what local people are ardently advocating in the face of the new novel coronavirus challenge, which we have faced now over the course of the last few months, maybe five months now.

In the interim, one has to think of the hardship faced by Taloyoak, one of my constituency communities which are also constructing the new school in the face of this newest challenge, so it is hard to determine the status. With the COVID-

19 pandemic, I don't know what the status of this project is now. Will it be postponed? The community worked hard to get that, so any good news about that project would be music to our ears.

At the appropriate time I will be asking questions about this matter. Inuit believe in our government, that they will work hard to provide for people's needs. We have expectations from the government to provide some information on what's happening with the project. I will be asking questions about this matter later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Member Akeeagok, and followed by the Member for Baker Lake. Member Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 674 – 5(2):  
Tribute to Iqaluit Elder, Inookie**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the people of Quttiktuq.

I would like to say something that I mentioned a little bit yesterday. Mr. Speaker, Inookie passed away at the age of 109, and you all know that I live in Iqaluit and I have tried to learn the hunting areas, which I am still learning today. That person provided invaluable assistance with the naming project and there are so many traditional names in the Iqaluit area. There are lands and waters that have names in Inuktitut, and he has helped us to put those on the map.

Through radio, when you're hunting, he would say, "Here we are now," and we were always helped not to get lost. The hunters in Iqaluit always help, either on

the water or land. That person has helped a great deal with those and the people of Iqaluit are always welcoming and that person was one of the first residents of Iqaluit. His family, children, and grandchildren have all been welcoming to us and they have given us a lot of food to eat. I'm always very grateful to the original residents of Iqaluit.

I would like to say "thank you" to Inookie and the past year, when they got a whale, he was the captain and he was the oldest man there and we were very proud of him. It was with great excitement and while he was still alive, he was able to do this, so I'm grateful for that and I feel for his family. I apologize for not being able to attend the funeral because we had to be here, but I have you in my thoughts and we're all very grateful that the elder can finally rest in peace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Member Simailak.

**Member's Statement 675 – 5(2):  
Policing Services in Baker Lake**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow Baker Lakers. I hope you will all have a good day today, especially to Marilyn, Dominic, Aqaniq, Lily, and Maggie; an extra special one to Lily and Maggie, the twin girls.

Mr. Speaker, in my opening statement of yesterday I had expressed my gratitude to the many frontline workers that have been working tirelessly since the pandemic began. In the case of this

group of frontline workers that I am thinking of today, that had already been working tirelessly before the global pandemic hit us. I'm speaking about the RCMP officers. These employees have a very important and great responsibility in providing safe services for Nunavummiut. They see the good, the bad, and the ugly of society.

At the appropriate time I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Let's proceed to Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) There are none. Item 5. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) If you all remember, we can't have visitors right now because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Let's expect them to come after the pandemic is over. We will proceed to the next item, Oral Questions. Thank you. The first one will be the Member for Gjoa Haven, followed by the Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet. Member Akoak.

**Item 6: Oral Questions**

**Question 931 – 5(2): Sale of TMAC Resources**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Mines.

First of all, (interpretation) I say "good day" to the people of Gjoa Haven.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, TMAC Resources, which owns

the Hope Bay mine project in the Kitikmeot, signed an agreement earlier this year as part of a proposal sale to Shandong Gold Ltd., a company that is headquartered in China.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's former Member of Parliament sits on the board of directors of TMAC Resources. She recently wrote an editorial that was published in *Nunavut News/North*. In her editorial, she indicated that the Government of Nunavut supports the proposed sale.

My question for the minister is this: does the Government of Nunavut support the proposed sale of TMAC Resources to Shandong Gold, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are aware that the sale is being reviewed by the federal government. What we have indicated is that because we do not get into the business of when businesses buy each other, what we have stated as part of this review is that this government, as long as the proponent respects and honours what the terms and conditions are for the environmental reviews that have taken place and the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement, that is the support that we are giving to the company. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government has been reviewing the proposed sale of TMAC Resources to Shandong Gold. Has the Government of Nunavut made a submission to Ottawa concerning the proposed sale and, if it has, will the minister commit to tabling a copy of the submission in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have. As a government, officials have submitted as part of the review to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, who is doing the current review. Our submission is before them and I would respect their review in terms of what they are reviewing. I will look at the contents of what we have submitted or what the government has submitted and make that determination. At this point I have not prepared it for tabling in this legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Kitikmeot Inuit Association has also been conducting its due diligence of the proposed sale. Mr. Speaker, I support the Kitikmeot Inuit Association's efforts to ensure that any proposed sale of the company comes with clear and enforceable commitments in the areas of Inuit employment and training, business development, and environmental protection. Mr. Speaker, can the minister

clarify the extent to which his department and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association have been working together on this review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the sale was about to transpire, I did receive a phone call from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association president indicating that this is happening and that they would do their due diligence. He provided me with a long list of due diligence that the Kitikmeot Inuit Association wanted to see.

Through that, we worked closely in terms of developing our review and to indicate that the commonality that we do share is if there is any business that is going to be working in our area, in our region, is that they honour a number of key things. Inuit employment is one, the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements are another, and also that they respect our environment and the regulatory regime that we do have in place. There is a lot of work that we are working closely with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, but we did not have a joint submission to say, but we are independently reviewing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, followed by the Member for Hudson Bay. Member Towtongie.

### **Question 932 – 5(2): Essential Workers during Pandemic**

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): I say “good day” to the people of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

As we all know, the COVID pandemic has brought significant changes to our lives and our liberties. I fully understand that decisions must be made to reduce risks to our society and protect our well-being. However, it is not always clear how these decisions are made.

Within the context of public health measures, can the minister clearly explain who is considered to be an “essential worker” and who is considered to be a “critical worker”? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is not an exhaustive list of critical workers and essential workers. There are very circumstance-specific criteria. Those are analyzed by the chief public health office on a case-by-case basis. An example could be an electrical engineer who is coming up to work on a project that may be just a normal phase where they would not be deemed a critical worker; they would have to go through the construction isolation hub. Where it could be arguably a generator goes down in a community where they need that electrical engineer brought in immediately, that would qualify as a

critical worker. I hope that gives a description. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Member Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During this pandemic, a number of decisions have been made with respect to policies which direct who can go to their place of work, who can travel, or who is eligible to receive extra financial supports. I had difficulty, not just myself in my Inuit mind, trying to adapt these new terms: “critical worker” and “essential worker.” Can the minister clarify who make the decisions on policies respecting essential workers and critical workers? Who made the policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we work with our chief public health officer and his office and staff, the decisions we have been making have been based upon the health and well-being of Nunavummiut. That has been our first and foremost priority in all the decisions that we have made.

With regard to what is deemed a critical worker and what is deemed an essential worker, there are general national guidelines which our chief public health officer, in coordination with departments like Community and Government Services or the Department of Transportation, where they have worked together to really identify the uniqueness of Nunavut.

I’ll use the airline industry as an example. At one point the pilots coming up to work were deemed that they were supposed to go through isolation, yet if they wouldn’t have been up here to be able to operate a charter for a medevac, they could have been still stuck in isolation when we needed them as a medevac. There have been those types of accommodations and recognition of... . It could be the same career but different circumstances, and that is where we have to work with our chief public health officer to determine the risk on each and every one of those applications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your final supplementary, Madam Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I fully understand that our chief public health officer has the expertise to assess health risks in our territory. The chief public health officer has the authority, given to him by our *Public Health Act*, to make decisions regarding such activities as travel, isolation, and physical distancing. However, our leaders of government also have the authority to make decisions with respect to policies that affect different sectors of our population.

Will the minister tell me which specific individual makes the final decision with respect to pandemic policies relating to essential workers and critical workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There isn't a specific individual. There are a number of different factors that go into consideration. Again, it is based upon the chief public health office themselves to analyze the risk of bringing COVID into the territory. Some decisions require cabinet approval. Some decisions are based on just the public health practices that are national and sometimes global.

We do work with the chief public health officer to make sure that Nunavut's uniqueness is recognized in these national and international policy guidelines, but the majority of them, I will say all of them, are based on the best medical advice that has been provided to us. There are some cases where cabinet approval is necessary. I will use the isolation hubs as an example. The chief public health officer can put that requirement in, but cabinet has to approve the budget for it and the implementation of it. That would be an example of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Sanikiluaq, Allan Rumbolt, followed by the Member for Amittuq. Member Rumbolt.

**Question 933 – 5(2): Sanikiluaq Infrastructure**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As I noted in my member's statement today, the Municipality of Sanikiluaq has been working hard to recover from the recent storm that caused extensive

damage in the community. I again want to thank the minister for his department's support to the community.

