

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)
*Minister of Environment; Minister of
Economic Development and
Transportation; Minister of Energy*

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

Karen Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)
*Premier; Minister of Executive and
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responsible for Immigration; Minister
responsible for Indigenous Affairs;
Minister responsible for the Utility
Rates Review Council*

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)
*Minister of Finance, Chair of
the Financial Management
Board; Minister responsible for
the Nunavut Housing
Corporation*

Hon. Joanna Quassa
(Aggu)
*Minister of Culture and
Heritage; Minister of
Languages; Minister
responsible for Seniors*

Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
*Minister of Health; Minister
responsible for Suicide
Prevention*

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield
Inlet)

Joe Savikataaq
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*Minister of Justice; Minister
responsible for Labour;
Minister responsible for the
Qulliq Energy Corporation*

George Hickey
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the
Committee of the Whole*

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)
*Minister of Family Services;
Minister responsible for
Homelessness; Minister of
Human Resources;
Minister responsible for the
Status of Women; Minister
responsible for the Workers'
Safety and Compensation
Commission*

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, May 27, 2022

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasi, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 9:00*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak)(interpretation): Good morning. Before we proceed, Mr. Simailak, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: *Ullaakkut*, everyone. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 010 – 6(2): Meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau on
Katujjiluta Mandate**

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Good morning. I say “good morning” to Nunavummiut, especially my constituents here in Iqaluit.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the recent meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau about the *Katujjiluta* mandate.

On May 12 I met with the Prime Minister for the third time since becoming Premier. This meeting was focused on joint priorities outlined in our *Katujjiluta* mandate.

Mr. Speaker, in our recent meeting we emphasized the importance of collaboration between the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and other Inuit organizations on issues such as housing in the north. The Prime Minister and I agreed on the urgency of closing the housing gap in Nunavut and its connection to other priorities, such as public health and elder care.

Arctic security and sovereignty were also discussed and the need for related infrastructure needs across this territory. I emphasized the significance of collaborating with the people of the north on future investments in our region to ensure results that will improve the lives of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister and I also discussed devolution in Nunavut and the need to work closely together as we enter the final stages of negotiations. We agreed on the critical importance of devolution for the territory and expressed optimism that an agreement can be reached.

Finally, we reaffirmed our commitment to continue to work together to address other shared priorities, such as climate change and fostering economic diversification and growth in Nunavut.

I look forward to continued collaboration with the Prime Minister and his cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeegok.

Minister's Statement 011 – 6(2): Renewable Energy Support Program

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank Nunavummiut again for their great interest in the Government of Nunavut's renewable energy support programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut supports the development of clean energy initiatives to decrease greenhouse gas emissions in Nunavut and increase self-reliance.

Our renewable energy support programs provide Nunavummiut with a tangible way to contribute in the fight against climate change.

Mr. Speaker, cabin owners can apply to the Department of Environment for a grant of up to \$5,000 to install solar or wind systems on their cabins.

The department also works with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to support homeowners who want to install solar systems on their homes. The Nunavut Housing Corporation will reimburse successful applicants up to half of the system's cost, for a grant of up to \$30,000.

Since the launch in November, these programs have been very popular. In 2021-22, 94 people from across Nunavut applied for the cabin program, and all available funding was used to help install systems on 81 cabins and three homes.

Mr. Speaker, this year we are investing even more into these programs, and I encourage all cabin and homeowners to apply. Information about the grants is available on the Climate Change Secretariat and Nunavut Housing Corporation websites. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister for Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 012 – 6(2): Embrace Life Council

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Good morning, my colleagues and Nunavummiut. I say “good morning” to the people of Pangnirtung.

I rise today to announce a new partnership between the Department of Family Services and the Isaksimagit Inuusirmi Katujjiqatigiit Embrace Life Council as part of our effort to support youth wellness and healing, and Nunavut parents.

Mr. Speaker, Family Services has provided a grant of \$250,000 to support operations and programs at the Embrace Life Council's three offices in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay.

The Embrace Life Council hosts workshops on sewing and beading, self-care, coping, self-esteem, healthy relationships, and healthy alternatives to drugs and alcohol. Family Services' financial contribution will help set up the new office in Rankin Inlet, help publish Nunavut and Inuit culture inspired arts and crafts activity books, and fund training for Embrace Life Council staff.

The funds will also contribute to the development of a digital wellness app focused on the promotion of healing and resilience from the impacts of intergenerational trauma. They will also create new tools that will accompany a workshop to help adults talk to children about suicide.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Family Services and Isaksimagit Inuusirmi Katujjiqatigiit Embrace Life Council share common goals in supporting the wellness of youth and families. I look forward to seeing this new partnership grow, and I am happy to know that these tools and workshops are available to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister for Health, Mr. Main.

Minister's Statement 013 – 6(2): National Mental Health Week

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, May 2 to 8 was Mental Health Week across Canada and an excellent reminder about the importance of mental health. Our mental health, just like our physical health, is vital to overall wellness and is an aspect of health that is sometimes overlooked.

Mr. Speaker, over the past two and a half years, the COVID-19 pandemic has underlined how important mental health is. The stress and anxiety due to the virus, isolation, and public health restrictions have added pressures on our collective mental wellness.

(interpretation ends) This year's Mental Health Week theme focused on empathy, which is an important skill when dealing with mental wellness issues. After all, we can't know all the complex issues people have in their lives and it is important we offer empathy and not judgment in response.

We encourage all Nunavummiut to support their own mental wellness as well. This means taking the time to practice self-care and using positive coping skills to strengthen your mental health. This could be through spending time with loved ones, enjoying time out on the land, or reading a book, like a binder, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

These are examples of activities that could contribute to improving an individual's mental wellness.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, for those who require more assistance in their mental health journey, the Department of Health has programs and services to assist. Health centres and the Government of Nunavut website can help connect people to these services. There are also support lines such as the Kids Help Line, Kamatsiaqtut Nunavut Helpline, and the Healing by Talking Program that can offer support. Specifically for Government of Nunavut employees, there is the Government of Nunavut Family Assistance Program.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Nunavummiut to take time to care for their mental health, support each other, and talk about mental health issues because together we can work toward a more positive and healthy life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister for Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Minister's Statement 014 – 6(2): Nunavut Court Worker Program

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share information on the success and importance of Nunavut's court worker program that is provided by the Legal Services Board of Nunavut.

Court workers, who are Inuit and speak Inuktitut, provide Nunavummiut with a critical link to our justice system and provide lawyers with an important cultural connection to the communities and clients they serve and represent. These court workers coordinate legal aid applications, facilitate client and witness meetings, assist with the preparation of court appearances, and provide public legal education initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, with support from our federal partners, the Legal Services Board is working to provide additional supports through its training program for Inuit court workers. The training sessions ensure court workers can provide the best possible access to justice for Inuit in all communities, with support to help guide them through the court process.

In April 2022 court workers from 15 communities across Nunavut's three regions participated in a weeklong training session in Iqaluit to meet one another, build their skills, and learn from shared experiences. The session also included a tour of the new Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility to learn more about its programs for clients, and a tour of the Nunavut Court of Justice courthouse with Chief Justice Neil Sharkey.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice and the Legal Services Board will continue to support this important court worker program. I thank all of our hard-working court workers across Nunavut who serve a vital role in the justice system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 015 – 6(2): Baffinland Iron Mine Emergency Request and Potential Layoffs

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government supports responsible and sustainable resource development that provides meaningful social and economic benefits to Nunavummiut and ensures environmental impacts are mitigated, monitored, and prevented to the extent possible.

On May 13 the Nunavut Impact Review Board recommended that the Baffinland Mary River Phase 2 Development Proposal not be allowed to proceed at this time. Shortly after recommendation came out, I have had an initial meeting with Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Baffinland to state we will review and respond to those recommendations.

The Government of Nunavut fully participated in the environmental assessment review process for this proposal and Baffinland addressed all of the Government of Nunavut's technical concerns.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday Baffinland wrote to Northern Affairs Minister Daniel Vandal making an emergency request to maintain its mining output of 6 million tonnes per annum while the minister considers the Nunavut Impact Review Board's recommendation.

