

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Gjoa Haven)

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(Quttiktuq)
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Economic Development and
Transportation; Minister of Energy*

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(Amittuq)

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(Tununiq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

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(Hudson Bay)

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responsible for Indigenous Affairs;
Minister responsible for the Utility Rates
Review Council*

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*Minister of Finance, Chair of the
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Minister responsible for the
Nunavut Housing Corporation*

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

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
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Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

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Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic
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*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
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(Arviat South)
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

George Hickes
(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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(Baker Lake)
*Minister of Justice; Minister
responsible for Labour; Minister
responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

Hon. David Joanasie
(South Baffin)
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, June 2, 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 Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak)(interpretation): Before we proceed, I ask the Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak: can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Mr. Speaker, I would like to call a point of personal privilege before we get to the ministers' statements, please, if I may.

Speaker: Please proceed, Mr. Premier.

Point of Privilege

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. As a point of order yesterday, MLA Hickes insinuated that I had misled this House. I reviewed the *Blues* from yesterday's *Hansard* carefully.

In my response to MLA Savikataaq, I clearly spoke about the appointment of Mr. Lightstone's wife as Acting Deputy Minister of Human Resources. As noted in the Integrity Commissioner's report, I was only made aware of the appointment of the position of Acting Deputy Minister of Human Resources on December 20, 2021. I asked my staff to intervene immediately and was provided notice by Deputy Minister Mearns via text on December 21, 2021, indicating that action had been taken and that another staff member would be acting as the Deputy Minister of Human Resources.

The email tabled by MLA Hickes refers to an unrelated constituency matter when MLA Lightstone's wife was a director. That email was sent to me on December 12, 2021. Mr. Speaker, at the time there was no immediate conflict as, as a director, she would have reported to the Assistant Deputy Minister or the Deputy Minister of Human Resources and not to the minister. Also, as a director, her work would not fall under my purview as

the Premier or any of the members of my cabinet. Any issues at that level are dealt with by the Department of Human Resources.

Furthermore, I want to note that December 12 was the day before I embarked on a weeklong series of meetings in Ottawa regarding our new mandate. My mind was focused on the details of the meetings before me. On Tuesday, December 14, 2021, I had six meetings, including a meeting with Minister Vandal, a first in-person meeting with the Northwest Territories Premier Cochrane, a meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau, a media scrum with Parliament Hill journalists, and a meeting with Minister Leblanc as well as a First Ministers' Meeting that day. On Wednesday, December 15, I met with the Governor General of Canada and participated in the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework Leadership Committee. On Thursday, December 16, I met with Minister Marc Miller. I returned to Iqaluit on Thursday evening due to a flight delay.

The email chain forwarded to me by MLA Hicke dates to early December. I want to ask MLA Hicke that if he saw an urgent conflict at play, why he didn't alert the Department of Human Resources or the Integrity Commissioner. MLA Hicke has years of experience as a cabinet minister and a politician with the Government of Nunavut. He is intimately familiar with the policies and procedures in the Legislative Assembly and with the bureaucracy of the Government of Nunavut.

The Integrity Commissioner has already investigated the matter at length. The report was tabled in this House and accepted by all MLAs. I am unsure why I am being questioned regarding this matter once again. There is no new information to uncover. I believe this line of questioning serves as a distraction from the important work of carrying out our mandate and serving Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Do any other members wish to address the matter of privilege? Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hicke.

Mr. Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately I wasn't able to prepare for this, but off the cuff, I think it was very clear that I, too, did have a chance briefly to look over the *Hansard* from yesterday just to confirm my point of order that I raised.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier was asked when he became aware of the conflict of interest between the minister and the spouse being a senior director level within the department. The Premier clearly stated that it was when he made the step to revoke the acting appointment.

Mr. Speaker, the acting appointment issue is done. We accepted the report and everything that came out of that. It is complete, yet I felt obligated to rise yesterday on a point of order that the Premier was misleading the House of when he discovered when there was a conflict of interest with the minister and the spouse. It is not my job to oversee government cabinet appointments. That's the Premier's job. I felt at that time that raising

that clear conflict of interest would trigger the Premier to put some serious thought into how portfolios were allocated.

Mr. Speaker, in that integrity report, somewhat unrelated to the acting appointment, there were many opportunities for the Premier to approach the Integrity Commissioner and the minister to approach the Integrity Commissioner. I did contact the Integrity Commissioner when I discovered the conflict of interest on the 15th and raised it with the Integrity Commissioner. At that time I wasn't willing to bring a formal complaint forward, hence the questioning.

When we first started this in March, I had asked the Premier, without naming any departments, without naming any unit. I didn't even it was spouse; I mentioned there was a minister responsible for a department that had appointed a household member to the acting deputy minister position. I wanted assurances from the Premier at that time that something like that would never happen again. I didn't raise any names. I didn't raise any further issues with it until the Premier contradicted himself, where he clearly stated on record, Mr. Speaker, that all policies were followed. Subsequently, within the integrity report, it was proven false.

The next day after that line of questioning, the Premier tabled a reply to oral questions where he clearly stated that he did know about it. From one day to the next, he remembered that he had taken action on December 20 or 21 to change the acting assignment.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure where the Premier is coming with this point of personal privilege. None of this would have gone any further if the Premier would have just answered my questions then. It's the integrity report at his request that brought out this level of detail and has subsequently put the Premier in a position where he's contracting himself again on when he discovered that there was a conflict of interest.

It is clearly in the line of questioning yesterday that he was asked. When he was asked when he was made aware that there was a conflict of interest between the minister and the senior director and the date that he had given was after the date of this email, which shows that I highlighted that I had a concern.

I'm not sure where the Premier is going with this point of personal privilege, but I feel that my point of order was valid and I await the Speaker's ruling on it. Thank you.

Speaker: Any other members wish to address the matter of privilege? None?

There are too many wires around the building. Thank you. The matter that has been raised is not a question of privilege within the meaning of Rule 19 and does not require any formal ruling or action on the part of the Speaker.

I remind the House that members have other means at their disposal to debate their defences.

We are here to represent all Nunavummiut. We have people hungry. We have people with no homes; people wanting jobs. This does not reflect towards their future.

Debates are differences of opinion on issues that come before the House.

I have not delivered my ruling on yesterday's ruling and will do so tomorrow. Thank you.

Back to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister for Education, Ms. Gross.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 034 – 6(2): Inuit Language in Our Schools

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut, colleagues, and Iqaluktuuttarmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share information about the important work the Department of Education is doing to support Inuit language in schools.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut strongly believes that children have a right to Inuktitut education. Our department has been committed to developing the curriculum and resources that are necessary for a fully bilingual education system.

As part of the amended *Education Act*, we have created a comprehensive plan to develop and implement a made-in-Nunavut curriculum for all grades and all subject areas.

Mr. Speaker, this implementation plan is for curriculum that is designed to be taught in both Inuktitut and English from kindergarten to grade 12. Our current focus is on developing the kindergarten to grade 6 curricula in all subjects.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to share that over the last seven years, the Department of Education has created and distributed over 1,000 teaching and learning resources in Inuktitut and over 500 in Inuinnaqtun. As this curriculum work progresses, children continue to be taught in Inuktitut in our schools.

As we create a made-in-Nunavut curriculum, the department provides over \$1.2 million annually to DEAs for community developed and led programs that bring Inuit knowledge, language, values, and skills into our schools. Examples include on-the-land programming or creating traditional clothing. Some locally developed programs are so successful that they get approved for implementation in other schools. An excellent example of this is the fox hunting and trapping course that started in Arviat and is now available in all schools.