As the minister is aware, there are a number of challenges facing the delivery of GN programs and services in the community, given that the probation office and the government liaison office were both using space in the municipal building that is now unusable. Can the minister provide an update today on what actions are being taken by his department in partnership with the municipality to address the current situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, let me thank the community of Sanikiluaq for their patience and the tremendous work that the hamlet employees and senior administrative officer have been doing and the support we have been receiving from my colleague.

Mr. Speaker, the building that is in question was a building that the Government of Nunavut was leasing and subleasing to the hamlet as office space. I have been standing here for years listening to Mr. Rumbolt say "We need more office space in Sanikiluaq," and lo and behold, we do need more office space in Sanikiluaq. It is very unfortunate and trying times in that community.

Mr. Speaker, as of now the municipal offices have been situated in a trailer unit. They were able to get a lease with a

current contracting firm that was there and no longer using the trailer unit. In terms of government programs in the community, we are working closely with the municipality and other possible outlets in the community to assure them and get space for the government programs that are run in that community. We're continuing to work very closely with the municipality to ensure that there's as little disruption in service as there can be at these times. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is very much aware, there is a need for a long-term solution for the municipality. Can he indicate what the timeline will be for addressing this situation through the government's capital planning process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of different options that we do have, but priority being that we do need to find space in that community, one of the options is to take a look at the current space. There will be some renovations on it like a new roof amongst other things, but right now I'm working within our department and I will be bringing forth a plan to cabinet and I will be able to get into the details of that at a later date.

In short we are looking at putting in a new municipal office in that community that maybe can hold more than office spaces for the municipality but other programs, and we could have some shortcuts through that through the planning process. I know that the Municipality of Rankin Inlet, for example, has planning and design for a municipal office. There's no reason why we couldn't use those kinds of plans to bring forth a program much faster than the normal layout.

We do have a plan and I will be more than happy to share it with my colleague as those steps become sharable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 934 – 5(2): Turaaqtavut Mandate**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my fellow residents of Amittuq.

I was going to ask questions to the Premier of Nunavut about the *Turaaqtavut* mandate. Let me first indicate the page. (interpretation ends) I guess it would be more appropriate if I speak in English, even though it's my second language. Let me try. Let me quote on the Inuusivut part what the government's priorities are. "Improving the outcomes of mental health, addictions, and family counselling through existing and traditional counselling systems."

When it comes to this decision-making, is the government at least in consultation with elders in terms of transparency Nunavut-wide? In your minister's statement, when it comes to capital planning, capital estimates, and capital dollars, how are these elders also involved? Does every department have an elder advisor in each department when it comes to the priorities of the government's mandate? That will be my first question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work with the elders committees in communities. The member wanted to know if we have IQ committees in departments; if every department has one. I think most departments have an IQ coordinator within the department. We have an IQ committee within the Department of Environment. We have an IQ committee that is used a lot in the culture and heritage department and that's the main one. Education also has an elders committee that meets. Before COVID, they used to meet every three or four months. They would meet in Arviat and go through the curriculum and other issues that Education has. We're here to work. We're here to listen.

In my minister's statement about the treatment centre, that treatment centre is for trauma and addiction and it will be built here in Iqaluit. We have signed off on it. We have not received the money yet, but we have an agreement in principle that it will be built here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Turaaqtavut* is developed for Nunavut. In looking at *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, treating everyone equally, training, and working together, I'm envious of these communities that receive capital items and then it seems like the smaller communities are forgotten, but then they are remembered when we need more information on *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. "Let's check with the elders in Amittuq so that we can use it in this area."

The question I'm trying to ask now is on page 19, which the government is trying to use *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. Is the government just trying to look good with these IQ principles? Even though we say that we will use the elders and we will make a bright future for our young people through language and culture, when I look at this mandate, I'm now calling on the government... I'm saying that the Qallunaat way.

I'm not trying to say I dislike the government. I mentioned treating everyone equally and training. The government is just trying to look good and they don't strengthen it. I see it as just making IQ look good. If you can respond to it as the Nunavut Premier and not just use it as decoration. Can you strengthen language, training, and working together? Those are only three areas I'm talking about and there are more here. Are you just trying to look good with it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those are not just words and we utilize them. The government uses *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* when it's passing legislation or policies. This is at the beginning, not at the end. We use IQ at the beginning. We make real use of it and sometimes we use it more than other times, depending on what we're doing, but we use them. The Inuit language is the government's goal. If government staff or a Nunavummiuq wants to speak Inuktitut in the office, they are to be understood and responded to in Inuktitut, and that's our goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your second supplementary question, Member Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the clarification. Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) when it comes to our Inuunivut, the *Turaaqtavut* priorities are "Ensuring that government programs and services are more effective and relevant through Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and Inuit Societal Values within legislation and policy." In terms of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, when it comes to transparency and accountability, can the Premier commit to the House that when it comes to making these policies and creating new legislations, are these principles also being at least discussed within the government's departments in terms of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, whenever the government or departments are coming up with a policy or legislation, we consider *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* in the beginning of the process. It's not an add-on at the end just to make it look good. We start at the base of it. When we're developing a policy, either a GN-wide policy or a department policy, in the beginning it's part of the foundation. It's used in the beginning. If we're drafting up legislation, IQ is also part of the process in the beginning, not the end.

Mr. Speaker, it only makes sense that Inuit values and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* would be part of our government. The member can look around, Mr. Speaker. It's almost all Inuit here. We respect and we value Inuit values and we always will. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 935 – 5(2): Policing Services in Baker Lake**

**Mr. Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, in my questions yesterday, I focused on health care services being provided to the community of Baker Lake. My questions today will focus on policing services to the community.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware, the Canada-Nunavut policing services contract was renewed in April 2012 for a 20-year period. As the minister will recall, she tabled the

current shared directional statement with the RCMP's "V" Division in the Legislative Assembly at its sitting of March 12, 2020.

Can the minister clarify how her department works with the RCMP to determine the number of officers stationed at community detachments, and can she confirm how many officers should be stationed at the Baker Lake detachment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. When it comes to increasing members within the communities, it's the community that comes forward to the department requesting additional officers.

Recently I sent a letter to Minister Blair on May 19, 2020 indicating that we needed an increase of six members within Nunavut itself. Just recently on September 21, Minister Blair responded to my letter indicating that "Yes, we have received your request," and the financial commitment to fulfill our request, he would be working with the commanding officer of the Nunavut "V" division, Amanda Jones.

Currently Baker Lake has five officers, which one is vacant, and in the 2018 data analysis that was done by the department, Baker Lake was slotted for an extra officer, so we are working towards that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. As the minister will recall, a plebiscite under the *Liquor Act* was held in Baker Lake in 2018. It has now been over two years since Baker Lake became an unrestricted community under the *Liquor Act*. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the RCMP's "V" Division provides detailed information on a regular basis to the Department of Justice concerning the activities of Nunavut detachments. Can the minister indicate the extent to which the removal of liquor restrictions in Baker Lake has impacted the number of alcohol-related call-outs and serious incidents in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The member is correct; the department does receive statistical information when it comes to RCMP reporting. Also, this type of reporting is given to the municipality on a monthly basis. According to the statistics we received, in 2018 calls for service in Baker Lake were 1,502 and in 2019 an increase of calls jumped up from that amount to 1,740. I do have a breakdown for the member when it comes to the types of calls of service, which is alcohol complaints, alcohol suspected, and if the member would like, I can provide that information to him in writing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. I look forward to that data.

As the minister will be aware, the *Nunavut Crime Prevention Strategy* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly at its sitting of March 14, 2017. The strategy indicates that “Substance abuse and crime are closely linked. During the Public Engagement sessions, community members noted a strong connection between alcohol and violent crime. In addition, RCMP officers interviewed during these sessions were of the opinion that 90-95% of call-outs involve alcohol.”

Can the minister describe how her department is currently working with the RCMP to implement the crime prevention strategy in Baker Lake in relation to the abuse of alcohol and other substances? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. The RCMP and the department, along with other departments, work directly with the municipality and the community as to what’s needed to ensure that crime prevention within that community is addressed. There are various departments which work together to ensure that the safety and the health and well-being of the residents are the first

priority of the RCMP. We work diligently with these groups.

If the member would like, I can sit with him and kind of explain the type of situation, the crime prevention strategy itself, to ensure that the information he receives, he can relay back to his community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 936 – 5(2): Housing and Progress**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon I will be directing my question to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation regarding the statements he made under ministers’ statements.