Mr. Speaker, while the Government of Nunavut was not directly approached about Baffinland's most recent request, our government takes this request seriously, and will be engaging with all involved parties as soon as possible.

We acknowledge Baffinland has indicated they need a quick response for operations to continue. As Baffinland must follow the regulatory process, my departments are committed to participating in a timely and thorough fashion.

The Government of Nunavut is aware of the potential for job losses and other socio-economic impacts should the mine close, even temporarily. The federal government must now decide the next steps. The federal minister has a tough decision to make, and our government will follow due process and provide our input. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 027 – 6(2): Happy Birthday to Son

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on this very special day, May 27, 2022. It's my oldest son's birthday today. Happy birthday. (interpretation) Enjoy your day, I love you, I thank you for the lovely grandchild you have given me. Have a great day. (interpretation ends) Son, have a great day and I love you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 028 – 6(2): Nunavut Arctic College Courses for Pond Inlet

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Pond Inlet and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern over the lack of academic courses being offered in Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken before about my disappointment at the lack of focus on academic coursework in our schools. I do appreciate that Career and Technology Study (CTS) courses offer hands-on training that may be directly related to specific types of job opportunities in the future.

However, it is as important, if not more important, that our students graduate with a strong foundation in reading, writing, and mathematics.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that this approach continues on after high school. The community of Pond Inlet has often requested that Nunavut Arctic College's Community Learning Centre deliver such academic programs as management studies or interpreter/translator

certification. These types of academic courses are only offered at the main campuses in Rankin Inlet or Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I have been told that these courses have not been designed to be delivered in the smaller communities, which is why they are not available in Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I believe our education system needs to change its focus. It is 2022 and we should be bringing education opportunities to our communities. Adjustments should be made to adapt programs so that they can be delivered at the local level, instead of spending scarce funds on travel and accommodation. When students study at home, they are more successful. It is also possible that even more students would sign up for these courses if they knew they did not have to leave their home and families.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 038 – 6(2): Housing Status of Cabinet Ministers

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. Good morning to the people of Amittuq and Nunavummiut, and good morning to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to the question I asked during the winter sitting. I firstly wish to thank the minister for their written response that I received; however, there is a caveat. I searched for it but was unable to find the response in the *Blues*.

Mayhap, I can return to my original line of questioning to the cabinet members and the houses allocated to them, along with the process. During our winter sitting, I raised the question to the minister, who at the time was in the role of the Premier.

Perhaps I should switch to channel 2.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I asked the question during oral questions in our winter sitting in regard to the housing status of the cabinet ministers, and the oral answer that I got is the not the answer I was seeking for.

Let me be precise, Mr. Speaker. I want to be precise. I said in the winter sitting, I'll be crisp and clear, and I want to be precise on this question, Mr. Speaker, and I want to get a clear answer on this, Mr. Speaker. This is why I am speaking English.

I asked a question, Mr. Speaker: what is the status of the housing for all the members of cabinet? Do they have leased units here in Iqaluit or what is the housing status in their own community, Mr. Speaker?

As you know, the question was taken as notice, and the response was tabled two days ago. Normally, when the question is taken as notice, it gives a minister an opportunity to provide a clear written response to the Assembly and inform the public in this response in this case. There is clearly no effort in providing answers to the actual question posed when I said I want to be crisp and clear.

In that regard, I will ask again: what is the housing status of Executive Council members here in Iqaluit, and what is their housing status in their own community, Mr. Speaker? I'll say it again to the Premier, if my question can be answered. Even though they have provided me with an answer, I want to get a precise answer. What is the housing status here in Iqaluit and in their own community? Can I get a clear answer on that from the Premier? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for reiterating his question once again. At the time, I was absent with cause and my deputy was acting in my stead. She was able to provide an answer, for which I am appreciative.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what I can clarify is that our housing crisis exists throughout Nunavut as was clearly outlined yesterday by our Minister of Finance. We all know how deeply the housing crisis impacts all Nunavummiut and every one of us here.

Yesterday, the preambular talking points revolving around our budget were easy on the ears, and this budget is aimed at alleviating this crisis to a small degree, as the housing crisis will be the foremost priority this year.

Mr. Speaker, what I can relay to the member about this matter, is that yes, cabinet members are indeed affected, and to date, I can state succinctly that two members of the cabinet are facing difficulties in finding appropriate accommodations here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He did not really answer the question, only partially as he spoke to the matter faced in Iqaluit, and not what members face in their constituencies. He alluded to the housing crisis generally, as we all face this crisis throughout Nunavut. I wish to get a firm answer precisely on the question. It seems like the executive continually sidesteps our questions by speaking to the matter but never really providing a concrete answer and I do not know why.

Even when I verbalized my question in English, I got a partial answer that two members of cabinet are facing problems here in Iqaluit. Let me paraphrase my question in this way, what about in their home communities? What is the situation they face in their constituencies? Do they have adequate housing or private homes in their communities? Are they housed in government staff housing units?

Are they renting a public housing unit from their local housing association? What are the members of the Executive facing in their communities? I would like to clearly understand what each member faces who form our cabinet, Mr. Speaker, as within this House, we must try to be as truthful as we can, without any innuendo.

I am working very hard to try and get a response on behalf of my constituents. Nonetheless, this morning, I am asking about the situation our government faces considering the housing situation at the community level. What is the current situation?

He touched only upon the situation in Iqaluit but not the community level. I wasn't alluding to the housing crisis we face today. I just want to know what the cabinet members face within their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to reiterate my appreciation to our colleague for raising his question again as I heard his question relating to the members here in Iqaluit who are provided accommodation to date after being chosen to act as cabinet members in this House, as the members of the Executive Council are appointed here, with well documented rules and policies spelled out as to what assistance they will receive.

Members must conduct their own searches, and your first question related to how many were still without housing here and I clearly answered that portion of his question by providing the details about that. To date, there are two who are still looking since they haven't found units to occupy to now.

Following the rules, each of the ministers must find their own housing accommodations and they request assistance if needed, and this government can aid up to a point. It is clearly outlined how this plays out, as we must each commit ourselves towards undertaking the responsibilities of operating this government. This applies irrespective of whether you have a private home, rent from a LHO, or have other accommodations, as members of the cabinet have to move from their home community to Iqaluit, as this is clearly laid out how this process works.

However, Mr. Speaker, I can state very clearly that we are short of two units for the Executive Council members, and this clearly illustrates how it impacts us due to the housing crisis faced by all residents of Nunavut. Even the ministers have difficulty finding accommodation here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I want to clearly state that two members are still searching for a place to stay here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernerker.

Mr. Kaernerker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I still did not get the answer. The Premier just mentioned another repeat answer, two here in Iqaluit. When I tried to be precise, saying; what is the status in their own community? The Premier did not give me an answer.

(interpretation) Now, Mr. Speaker, let me rephrase my question clearly again. I wonder what I can say to make it clear and totally understandable. For clarity, I originally spoke in English and still didn't receive the right response. I wonder how? Let me ask the Premier in this manner. My question didn't specify just Iqaluit; I was trying to ask about each member's home community.

Yes, it's clear that they require accommodations when they arrive at Iqaluit where they can stay. What is the status in their home community? I would like to get a clear response in the House in order for the public to clearly hear what the status is for each constituency so the people can clearly understand. What is the exact status they each face? I am trying to understand that circumstance and I cannot get a response.

Maybe if I state it in this way, Mr. Speaker, in not getting appropriate responses, my constituents are also not getting answers and he will probably sidestep the issue again. To the same issue, what is the status each member of the executive faces in their home community? Are they renting housing from public housing? Do they have ownership of a private home? If this is lucid, are they private homeowners? Are they renting housing? I am hoping that clarifies this question, Mr. Speaker for the Premier?

I don't want to hear about Iqaluit. What is the status in their home community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you once again to my erstwhile colleague. We all know the forms we must fill out upon election into our positions that we provide to the (interpretation ends) Integrity Commissioner (interpretation) where we make declarations about our personal circumstances such as assets we own, family members who may impact us in our roles, and we identify all possible sources of conflict so that forms the first basis of our individual declarations which all members fill out.