Mr. Speaker, we are privileged to have 320 elders teaching our youth in our schools across the territory. Our esteemed elders transmit Inuktitut through sharing traditional

knowledge, skills, and values. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all our elders in schools past and present. *Quana* for your dedication.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education supports Nunavut Arctic College's revitalization and expansion of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, which is rolling out this fall. I encourage anyone interested in becoming a teacher, please apply today.

Mr. Speaker, we are thankful for collaboration with all our partners and stakeholders who play a vital role in ensuring Inuktut is alive in our schools. We acknowledge that there is a long way to go before we achieve true bilingual education in our schools. However, we are energized by the motivation, dedication, and commitment of our elders, teachers, parents, and students. When it comes to learning Inuktut, we all have a role to play in schools and at home. By working together, we can accomplish great things for our children and youth. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 035 – 6(2): Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship Awards

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

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure and privilege to present the Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship Awards to the top Nunavut nursing students in their second, third and fourth years of the Nunavut Arctic College Nursing Program. The awards included a \$3,000 scholarship to support the students in their studies. This year the scholarships were presented to:

- Ryan Buenaventura in year two;
- Vayda Kaviok and Talia Grant in year three; and
- Angnaluaq Friesen and Bukola Dimeji in year four.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtitsijii*, this program is another step toward building and strengthening our health care system in Nunavut. Health care providers serve 25 communities across our territory, protecting and advocating every day for the health and well-being of their patients, their families, and their communities. Nurses trained in our communities are vital to our health care system. By training nurses locally, we can develop a stronger, more culturally informed workforce. Nunavummiut best understand the challenges and the rewards that come with working in northern communities.

To our home-grown nurses and our current Nursing students, we thank you for your dedication to pursuing further education to protect and support Nunavummiut. The Department of Health is proud to support you through your studies at Nunavut Arctic

College. I would like to encourage youth or adults interested in a career in nursing to learn more from your local Nunavut Arctic College about the exciting opportunities available. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 036 – 6(2): Ikur'raq Cabins in Nunavut

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's critical housing shortage impacts our whole society, but some Nunavummiut are suffering more than others. While we continue to work toward long-term solutions, we must also take immediate steps to help people facing the worst conditions of overcrowding and homelessness. These conditions increase the risk of many other problems, such as stress in family relationships, vulnerability to violence, food insecurity, and mental health challenges.

(interpretation) The Department of Family Services' Ikur'raq Building Program funds the construction of community-led places of respite for a brief period. The program was created in 2018 at the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction in collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and territory-wide community representatives.

(interpretation ends) Ikur'raq cabins provide a temporary range of supports, such as a quiet place to rest, refuge for adults, youth, and children who need to get away from a difficult situation at home, holistic support such as counselling, and if space allows, it can be used for daily activities like food preparation, bathing, laundry, and telecommunications.

In 2021-22, Family Services supported 16 different groups in developing Ikur'raq cabins in their communities. Each of these communities received \$40,000 to build a cabin, including materials and labour. It is our hope that soon every community will have an Ikur'raq cabin. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Minister's Statement 037 – 6(2): QEC's making Strides towards Energy Star Certification

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, all.

Mr. Speaker, as we enter the final construction season for the Baker Lake head office, I am pleased to share with you that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is making strides in energy efficiency by working toward an Energy Star building certification. This may result in the new Qulliq Energy Corporation facility becoming the first in Canada's northern territories to achieve this status.

These considerable efforts were made possible through careful, creative and responsible design work focused on building unique features using affordable building materials and equipment. This includes configuring office spaces to comfortably accommodate the local workforce, maximizing natural daylight for the interior, and developing adequate space to display Inuit art. The head office is also strategically equipped to efficiently use water, electricity, and fuel, while remaining easy to maintain. Most notably, those who enter the customer care office will have visual access to the building's modern heating and air control technology, along with digital, real-time displays of the buildings daily, weekly and monthly utility usage and projections. These notable features will offer long-term environmental and financial benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving on building operation and maintenance costs.

Mr. Speaker, while incorporating Energy Star features may have posed new challenges for the corporation, I am proud to inform you that the project currently remains under budget. I have personally watched the progress of this ground-breaking infrastructure in my home community and anticipate its benefits, not only for the employees who attend the workplace day to day but local and territorial customers that will feel the long-lasting impacts of running a green facility. If the Qulliq Energy Corporation's Baker Lake head office becomes the first Energy Star certified building in Canada's North, it will raise the bar for other building operators within the territory and make energy-efficient technologies the gold standard for Nunavut's newest infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister for Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

Minister's Statement 038 – 6(2): Grants and Contributions Initiatives

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand today to share some of the amazing initiatives that my department has recently funded. Through the grants and contributions policy, individuals, community-based organizations, and municipal corporations can apply for financial support for initiatives that promote and preserve Nunavut's culture, heritage, and languages.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, community-led programming is an effective way for our territory to preserve and revitalize our rich language and culture. I would like to highlight

three community-driven initiatives that are contributing to the revitalization of our language and culture.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Bilingual Education Society created a storybook completely in Inuinnaqtun with illustrations depicting northern scenery and wildlife. This book will be an educational resource that will support Inuinnaqtun language programs in preschools, daycares, and kindergartens across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Ilisaqsivik Society in Clyde River delivered a kamik-making program in Inuktitut, where knowledge such as patterns and uses of *kamiit* was shared.

Mr. Speaker, last but definitely not the least, Ilitaqsiniq in Iqaluit delivered a program designed to give children and their parents and role models the opportunity to participate in Inuit cultural learnings together. There were sessions for men and boys, such as learning to make fish nets, ulu and *pana* making, boating and seal hunting. They also delivered programming for women and girls focused on beading, sewing, bannock making, qulliq lighting, and skin preparation, including skinning.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is through Piliriqatigiinniq between our government and Nunavummiut that we will better ensure that our languages and culture thrive. I am proud and grateful for these partnerships and I encourage Nunavummiut listening today to consider starting a program in their community. Please join me in congratulating these communities on their efforts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 055 – 6(2): Inuusiq

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, people of Amittuq, Nunavummiut, as well as members and ministers.

Today I would like to rise to talk about life's issues, albeit it can be very challenging yet, it becomes part of our learning experiences. Let me speak to life, generally, it can be quite difficult yet, we must remember our lessons taught to us via the mistakes we took.

Now, if we make a mistake and verbalize it, that we no longer wish to repeat our mistakes and that I want help. The cry for help rarely results in people rushing in to provide immediate gratification, but one thing that does resonate is the number of people who oppose you, belittle you and try to drown you out with nonsensical chatter.

However, even one person may be there available to help, but the people who wish to help seem reticent to speak up, the supporters who want to see the best from you seem to be lower in volume than the other people who are deriding you or others.

In saying that, our youth have a glorious future if they so choose. You will make mistakes in your lives! However, be resolute and firm and never give up. Anyone who states that they are without blemish and that they are fine citizens can do so, but I personally can make a statement opposing that as I do not believe that.

Every one of us has made a mistake in our lives, indeed, some people have reached the thoughts of suicide, when one is feeling ashamed or if one feels down due to being constantly belittled. But, even with enemies doing that, we must keep ourselves level. For our mistakes, they can lead to providing the experience to assist other people.