For 2020-21, the housing corporation has stated that they would like to build 227 new units. Are you going to be building any new housing units in Pangnirtung and, if so, when will construction begin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member. For Pangnirtung, we are looking at building some staff housing units. There will be five staff housing units and I believe we started construction over the summer. In regard to public housing, there are

currently no new units slated for Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Madam Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In the 2019-2020 report from the Representative for Children and Youth, there are overcrowded dwellings of 6,438, and in the House I have asked about public housing units not being built in Pangnirtung, but more staff housing units continue to be built when there are already 12 empty units sitting.

I am asking the minister if he has worked with the Minister of Human Resources to review the issues when it comes to housing needs in the communities, especially in the decentralized communities like Pangnirtung. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The responsibility of the staff housing file has been transferred over to the Department of Human Resources, and when they identify which community will need more staff housing in relation to job applications or community jobs, then we at the corporation build these units.

As for the social housing allocation, I encourage the member from Pangnirtung to reach out to her community and get them to apply to the local housing

organization office so that the numbers of those in need will increase, as that is how we allocate house construction, as per the needs of each community. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Madam Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that clarification and the minister's request to recall how the communities can apply or request more housing units for their municipality.

(interpretation ends) As the minister stated in his minister's statement, he said "To succeed, we need made-in-Nunavut solutions," and when we are looking at overcrowded dwellings of 6,438... I'm guessing in Pangnirtung that there is one unit that is a four-bedroom house with 11 people living in it. If we are going to be talking about Nunavut-made solutions, I would recommend that the government reviews how the housing crisis is within Nunavut and work within their own departments and ministers to face these issues.

(interpretation) Is the minister going to be working with the Department of Human Resources to look at the housing needs in the Nunavut communities? There are vacant houses in the community and they have been vacant for a very long time. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I referenced earlier, when communities request more units, the discrepancy in waiting lists is used with the highest allocated units. There were about 60 action items... . (interpretation ends) The *Blueprint for Action on Housing* Nunavut strategy, there are 60 action items and it's just not going to take the Nunavut Housing Corporation alone to address the housing needs throughout Nunavut. It will take the whole-of-government approach on how we can address each point. I encourage the regular members to give us ideas on how further we can address our acute housing crisis. We are in an acute housing crisis and I feel my people. We need to do as much as we can to address our acute housing overcrowding crisis. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 937 – 5(2): Public Health Exemptions to MLAs**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to ask my question to the Minister of Health.

(interpretation ends) I mentioned in my member's statement the very unpopular isolation hubs, unpopular but necessary. Mr. Speaker, the exemption to the 14-day isolation requirement is even more unpopular with my constituents. I didn't think it was possible, to be honest, to find something less popular than the isolation hubs, but here we have it.

My first question, and it's important to clarify this, I believe, for all Nunavut residents, to the Minister of Health is: what was the reasoning behind public health officials? I realize it was public health officials that put this exemption in place, not the minister himself. What was the reasoning for giving an exemption to elected officials such as MLAs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate the member asking this question. There has been a lot of confusion and concern about this exemption out in the public. I can say with all sincerity that as the pandemic arose, it created a lot of challenges that we did not foresee as a society, and that is government operations as a whole.

What started this was a national dialogue with regard to our Members of Parliament, members of our Senate, and their ability to return home and get back to work as needed. There were a lot of very quick and reactionary meetings that needed to occur. The purpose behind it was to not put undue hardship on governance of the country and of each jurisdiction. There was an exemption brought in for MPs and Senate members fairly early on, and Dr. Patterson felt that it was very important to make sure, out of pure openness and transparency, that provincial and territorial legislators also had that availability. It was a national discussion that led to that decision.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) This exemption applies to MLAs such as all of us sitting around the House here today. Has this exemption been used to date by any Member of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not just for MLAs or cabinet ministers, there have been no applications by any politicians, including our MP or our senator, to bypass isolation. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for clarifying that, minister. I would add that I personally have no intention of using this exemption, and the vast majority of my colleagues on the regular members' side have also indicated that, just as an aside.

My final question is there are some circumstances where this exemption may be needed, and I would just like to request a clarification from the minister that if this exemption is used or exercised by elected officials, the exemption applies to work travel only.

I'll make an example myself. I'm not allowed to go shopping at Polo Park in Winnipeg, for example, using this exemption, even though I do miss shopping at Polo Park in Winnipeg. For

clarity, it is for work travel only, and that is my final question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can confirm that there is absolutely no condition under normal travel conditions that any one of us or our MP or senator would be able to apply for the exemption for recreational or non-essential travel.

It was determined that, if the Speaker will permit me, just to give an example, if I had to go down last week to attend to a finance ministers' meeting as there was a new finance minister federally, if I needed to go down to make sure Nunavut's voice was heard at that table and if I had to go through isolation, I would be in isolation right now and I would not be appearing before the regular members or the Assembly to be able to defend some of the decisions that we have made and the bills associated with them.

I understand the value of why it is there. I don't anticipate anyone using it unless it is absolutely necessary. Like I said, there have been politicians back and forth, and nobody has applied for that exemption. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. As a friendly reminder, the Management and Services Board has indicated that constituency funds cannot be used to travel south. Thank you.

Member for Kugluktuk, followed by the Member for Netsilik. Mr. Pedersen.

**Question 938 – 5(2): Caribou Management**

**Mr. Pedersen:** *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everybody. Hello to Kuglukturmiut.

My questions are for the Minister of Environment and they concern the important issue of caribou management in the Kitikmeot.

As the minister will recall, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board issued a formal decision in July of this year concerning the harvest of Bluenose-East caribou. In its letter to the minister on July 10, 2020, the board indicated that it had "...heard from the Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers organization that an increase in wolf removal incentives is needed to sustain ground-based removal of wolves. The Board encourages the Government of Nunavut to consider increasing incentives for ground-based removal of wolves in the short-term, particularly on the Bluenose-East caribou calving grounds."

Can the minister confirm how his department has responded to the board's recommendation? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a wolf sampling program in place for all of Nunavut. We started it off as a pilot project in the Kitikmeot. It worked out well and now we have it in place Nunavut-wide, and it has increased the wolf harvest within Nunavut. I believe the strategy we have for collecting wolf samples, which

encourages people who may not necessarily want to hunt a wolf, to go hunt wolves. I believe our wolf sampling program is doing what it is intended to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Pederson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In its letter to the minister of July 10, 2020, the board also indicated that it is "...encouraging to see the Government of Nunavut and NTI working with the Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization to update their community management plan." Can the minister update the House today on the status of this work? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work with any communities that want to have a caribou management plan for the herd that affects their communities. We have been working with the Kugluktuk HTO with their caribou management plans. We manage each caribou herd distinctly, each on its own merit. We do population estimates and if the herd is healthy, then there is no TAH. If there is a decline and the decline is going too low, then a recommendation is put into the NWMB to have a total allowable harvest. When there is any consultation, we do consultations with the communities to find out what their concerns and what their feelings are and to take that all in before any management plan is put in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this month the Government of Nunavut announced that it is implementing an interim total allowable harvest limit for harvesting caribou from the Dolphin and Union caribou herd. The new number is now 42. The announcement confirmed that the Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association is one of the impacted hunters and trappers organizations, and it indicated that "...this interim Total Allowable Harvest will be reassessed once formal consultations are completed, new information is reviewed and updated recommendations are submitted to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board."

Can the minister clarify what information was used to determine the interim total allowable harvest level, and can he indicate what the timeline is for the reassessment process for submitting a new proposal to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The data that was used for the information was caribou surveys are done to get a population estimate and satellite collared caribou are all part of the equation. I know where the collared caribou locations are and the surveys are done there. I do not know the exact formula that is used, but they do a survey. There is low density, there is medium density, and then there is high density of caribou. They take that all in

and they have a formula that gives them a rough estimate that is fairly accurate in what they believe the caribou population is.

Then once they have the caribou population numbers, they consult with the affected communities and the HTOs to tell them what the numbers are, and if the caribou population numbers are good for that population, then it's just information added to the HTOs in the community. If there is a decline and there is a conservation concern, then they are used to recommend a TAH to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, followed by the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak. Member Qirngnuq.

#### **Question 939 – 5(2): Status of Taloyoak School Project**

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

Mr. Speaker, the government's ransomware situation and the COVID-19 pandemic have honest-to-goodness lead me and the residents of Taloyoak to wonder if we have lost any chance of getting a new high school in the community in the near future.