Firstly, I can attest to that as part of my response, and it includes whether we have private homes or rent units in our communities, and I further wish to state to my colleague that all (interpretation ends) ministers (interpretation) must announce what they pay for their units in their home communities, whether it is rental or mortgage payments.

These are all different categories, so I can clarify that this information can be accessed via the (interpretation ends) Integrity Commissioner (interpretation) statement process as to the circumstances they are faced with. Further, when they are appointed to the Executive Council this forms part of the transparency process we use and this allows for assistance protocols to be followed if required under our policies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Question 039 – 6(2): Tax Measures in Budget 2022

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this morning are for the Minister of Finance. I would like to congratulate him on his first delivery of a budget address yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, I took the time yesterday evening to digest the minister's Budget Address. I would like to take this opportunity to raise some questions concerning the revenue side of the fiscal equation.

Mr. Speaker, the minister's Budget Address did not include any major announcements about changes to personal income tax rates. Corporate income tax rates or payroll tax rates as far as I can determine Mr. Speaker, they're not going up and they're not coming down.

For the record, can the minister clarify why he decided to maintain a status quo position as it relates to territorial tax rates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank our colleague for her question. Mr. Speaker, back in June 2021, the Nunavut government undertook a process to raise (interpretation ends) property taxes (interpretation) of approximately 10 percent just last year.

With respect to the increase of taxes, it has not happened for tobacco. Nonetheless, we are reviewing how we can raise or retain the current level of taxation as it is still under discussions, so I do not have a position to voice currently whether we would raise or change taxes as it would impact the cost of living which is already quite expensive, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that response. The fiscal and economic indicators document which accompanied yesterday's Budget Address indicated on page 2 "Youth vaping rates are rising rapidly, creating concerns

about the harmful effects of vape products as well as the potential they may undo the progress made in reducing youth smoking rates.”

To combat this, federal budget 2022 announced a proposal to implement a national vape tax regime much like the current tax on cannabis products. Provinces and territories have been invited to take part.

Mr. Speaker, it is not acceptable to me that we are not taxing vaping products in the way that we do with tobacco. For the record, can the minister confirm whether Nunavut will join the proposed national system, or is he considering introducing a standalone territorial legislation to allow for the taxation of vaping products? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from my colleague. Vaping is a growing in the territory, unfortunately, and our government is working to join the proposed federal vaping tax regime, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, minister. That is good news.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that our corporate income taxes are among the lowest in the country and I recognize the importance of supporting our small businesses and entrepreneurs, especially given the hardship that they endured during the pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, I did note that the fiscal and economic indicators document indicates on page 14 that corporate income is highly unevenly distributed among Nunavut firms. With more than 50 percent reporting less than \$55,000 in net income, 25 percent have reported net income of zero dollars or less, suggesting many firms have limited operations or profitability concerns. About half of Nunavut corporations do not pay corporate income tax.

For the record, when it comes to larger corporations reporting over \$500,000 in net annual income, can the minister confirm the extent to which they fully complying with their tax obligations? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that level of detail on me on that particular line of questioning. I would be more than happy at an appropriate time to share that with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Question 040 – 6(2): Kugaaruk Power Plant

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my turn to ask some questions to the new Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I asked questions earlier this year during our winter sitting concerning the status of Kugaaruk's new power plant. Mr. Speaker, at that time I noted that the power plant is approaching 50 years of age and is in need of replacement.

Mr. Speaker, in December of 2021, the Qulliq Energy Corporation submitted an application to the Utility Rates Review Council for approval to proceed with the new power plant.

Mr. Speaker, the QEC's application states that "The estimated cost to complete the project is \$38,915,000 million. This project has been identified to receive funding from the federal Arctic Energy Fund for a contribution of up to 75 percent of eligible expenses."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm whether or not the federal funding has been approved for the new Kugaaruk power plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. The power plant replacement for Kugaaruk is currently awaiting approval. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week, my colleague from Kugluktuk learned that the construction of his new power plant is being delayed due to bids coming in way over budget.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify the current timeline for the tendering and construction of Kugaaruk's new power plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you again to the member for the question. I'm sorry I do not have that detailed information right now, but I do commit to getting back to the member when I can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The QEC's application states that "The new plant will be capable of integrating renewable energy resources such as wind turbines or solar panels should opportunities arise in the future. This will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere and reduce the cost of energy in the end."

Mr. Speaker can the minister clarify that the design of the new Kugaaruk power plant is a hybrid model similar to the design of the new plant in Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you again to the member for his question. Again, I am sorry that I don't have that level of detail, but I do commit to getting back to the member. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 041 – 6(2): Out-of-territory Care

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to some questions that I asked after March, as well today, to the Minister responsible for Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, back in March, I'd asked about the number of Nunavummiut that are receiving out-of-territory residential care and the minister did respond to me verbally. I can't remember the exact number but it was over 200 people, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on those people that are receiving out-of-territory care. I would like to get the causes. What services are not available in the territory that causes us to have to send Nunavummiut out of territory to receive appropriate care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking that question. (interpretation ends) The children and adults that are in care out of the territory really depends on whether it was the Department of Family Services that had to send the patients out or if it was done by the Department of Justice as we have an agreement when they have to go under the authority of the Office of the Public Guardian that has to go through our office as well. It really depends on the patients that are being sent out of the territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe if the minister could also, in her next response, update me with the current number of Nunavummiut that are receiving out-of-territory care.

Mr. Speaker, the minister mentions different bodies or different purposes of why people may be sent out for care. I am more interested in what type of care isn't available in-territory that dictates that we have to send Nunavummiut out-of-territory to receive care.

Maybe if the minister would be able to elaborate on some of those types of services so that we can get an understanding here in the House of, maybe there are programs or support services that we can support as legislators to help assist repatriating some of these Nunavummiut back into Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. (interpretation ends) To give you the exact numbers of how many we have in care out of the territory, we do have five individuals out of the territory that are 60 years old and over, and we also have 71 children or youth out of the territory and 108 adults who are out of the territory.

As I had mentioned, we work closely with the Department of Health as well. Sometimes, like I mentioned, it really depends on the level of care they need. Sometimes it depends; it could be mental health issues or special needs care in terms of physical disability. That could be another factor of not being able to get the right service in our territory.

Those are some of the examples. I can't provide in-depth details on each level of care that a person may need, but those are some of the examples I can give you. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickers.

Mr. Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do thank the minister and I understand that it can be a complex issue and there are many complex needs that dictate why people do have to leave the territory. I'm sure it's very difficult for families to deal with, especially with the number of youth in that response.

Mr. Speaker, just to go a little bit further, from a service delivery standpoint, what infrastructure hindrances are there here in Nunavut that we could be looking at as future projects in our capital plan, again, to be able to look at repatriating these over 200 Nunavummiut who are being forced to live outside the territory, away from their families? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. (interpretation ends) That's a very good question and I had discussed that with the department in terms of what can we do in the long term to ensure that we repatriate some of our Nunavummiut back into the territory. Like I had

mentioned, some of them need special needs care and we can't provide some of that service in the territory.

We are working closely with all the contractors down south and our client liaison officers work very closely to the offices or businesses that are taking care of the clients. At this time and all of those numbers are quite up to date. Everything is pretty well up to date because we have been able to get the client liaison officers more so in the recent times.

I wanted to mention that we want to send them back into the territory, but like I had mentioned, because of the services that we don't have in the territory and the infrastructure on providing the right care for them, it is very difficult at this time, but those are some things that we are discussing.

We have sent some people back into the territory, working with the departments of Justice and Health as well, but at this time we can't send them all because they wouldn't be able to get the right care they need. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Question 042 – 6(2): Clean Mining Incentives and Initiatives

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Iqalumiut and Nunavummiut.

Today my questions are for the Minister responsible for Mines.

Earlier this week I spoke about the importance of clean mining initiatives that focus on developing sources of critical minerals, such as the highly valuable mineral unobtainium, that are essential to greening and decarbonizing our economy through technological innovation.