If you undergo a bad experience, then that experience too, can serve as valuable experience, Mr. Speaker. The person may have made the mistake due to an issue, and is able to provide counselling, and someone who has gone through an episode similarly, where perhaps they reached an embarrassing moment or a place of shame.

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

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please continue, Mr. Kaernerker.

Mr. Kaernerker (interpretation): Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity.

As I was saying, these cases may feel quite challenging, however, life is kind of difficult as our elders attest to, and they provide advice based on personal experience or circumstances that may have provided a problem, or experienced hunger and how they were able to overcome these challenges.

In speaking of that situation, Mr. Speaker, it illustrates that if even one person can listen and use this experience, then my time speaking it may have helped to assist another person, I say “keep the faith” and do not give up. There will be times other people try to shame you, or try to belittle you or to oppose you in your ideas.

However, when we have experiences that come straight from the heart, and when we also make the statement that we no longer wish to continue that practice. This is also a good starting point, to express your conundrums.

Only by voicing your concerns, and perhaps crying over certain heartfelt problems that may be our own means of hesitation, and when we lose our good thoughts on the issue, we can undertake less productive matters which lead to opposition and the problem get bigger and bigger. Perhaps this serves as a good lesson as well.

When we become indebted, to provide an example, when it becomes quite hard or impossible to ignore, it seems to create further problems that pile up, and life is exactly like that. Others may continue to spite you and try to drag you down, even as you reach a difficult spot, but, we can only move forward.

Many of us no longer have parents who are living and we have passed that hurdle, and we must move forwards since we cannot undo the past, and the mistakes we made in the past, are also not so easily removed. It can only be removed slowly by talking about the issue and move forwards. This too, is something we have to undergo here as MLAs, as leaders we too make mistakes. However, these cases where we made mistakes can be used to assist our fellow Nunavummiut to help them instead.

In speaking about our housing crisis and the need to provide a good potential for our youth, and to protect our elders so that they do not face undue stress as that is one of our cultural platforms and to have housing options too.

These are the priorities for this government and what the government prioritizes, but all of us as Nunavummiut must work together to agree on capital items as agreement can lead to stronger positions. When we just try to fight one another, it impedes all of our common paths and there are many places where we can run into hurdles in this modern age!

I think what I can state here as well, is that this one shining little light when one is approaching it, can seem very far away and the path rough and we know we will pass through hardship and painful events that our elders once advised us may happen so we must never give up.

I am saying these things, and I am trying to portray that feeling to everyone who is listening. Now, Mr. Speaker, you older generations should recall that when your collective experience tells you, to use that for the benefit of us the younger generation, instead of just judging us.

Working in partnership can empower our communities, and in saying that, Mr. Speaker, I am looking for another person who can help me to map it out, because as our elders have stated in the past, only by reaching a place that offers no other options, then this episode itself can provide light for the next group of people.

We must stop looking down only, and if we look up, many things can result in us providing needed assistance to other residents, such as lowering their stress in their lives, and people can turn to wanting to assist other people, or others in your community and this can help.

Constant belittling and feelings of shame must move past that one day where you misdid your actions, so you must move on to make changes as you are already living with the results, and we will have the next day where it become new all over again.

When we wake up, many of us I imagine, make our morning prayers, thanking our creator for living and waking up, although we personally may be full of shortcomings, we must still express our gratitude, and this day is when you start your work.

When one is apologetic towards other people, this too can empower us, maybe not visibly but unseen. Now, perhaps I can make this observation, Mr. Speaker, to add, (interpretation ends) when we go through the hardest of our lives, and the consequences we have made, it's not the end of world. There are times that everyone has made mistakes, Mr. Speaker. Not one single person is a perfect person. For those mistakes we have made before, there are times that there is a healing time, and when that time comes, the consequences will be less in your lifetime.

In saying that, Mr. Speaker, I want the younger generation to understand to never give up. Life is hard at times, but life can be happy too; life can be easy, but there are times that we make mistakes that we regret each and every day; "I wish I didn't do that."

Rather than wishing you didn't do that, make something out of your mistake and be more helpful and be more proactive in the community in order for yourself to make yourself better and make your fellow people get a better life. When we make a mistake it makes us realize that we can be more helpful to others. If I just influence one person stating that, "Yes, I have made a mistake in my lifetime." If I just say again, Mr. Speaker, influence other people of your past mistake and that way it will be made easier for these for this younger generation.

For those who are older people, share your experiences more so that there will be less conflict; less pointing fingers at each other and let's make Nunavut work the betterment of our fellow people, for our constituents that are expecting from us that something needs to be done.

I thank you very much, my colleagues for giving me the time to speak about our lives. Again, never give up. (interpretation) Carry on. There will be mistakes, but I remember my mom telling me "We will mistakes and we will be judged for them, but do not give up. That day has come and gone. Let's proceed forward." If I am understood, you can talk to me anytime. Thank you for talking about our lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 056 – 6(2): Mental Health

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the importance of mental health. Mental health is needed for those who in need of mental health help.

Mr. Speaker, regardless of anyone's status I respect everyone and anyone and those who need mental health help. Mr. Speaker, I fully support their decision as mental health is very important.

Mr. Speaker, I will ask the Minister of Health at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 057 – 6(2): Recognizing Pond Inlet Graduates

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Pond Inlet, and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to formally recognize those Pond Inlet residents who recently reached important milestones along their education journey.

Mr. Speaker, graduating from high school is the first step towards establishing a career path. Pond Inlet residents Lane Onalik and Evie Nattuk, who moved back to Hall Beach, are both completed their grade 12 at Nasivvik High School this year. Their graduation ceremony was held on May 30. I wish to congratulate them on this important achievement.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, on May 19, a number of Pond Inlet students at Nunavut Arctic College successfully completed their courses of study.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Ida Mucpa and Marina Angnetsiak who completed their Adult Basic Education Essential Skills course.

I also congratulate Roseanne Ootoova, and Verna Strickland, who is originally from Pond Inlet, for their accomplishment in completing the Social Worker program.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program based in Ottawa plays an important role in preparing Nunavummiut to take on employment or further their education.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Jeannie Qiyuapik, who has completed her second year at Nunavut Sivuniksavut, all online.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, all of these graduates are role models to their peers and to the youth of Pond Inlet who will, hopefully, follow in their footsteps.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of these residents and their accomplishments. I am confident that they will move on to even more success in their future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 058 – 6(2): Congratulations to Marty Kuluguqtuq

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honour Marty Kuluguqtuq who was recently appointed the SAO of the hamlet. For 25 years he has been the assistant SAO for Grise Fiord and now he is the senior administrative officer. He has trained six staff. The mayor and the council selected him. Thank you for serving the community. He is Inuk, a capable worker, and I want to honour him.

Also, for young people who have just started working, if you're going through hard times, don't overdo it. Sometimes when you work, it helps you gain strengths through education or training on-the-job, and that is something to pursue.

The Hamlet of Grise Fiord is doing positive work and through the work of the mayor, Hon. Mayor Meeka Kiguktak and Marty is a part of the senior management team. I wanted to commend the members for the appointment of Marty. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

Member's Statement 059 – 6(2): Happy Anniversary to Brother and Happy Birthday to Sister

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been a long time since I have risen and I rise today.