Can the minister provide an update on when the community will receive an update on the government's plan for the new school in Taloyoak? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasia:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. The Netsilik School in Taloyoak is in fair condition. However, the enrolment rate is exceeding the utilization of the school. Currently from the 2019-2020 fiscal year, it was 103 percent. My department has been working with the Department of Community and Government Services and the Taloyoak DEA on touring the school over the past couple of years. My department, we are proposing to submit plans for Taloyoak school. If approved, the design phase would take place in the 2021-22 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for the record, can the minister provide a brief overview of how long it would take for construction to begin once his department's plan for the new school is approved? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasia:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank again, the member for his question. Typically, for capital projects of this size, normally the design phase takes about one year, and this involves consultations at the community-level, and construction would commence the following year 2022-23. That is the intention. This fiscal year, for example,

Sakku School in Coral Harbour, we're doing the design phase. It's just about done and the construction would start the next fiscal cycle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) When the government plans to construct a big ticket item such as a school, there is usually a tender process where companies can bid on the project. Occasionally the design and build fees are included in the same tender request.

Can the minister clarify how the government will handle the tender process when the time is right to begin the new school project in Taloyoak? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasia:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we are doing a capital project of this nature, we have used an approach where it's design-build for schools where we lost due to arson in Kugaaruk and Kinngait. However, outside of those, those were very exceptional circumstances where we used that process, but moving forward with Taloyoak's project, we're intending to go through the normal design phase and then tender the construction through that cycle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members will note that the time for

question period has expired, but Member Lightstone.

**Motion 082 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that the time allotted for oral question period be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes. (interpretation) It has been extended, I can certainly say that.

Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

**Question 940 – 5(2): Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleagues for allowing the extension of oral questions.

My questions today are for the Minister of Education and the topic is high school graduates and Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education's most recent annual report, which was for the 2016-17 fiscal year, indicates that 297 students had graduated from high school in that period. My first question to the minister is: would he be able to provide us with an update as to how many high school students

graduated in the 2019-2020 academic year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanase:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. The graduation rate in Nunavut fluctuates on a year-to-year basis and there continues to be positive growth on both the numbers and the graduates overall. In 2019 there was, according to the statistics I have, 262 graduates and out of those, 52 were in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for providing that information, minister. Mr. Speaker, around the world, the pandemic has forced post-secondary institutions to adapt and transition from teaching predominantly in class to a focus on a remote, online learning model. Unfortunately given our connectivity issues, online learning is not an ideal method for students studying in Nunavut. I'm worried that this will negatively affect our recent high school graduates as well as post-secondary students who, as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, have had to make a difficult decision of whether or not to pursue further education.

In response to the written question submitted by my colleague, Mr. Main, as well as letters from the standing committee, it appears that the number of FANS recipients has been steadily

increasing in recent years. My next question for the Minister of Education is: how many FANS applications have been submitted for the fall 2020 semester? I'm curious to find out if this is an average amount or if there has been a substantial change in the number of applicants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The FANS division, of course, transitioned from the Department of Family Services this spring and we did have a transition team. I would like to thank the seamless transition from Family Services back to Education.

Back to his question around applications, if we look at the last three fiscal years, 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-2020, there were roughly 680 to 750 applicants across the territory. If we look at this fiscal year, 2020-21, we had 418 FANS applicants. 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 once again thank you, minister, for that response. For my final question, of the 418 applicants, how many of those are new applicants, for example, those not applying to continue studies or continue into future years of the program? Is that figure average or has that also seen a substantial reduction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a breakdown of how many of those applicants are continuing on from previous years. However, we are trying to accommodate and support our post-secondary students, whether they're first year students or fourth year students, and this includes whether they are studying outside of the territory or within. We're providing them as much options as we can and this was evident when the pandemic hit. We had to support them. For those that wanted to come back to the territory, we allowed for that and some chose to stay in the jurisdiction that they're studying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 941 – 5(2): Security at Community Health Centres**

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. My question will be for the Minister of Health.

(interpretation ends) It is my understanding that the community health centres across Nunavut have security guards working in them. Can the minister provide an update on how many health centres have security guards and what are their duties and responsibilities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a moment.

My apologies, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the number right at my fingertips on how many health centres currently have security. I believe it's nine. I'll have to get back to the member to make sure that I have updated numbers on that.

One of the challenges that we continue to face in our health centres are security issues and the safety of our staff. When people have concerns with their health care, we strongly suggest that they approach the health professional that they're talking to, there are second opinions that are available, and there are other appeal options to different levels of care. There's no need to react with violence or anger to our health care professionals. They're trying very hard to make sure that people are being cared for properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that when the government hires individuals to provide certain services at the community level, every effort should be made to provide local individuals the opportunity to fill those jobs. I have been given to understand that security guards at the Pangnirtung Health Centre were being shipped into the community for five- or six-week shifts. Can the Minister of Health clearly explain what efforts have been made to advertise locally for security guard jobs at the local community health centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am aware of the situation in Pangnirtung. The member has brought it to my attention and there was some correspondence recently on it.

We continue to struggle with staffing in the security positions at the health centre in Pangnirtung. There has been a lot of turnover. There has been training and then people leave and trying to hire new local employees is always our goal. Not only do we have that knowledge of the individuals who go into the health centre when you have local employees; you understand the social issues and you understand where people are coming from and you know where the family links are. That is always our goal.

One of the things that we talk often amongst all the departments across the Government of Nunavut is where we want to promote local employment and we need to continue these efforts. I find it very frustrating that we have gaps in our services because we can't keep local employees. We need to work on why people aren't staying and we need to figure out why people aren't applying on some of the jobs. We all have to collectively work together to promote employment in all of our communities. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Providing security services is very important and I understand that. He

already answered that there may be nine health centres across Nunavut that need security officers. I understand that the government is trying to work towards Inuit employment as well. The training that they could get is very important and we understand why we need to why locals are not being hired. My next question is: is this something that the government will be doing, to be sending it out security officers into the health centres, or are there going to be some changes to this? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an ever-evolving situation. We have security guards in our health centres that I don't have budgets for, but for the wellness of the staff and the other clients in the health centre, for their safety, we're forced to put security guards into these health centres. I believe we spent \$2.7 million on security in health centres last year, Mr. Speaker.

To be frank, I find it appalling that health care professionals, who are really trying hard to work for our people, feel in danger. We've had community health centres that are very difficult to staff because people talk; health professionals talk. There are certain communities where they do not want to work in because of the way they're treated. I think we have to get to the underlying issues, like the member said, of why there is this turnover and why we can't seem to keep local security staff on site.

There is training associated with it and it's a great career opportunity for people.

I think we need to really sit down as a group and look at it from different perspectives on why we continue to struggle to keep these positions staffed. Thank you.

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

### **Question 942 – 5(2): Supporting Safe Homes**

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken a number of times about the great need for shelters and safe spaces in the community of Gjoa Haven. From time to time, community members open their hearts and their homes to provide a safe space for those who are in desperate need. However, this can put a strain on their own space and financial situations.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clearly describe what supports are in place to help those who help others by opening their own homes to become a safe home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those who provide a safe space and who are going through a difficult time, in our communities they are struggling, and struggling through a situation.

What we try to provide through Family Services are different opportunities that

they can access. There is also a meeting between the individual who is providing the safe space in that community from our department officials and that is what I can tell you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud of those individuals who do their best help others who are in need, and this government should recognize those people who are helping others.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update on how many safe homes are currently supported by his department, and how often do these homes get used? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are different forms of shelters that are throughout. From what I understand, the member is asking specifically for safe homes. According to my documents, there are four established safe homes in Nunavut. In terms of how much it is utilized, I do not have that level of information at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to stress again that we should recognize the people that are trying to help others without the government's help. They do it on their own.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes it is difficult for those who provide a safe space for others to know where to go to receive support from the government to help them help others. They are helping people on your behalf, on behalf of the government.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to reaching out to communities and ensuring that information is available to those who provide safe homes and how they can access funding and support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just going through my documentation, I do want to say that this is far too many numbers and what I've got right now is 683 women and children have accessed those shelters before. That is far too many, but in sad reality, we do need more and when we do need more, the Department of Family Services does have guidelines and procedures to help people that do want to become safe homes. We will continue to promote that and I applaud the member for continuing to raise it in this House and something that we need to help each other with our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

### **Question 943 – 5(2): Time Change Options**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. I would like to direct my question

to the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

People come to my office in my constituency of Amittuq. The time change will happen this summer. The clock will go back. We have to smile once in a while. People are dissatisfied when we have to turn the clocks back in the fall. First of all, if we didn't turn back the clocks this fall, would you support that? If people started writing to you or if I show you it in writing at our next fall sitting, would you support my fellow residents of Amittuq if they don't want to turn back the clock this fall? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the Daylight Saving Time, it was told to the leaders of the provinces and territories that BC, Yukon, and Saskatchewan don't change their time and one community within Nunavut doesn't change their clocks. I think it's up to the communities. I'm not aware of that right now, but if we want to do it Nunavut-wide, we would have to consult with the regions, scheduled airlines, and business owners and how much they would be impacted. That's what we would have to do. This is being considered all over Canada and it has been a concern of turning back the clocks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernek** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as I mentioned, my fellow residents of Amittuq in Sanirajak and Igloolik don't want to turn back their clocks this fall. Days will be shorter and it will get dark sooner and it seems like you have to do it the other way around.