Yesterday the Minister of Finance's Budget Address announced \$1.0 million in funding for the creation of a "new mineral exploration program called Discover, Invest, and Grow," with a very fitting abbreviation of DIG.

Mr. Speaker, I was intrigued by this announcement. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Mines to provide some more detail today about how this program will be implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping to launch this as part of my Committee of the Whole because this is a brand-new program that our government is adopting. It's one that we lagged from other jurisdictions, but we are getting into supporting the exploration side. This program for the \$1 million has a number of criteria that will be done, and it involves the junior companies, if they dig, drill, or blast and bulk

samples on certain tonnages. They would be eligible for a contribution of up to \$250,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that response, and I would like to apologize by taking the wind out of your sails. Please feel free to reintroduce your announcement during your Committee of the Whole appearance and I'll try my best to act surprised.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I asked the Premier about how the Government of Canada can support clean mining initiatives in the north. This year's *Fiscal and Economic Indicators* publication which accompanied yesterday's Budget Address indicated that "Federal Budget 2022 announced a 30% tax credit for critical minerals exploration, applicable to Nunavut's untapped zinc, copper, cobalt, and platinum reserves."

I would like to ask: can the Minister responsible for Mines indicate what feedback he has received from Nunavut's mining sector concerning this incentive? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am happy and I am very pleased that the member is asking regarding this new program, and I'm very excited and I hope to be able to promote it as much as possible, and so either way I'm happy that this question is being posed.

Just this month, the Nunavut Mining Symposium finally was face to face and over 500 participants participated in this and a lot of renewed wanting to restart. There have been two years of lag on the exploration side and it's something that we're trying to promote into trying to get more exploration into the rare mines.

Our federal government had just released their mining strategy, which includes clean climate on these, and we have been supportive of their work and through our federal-provincial-territorial work, a lot of that work has led to this federal strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I would like to thank the minister for his response and that leads me directly into my final question in relation to the Nunavut Mining Symposium, which was just held here in Iqaluit earlier this month. I would like to ask: can the minister update the House today on what discussions he held with industry representatives concerning clean mining initiatives and projects in the territory, and

specifically whether or not there is any potential exploration in the near future regarding rare earth minerals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately due to a medical procedure I needed to get done, I was not able to participate with the mining symposium, but I thank my colleague, Deputy Premier Gross, for filling in for me and she attended a number of meetings along with my deputy minister and our departments, with various from the local contractors that are from our communities to major mining like Agnico Eagle Mines and Baffinland.

Again, it's in my schedule to provide an update on how the mining symposium went as part of my minister's statement, so stay tuned and I will provide that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

Question 043 – 6(2): Airport Terminal Buildings

Mr. Anavilok: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning, Kuglukturmiut and Nunavummiut, as well as the members here in the House.

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

On May 5, 2021 the department issued a request for tender for the construction of a new airport terminal building in Kugluktuk. The tender closed on June 11, 2021. On August 5, 2021 the government cancelled the tender.

As the minister is aware, a significant portion of the funding for this project is coming from the federal Trade and Transportation Corridors Initiative.

On August 9, 2021, the federal Minister of Transport announced "...a top-up to the initial major investment of \$22.5 million in 2018 for five airport terminals in Kugluktuk, Naujaat, Kimmirut, Whale Cove and Chesterfield Inlet."

When I last raised this issue during our winter sitting, I was advised that a new tender for the construction of Kugluktuk's airport terminal building would be issued shortly, but that was over two months ago.

Can the minister confirm when the tender for Kugluktuk's new airport terminal building will be issued? *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the five terminal projects, when we tried in 2021, having it all in one tender, it resulted in cancelling that and so for this fiscal year, our department has strategically planned to try to break it into three projects. The Kivalliq projects for the three terminals have come and we still need to make a decision on those, which then once we reach that, Kugluktuk and Kimmirut are the next two that we need to make decisions.

This year our capital projects, as we have been stating and members have been realizing, the high cost is playing a major factor, but right now I'm reviewing these five airport projects in the view of with one tender closed and we were hoping to open the tender for Kugluktuk and then also Kimmirut. We're doing that in stages and at times we need to make decisions and once these decisions are done, I'll be very pleased to provide an update to the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you for the response. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the original tender for Kugluktuk's new airport terminal building included a 40 percent Inuit labour requirement. Can the minister clarify if this requirement will change in the next tender? *Quanaqquitit*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we tender these projects, we review what's taking place throughout the community and throughout the region and throughout the territory, and then make a determination of how many percent Inuit content that we anticipate through this project. With Kugluktuk, it's typically 40 percent, so I would assume that it's not going to change, but there is a calculation factor that when we're getting ready for tender that does take place that takes into account the Inuit content. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, his department issued a request for tender on March 29, 2022 for the construction of three new airport terminal buildings in Chesterfield Inlet, Naujaat, and Whale Cove. The tender closed in early May. Information published by the government indicates that five bids were submitted. Can the minister indicate whether or not this tender has been awarded? *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First off, I want to thank this House for supporting the five terminals. As we cancelled it, we asked for more money and I also asked Transport Canada for more money when we cancelled it and both the federal government and the territorial government supported that for providing more funds towards this.

Right now we're at a critical stage, but we have those tenders that are still open and we need to decide whether to award them or not and it's one that at this point we are in deep discussions with Transport Canada. As I mentioned, all of our projects are coming in at a very high bid at the moment and these projects are no different. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Question 044 – 6(2): Blue Economy

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, Nunavummiut, *ammalu* my constituency members in Hudson Bay.

On a short note, last night the Edmonton Oilers eliminated the Calgary Flames.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Akeeagok is in the hot seat this morning and I will direct my questions to his responsibilities as economic development and transportation and my questions concern the issue of initiatives to develop the "Blue Economy."

As the minister is very much aware, Sanikiluaq is located in the Belcher Islands, and we are surrounded on all sides by water. My constituents are very much aware of the importance of the ocean to our lives.

In his Budget Address that he delivered yesterday, the Minister of Finance stated that:

"Our economic diversification efforts also include investing in Nunavut's potential to grow the blue economy. We also propose to develop our ocean economy by investing in research and data, such as \$1.5 million for the Research Vessel Nuliajuk, Nunavut's multi-purpose fisheries research vessel to advance science-based conservation and the sustainable development of Nunavut fisheries."

Can the Minister of Economic Development highlight what specific new investments or initiatives his department is planning for the 2022-23 fiscal year in the blue economy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't feel like I'm in the hot seat; I'm always pleased to provide answers during question period and I appreciate every question, so I thank each of the members for this.

For the blue economy, there are a lot of...how do I say it? There is a lot of work that is taking place into trying to get a long-term, but right now we're doing a lot of things, trying to ensure that we become a part of that blue economy and diversify.

Right now for the Nuliajuk, the focus for this year will be on the Baffin waters and up to Grise Fiord in terms of the work that they're going to do, the variety of work in terms of the fisheries side.

As part of our *Katujjiqatigiinniq*, working in partnership, I was pleased that the Qikiqtani Corporation has their own fisheries, the Ludy Pudluk, named after the MLA who used to sit in my chair, Ludy Pudluk.

That work is being done in the Hudson Bay, which includes Sanikiluaq, so we're looking forward to that. Any fisheries testing that's taking place is an opportunity for all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response and I will review the *Hansard* whether my question was answered properly.

Mr. Speaker, Sanikiluaq's hunters and trappers association has been working hard to develop a small-scale fishery for the community. As the minister is aware, there is a lot of potential for sustainable economic development in respect to developing a commercial harvest of such products as scallops, mussels, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers.

Can the minister clarify what specific supports his department is able to provide in respect to developing Sanikiluaq's commercial fishery? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm trying to get the name of our program that we run. It's under the Fisheries and Sealing Division. It's the Fisheries Diversification Program. I would encourage the community to contact our Fisheries and Sealing Division and look at and explore what opportunities they can get through our programs, and they would be able to direct if there are any other sources of funds that they might want to tap into. I encourage them to contact our Fisheries and Sealing Division. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to getting back to my community and sit down with the council and probably the Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association in regard to that program that Economic Development offers.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, information published by the Nunavut Development Corporation indicates that its mission is to “make responsible investments in target Nunavut economic sectors, including fisheries, cultural industries and tourism that help create employment and income opportunities, stimulate the growth of business, and promote economic diversification and stability with an emphasis on investing in Nunavut’s smaller communities.”