Mr. Speaker, quite a while ago, on this day, June 2, 49 years ago, Rankin Inlet celebrated its first Hamlet Days. They have Pakallak Tyme festival now. I want to remember today the anniversary of our... Cyril and his wife Elizabeth were also married on that date. I would like to wish them a happy anniversary. Happy 49th anniversary. I'm glad they have been together this long. Have a nice day.

Also, my sister, Jean is celebrating her birthday today. Happy birthday to her. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Member's Statement 060 – 6(2): Kimmirut High School Graduates

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my constituents in South Baffin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the grade 12 graduates in Kimmirut. There are three graduates; Seepola Kolola, Brandon Qimirpik, and Levi Ikkidluak.

Mr. Speaker, and their relatives and teachers at the Qaqqalik School in Kimmirut, I'm sure, are quite happy as well. Graduating from grade 12 will be an event that you remember for sure, and education is a lifetime opportunity and I encourage them to pursue further education. There are various institutions and the one that was mentioned as well, Nunavut Sivuniksavut. There are opportunities and people who graduate from communities is always really good to see. They meet as a community.

We remember those three and their families and they will have a ceremony tomorrow. I regret that I will not be able to make it; I have already agreed to another event. Perhaps through the computer, I might be able to take part. I want to congratulate them and wish them well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. I have no more names. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Languages, Ms. Quassa.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**Return to Oral Question 029 – 6(2): Use of Inuktitut Languages**

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to supplement my response to the oral question 29 – 6(2) asked by Member for Amittuq regarding the Inuktitut language training. MLA Kaernek asked me several questions relating to the use of Inuktitut languages. As part of my response, I indicated that 14 students took Inuktitut courses in 2020-21. I would like to clarify that I referenced the wrong number in my response.

Mr. Speaker, the correct number of Government of Nunavut employees that participated in Inuktitut language training courses in fiscal year 2020-21 delivered through public service training is 51. Further, between September 2020 and May 2021, my department provided support to the Department of Community and Government Services to provide online Inuktitut language training for Government of Nunavut employees. Twenty-nine employees participated and 21 completed the online courses.

Mr. Speaker, since 1999, over 2,500 Government of Nunavut employees have taken Inuktitut language training. As members are aware, the language training function was transferred from the Department of Human Resources to the Department of Culture and

Heritage in 2021. As part of this process, my department has created a dedicated Language Training Unit that will manage and coordinate language training programs for the Government of Nunavut. Further, as outlined in the *Katujjiluta* mandate, my department will be developing and implementing a strategic plan for Inuktitut language training in the public service. I look forward to sharing this plan with my colleagues once it is finalized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege today to honour and welcome my first guest to the House, and especially coming all the way from the Kitikmeot it takes a couple days to travel here, and when I got the message that Navalik Tologanak was coming to Iqaluit, it was very fitting that she be able to come here into the House to be with us to witness the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, Navalik is one of my relatives and my cousin, so it's even more special to have her. We've worked together in various capacities, Mr. Speaker, on language programming at the Arctic College. That was a very fun course that we got to take together, to making and learning how to do delta braiding.

Navalik, it is no surprise to hear that she is a part of a film production with her two colleagues with her, Kelly Saxberg and Adrien Harpelle, who are from Thunder Bay, Ontario, and work with Sunset Film. They are travelling to Pond Inlet tomorrow to bring back sketches, photos, and a film created in the 1970's by two women artists, Sheila Burnford and Susan Ross. Welcome to the House. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitor's in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On rare occasions when I'm at my home I get bossed around by my family members and I'm very fortunate that I want to recognize a beautiful daughter of mine, that I can boss around this week. I would like for her to stand up. Minnie Akeeagok. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, I have no more names. Item 6. Oral Questions.

Members, please note that Minister Main has left the House to attend to a personal matter, and hopes to return within the hour. Thank you.

Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 083 – 6(2): Mine Safety

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Kugluktuk and the people here.

(interpretation ends) My questions are the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. In my member's statement that I delivered on Wednesday, I made reference to a tragic accident that occurred earlier this year at the Back River mine project.

It is my understanding that the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission has been involved in an investigation of the accident. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the investigation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for asking that question. I can't get into the details of this matter because it is under investigation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is very important that mining companies respect and utilize the knowledge of our community's lifelong residents. Doing so will help enhance safety and mine site and exploration camps.

Can the minister indicate what new mine safety and training initiatives are being worked on by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. As I had stated in the member's statement yesterday in regards to what safety protocols are practiced in the workplaces, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission provides all the information with any employer, whether it be

a small business or large business. Depending on the status or the workplace of the work environment, it really depends what safety protocols need to be practiced within the workplace.

Of course, with mining companies there are more precautions and practices that need to be put in place within the WSCC as well as the employers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission is responsible for the territorial *Mine Health and Safety Act* and regulations.

Can the minister indicate what amendments and updates to the legislation are currently being considered? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Worker's Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) With the number of growing workplaces permitting employees to work in remote places including mine sites, it's very important that all the precautionary safety measures are put in place and agreements between worker site safety, but also, we have to ensure that there's agreements as well as safety protocols put in place as well as by the employers within the work sites. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 084 – 6(2): Baffinland Emergency Request

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister responsible for Mines and they concern the minister's statement that he made during Friday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly concerning Baffinland's emergency request to the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, in his statement, the minister indicated that "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."

Can the minister confirm which organization he will be meeting with? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point, I've met with both the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Baffinland. I've met also with Minister Vandal from the federal government, who has asked our officials to look into the Phase 2 proposal. I've asked to meet with him as well. I have also asked to meet with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Those are the people that I have asked to meet with. I always talk about this subject in cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): I'm not getting off the hook. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in his statement, the minister indicated that, "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."

For the record, can the minister indicate whether or not the Government of Nunavut supports the company's request to increase its 2022 shipping limit to 6.0 million tonnes of ore? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of late yesterday, Minister Vandal has written to Baffinland explaining a number of options that they have. I'm going through that letter too, right now, in terms of what options there are. There are a number of key critical things that he wants to see before he makes any determination.

I stated in my minister's statement that once any kind of process comes, whether it is a request for six million, our departments are ready to provide assessment into this, therefore I cannot say whether I support it or not because we need to have that due process. I am eagerly waiting for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Yes, thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in his statement the minister indicated that, "The Government of Nunavut is aware of the potential for job losses and other socio-economic impacts should the mine close, even temporarily."

Mr. Speaker, Baffinland's announcement indicates that it may lay off over 1,300 employees and 400 contract employees. As the minister will appreciate, I am very concerned about the potential impact on my constituents.

Can the minister indicate how his department will work with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association to provide financial support to Pond Inlet residents who are, or will be laid off, as a result of this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whether they are going to be laid off or not, that decision has not taken place yet, but if it does, we want to be prepared. We are going to be working very closely with Service Canada, which is the federal government, as if there are any layoffs, the first and foremost is typically the benefits that they pay into for employment insurance. That would be first and foremost.

As Minister of Mines, I am also working closely with Family Services in terms of their career development. They have a number of options that can be made available for any layoffs that are taking place and when we hear that there are potential layoffs as a government we try and take proactive action. Whether Qikiqtani Inuit Association is a part of it; they are a part of it, but it is all at the moment hypothetical.

Right now, if there is a firm date and layoffs are going to happen, our departments are preparing for it, and I applaud them as we never want to see any kind of employment loss to any of our communities, but when it does, we need to provide supports and I'm committed to providing that through our various channels, whether it's Service Canada, Qikiqtani Inuit Association, or our government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Question 085 – 6(2): Katujjiluta Housing Commitments

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues and my constituents of Coral Harbour and Naujaat. First of all, I would like to congratulate the housing minister's older brother on his 40th anniversary.