I would like the support from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. What else can they do? Do they approach the hamlet? Do they start a petition? How can I help them push for my constituents when they don't want to turn back the clock? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated earlier that I'm not aware of what exactly we need to do. I can look further into this. I'll talk with the member on how they can get it started and how difficult it is. Would it be too difficult? I'll look into that and I'll discuss it with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernek** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for looking into that. Please look into it before we turn back the clock in the fall. For my last question, as you mentioned earlier, Yukon, if I am not mistaken, and the NWT will not be turning back their clocks, as well as BC.

I heard from behind me Coral Harbour doesn't turn back their clock. Can you do it before the fall if the majority of them don't want to turn back their clock? Can you support us?

As I mentioned, these might be the reasons, like scheduled airlines and other services and other governments, other jurisdictions within Canada. If maybe a petition is presented to the House, it's not really a question.; can the Government of Nunavut go with Yukon? Can we do the same thing and how? What process did they go through? How did they agree with transportation businesses? Would you support Amitturmiut if they don't want to turn back the clock? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, I am not aware of the process right now. I will look into it. I don't want to give you the wrong information on how easy, or difficult it is, or what the barriers are. Then I'll report back to him on how easy it is, but in looking at turning back the clock, it is the very near future. We are already in the fall. I'll look into it first, and then I'll have a talk with my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. We shall proceed to Item 7. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Lightstone.

### Item 7: Written Questions

### Written Question 070 – 5(2): Ministerial Travel 2019-2020

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and the subject is ministerial travel for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, the written question is one of my several year-end written questions and the question is detailed and I request that it be entered into the *Hansard* as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that his detailed question be entered into the question as read? Are there any nays? I don't hear any nays. It will be entered.

Written Questions. Let us proceed. Item 8. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation) Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. (interpretation ends) Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. 16. (interpretation) Motions. 17. First Reading of Bills. 18. Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 45, 46, and 47 and Tabled Document 65 – 5(2) with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

\*See Appendix for full text of Written Question 70 – 5(2).

>>House recessed at 16:01 and  
committee resumed at 16:30

**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 45, 46, and 47. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence the review of the three supplementary appropriations, starting with Bill 47, followed by Bills 45 and 46. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Do members agree we first deal with Bill 47?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Bill 47 – Supplementary  
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.  
1, 2020-2021 – Consideration in  
Committee**

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

**Hon. George Hicke**: With the committee's permission, yes please, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. For the record, Minister Hicke, please introduce your officials and then proceed on to your opening comments. Minister.

**Hon. George Hicke**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. To my left is Deputy Minister Jeff Chown, Department of Finance, and the backbenchers, I will call them for now, Ms. Constance Hourie, Deputy Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Yvonne Niego, Deputy Minister of Family Services, and Stephen Mansell, Deputy Minister of Justice. I will proceed to my opening comments.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I am here to provide an overview of Bill 47, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021*.

Through this bill we seek to increase the Government of Nunavut's capital appropriation by \$147.5 million this fiscal year. If approved, this would double the GN's capital spending authority in 2020-21 to \$290.5 million.

Mr. Chairman and members, I have provided you with an overview of this bill already through recent correspondence. For completeness, I am pleased to summarize it again today. This bill seeks approval for three types of capital spending.

First, the bill includes \$120.2 of "capital carryovers." These represent funds the Assembly had already authorized departments to spend on approved capital projects in 2019-2020. For various reasons, these projects were unfinished on March 31, 2020. To continue building in 2020-21, the

Government of Nunavut required renewed spending authorities.

Usually our Assembly approves carryover requests during our spring sitting. This timing ensures authorities are in place at the start of the construction season. As members well know, we chose to postpone that sitting due to COVID-19.

Following this decision, the Government of Nunavut issued Special Warrant No. 6 for \$116.5 million to provide projects with the necessary spending authority to continue over the summer. We were able to continue to advance the capital plan as a result. Later in the summer, as departments worked through their year-end reporting, they identified the need to adjust carryovers by another \$3.7 million, to a total of \$120.2 million.

Second, we are submitting through this bill an additional \$18 million in capital spending initially authorized through Special Warrant No. 7. We are also seeking an additional \$7 million in new funding, not yet authorized by special warrant. The Department of Community and Government Services required these funds, \$25 million in total, to cover the added costs generated by requiring construction workers to isolate in a southern facility before travelling to our communities.

Mr. Chairman and members, by imposing this requirement and taking on the associated financial costs, we helped protect Nunavummiut from COVID-19 potentially transmitted by southern workers. The Department of Community and Government Services is using these funds to pay for the isolation costs of

workers up front and will allocate these costs to the specific capital projects.

Third, the Government of Nunavut is seeking \$2.3 million in new capital spending for 2020-21. Of this, the Department of Justice requires \$1.5 million this year to address higher costs for its Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre. This in-year increase is part of a total \$4 million increase to the project over three years. This would bring the Government of Nunavut's total contribution to the project to \$27.8 million. The Government of Canada is contributing the remaining \$57 million.

The Department of Family Services is seeking an additional \$806,000 for renovations toward a shelter in Cambridge Bay and relating to offices in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Chairman and members, this completes my comments and I would be pleased to take questions about this bill. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. For the benefit of members, we are doing Bill 47 and it is broken down into several different departments, and we will go page by page and approve each department as we go. We are going to start off with page 4 of Bill 47 with Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Special Warrant. Are there any questions on that particular page?

Sorry. I've got to back up a little bit. I didn't ask if there were any general comments on the minister's opening comments. Are there any general comments? Be patient with me because I have to keep swinging my head in order to cover all of the members as they are

spread out throughout the building here. Mr. Main, do you have comments you would like to make? Go ahead.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thanks for sharing your seat. On the issue of capital carryovers, you know this is an issue that comes up every year, and I'll just say that I am concerned. I think there is a lot of room for the government to tighten up the delivery of capital projects in terms of the budgeting process and in terms of making sure that projects are built in a timely manner. I would like to see improvement in this area in the years to come.

Another comment on the issue of isolation hubs for construction workers, I think that this pandemic has shown how unfortunately dependent we are on southern or imported labour when it comes to capital projects. The pandemic and all these costs associated with construction hubs for an imported construction workforce, it has just highlighted to me how absurd the situation is that we find ourselves in, and I realize that it wasn't created overnight. We have this dependency and I feel quite strongly that it is something that we need to address in a timely manner.

On the one hand, we have incredible unemployment and we have very high cost of capital projects. On the other hand, we can't seem to connect the dots in terms of connecting the two problems, the high unemployment, the need for greater education, and the need to hire more of our own people to build our own infrastructure. I will use, for example, housing in my home community of Arviat. Within the last 10 years we saw a dramatic shift in how housing

approached builds; whereas previously, within the last 10 years, we saw an impact where we went from 80 to 90 percent local employment to where we are now. I recall, I think the latest average in Arviat was 30 to 40 percent, and so that is just a small example that tells me that it's not just about we can't find the workers. There is something about how the government is administering capital projects which is systemically, I think, excluding a large chunk of our workforce. I would seriously like to see us address this in a timely manner for the betterment of the government and for the betterment of all of the unemployed people across our territory.