Can the minister indicate what specific direction he is including in his 2022-23 Letter of Expectation to the Board of Directors of the Nunavut Development Corporation concerning Blue Economy investments in smaller communities such as Sanikiluaq?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We table this on an annual basis and I was just reviewing the letters for the Nunavut Development Corporation and I’m going to reserve my response for when we table it so that members will have the full details of what is in that part of the letter of expectations that are provided to the Nunavut Development Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 045 – 6(2): Animals Purchased by Kivalliq Arctic Foods

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

(interpretation ends) I have other questions, but Minister Akeeagok wants TV time, so I’ll give it to him.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, the 2020-21 Annual Report for the Nunavut Development Corporation was tabled and I have it in front of me and going through it, and I’m happy to say that Kiluk out of Arviat, even with COVID, revenue was not much lower than the year before. It’s good news that we’re still supporting them.

Mr. Speaker, on page 17 for Kivalliq Arctic Foods, in the 2020-21 Harvesting Summary it states, “Nunavut Development Corporation employs harvesters as part of the supply chain for Kivalliq Arctic Foods and Kitikmeot Foods.”

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell the House how many paid hunters are employed as hunters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that level of detail with me in terms of how many are actually hired for hunters, but that data is collected and I would be very happy to share that with the member and to this House once I get that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm looking forward to that and I would like to know how many paid hunters are in Arviat because employment is limited there and if there are hunters who are working for the development corporation as hunters, it's a good thing.

Mr. Speaker, on the same page there's a summary of what was purchased. It says, "19 Whales," I'm not sure if that's just the *maktaaq* or the whole whale, but we've got 19 whales, almost 40,000 lbs. of arctic char, 2,000 lbs. of lake trout, 2,000 lbs. of white fish, 40 muskox hides, 900 hides and 250 caribou heads.

Mr. Speaker, did the meat plant buy any caribou meat? It's not in here that they bought any caribou meat. They bought the hides of caribou, they bought the heads of caribou, but did they buy any caribou meat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they did and I'll go through the documents and provide it for any of the meat that's purchased. I don't know if it's...well, it's not in this particular harvest summary, but I'll definitely confirm that we have bought the meat and have sold it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is odd that the meat is not part of the harvest summary as it is Kivalliq Arctic Foods and meat is a food, so I was kind of curious why they would omit such an important part.

Mr. Speaker, the minister said that it will be provided. I would like to know how many lbs. of caribou meat or how many caribou the meat plant in the year 2020-21, and it should be there because it's a harvest summary and same with muskox, how many animals or how many lbs. of meat that were purchased. I'll ask the minister also to

provide how much per community was bought from each community so that we have an idea of where the harvest is coming from.

I'll ask the minister now: is there a maximum amount of caribou meat for the number of animals that Kivalliq Arctic Foods buys in a year or is it an unlimited amount that they purchase from hunters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'll definitely commit to providing that level of information to the member, and I'm very pleased for this question.

In terms of providing the report and which communities that they go to, for the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot meat, they start off with a certain number that they're looking for and what types of caribou that they're looking for and they communicate that to the hunters and purchase those, and when those purchases are done, then they ask for more. It would be by which communities they would go. That same concept goes with the fish.

There is a process that is done through our meat plants in terms of how much meat that they're looking for. It's very fortunate that in the Kivalliq that the caribou population is healthy and the muskox population is healthy in our regions. Those are very good meat that are provided to Nunavummiut and abroad. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Question 046 – 6(2): Nunavut Arctic College Courses for Pond Inlet

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for (interpretation ends) Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement I addressed the need for more academic courses to be offered at the community level. The community of Pond Inlet has long been asking for more academic courses to be offered in the community.

Can the minister clearly explain how community needs and interests are taken into consideration when decisions are being made on what courses are delivered at community learning centres? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. The college does have a needs assessment process which collects and allows the college to receive any information and feedback from the community about training opportunities that the community would like to see.

For us to deliver programs there are a number of factors that are required, not only the program itself but also in terms of funding and structures and space to deliver the program. When the college receives any requests for additional programs, these are factors that we consider every time we get a request for additional training opportunities.

The college has identified the community needs assessment process as an area that requires updating because right now we do it through a survey process and we want to implement something that will be easier for the community and maybe happen more frequently.

As always, though, any program that we do deliver requires core funding and usually is required through third party funding and we all appreciate that funding when it does come through so that we're able to offer more programs in our communities with the additional funds to serve Nunavummiut at our various CLCs and campuses across the territory. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman...Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have been given to understand that such academic courses as management studies and interpreter/translation are not designed to be delivered at the community level.

Can the minister explain what would be required to adjust program methods to enable Nunavut Arctic College to deliver these types of courses in our smaller communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Technical difficulties...

>>*Laughter*

Quana, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. For academic courses, there are a number of adjustments that we've had to make with COVID-19. Over the past few years, a lot of our courses have meant that we've had to transition online. However, some of our courses haven't been able to do so, depending on the nature of the program. It's not always easy to deliver some of our programs that have a little bit more of our oral histories and cultural components, and watching through observing and learning that way and be able to transition those online.

I'm proud of all the work that the Nunavut Arctic College community, the staff and the students took to transition to meet the needs of the pandemic and also how the college has been able to secure IT infrastructure to support our students over the past few years in terms of laptops and Internet sticks to meet the needs and requirements of students to continue learning online in our communities.

As the member points out, these are lessons that we have learned over the past few years, and the college appreciates that we can offer a wide range of these programs in new ways, included blended learning. We look forward to coming back out of the pandemic and being able to offer more programs in our communities in-class and look forward to the fall semester with the new courses and programs that are being offered at our various CLCs or campuses across the territory. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I just wanted to go back to my first supplementary question, if the minister can explain what would be required to adjust program delivery methods to enable Nunavut Arctic College to deliver these types of courses in our smaller communities. (interpretation) Thank you, the one who is not the Chairman.

>>*Laughter*

Speaker: Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: I think I wore the wrong earrings; they're so beautiful, though.

Quana, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. Nunavut Arctic College has had to adjust our delivery methods over the past little while and I can confirm that the college is currently working on work in the key program areas.

As stated in my minister's statement the other day, the Nunavut Teacher Education Program is working diligently to expand across our territory. I can say that we are offering this program in ten communities across Nunavut in September. I can confirm, through the support of third party funding that has been received, that this very work is going on and also through the federal government, we have programs that are offered at our community distance learning programs and we're exploring ways where we can expand to deliver some of this programming and learning opportunities across our territory.

Lastly, the college programs review process also provides the programs' opportunity to explore ways to adjust delivery and identify supports and resources required to adapt to its learning. Any time a community wants to see additional courses or types of programming, we fully accept and are look forward to receiving information on what communities want to receive in terms of learning and working to adjust.

I will add, Mr. Speaker, one last final point that Nunavut Arctic College does have an alumni survey currently happening and they are questions about what type of programming or that type of information that we are trying to capture through that method. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickey.

Question 047 – 6(2): Status of Housing for Cabinet Ministers

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on my colleague from Amittuq's question. It was kind of funny that when I was asking questions to the Minister of Family Services, the same answer was the member's original question to the Deputy Premier.

I would like to follow up with the Premier on his responses from earlier today. The Premier had mentioned that there are two members of cabinet that have had trouble finding accommodations here in Iqaluit.

I am going to assume that Minister Simailak is one of them, as he is a very recent member to Executive Council, and I guess what I would like to find out is who is the other minister that is having difficulty finding accommodations. What accommodations are they in now and do they receive any type of per diem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to thank the member across for the question. I could agree that there are two members. The ministerial handbook outlines the roles in terms of our office plays in terms of aiding the support of the ministers on their own looking for accommodations.