My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, our *Katujjiluta* mandate indicates that one of the government's strategic outcomes for this Assembly is to add at least 1,000 units of all types to the stock of affordable housing in continuum of the housing options.

Mr. Speaker, although Naujaat and Coral Harbour are in desperate need of housing, I am concerned that this may not be a realistic goal to achieve with the timeline available to us. Can the minister clarify how the specific target of 1,000 units was identified?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The housing work has been done by the Nunavut Housing Corporation in recent years, I think we would all agree in Nunavut that we haven't really gone anywhere and we've seen fewer and fewer public housing units being built. The board of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and myself have agreed that we need to change the course of this. We need to change our government. We need to change this issue.

We are hoping to see an increase. We have a number of options to consider. We know at the moment, the fund we put aside towards housing, and we put them out to tender, whether the units will be a 30-plex or not, we're not going anywhere with that process and we are creating more obstacles.

But, we are looking at options. We are meeting with our staff as well as experts in the field. We want to look at how we can maximize the funds that we have available.

And in terms of the contractors, do we have to continue to go out for tender every year, or can we possibly work with a construction company for a number of years, and look at how many units they might be able to build with a multi-year arrangement? At the moment, the focus is also looking at... 5-plex perhaps increase the number to multi-plex buildings.

I have stated here, more than once, we are committed to doing this during the summer before fall. We will be identifying goals. I think 1,000 can be built by government. Business community, homeowners, working together I think this is very much achievable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. (interpretation ends) As I noted in my preamble, my first question that the *Katujjiluta* mandate indicates that one of the government's strategic outcomes for this Assembly is to add at least 1,000 units of all types to the stock of affordable housing and the continuum of housing options.

Can the minister clarify how many of these units are planned to be newly constructed public housing multi-plexes and how many of these units are planned to be added to the overall housing stock through lease or purchases? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated on a couple of occasions, we believe that that goal is achievable. We are actually right now beginning our work into those details. We believe that we could achieve greater numbers of public housing, affordable housing, and working with people who would like to enter into private homeownership through our homeownership programs and homeownership assistance programs, if we can. We can work within the private sector, the public sector, to achieve those goals.

I am not at liberty at the moment to be able to give you the details in terms of we want turn 300 homes into affordable housing and 200 into private housing. We are not at that level of detail yet, but we will be, Mr. Speaker. We are working towards that.

It is going to take commitment from this House; from everybody in this room and the public and private sector to achieve that goal, but I assure you, Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that is achievable and I will be more than happy to provide particulars and details as they become available. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Speaker: Your final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, minister, for that very clear explanation. (interpretation ends) Many of my colleagues have been asking questions during this sitting concerning the problems faced by the Nunavut Housing Corporation in the area of tendering.

During the Legislative Assembly's sitting of May 25, the minister stated that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is currently "Working and talking with the private sector."

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of these discussions and can he clarify if the Nunavut Housing Corporation is considering entering into sole-source or negotiated contracts to construct, lease or purchase new units? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the questions regarding the comments I made last week. I just ask for a bit more patience from my colleagues in terms of being able to begin to discuss some of the... . As we finalize some of the discussions we are having, I don't think it would be appropriate for me at this time to get into details as we are still having discussion and I wouldn't want to jeopardize any discussion that we may have or are having at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Question 086 – 6(2): Supports for Daycares

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good day to my constituents, to the people of Iqaluit and my fellow colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Sanikiluaq in Hudson Bay recently spoke of daycares in the community of Sanikiluaq being closed down. I am glad that one of them has successfully re-opened in the community. It seems that daycares in a number of communities have been closed due to a history of financial issues with running and operating a daycare.

Daycares are very much needed in all of our communities. They are important and have a lot of useful benefits to provide early childhood learning and also to support parents who need to go to work to support their families.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update on how many communities across Nunavut currently have operating daycares and how many communities do not have daycares in operation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker, and *quana* to our colleague for the question. The level of detail for each particular community is not on hand at the moment but I'll be happy to provide how many daycares we do have and which communities are working to be relicensed.

Mr. Speaker, I will add that the Department of Education is responsible for licensing and inspecting the facilities, first before they open and every year during their operation, particularly when they're run by independent organizations, not-for-profits.

The department also provides guidance and support to all licensed childcare facilities, including workshops and training for early childhood educators and staff, either before the daycare opens or anytime during the operation when the daycares are open. I will be happy to provide more information to our colleagues about communities and which communities have daycares and how many for each community at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to hearing back on that question.

(interpretation ends) Also, Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that a number of daycares of Nunavut have closed down due to bankruptcy or financial management.

Can the minister describe what kind of support her department can provide for our communities? I'm standing for Clyde River. There is a huge demand of day care need in Clyde River. So for that can you provide help to communities to get their day care back up and running again? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker, and *quana* to our colleague for the question on day cares and support, particularly to Clyde River.

The Department of Education is always pleased and happy to support our daycares and we do have staff within the early learning and childhood department that do assist our

daycares across the territory, whether it be to start a new facility or work towards providing financial assistance to support operating costs to our daycares across the territory in our communities.

With the particulars of Clyde River, our department will be very happy to assist either the non-for-profit or the hamlet or whoever wants to run the childcare facility in Clyde River. We will be happy to assist those individuals work the process of going through the measures and steps necessary to reopening the daycare and going through the inspection process and the further support that the Department of Education does provide for our early learners. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. We have to look at the communities carefully to make sure that those types of services are available and I would like to invite you to visit Clyde River, so we can look at the communities so we can hear the voices of the people.

This is my last supplementary question. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the minister has indicated that she and her department are looking forward to using the recently announced \$66 million of federal funding for Nunavut's early learning and childcare needs to assist communities and daycare facilities.

Will the minister ensure that some of that funding is used to help re-open community daycares that have been closed down due to financial difficulties? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana*, once again for the question on the early learning child care bilateral funding agreement that was signed between Canada and Nunavut.

Our department renewed this agreement for a four-year term, ending in 2025 and within that time, we have an implementation plan of using the funds in various ways. Our plan is to always help our communities with daycares and to help support them in needs that they do need attention.

For some of them, they require renovations or to fix minor repairs, but also, we have supported other communities that have recently had daycare closures and worked with them through similar situations.

So yes, our department does help daycares to reopen and regain their daycare facilities in our communities, and as I said earlier, our department would be happy to work with the communities of Clyde River to reestablish their daycare. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerk.

Question 087 – 6(2): Status of the Yellow Elders’ Building in Igloolik

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, who indicated that he has become an elder.

I first of all like to ask the minister about the yellow elders’ building. When was it opened and when was it built? I am referring to the elders’ centre in Igloolik; the yellow building. I asked that question last year and talked about the stairs, which are very high and I tried to come to an agreement with the minister to make sure that there is a ramp instead of stairs. I would like to know when it was constructed and when it opened. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don’t have that level of detail about when that building was built and completed. I don’t have that information in front of me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that building is aging. When I was there, prior to coming down here I went to see that building and one of the elders has vacated their unit because they could not climb the stairs anymore. She moved to her daughter’s house. Can the minister initiate work on that building this spring? They are elders and they don’t have to wait forever to see improvements done to the building. Elders don’t complain and they don’t talk about their problems.