On that final item, the Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre, I am disappointed that we are being asked to approve more money for this project. It was a very expensive item to begin with, close to \$90 million, I believe, Mr. Chairman. I note in the briefing material that it mentions a contingency fund was depleted. If you depleted your contingency fund from a budgeting process and then you have to come back for more, it speaks volumes about the quality of the budgeting and the planning that went into that project to begin with. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Main. Any more general comments? If not, we will move on. Again, we are on page 4 for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Special Warrant. Are there any questions? I see none. Intergovernmental Affairs. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Special

Warrant. Total Department. \$246,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 5. Finance. Item 1, continued on to page 6. Item 2. Special Warrants. Are there any questions? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When we look at this list of projects here, how many of these carry forwards on the capital projects are due to normal operating issues or conditions and how many of these carryovers are due to pandemic-related issues? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As this is a year-end, March 31 this year, the pandemic, the health emergency that was put out on March 20, so there has been very little impact on COVID with these carryovers. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Any more questions? If not, we will move on to page... I'm sorry, no, we are on Finance. Special Warrant for Finance. Centrally Administered Funds. Total Department. \$4,025,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 7 is Justice. Special Warrants and Not Previously Authorized. This page is broken down into two sections with Corrections and Directorate, so I will

accept questions anywhere on this page if members have any. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On page 7, Item 1 and Item 2, Qikiqtani Correctional jail, where some of the expenses are included in a Special Warrant column and some are on Not Previously Authorized, I wonder if we can get an explanation as to why we have the split between those two columns. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies. Just again, with the increase in costs, that is what we are here to get approved today, the \$4 million over three years. The \$1.5 million stems from that. The other small portion, the \$1.6 million, was out of this special warrant. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This \$1.5 million that we are being asked to provide in the briefing material, it explains on page 20 that the intention of the Department of Justice is to come for additional money over the next three years, including this year, for a total of \$4 million in overages on the project. What would be the consequences to the project of not approving this \$1.5 million listed in Item 2 on page 7? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you. I'm so used to pushing the button, Mr. Chairman. My apologies.

I'm sure Deputy Minister Mansell will supplement my response in a moment, but basically at this point, to me, there would be a couple of different options. We would have to change the scope of work mid-construction to decrease the cost in some measure or potentially stop construction and pay out any penalties that would be associated with the construction contract, but I'm sure Mr. Mansell has an LLB after his name, so I'll let him give the legal description. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The minister is correct; we have identified a number of areas that we feel were left out in the initial planning phase and I believe a lot of them are in the material you have. If we weren't able to get this supplementary funding, we would have to go through that and see if anything can be removed. We feel that most of these are vital to the project and that's why we're asking for the funding, but we would have to look at the project and see where we could remove things or scale back. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It says on page 21 of the briefing material, it mentions COVID-19 causing disruption to the project and it mentions "This has created additional costs to the project." I'm not looking for down to the

last penny, but how much of this overage is tied to COVID-19 and how much of it is tied to other issues like design errors, code compliance, and scope change, which are also mentioned? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Mansell would have that level of detail with him, I'm sure. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Actually, the COVID primarily caused a delay in our construction schedule due to the need to isolate the workers. The funds we're seeking are related to what the member raised, which are design errors, code compliance, and a slight scope change. COVID resulted in a construction delay, but the three areas we have outlined are what are resulting in the cost overrun. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When it mentions a contingency fund in the briefing material, it says, "The contingency fund for the project is depleted," and then it goes on to say, "The fund was originally kept small due to concerns about project costs, which meant that less money was set aside for unexpected costs." I'm not quite sure I understand that statement. It sounds like a contingency fund was kept small due

to poor budgeting. This is just my judgment, of course, but that contingency fund is there to cover things like this. I'm concerned that this statement... I guess I'll just ask for an explanation of that statement in terms of "The fund was originally kept small due to concerns about project costs..." (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do recall when this was going through. This facility is actually scaled back from what was originally being explored as having a correctional facility. When we scaled back the scope and the size of it, and with the federal investment into it, there was a cap to the federal investment.

The 75-25 split, when we put in it, it challenged the project to stay under that budget line to a degree whereas, from what I understood, as things progressed through the design and planning. As the member has mentioned, there were a couple of omissions, but it did challenge the department to be able to encompass the facility's intentions under the 75-25 split.

I'm sure Mr. Mansell could supplement my response with more up-to-date information. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The minister is correct; when the project was going forward, a number of things were cut back to scale down the project

to ensure that we had the federal government onside and we could move forward with their \$50 million commitment. At that time a contingency of 2 percent was agreed upon as part of the scaling back of project costs. That was based on a best guess at the time of what was needed. Obviously we are here now seeking further funding due to circumstances related to flaws and additional security measures. The contingency obviously has proven to be insufficient. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm concerned about the pattern of overages in capital projects. I recall our committee gave Nunavut Arctic College a very, I'll say, hard time about a project over in Cambridge Bay where they were going to exceed the project budget and we instructed them to stay within the budget and they did find a way to do that. I realize it was a smaller project and more simple than this jail project, but in the response from the deputy minister, am I correct to infer that if this money is not approved, there are things that could be done to save money and make do without this additional \$1.5 million? I'm just seeking a clarification. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Mansell would have more detail into the status of that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll go through the design error omissions and the code compliance matters. Maybe it is just to elaborate more on what some of this money would be used for.

In design errors, bunk bed footholds were designed in an unsafe manner and needed to be redesigned to remove ligature points to pose a danger of inmates harming themselves. That is \$55,000 we estimate.

The unit floors were originally designed with drains to avoid the floor units flooding or the risk of mould and rot. We need to include drains. That is \$70,000.

In the original design, an air duct was placed under the inmates' dining table area. To avoid air flow through tables, it needs to be moved for \$35,000.

The medium-security unit key fob access is missing from the plan, so that needs to be added to ensure that staff have key fob access throughout the unit; \$135,000.

Code compliance; an inline sewer macerator was added at the request of the City of Iqaluit. A sewer macerator, what that means is it is almost like a huge garbage disposal and it chews up everything before it gets into the sewer line. In corrections, not just in Nunavut, but nationally, when inmates get mad, they flush things down the toilet and the City of Iqaluit has consistently had to dig up the sewer line near the BCC and they asked us to get in front of this issue during construction of the new facility, and so the macerator will...anything

flushed would be chewed up before it gets into the city lines.

Including snow fins on the roof at a cost of \$250,000; we conducted a study which found there is a risk possibly of roof overload due to snow and the fins would address this problem. That's code compliance and design errors.

Scope change: a body scanner to be included in the facility at a cost of \$250,000. A body scanner is just the thing that you see at the airport. When you step in, you put your arms up and your body is scanned. Right now any inmate who is coming into the facility is strip-searched. That body scanner would alleviate this need. We feel it's much more sensitive and appropriate for inmates rather than having to conduct a physical search of them every time.

Personal protection devices, this is essentially just something that connects each staff on the floor to the communication system, \$60,000.

Heated metal carts purchased for delivery of hot food to inmates, the project is a two-phase project. We're building the new facility and then we would be gutting the old BCC and while we're gutting the old BCC, there will be all the meals for all the inmates will come out of the Makigiarvik kitchen and the carts would be used to bring the meals from Makigiarvik to the new facility, to the women's, as well as to the youth. Those are \$120,000.

Additional cameras added to exercise yards; we noticed that once the yard was completed and it was mapped out, there may be some blind spots. Building skirting under the new facility is

strengthened. We do have an issue at the current BCC of people trying to get under the building and so we strengthened that in the new building and that's \$50,000, and then we had to move the program shed that the young offenders use in order to get construction equipment into the building site for the new facility.

That's a breakdown of a lot of what these funds would be used for. With respect to the member's question, I honestly think those are all vital items that we need at the facility. He's correct that if we didn't get these funds, we would have to look at the project and figure out how to scale back, but the projects that we have earmarked for this funding, I think, are all vital to the project. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the detail. I mean, of course, when it comes to safety, we don't want to skimp on safety, but I don't quite understand why these wouldn't have been identified from the beginning when you went through, not you personally. When the department went through the planning process along with CGS, why weren't these identified at the very beginning and included in the budgets so that we wouldn't have to be in this position today, being asked to add more money on top of a \$90 million project? What changed between when this project was first approved and now in terms of these needs? Why weren't they identified at the very beginning? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that level of detail with me. Hopefully Mr. Mansell would be able to give some insight into how that came about. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I can't speak to it too much other than to say that as construction commences and the building comes together, a lot of these things get noticed, particularly when you have staff who are touring the facility that can point out things like "Hey, that's not going to work," that we need to make these changes. Some things like the requests from the city were made after we started construction.