Just to reiterate, the housing market in Iqaluit has been a true challenge for not only for Nunavummiut, Iqalummiut, but also for cabinet. I can confirm that other minister is Minister Quassa in the House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the partial response. My next question is as is my first one was: how are they accommodated when Minister Quassa and Minister Simailak are here in Iqaluit, and do they receive any type of per diem while they are here? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the procedural manual outlines, it is up to the ministers to seek and it is up to Intergovernmental Affairs to provide support if and when needed. At this point in time, accommodations for the ministers are in hotels at this point in time. I could get back to the member in terms of what benefits are entailed to this point, but we do follow the procedural manual that outlines really the supports that are provided to every minister accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that commitment from the Premier. I am going to follow up again from my colleague from Amittuq with the second part of his question. There seems to be some delay, I guess, or I am not sure even how to describe it and explain what the housing status is for the Executive Council, so I will ask the Premier. I know he lives here in Iqaluit. What is current housing status, and does he receive any type of subsidy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. Currently I don't receive subsidies. I have my own house. I do not receive any benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Question 048 – 6(2): Alcohol Concerns in Boarding Facilities

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and they concern medical travel.

Mr. Speaker, I recently spoke to an elder who had an issue while travelling for out of the territory care.

Mr. Speaker, it was very concerning to hear when I went to go visit an elder. The Inuit way of life is always to listen to your elders. Mr. Speaker, the elder mentioned that there is too much drinking going on for the medical travellers.

The elder had mentioned that during at nights when they are going to sleep. There are some patients drinking in the hotels and in the Larga boarding homes. And, it was very concerning.

And, there are cancer patients that they need the quite time. What are so, my question to the Minister of Health is what are the policies for medical travellers that are out of the territory and is there any policy about alcohol and drinking in the Larga boarding homes and the hotels? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health. Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for the question. Yes, there are rules. Actually, policies exist related to non-consumption of alcohol for medical patients travelling out of Nunavut, or even within Nunavut. The Department of Health has policies that apply to medical patients which outline that the person with the appointment travelling under (interpretation ends) medical travel (interpretation) or even the (interpretation ends) escort (interpretation) are not to consume any alcohol during their tenure as this is our departmental policy.

I believe everyone who undertakes medical travel is aware as it is outlined in the papers provided to the patients, nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, sometimes personnel at the Department of Health are informed that indeed, a person had consumed alcohol and the people breaking that policy are then engaged to deal with this issue. If they are staying at the (interpretation ends) boarding home (interpretation) they must follow the rules and policies in place at that facility.

The management team deals with the perpetrators on an individual basis as each facility is run independently by contractors, however, if they are staying in a hotel, Mr. Speaker, we cannot monitor them at every turn, and this may be where infractions may occur. The fact is, when people travel, this may be where there was drinking involved, and if the Department of Health is not informed, then we may not even find out that this occurred.

Nevertheless, the example our colleague raised about an elder who suffered disconcertion or became concerned or stressed out is not what we want to hear as that is unacceptable. If we are apprised of these situations by the patient as the Department of Health, then we can enact changes or make improvements or even admonish the person causing the elders distress, as we do not want any elder to be placed in that situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The patient relations for medical patients, it takes a very long time to get a response and by the time there is a response and the issue and the concerns already passed.

Can the Minister of Health make the patient relations for the medical travellers a lot quicker than the response that they get today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health. Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Office of Patient Relations is really an important body within the Department of Health. They handle a lot of issues and they do an excellent job of following up and getting back to individuals when they do submit complaints or inquiries to the department.

In terms of the timeliness of what they are doing is difficult for them to respond you know in a very short time frame. It depends on the nature of the enquiry. I'm kind of guessing on the specifics around the example that the member mentioned, but in the case of a hotel, if it's in the hotel and there are issues around noise, I would advise medical travellers to talk directly to the hotel management. Most hotels do not tolerate unruly behaviour within their facilities and they would deal with those guests. I think that would be, in that case, the quickest way to deal with the issue.

Boarding homes as well are strict when it comes to alcohol use. Unfortunately the boarding homes across southern Canada and the boarding home operating here in Nunavut maintain a list of banned travellers who have been put on a list that means they cannot stay in the boarding home and a lot of those reasons, unfortunately, have to do with alcohol use, but at the end of the day, the reason those rules are there is it comes back to the patient experience and trying to look after the well-being of our medical travellers, which is very important to the Department of Health. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The elder had mentioned that the security from the isolation hubs were greater than the security at the Larga.

Mr. Speaker, elder care is very important. Not just elder care; any Nunavummiuq who goes out of the territory for care is very important. There are cancer patients. There are patients who are going through a lot and they should require the best care and they should have their beauty sleep at night and it's healthy to have your sleeps.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Health commit to making sure that our patients in Nunavut that go for out-of-territory care get the best care that they need? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can say that clearly the Department of Health is already committed to the requests or the commitment that the member is asking me for.

When it comes to boarding homes and medical travellers, it's not uncommon for different issues to arise, whether it is travel delays, issues around accommodations, issues around patient-specific needs, whether they be dietary or mobility needs, and we do have systems in place and we do have staff in place to meet those needs.

When it comes to boarding homes and security in particular, we're continually meeting or regularly meeting with the boarding home operators. In this case, it would be Larga Kitikmeot and the Larga in Edmonton. Those are regular meetings where staff can discuss with the operator issues around security or issues around needs that have been raised.

I would encourage the member to speak with my department or pass on information around the specific concern that the elder had and we will be sure to look into that to better the medical travel experience for that individual. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period...Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize we all want to get to Committee of the Whole as soon as possible. I just have one very brief question for each remaining member of cabinet other than the Premier, so I request unanimous consent to extend question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There is a nay. We will continue to Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Responses to Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 006 – 6(2): 2017 Workers' Advisory Office Annual Report

Tabled Document 007 – 6(2): 2019 Workers' Advisory Office Annual Report

Tabled Document 008 – 6(2): 2020 Workers' Advisory Office Annual Report

Tabled Document 009 – 6(2): 2021 Workers' Advisory Office Annual Report

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021 Annual Reports of the Workers' Advisory Office. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Tabled Document 010 – 6(2): Letter of Support for the Sanikiluaq High Displacement Renewable Energy Demonstration Project

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a collection of formal letters of support that have been presented in respect to the Sanikiluaq High Displacement Renewable Energy Demonstration Project.

I encourage all members to review these letters with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 14. Tabling of Documents. I have one.

Tabled Document 011 – 6(2): 2022-25 Business Plan of the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Tabled Document 012 – 6(2): 2022-25 Business Plan of the Representative for Children and Youth

Tabled Document 013 – 6(2): 2022-25 Business Plan of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut

Tabled Document 014 – 6(2): 2022-25 Business Plan of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer

I am tabling the 2022-25 Business Plans for the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, the Representative for Children and Youth, the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut, and the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Item 15. Notices of Motions. I recognize the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 15: Notices of Motions

Motion 005 – 6(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days – Notice

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, May 30, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during this present sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. I recognize the Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 19: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 02 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2022-2023 – Second Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2022-2023*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the capital expenditures of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 2 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

I recognize the Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Bill 03 – Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2021-2022 – Second Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 3, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the write-off of assets and debts in accordance with sections 24 and 82 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 3 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

I recognize the Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Bill 04 – Liquor Tax Act – Second Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 4, *Liquor Tax Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides for levying a consumption tax on liquor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 4 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

I recognize the Minister of Finance...Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Bill 05 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Second Reading

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 5, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Labour Standards Act*, the *Legislation Act*, and the *Public Service Act* to include the holiday known as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation observed on September 30. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 5 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Bill 06 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act – Second Reading

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Judicature Act* to provide for the enforcement of certain orders made under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 6 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Bill 07 – Interim Language of Instruction Act – Second Reading

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 7, *Interim Language of Instruction Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides for the suspension of section 24 of the *Education Act* and most of the existing *Language of Instruction Regulations* to allow for time to develop new Language of Instruction Regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 7 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1 and 2 with Mr. Hickes in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 10:53 and Committee resumed at 11:11*

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Hickes): Thank you, 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 1 and 2. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the 2022-23 main estimates and the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2022-2023 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie, do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee? I see two of them with you right off the bat, so does the committee agree to let the minister have witnesses? Agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, Minister Joanasie, just please introduce your officials.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning. I have my Deputy Minister, Kyle Seeley, here as well as Director of Corporate Services, Mandy Hickey. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. We left off yesterday on page J-4. Directorate. \$13,108,000. Seeing no arms raised. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will go on to page J-5. Local Government Services. \$88,900,000. Any questions? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you can just give me a little bit of time here.