One of the sons came to me, and I’m referring to another elder, he moved to Igloolik to help his mother. She’s an elderly person, has arthritis, and can no longer climb the stairs. We’d like to make those elders a priority and to make sure that anything that requires work in their buildings be done as soon as possible. I would like to know if we can look at renovating those buildings to have a ramp placed there instead of stairs. Is it possible to look at a company that can revamp the stairs? And have it done as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are quite a lot of renovations that need to be done. I haven’t counted the number personally, but I hear that’s there 5,742 houses in Nunavut.

There are elders units that are available in the community, in the yellow building that you’re referring to. They have different sized doors, but Mr. Speaker, the renovations,

maintenance, the building of stairs and ramps, are done by the local housing association's staff. They decide which will be placed as a priority within their community.

Of course, lumber is not always readily available. There are a number of factors that are hindering the process. I will look into it and tell the local housing organization that this must be prioritized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has to be done on an urgent basis because our elders have done their work and need to rest and be comfortable. I will make sure to have a discussion with the local housing organization in my community, and it might be changed to a homeless shelter if nothing is done about the stairs. I hear that there is mould growing in the building. It has to be renovated and maintained, and I would like to urge the minister to agree to work on that building on an urgent basis. He stated a number, but we also have to look at those types of houses and there's no elders' centre or elders' units in Sanirajak.

Could the minister commit to making those renovations in the spring and summer before the cold season comes? I would like the minister to commit to the House that these units be renovated on an urgent basis. I know that we don't have a lot of money and I know that there are a lot of people who need houses, but we also have to maintain the current units and to remediate the mould. There are quite a large number of houses. There are renovations required and there is mould remediation required. Can the minister commit to working on those units in the spring or summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I just heard five or six questions there. I can respond this way: I am the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, but I cannot tell the local housing organizations what to do. That is the responsibility of the local housing organizations and their board of directors. They want to make their own decisions, but I can say that the housing corporation staff can have a discussion about your statements in the House and it would be good if we have dialogue with the local housing organizations. I'll leave it at that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 088 – 6(2): Toponymy Program

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Culture and Heritage and they concern her department's Toponymy Program.

Mr. Speaker, the Toponymy Program works closely with communities to "identify, document and give approval to local geographic names." This program conducts research

and consults with community members and elders to help decide on place names that accurately represent the history and traditional use of lands across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the importance of documenting traditional place names and that it is a time-sensitive matter when it involves working with elders.

As the minister is undoubtedly aware, an issue that recently gained public attention concerns an island located approximately 40 kilometres outside of Iqaluit. The island's current official name contains an offensive term for an indigenous woman that is completely unacceptable.

Can the minister clarify what specific actions her department is taking to rename this island and can she confirm that her department is consulting with local Iqaluit elders to find a culturally appropriate new name for the island? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. With the island in question, there were some discussions and they have consulted elders regarding the island, but the place name is only in English. If it has a traditional name, we couldn't find anyone who knew the name of that island. The island's name came from the Inuit Heritage Trust and they are aware and it has not been given a name from the elders in Iqaluit during consultations on place names. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that the department toponymist position, which is based in Igloolik, has been vacant for a number of years. Mr. Speaker, it is this position that is responsible for accepting submissions and works in collaboration with organizations like Inuit Heritage Trust and the community members to help determine official place names.

Can the minister clarify what specific actions her department is taking to fill this position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question regarding this position. It's in the process of being advertised and filled. Vacant positions are hard to fill sometimes once they are vacated. We cannot set a date, I have to work with HR and we are waiting on that process to be completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Geographical Names Board of Canada is a national body which consists of members from federal, provincial, territorial departments and agencies. The board is responsible for setting standards and policies on place names.

Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that the board also has places for Indigenous advisors. The First Nations position was recently filled, and it is my understanding that the position for Inuit and Metis advisors are currently vacant.

Will the minister commit to having her department work with the board to indicate potential Inuit advisors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you once again for the question. As a short answer, yes, the position once it's filled will deal with that board mentioned and will be the contact point for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 089 – 6(2): Mental Health Supports

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, mental health services are greatly needed in our communities. I was pleased to hear from the minister that his department is working to recruit more mental health workers across the territory to provide local mental health services.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update on what plans are in place to ensure that mental health workers in our communities will have private and comfortable offices where people can visit them to discuss their mental health issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for the question. Mental health should be a good time to speak about it we have to be open to discuss this. The questions you mentioned about office locations, we have different settings for different communities.

If the health centres have adequate space then that is where they do their work. But in some locations, such as Baker Lake for example, the health centre is too small and lacks space. The mental health services there are located outside of the health centre. We have different office settings, Mr. Speaker. Our staff know the issues around privacy and mental health. Those that want assistance are helped.

(interpretation ends) When we are providing services we do take great care to ensure that we respect our clients' privacy. We do recognize that it can be very sensitive, just even to show up and ask for help, it can be a barrier in terms of the privacy concerns from our clients. Across the territory, that is front of mind. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently the mental health office in the community if Kugaaruk is located in the health centre. It is located right in front of the door way so that anyone coming in and out, as well as all the medical patients waiting for their appointments, can see who is going to visit the mental health worker.

For clarification, Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe how his department takes privacy and confidentiality issues into consideration when choosing the office location for mental health workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. We do consider privacy issues and think through this process, but sometimes when privacy matters, not just for mental but for TB, emergencies, are also private.

(interpretation ends) We do our best, Mr. Speaker, to take into account the need for privacy, but there are a lot of different services that we are trying provide out of facilities, in some cases that are quite small for the size of the communities that they are located in.

At the end of the day, it's also up to the clients in the community to respect each other's privacy. It should be of no interest to anybody else in the health centre who is waiting to be seen in terms of the specific health needs of their fellow community members.

I encourage all Nunavummiut to respect each other's health privacy and respect the differing needs that we all do have at different time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently an individual went on the local radio to express their need for mental health services. I appreciate their courage and openness in addressing this issue. Unfortunately, several people in the community made fun of the situation.

There is more than one person in need of mental health support, and if they feel that they cannot access mental health services due to the lack of privacy and the risk of people making fun of them, their situation will get worse.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister direct his staff to find a more private and suitable location for a mental health office in the community of Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can certainly commit to looking at the needs of that community. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in discussing with my officials fairly recently, we have identified that there are issues to filling our paraprofessional positions across the territory that are tied to the lack of office space. We are looking quite closely at every community in terms of what is available and where we need to make improvements so that we can offer the services to Nunavummiut that they're looking for.

It's really sad, the example or the occurrence that the member described. There should be no making fun of somebody who is interested in getting help. That person should be congratulated, that person should be supported, and it's okay to not be okay. It's okay if you have an additions issue. It's okay if you have a mental health issue. We need to together continue talking about mental health so that we can decrease the stigma, so that more people can come forward and get the help that they need, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member...

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>>*Applause*

Hon. John Main: I really do thank the member for the question, for raising that issue, and together I would like to indicate that I'm open to discussing and answering questions on this very important topic for Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Well said.

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

Question 090 – 6(2): Initiatives to Combat Bootlegging

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues. My questions are for the new Minister of Justice and they concern the issue of bootlegging.

As the minister is aware, a plebiscite under the *Liquor Act* was held in Sanikiluaq in 2019. At that time, almost two-thirds of voters made a democratic decision to remain a prohibited community.

Mr. Speaker, bootlegging continues to be an issue.

As the minister is aware, one of the key tools available to the government is the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*.