I can say to the member that I agree that we should be doing our very best to plan for all our needs as we begin the project. We have a smaller capital project that we're hoping to move forward to renovate and improve the Ilavut Centre in Kugluktuk. We have learned from this project how important it is to get things done right from the beginning and we will take those lessons as we move forward with any other projects from the department. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few short questions. My first question is: what is the current level of Inuit employment on the correctional facility project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Lightstone. I'll ask you to keep to the principle of the bill. I am not sure if this... . Okay. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the member just confirm whether he meant... ? I was listening, but I missed part of it. Was it the Inuit employment in the construction or Inuit employment in the facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's the current level of Inuit employment in the construction of the facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Mansell has that information. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. Under the contract, Inuit employment minimum that our contractor has to have is 20 percent Inuit employment. I am happy to say that we are currently at 25 percent. We also have three inmates from the halfway house working on the project and a good news story is we had an inmate doing masonry on the project and when his sentence was over, the contractor appreciated his work so much that they hired him full time and are providing him housing and he is apprenticing in masonry right now. We are above the target of 20 at 25. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much. My next question is: how much of the almost \$90 million is due to expenses related to southern hire travel and accommodations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I don't know if any of us would have that level of detail with us here today. I don't think Community and Government Services would have that level either. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. This \$4 million total request you are asking for, how close is that going to bring you to the actual project costs? Is that the final cost, the amount you need to finish this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, it is felt that it is a sufficient amount to complete the project. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, you mentioned the contingency fund is depleted. With this \$4 million, are we replenishing your contingency fund as well? If so, what is

the dollar value? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Typically, in most construction projects, especially of this size and nature, the contingency fund is usually around the 5 to 7 percent range. This one was 2 to come in under the budget, as I talked about earlier. Out of this \$4 million, it has to do with the scope of work. There is not an additional contingency aspect to it to my information. Oh, my apologies. I do sit to be corrected. Mr. Mansell can give you a little more detail on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mansell.

**Mr. Mansell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What we are asking for this year; the minister is correct. That is committed to the scope of work and the code issues. We are hoping that we can find some savings in the ongoing request or use some of that to replenish the contingency. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to express that I am disappointed in this project. It was a lengthy process last year trying to approve this funding for this new jail. I would just like to express that I am disappointed.

My colleague mentioned all these design errors, and with this additional \$4 million and with this budget shortfall of

\$1.5 million, it is quite a substantial amount of money to have it approved by the committee due to the fact that it is going to cost more when it could have been used for other appropriate projects, such as housing.

You mentioned the scope changes and you touched base on the dollar parts for each of the errors that were mentioned, but could you explain further on the body scanner to provide security without strip-search? I didn't hear any dollar amounts on this subject. If you can further explain how much would that cost again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The deputy minister did state that it would be a \$200,000 project, but Minister Hickes, if you wanted to add to that, please.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's \$250,000. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I mentioned before, it was a lengthy process and then we have to have breaks here and there, and I myself need to be satisfied if there won't be any more errors in designing and with code compliances. Hopefully there won't be any errors. Has that had a significant impact on the opening date for this new jail to be opened? Does that have an impact or just still on time to open? I don't know. You guys are not on budget, so is this still on time to be opened? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's hard to quantify right

now under the circumstances with the pandemic. There have already been some delays. We don't know how long we're going to be living with COVID-19. I can't sit here today and promise that it's going to open on the planned date of opening, but with the scope of work that is being entailed, it would just be through the normal construction process. There wouldn't be any substantial delays with that in these components to the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to my next question here, this project is supposed to have been identified right at the beginning that there is a design error and now the facility is constructed and it's all boarded up now and now it has been identified that there was a design error. Which department is responsible for this? I am sure it's Community and Government Services, but I need to know which departments have this error identified when this project is in its first year or second year. What happened? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kaernerck. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be a combination of both. Whenever a project like this comes forward, there are subject matter experts, obviously, brought in, so there would be people from a corrections background and code requirements for a correctional facility of this nature that they would have to adhere to, then the planning goes to Community and Government Services

with the information that they're provided. The majority of the omissions or errors, as described, as the project has been completed, as Mr. Mansell mentioned, when local staff or on-site staff started going through the new facility, they started noticing some of these things.

Like I stated in many different circumstances, if you want to find out what's going on in an organization, you talk to the frontline staff. Sometimes when you get into the planning of these great, big projects that the people who are going to be in there working aren't engaged to that level, so it does create some challenges in that respect. I understand that this is adding additional cost to an already approved project and they're fairly substantial. When you look at \$4 million out of up to a \$90 million project, that's 5 percent of a project, so that's a fairly substantial amount of money.

That being said, I think part of the problem is... . Contingency funds would normally be able to cover these types of things. This is a very regular occurrence in almost any construction project in the territory. It's just that I think the error in this case was not putting enough of a contingency fund into the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the explanation on that. Last year, like I keep mentioning this, we had a break and it was Committee of the Whole and I forwarded a motion that I wanted to delete \$3 million from that project.

With the additional \$4 million, that's a \$1 million difference, but with the overall project it's just going to cost more.

I would just like to make a last request that when there's a multi-million dollar project going on throughout Nunavut, I would recommend that these design errors be looked at before this error comes into play. I'm going to keep showing my disappointment. I'm disappointed. I mean, we approved this much for this big project and now we are here to approve another \$4 million. Like I said, that money could have been used for Nunavut communities. I would like to request that for any big project, these errors won't ever happen again. That's my final request. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kaernerck. Minister Hickee.

**Hon. George Hickee:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure the staff at the Department of Justice and the Department of Community and Government Services are listening, and I know that they always do their best to make sure that errors don't happen, but it does occur on occasion and this is one of those occasions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, in looking at the subject of our debate, what's written here, (interpretation ends) not previously authorized, Item 2, \$1.5 million, (interpretation) I move to remove that

from what we're voting on. That's my motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. The motion sounds like it's in order. Mr. Main, do you have a copy of the motion? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main:** No, I don't. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We will take a short break to have the motion properly written and translated. I will ring the bells when it's time to return. Thank you. We will take a short break.

>> *Committee recessed at 17:19 and resumed at 17:48*

**Chairman:** Welcome back, members. I call the committee meeting back to order. When we went into the break, there was a motion being drawn up and I'll go back to Mr. Main so he can read the motion again. Mr. Main.

**Committee Motion 010 – 5(2):  
Deletion of \$1,500,000 from the  
2020-2021 Capital Estimates of the  
Department of Justice**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have a motion to extend the sitting of the Committee of the Whole. I'll read this one first. Thank you.

I move that \$1,500,000 be deleted from the proposed supplementary funding for the Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre project in the 2020-21 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice that is presented in *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1*,

2020-2021. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. The motion is in order. Before we proceed with debate on the motion, I have a few comments to make on the procedures.

Every member has a right to speak to the motion for a total of 20 minutes.

The mover of the motion speaks first.

The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply, which closes the debate.

To the motion. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think the reason for this motion is clear, and it comes back to the issue of capital planning and budget control. That concludes my opening comments. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. To the motion. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Frankly I think this an inappropriate time to bring forward a motion of this nature. I understand that there are some concerns with the planning and the strategy, and the design of infrastructure of this territory. I think a conversation with the Minister of Community and Government Services or to cabinet overall, some kind of a direction to maybe be a little bit more stringent in our analysis and our cost estimating factors would be a more appropriate path.

Jeopardizing a project that the additions to it are strictly for inmate safety in the vast majority of the change orders, to me, is quite irresponsible. I think we are here to make sure that as we spend money, we do it diligently. There is that expectation to cabinet and to government to make sure that we are spending dollars appropriately as approved.

I think it was quite clearly acknowledged that to secure federal funding for this project, the Government of Nunavut underestimated the contingency fund that was necessary. In a normal project process, there would have been a contingency fund large enough to have been able to absorb what we are talking about here today. I think the circumstances of the steps that were taken at that time to secure \$57 million in funding to the Government of Nunavut for a correctional facility speaks for itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Hickes. Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you for giving me the chance to speak today. The Department of Justice did our best to ensure all the requirements were planned. However, we have identified a number of scope, code and design needs. We feel these are all vital to health and safety issues.

We have learned from the \$1.8 million riot which was held at the BCC, and I just want to inform the members that during COVID, a planned riot was being implemented by some of our inmates and it cost the department \$187,000 to

transfer these inmates south, and that is not the final amount. We are still waiting for an invoice from the airline as to the damages that were done to the aircraft during transfer of these inmates. If we do not spend on health and safety now, it could cost us more down the line. We learned that from the \$1.5 million in damages that was done during the riot.

Members, this new jail is a game changer for Nunavut. We will be able to bring inmates home and provide a state-of-the-art facility with programming and amenities from both staff and our elders as some of our elders will be the councillors within the new facility. I urge you to approve this funding to ensure we complete the project, keeping in mind the health and safety requirements for both staff and our inmates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Ehloak. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this project, we were able to secure close to \$60 million of federal funds for this project. If my colleagues recall, when this project first went out, it went out through the tender process, and there was only one bidder on the project. The bid came in at a very high rate. It was exceeding quite a bit of the funds that we had and what we were able to harness from the federal government.