Mr. Chairman, his department's new Community Development Grants and Contributions Policy was approved in November 2020, it was revised in March 2021, and it expires on April 1, 2025. I'll ask the minister: what specific changes to the policy is your department currently considering? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, but can he repeat which policy he was referring to? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The new Community Development Grants and Contributions Policy. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you could give me a second.

Okay. Thank you, sorry, and for your patience. This is early on in implementing this new policy, but we do anticipate that there could be some additional revisions and in terms of the transfers. Mr. Chairman, I think, the administration of this policy, working with hamlets and non-profits, we want to see how we can get their input as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department's draft 2022-23 main estimates indicate that the budget for the Municipal Funding Program will increase by 1.8 percent, from a little over \$48 million in 2021 to \$49 million in the 2022-23 fiscal year. I'm just curious as to how this amount was calculated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since I have our finance lady here, if I can refer it to Ms. Hickey, to the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Hickey.

Ms. Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. This is additional funding for municipalities to cover the 8 cents per litre increase in gasoline and diesel introduced on February 6, 2022. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Hickey. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same line of questioning in the opening comments on page 3, there was an increase for municipalities to offset the increase in fuel price, like the official just said, and that was \$852,000, \$400,000 to offset property tax increase payable to the City of Iqaluit and then \$450,000 grants for athletes, and another \$1.72 million for Nunavut sports.

What I would like to ask the minister is, right now before the URRC is the rate for Nunavut-wide rate by the QEC, if it goes through and it's approved, it will affect almost all the hamlets if their cost increases. Will it be a program where the municipalities can apply for funding to offset the increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be monitoring that depending on the decision and I might have to pursue charges accordingly, but we will continue monitoring the situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently right now they are earmarking \$852,000 towards the municipalities to offset increase in fuel prices. The increase in fuel prices within Nunavut have been marginal compared to the south. In the south they have pretty well doubled in prices. Does Community and Government Services have a plan in place for the coming year in terms of fuel costs? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just as with any year from our government, the PPD does look at what has been used and forecasts what the needs will be for the upcoming year and of course the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund operates at an as-even basis to recoup the cost of how much we bought the fuel for. We are anticipating in the fall that there will likely be some increases to fuel prices in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the PPD section is coming near the end, but since the minister mentioned it here and it's within the realms of the fuel costs here, if you will indulge me, right now in the south I think there are very few places where regular gasoline is selling for less than \$2 a litre and right now in Nunavut we're paying almost half that. If the gas prices spike because... . Let me go back.

Normally our prices in Nunavut are more than gas prices down south, generally and normally. Right now, because of the way our system works, that we purchase all the fuel before the prices spike, we're being cushioned by it, but eventually it's going to catch up to us. Is the stabilization fund going to be able to absorb enough of the increase in fuel prices or will there be a big spike in fuel prices within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will give me a moment then, I would have to find the appropriate briefing that my officials put here, but if you will allow, maybe I could circle back to that question in the short notice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We will have an opportunity to touch on that under the PPD section as well. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department's new Sport and Recreation Grants and Contributions Policy expires on March 31, 2023. Are there any specific changes that the department has currently considered when they update the policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will have Deputy Seeley respond on that since he was the lead official in that very division once upon a time, so he knows that work inside and out, I believe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The Sport and Recreation Grants and Contributions Policy is currently under review. The Sport and Recreation Division has already started consultations with key stakeholders, including municipalities and sport and recreation organizations in the territory on the implementation of the current policy for input on potential revisions. That input from stakeholder organizations is being incorporated into the updated policy.

I'm happy to say that from stakeholders, the feedback was fairly minimal on recommended or proposed changes from municipalities or from non-profit organizations who do access funding through the program. This consultation on the grants and contributions policy is being done in concert with the release of the Sport and Physical Activity Recreation Framework and corresponding action plan, as well as the renewal of the Canadian Sport Policy Version 3.0, which consultations have just been initiated, which will include all Nunavut sport, physical activity and recreation stakeholders here in Nunavut, and it will fit into the national plan. A fairly robust consultation process underway, with no really specific or really broad changes prescribed from the stakeholders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to hear all that because sport and recreation is very important and vital part of all the communities. There are so many benefits for people who are physically active and physically playing sports. It's good for the body. It's good for the mind. I hope that it all works out well.

Skipping on to a different priority here, on page 196 of the business plan, one of the priorities for 2022-23 is, the second bullet says, "Continue to work with lead agencies and other stakeholders in the development of a solid waste strategy and solid waste management regulations." As of today, what is the status of that work? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In January 2021, CGS started the regionalization study to review multiple options for solid waste management, such as regionalized incineration or landfilling, backhauling, as well as two other jurisdictions and community-specific incineration or landfilling. CGS will contribute to the study, offer their expertise, and ensure that the needs of municipalities will be met in supporting the role of the Department of Environment in developing a Nunavut-specific waste management strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister mentioned as he talked about incinerators, Arviat being one of the bigger communities and the solid waste dump is pretty well at maximum now, are there any plans to install an incinerator there so that the problem of having so much waste will now just pile up where it could be incinerated and taken care of? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow my deputy to respond on the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The strategic management of solid waste and addressing a lot of our legacy landfill sites in the communities is a high priority for us in this business year. Most members will recall that we do have a variety of solid waste site renewals and/or development of new solid waste sites identified through the capital projects end of things.

The reality is that the current regulatory climate for the construction of compliant solid waste sites is very expensive. Fully lined sites with proper berming and drainage, as well as fencing, as well as the ongoing O&M and management costs for municipalities is a challenge from the capital end of things.

The initiative that we're taking right now, re-incineration, backhauling, baling, and some of those more innovative measures, is meant to expedite and extend the life span of existing solid waste sites by either backhauling materials that can be recycled elsewhere or introduction of small-scale incinerators into communities.

I can't speak to Arviat being a specific site where one will be piloted, but certainly where the municipality is on side with an innovative pilot and demonstrates the capacity to help manage the site, I think that a community like Arviat would be a very good place to start. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very good to hear that Arviat would be a good site because, as the minister and his officials know, the location of our solid waste site is very close to the runway and birds are an issue there.

Speaking of that, and I'm sure if this is getting close to capital and you can rule me on that, but how is the department dealing with the transport regulations in terms of expanding solid waste sites that are too close to municipal airports through the transport regulations? Thank you.

Chairman: I think that's a fair question, Mr. Savikataaq. There are policy-related connotations to it. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow the deputy to continue on with the response. Thank you.

Chairman: Sorry, my apologies. I had intended to do that and I got into autopilot. Go ahead, Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The risk of bird strikes is very high where either solid waste sites or wastewater sites are located too close to the runway. As part of the planning process for the relocation of any solid waste or wastewater site, site selection is

dependent on compliance with regulatory requirements, both Transport Canada regulations as well as the effluent and drainage standards.

The historic location of sites and community growth have put a lot of pressures on the, I guess, just due to the proximity of airstrips and the solid waste sites. Certainly communities like Sanikiluaq face similar barriers. That is all incorporated within the planning. Everything needs to be somewhere. The reality is that these solid waste sites will be located farther from communities and farther from the airstrips, with a corresponding increase in operational costs that come with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On November 4, 2021 your department issued a request for proposals for the development of a Nunavut-wide regional solid waste management plan. This request for proposals was subsequently cancelled on February 8, 2022. When will the department reissue the request for proposals and why was it cancelled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry. Can he repeat the question? He's jumping quickly, so I would like to follow. My apologies.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll repeat it slower to give the minister more time.