Can the minister provide an update today on the activities of this important office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Bootlegging is a serious issue that should be worked on, and I appreciate the member for bringing up the question.

The new *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*, they now have a director and they continue to develop implementation and structural policies to allow for the forfeiture office to become fully operational and the director has been working with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Public Prosecution Service of Canada to establish a tripartite agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the answer, Mr. Simailak. Mr. Speaker, concerns have been raised that illegal alcohol enters the community through the mail system and the airlines. Mr. Speaker, I understand and recognize that Canada Post and the airlines fall under federal jurisdiction.

As the minister is aware, the Government of Nunavut published a strategy titled *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut* back in 2016. The strategy indicates that the government will “improve information-sharing and communication between the government and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.”

Can the minister clarify the extent to which the Government of Nunavut works with Canada Post to support its efforts to prevent illegal alcohol from entering the community through the postal system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question again. COVID-19 did hamper the operation’s communications with Canada Post in minimizing alcohol coming into the territory, but with the pandemic restrictions being lifted, they are going to start ramping up services again. They are currently engaging with the parties to try to get things going again. That’s as far as I know right now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify the extent to which the Government of Nunavut works with Transport Canada and the airlines to address the issue of illegal alcohol entering the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the member; I don't have that level of detail of information right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 091 – 6(2): Fibre Infrastructure

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they concern the issue of fibre infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, on March 25, 2022 the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated announced the signing of a new “Partnership Declaration.”

Mr. Speaker, three days later, on March 28, NTI issued an announcement following a meeting of its board of directors. The announcement indicated that, and I quote from the news release:

“The Board of Directors supports Phase 1 of the CanArctic Inuit Network’s SednaLink Undersea Fibre Project. NTI calls on the Government of Nunavut to reconsider its plans to bring fibre to Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet and engage with NTI on how to maximize the impact of infrastructure investments to create an expanded fibre network to improve broadband connection for as many Inuit communities as possible.”

Mr. Speaker, did the government agree to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated’s request, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut government’s fibre project, Katittuq, is proceeding as planned. Throughout this Legislative Assembly we have been hearing about this project for many years now and it’s still going ahead accordingly.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of the Board of Directors of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, there is a non-disclosure agreement request to look at and compare the Government of Nunavut’s project as well as the SednaLink. That non-disclosure agreement has not yet been signed, but we are still in talks with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I ask the minister if the minister... ? He said that they're looking at the non-disclosure agreement. Will they be signing the non-disclosure agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't say if that agreement will be signed or not at this point. It's still under consideration and going back and forth between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the non-disclosure agreement is signed, then I would hope the minister would inform the House and the MLAs of that if it happens.

Going on, in August 2019 the federal government announced \$151.0 million in funding for the Government of Nunavut's fibre infrastructure project.

Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing of cost overruns in almost every capital project and sometimes some being postponed and some cancelled.

My question is: to what extent have the current supply chain and inflation issues impacted the timeline for the fibre infrastructure project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I can't answer the question in terms of there has been a delay. The timeline for this project has been impacted, but we are proceeding with this project as planned. I think there are many interests towards the fibre project to link Nunavut as well as the rest of the world, which will improve connectivity for not just Iqaluit but all the other communities around the territory. With that, if there is an impact, I'll be sure to bring it up with my colleagues here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 092 – 6(2): Vacant Staff Housing Units

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions today to the Minister of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, in response to some questions that I had back in March, I was informed that there were over a hundred units that were vacant here in Iqaluit regarding staff housing,

over half of which that require repair. I had asked some questions to the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation yesterday on a timeline to get those back into inventory.

At the time of the earlier response, it was mentioned that there were 49 move-in ready units and at this time I would like to get an update from the minister on how many of those units have been allocated and how many are still vacant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for asking that question. (interpretation ends) With the list that I have right now, it's still at 49, but this is from February. With the numbers that were ready are 49. Within three months there were 27 that needed to be fixed up and 34 were major and renovations needed to be done in Iqaluit alone.

We don't have these numbers right now because changes are happening at this time. There may be new employees moving into the units. That's always changing at this time, so I can't provide that number, but we do have 49 still and this is from February. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would encourage the minister maybe to get some updated numbers and inform the House, maybe through a response to oral question.

Mr. Speaker, my next question was the same as back then: how many indeterminate and term employees have been hired across Nunavut in the last six months and how many of those positions came with housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can state that there were 802 requests for housing employees for the end of March. When we look at ready-to-be-entered apartments or units, there were 165 and that's not including, for three months, ready units or the units that need repairs or renovations. Those are the numbers I have in terms of how many employees requested to get housing. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister has a crystal ball I think somewhere behind her podium there. My next question was actually how many current staff eligible for staff housing are on the wait list and it sounds like that number is 102.

I'll go back to my last question: how many indeterminate and term employees have been hired across Nunavut in the last six months and how many of those positions came with housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't have the numbers with me today, but I will certainly bring that information over once I get it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 093 – 6(2): Status of Comprehensive Elders Strategy

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier, the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, at yesterday's proceedings I raised the issue of aging with dignity. I asked questions about plans for providing more elder care at the community level and several of my colleagues have also asked questions on this issue.

The Minister of Health has consistently deferred to Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs as the lead in developing the Nunavut comprehensive eldercare strategy. So today I would like to ask the Premier, who is also the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to provide an overview of the comprehensive eldercare strategy that his department is developing and specifically, describe what options are being considered to provide more elder care at the local level in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank my member colleague. I think we all understand that we place our elders at the highest priority. I very much am looking forward to working with our partners as we have discussed right in the budget to prioritize the PYs to initiate this work; this very important and crucial work of getting the strategy. That is something I was really excited with the Finance minister to bring forward just in this budget.

Right now, if this House approves it, that is the first direction that we are hoping to provide in terms of the resources to initiate that work. We all realize the very moving member's statement that was provided yesterday in terms of the significance and the importance of us to listen to community members is going to be front and centre as we embark on that consultation process to establish the elder care strategy. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Health stated, we only have a short four years in this term to accomplish some very important work. Can the Premier tell us exactly when he anticipates that the comprehensive eldercare strategy will be completed and ready to be rolled out? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank my colleague for asking a very important question. As we embark on the consultation process I very much look forward to bringing forward our partners into the discussion so immediately the two PYs that we are requesting through this process so far will initiate that, and that work has been something that I'm excited about as well as we bring forward. I very much look forward to breaking with my colleagues here the consultation piece not only with the communities, but with our Inuit organizations who have also identified this as a priority, as noted in our strategy session that occurred in Cambridge Bay.

So immediately the first priority is to ensure that we have the human resources to initiate this work. As soon as we are provided the authority through this House, I very much look forward to starting there and then laying out the path forward. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members will appreciate to know when those PYs are up and running.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health has noted that members on this side of the House have been asking him to make commitments.

I am confident that our Premier, as the head of our government, will be pleased to make a commitment as we move forward to achieve the *Katujjiluta* mandate's priority of "Aging with Dignity in Nunavut."