Our department, with the client departments, the departments of Justice and Finance, went and negotiated, trying to work with the single bidder, an Inuit firm bidder from Sanirajak. We were able to work the numbers down as much as we can and trying to get it to fit into the envelope, Mr. Chairman. Through

that process, the contingency for a project of this magnitude usually is in the 5 to 7 percent range and it was brought down to 2 percent to try to make it fit in the envelope. This very move, maybe, is part of the issue we're facing here.

It was mentioned earlier on about design flaws or what have you, for a lack of a better term. This design was not done by Community and Government Services. It was put out and a recognized design firm for correctional facilities such as Stantec is the company that designed this facility. When you're building projects such as the size of this facility, there will be flaws. There always are flaws in these and that's why they build in contingency plans because it's one thing to draw on paper and documents and then to begin to build it and construct it and you start seeing things. Maybe the door shouldn't be here or the duct. At the end of it, it looked like it was going to work on paper; it doesn't quite work out when you start putting in the walls and the floors. Mr. Chairman, that's just the way it is.

Mr. Chairman, if this doesn't go through, we're putting, I believe, lives of our Nunavummiut who are in the facility as inmates and/or workers and correctional workers and support staff may be in danger if this doesn't go through. I know it's a lot of money. It is \$1.5 million, but I believe that this should be supported. I would not support this motion. I urge my colleagues not to support this motion.

Over the weeks, months, and years, actually, that we have been talking about construction in Nunavut and the high cost of construction, we are working

diligently with our client departments and the construction corporations out there that we are working with to try to bring costs down, but it's the cost of doing business up here. I just urge my colleagues to vote against this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Pursuant to Rule 6(2), I move that the Committee of the Whole continues beyond its hour of daily adjournment so that the committee can conclude its consideration of this committee motion. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. There is a motion on the floor to continue debate until we're finished with this particular item. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Sorry. Keep your hands up, please. Nine. Opposed. One. Abstained. Everybody else. The motion is carried and we will continue on with the debate until this motion is complete. Next on my list to speak to the motion is Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to be misunderstood in speaking to the motion. We haven't thought about whether they will not have a safe place to stay and we're not thinking about that, but the extra items that were added after the fact should have been included in the plan beforehand.

I would like to point out that when the government is planning to expend this amount of funding consuming our

contingency amount put aside, but if we aren't using these funds, they should be available. When they depleted the approved amounts, they immediately added this amount to their supplementary request. This so-called plan originating from this government illustrates the lack of foresight, as the default thinking is "We will be approved"; "We will receive further funding." There should never be expectation of further funding separate from the original business plans. I just wanted to point that out.

Based on my level of understanding, the federal government is providing the majority of this funding based on the per capita amounts, and our territorial government spends this amount of funding. They are already asking for the contingency amounts as well as additional funds, which is what I don't agree with. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. To the motion. Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the motion of this \$1.5 million to be deleted from the proposed supplementary funding, let me be clear that the Minister of CGS mentioned that Pilitak Enterprises is from Sanirajak. Let me be clear that they are just registered in Sanirajak. There are no employees in Sanirajak. There is just one spokesperson in Sanirajak and I think there is a difference between entities being registered and being the employers in the community. They are not from Sanirajak. Most of their employees are in Quebec, so that is just a clarification on Minister Kusugak's comment that they are in Sanirajak. They are just registered there. There is no office there.

I just wanted to make a clarification on the justification that they are from Sanirajak. Their employees are in Quebec.

**Chairman:** Speak to the motion.

**Mr. Kaernerck:** I will vote for this motion. Just to be clear to other members that when we are proposing with these capital estimates, the government needs to step up when it comes to monitoring. This has to stop when there is a poor planning design and poor evaluation on these big projects. That is my reason that the government needs to step up when it comes to monitoring these companies of what they're doing and how they are doing it, and so I will support this motion. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kaernerck. To the motion. I have no other names for the motion. I will go back to the mover of the motion and ask if he has any final comments. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just very briefly, in the briefing material that has been provided to the committee, health and safety is mentioned one time, and that is with regard to the bunk bed footholds. The word used is "unsafe." There is no mention of threats to staff. I'll echo Ms. Nakashuk's comments that by putting this motion forward, there is no intention to create an unsafe environment for either the employees or the inmates.

I believe that \$90 million should be adequate to provide a safe working environment and a safe environment for the inmates. These issues that we are

talking about in terms of capital planning and execution of contracts, especially on a major project like this, these are not new issues. I believe that this is the right thing to do at this point in time in terms of deleting this funding. I would encourage all members to vote in favour of my motion. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Main, that closes the debate on the motion. I will now ask all those in favour to please raise your hands and give me a chance to count the numbers. All those in favour of the motion, nine. Opposed, seven. There are no abstentions, I don't think. No, there was not. The motion is carried. Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Akoak. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Going to Item 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 Bill 47 and would like to report 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? Member Qirngnuq. 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.

Item 21. (interpretation ends) Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Item 22. (interpretation ends) *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

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

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

*Orders of the Day* for September 23:

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 45
- Bill 46
- Bill 47
- Tabled Document 65 – 5(2)

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, September 23, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:11*

# Appendix – September 22, 2020



## Written Question

**Asked by:** Adam Arreak Lightstone

**Asked of:** Hon. Joe Savikataaq

**Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs**

**Number:** 70-5(2)

**Date:** September 22, 2020

**Subject:** Ministerial Travel 2019-20

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**Purpose:** The Members of the Executive are responsible for overseeing portfolios and representing their department in the Legislative Assembly. I understand this is no simple feat and it requires significant effort and dedication to keep up with briefings.

That is why I was shocked when I saw the figures provided in the response to my previous written question on the topic, which identified several Ministers who have spent approximately 40%, or five months, of the fiscal year away from their respective departments headquarter offices.

1. How many trips, and what was the total number of days, that each Minister respectively spent on duty travel in the 2019-2020 fiscal year?
2. How many trips, and what was the total number of days, that each Minister respectively spent on home travel in the 2019-2020 fiscal year?

3. Figure 1 below depicts the collated information that was provided in my previous written question on Ministerial Travel-2018-19. As you will see there are a number of Ministers who have spent approximately 40% of the fiscal year away from their respective departments headquarter offices. What kind of challenges do Ministers, or their departments and agencies face when the Minister responsible for overseeing portfolios is out of the office for a significant amount of time?

Figure 1 – Ministerial Duty and Home Travel 2018-19

| Minister            | Start of period | End of period | Total Days | Duty Travel |            | Home Travel |            | Total Days on Travel | Total Days in Office | % of days away |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
|                     |                 |               |            | Trips       | Days       | Trips       | Days       |                      |                      |                |
| Paul Quassa         | 01-Apr-18       | 14-Jun-18     | 74         | 6           | 19         | 0           | 0          | 19                   | 55                   | 25.7%          |
| Joe Savikataak      | 01-Apr-18       | 31-Mar-19     | 364        | 10          | 51         | 9           | 106        | 157                  | 207                  | 43.1%          |
| Elisapee Sheutiapik | 01-Apr-18       | 31-Mar-19     | 364        | 5           | 25         | 0           | 0          | 25                   | 339                  | 6.9%           |
| Patricia Angnakak   | 01-Apr-18       | 01-Nov-18     | 214        | 3           | 21         | 0           | 0          | 21                   | 193                  | 9.8%           |
| Patterk Netser      | 01-Nov-18       | 31-Mar-19     | 150        | 2           | 16         | 5           | 43         | 59                   | 91                   | 39.3%          |
| Jeannie Ehaloak     | 01-Apr-18       | 31-Mar-19     | 364        | 10          | 84         | 4           | 73         | 157                  | 207                  | 43.1%          |
| Lorne Kusugak       | 01-Apr-18       | 31-Mar-19     | 364        | 10          | 38         | 9           | 111        | 149                  | 215                  | 40.9%          |
| David Joanase       | 01-Apr-18       | 31-Mar-19     | 364        | 12          | 52         | 0           | 0          | 52                   | 312                  | 14.3%          |
| David Akeeagok      | 01-Apr-18       | 31-Mar-19     | 364        | 6           | 23         | 0           | 0          | 23                   | 341                  | 6.3%           |
| George Hickes       | 14-Jun-18       | 31-Mar-19     | 290        | 6           | 29         | 0           | 0          | 29                   | 261                  | 10.0%          |
|                     |                 |               |            | <b>70</b>   | <b>358</b> | <b>27</b>   | <b>333</b> | <b>691</b>           | <b>2221</b>          |                |

4. What is the Premiers position on Ministers spending 150 days out of office on travel?
5. When a Minister is on home travel do they have access to the network?
6. When a Minister is on home travel do they have access to a full office?