On November 4, 2021 his department issued a request for proposals for the development of a Nunavut-wide regional solid waste management plan. This request for proposals was subsequently cancelled on February 8, 2022. When will the department reissue the request for proposals and why was it cancelled? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and my apologies. The solid waste regionalization study, is that the one he's referring to? That's in the final stage of development. This was in the first week of April. Outputs of this investigation will help support solid waste management alternatives.

I might not be on the same page as the member; my apologies for that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasié. What the member is asking about is the Nunavut-wide regional solid waste management plan RFP that was put out in November

of last year and subsequently cancelled. The member is looking for why it was cancelled and when it will be reissued. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: My apologies and I think we will have to come back to the member on that with a proper response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. An issue that always seems to come up with local governments is the water/sewer subsidy in terms of the rate that's paid, and in the end the government does pay for it because the bulk of the expenses go to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, but what I would like to ask the minister is if they can use some of these funds to...and you can rule me out of order if you want because it's treading on capital here.

If a municipality has enough excess in their water/sewer funds, and I understand that it's not there to make money; it's there to make sure that the hamlet doesn't lose money but doesn't make money on the water/sewer subsidy. If there is little excess there, can the hamlets use it to build shelters for their water/sewer equipment? I know that in capital there is a new program out for that, but is there a possibility that some of these funds could be used for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. A reallocation of revenue is, obviously, allowed under this. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The water/sewer program is meant to be on a cost recovery basis and when there is excess that hamlets are experiencing, it's not meant to be that way, but we will look on a case-by-case basis on what can be done with this program and with the communities' involvement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be just a comment and then I'm done, as others need to get their voice in too.

The water/sewer programs in the communities, and I'll take Arviat because that's where I'm from, I'm sure Arviat has the most number of water trucks and sewage trucks by a long shot compared to any municipality as we're in trucked service there. There is an issue in the wintertime of storing the vehicles in a warm, safe place so that they're available for use. I'm glad that they will look at it on a case-by-case basis on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. It was just a comment. The next name I have on my list: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Joanasie. I apologize; I had to step away yesterday and I'm not sure whether I will be repeating issues of concern that other people raised, so please bear with me.

Your department's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 196 that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Work with partners and stakeholders to develop and deploy the Drinking Water Strategic Framework action plan." I'm wondering if you can tell me: as of today, what is the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current status is CGS submitted a letter to the Nunavut Water Board to discuss opportunities for collaboration on the strategy and next steps will be to develop a strategic framework action plan, which will engage all stakeholders, other GN departments, Inuit organizations, and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. A planning schedule will be developed in the first quarter of 2022-23 that will determine the objectives and engagement sessions. This will be to guide the development of the action plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. Just going back to solid waste, I'm wondering and one of the priorities listed as well was to "Continue to work with lead agencies and other stakeholders in the development of a solid waste strategy and solid waste management regulations." I'm also wondering what the status of that work is today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: If you will give me a second.

My apologies. Our department received approval on amended scope of work for federal funding sources on solid waste bundles, and this amendment will allow CGS to undertake site-specific upgrades to site management and reduce risk of leachates due to offsite runoff and prolong the useful life of existing sites. CGS has prepared a request for proposals for a new business case to determine what upgrades to current sites can be completed within identified funding from the Small Communities Fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister Joanasie. In keeping with all of these plans, there is also a commitment to finalize the emergency plans of Nunavut departments and agencies into the Government of Nunavut territorial emergency plans.

I'm wondering as well: as of today, which departments, public agencies, or territorial corporations have not finalized their emergency plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. Our emergency plans are necessary to ensure each department and public agency is prepared to respond effectively in the event of an emergency. With multiple stakeholders involved, we're trying to make sure that we have a very strong response, but we initiated this during COVID and it has kind of expedited how our emergency plans have been unfolding. These also coincide with the business continuity plans, which are quite detailed.

As per the question on which departments or agencies are still behind on theirs, I'll have to get back to the member on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasié. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that response and I look forward to hearing more from you on that.

Can you tell us which municipalities have not finalized and submitted their emergency management plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you. Going back to the previous question, we do have plans from all departments and agencies and we're treating these as living documents and are subject always to change since we never know when an emergency may arise. There are always ways that we want to treat these and same for the community emergency response plans from municipalities. We have one for each municipality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. Just to be clear, does each municipality have an up-to-date plan? Knowing that the past couple of years have severely impacted communities in the emergency of COVID, I just want to have assurance that we're doing everything that we can to help communities prepare for other emergencies as well. Can you just give me an idea of how often these plans are updated? Are they annually updated? What kind of support is given to them? I suppose as well, I am interested in knowing what barriers communities are facing in creating emergency plans for the good of their citizens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her line of questioning. As a government, since we coordinate emergency management alongside departments and municipalities, we do want to commend all the work that has gone into all emergencies that, either locally or territorially, we would have to manage, COVID and what have you. These plans are reviewed and updated on an annual basis. In terms of supports provided, we do offer training in this area to ensure that municipalities and/or our departments, when we're doing the updating, take into account all the necessary factors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I suppose it would be helpful to have an annual report, and I think the 2019-2020 annual report under the *Emergency Measures Act* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 1, 2021. When will the 2020-21 annual report be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I intend to bring that into the spring sitting, the annual report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker...ah, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess you got that kind of half right; Deputy Speaker would be the right term.

Nunavut's *Emergency Measures Act* was passed in the Legislative Assembly in 2007, and sections 5 to 9 of the legislation provides for the preparation of emergency management programs on the part of the government institutions and municipal councils. However, these sections of the legislation have not yet been brought into force. What is the government's current timetable for bringing these sections of the *Emergency Measures Act* into force? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We look to have those sections into force within the life of this government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. We're on page J-5. Local Government Services. \$88,900,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Going to the next page. Information Management and Information Technology. Page J-6. \$44,756,000. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't let that kind of money go without a question.

Mr. Chairman, on page 197 of the business plan, I'm curious here on information and communications technology. In 2021 the budget was a bit over \$32 million and for this fiscal year, it's down to \$23 million, which is an over \$9 million decrease. I'm curious as to the reason for that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. We did rearrange some of the budget line items here. As you will see on page 198, we have the Government Information and Planning Division that increased by \$6 million. That's to account for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, minister. I was pretty good in math and I said it was \$9 million; he accounted for the \$6 million. Where did the other \$3 million go? Is it like a slush fund or a retirement plan? Can the minister elaborate, please? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. It's always good to have a little bit of humour on our Friday mornings here. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you will note too on 198, the Corporate Chief Information Officer is another \$1.7 million, as well as under Telecommunications, that budget is increasing close to \$3 million. It was just a matter of moving our budgets within this IM/IT division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not to be a stickler, but did the minister just say "Corporate Chief Information Officer"? The budget from 2021 'til 2023, would that be the same \$1,769,000 in 2021-22 and \$1,769,000 in '22-23? To the best of my looking here, there was no increase or decrease. Can the minister explain? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2021-22 there was no budget under that line item, but for this main estimate purpose, we have \$1,769,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if we have the same document, but under 2021-22 there is a budget under Corporate Chief Information of \$1.7 million

and the new budget that the minister talked about too under the Government Information and Planning Division, in 2021-22 there was a budget of \$6.7 million. Is there a mistake in the business plan here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have to figure out and maybe compare our business plans. What I'm looking at here is in 2021-22, in 198, Corporate Chief Information Officer, there was no spending, but from this year and onwards, \$1,769,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just recognizing the clock and so the minister and myself can compare our business plans, I would like to report progress.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. The member has made a motion to report progress. It's not debatable. All those in favour. Thank you. Motion carried. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses out of the witness table.

Speaker: Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hickes.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Ms. Nutarak. The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

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

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts meets this afternoon at half past one in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for May 30:

1. Prayer

2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
 - Motion 5 – 6(2)
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 1
 - Bill 2
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. (interpretation) To my esteemed colleagues, this concludes our first week. I wish everyone a good weekend, and I hope everyone returns well-rested.

(interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Monday, May 30, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:56*