Will the Premier commit to ensuring that the Government of Nunavut's Comprehensive Elders' Care Strategy will include plans for supporting and enhancing the provision of elder care services in all of Nunavut's communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I commend my colleague for bringing forward this very important issue into this House. I can commit that this will take a whole-of-government approach. I think that is something we have seen in order for us to truly look at elder care in a holistic way, whether it is the care that is received in the communities or the housing situation. I think those are areas we have heard right in this

House. I can commit in terms of the areas that will be looked at will obviously factor in the community concerns that we heard as well. I am assured that the voices from the regular members as well as the community will be captured as we start embarking on the consultation process on that very comprehensive elder care strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 094 – 6(2): QEC’s making Strides towards Energy Star Certification

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would just like to ask the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation on his minister’s statement.

In his minister’s statement it says “making strides...toward an Energy Star certification,” and was referring to a new power plant. It says, “...Energy Star certification. This may result in the new...facility becoming the first in Canada’s northern territories to achieve this status.”

Mr. Speaker, if you get that certification, it certifies that the building is energy efficient, you save energy, you save money, and you protect our climate.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I asked the minister if he had directed his department, the Qulliq Energy Corporation, to get on with the independent power purchase agreement. Mr. Speaker, Arviat will be more energy efficient once the hamlet has their renewable project. They will save energy and the power corporation will save money and they will protect our environment.

Mr. Speaker, the scale of savings and benefits and Arviat’s project is about a thousand-fold if this building and the QEC will not put any money towards. I ask the minister: has he directed the QEC to complete the independent power purchase agreement so that the Arviat hamlet can sign it and get federal funding for their project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Just to clarify, it’s energy certification for the new head office in Baker Lake. It’s not a power plant. It’s just a quick clarification.

Getting to the Independent Power Producer Program, we are working on it and, as I had mentioned last week, I believe, if I remember correctly, we are hoping to submit the policy by this fall. That is the aim. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The independent purchase program has been worked on for a very long time now. Can the minister inform the House why it's taking so long and why it is not going to be ready until the fall of 2022? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question again. I cannot speak to what happened in the past as I was not here. I would assume COVID-19 was a factor as usual, but we are working on it and that's all I can say right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the minister cannot speak for his predecessors, but I'm asking the minister again as I did last week: will the minister instruct his department, the Qulliq Energy Corporation, to get the independent power purchase program completed sooner than the fall? There are millions of dollars in jeopardy here by the Hamlet of Arviat. Can the minister commit to getting it done as soon as possible, possibly before the fall? If it's the fall, the shipping season is missed. It's critical. Will the minister commit to pushing his department more to get it done sooner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can commit to trying to expedite it, but I can't make any promises. Right now the aim is for this fall, but if we can do it sooner, we will do it sooner. That's all I can say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period is now over. Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek 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. 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. I recognize the Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 13: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters**Committee Report 002 – 6(2): Bill 5, An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation****Committee Report 003 – 6(2): Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act**

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 5, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*, and Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, have been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bills are ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Bill 5 and Bill 6 will be placed on the order paper for Monday, June 6.

Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. I recognize the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Item 15: Notices of Motions**Motion 006 – 6(2): Suspension of the Member for Amittuq – Notice**

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 6, 2022, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member of Rankin Inlet South, that Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Member for Amittuq, be suspended immediately from sittings of the House and meetings of its committees and caucuses until Monday, June 6, 2022;

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

Speaker: Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. I recognize the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Item 17: Motions

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

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with her motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Ms. Brewster.

Motion 006 – 6(2): Suspension of the Member for Amittuq

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, by virtue of parliamentary privilege, enjoys the sole prerogative to regulate its own proceedings and internal affairs, including the discipline of members;

AND WHEREAS sections 2 and 18 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provide that the Legislative Assembly has the power to discipline its members;

AND WHEREAS these powers include the authority to suspend or expel a member from the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Member for Amittuq has engaged in conduct that is unacceptable to this House, including public intoxication;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Mr. Joelle Kaernerck, Member for Amittuq, be suspended immediately from sittings of the House and meetings of its committees and caucuses until Monday, June 6, 2022;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the Member for Amittuq be strongly urged to reflect deeply on his responsibilities to his constituents.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, it's important to say the incident happened and I take responsibility for my actions.

I apologize. I have sincere apology to my colleagues, to the staff here in the Legislative Assembly, and I do accept the consequences of my actions and the discipline that has been decided upon the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Now therefore, Mr. Speaker, I apologize to my constituents on my behaviour and I hope to continue to serve my constituents as MLA in the future.

In order to continue my work, I am seeking help. I have taken significant action in seeking help on my addiction.

Therefore, again, members, colleagues, and staff, take my word. I'm a man of my word and I will definitely seek help and please do accept my apology on behalf of myself for my behaviour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the motion. All those in favour, raise your hands. All those opposed. Abstain. The motion is carried. Mr. Kaernek, as you are now suspended, please leave the Chambers.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1 and 2 with Mr. Savikataaq in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:55 and Committee resumed at 16:23*

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

Chairman (Mr. Savikataaq): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 1 and Bill 2. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the 2022-23 main estimates for the Department of Health, followed by the Minister of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2022-2023 – Health – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would like to ask the minister: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: For the record, Minister Main, please introduce your officials.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have the same officials who were here yesterday, (interpretation ends) Director of Corporate Services Mr. Greg

Babstock and Director of Policy and Planning Linnea Ingebrigtsen. (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We have been on Health for a while. We're on H-6. Health Care Services Delivery. We're still there and I'll go on to the next person on my list, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: I almost stood up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go back to the opening comments on page 9, just before the conclusion. It talks about the \$1.46 million for the community-assisted treatment order coordinator as well as operating resources for Act-mandated obligations. I would just like to get some examples of what type of operating resources are being planned to enable this Act to be put in force. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of that new piece of legislation and trying to operationalize it, if you will just give me a second here, Mr. Chairman, I have the details.

My apologies. In terms of the operations and maintenance items under that amount, it's the development of a monitoring system around mental health needs and treatment and the development of a mental health and addictions strategy. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I'm sure we will all be looking forward to getting that position filled and getting the work underway to enact that legislation.

I would like to go to the business plan on page 144 in the Oral Health category, where it speaks to the oral health promotion and treatment for children zero to eight years old. As I'm sure all of us are aware, the travel restrictions in this pandemic has impacted access to care for a couple of years now and I know we have struggled in the past to maintain or to minimize the waiting list for children, especially for dental care, as it impacts their learning, their diet, and a number of different impacts.

My first question under this would be: what is an approximation of the current wait-list for children to access dental surgery? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. Unfortunately our dental services for children have been heavily

impacted by COVID and so we're in the unfortunate situation where we do have quite a backlog that has developed.

The number of children that we treated in 2021 under general anaesthetic was 713. Currently, as of April 2022, there are a total of 1,166 children waiting for general anaesthetic services and those are children from right across Nunavut. We are currently working to reassess the children who are on the wait-list to try to make sure that they're dealt with in the most efficient manner in terms of making sure that the highest priority is children or patients are seen first.

We don't have a timeline in terms of how long it's going to take us to eliminate that backlog, but I can say that it is a concern to me as minister. It's something I don't take lightly and we plan to keep members updated as we make progress in getting these children the care they need. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that information from the minister and his dedication to it. It's very alarming when you're talking about that many children who potentially have some very serious dental issues that, like I said, impacts their daily lives and their family around them.

My next question is: are there any additional mitigation measures, such as extending the time that the dental teams are in communities, where they are able to provide those services? I do know that outside contractors are used, as an example, at the Churchill dental team there to provide access to dental services where even full charters of planes in the past, through coordination with the federal Department of Health, have been able to or it might have been Non-Insured Health Benefits...I can't remember the details. It was spoken in the past a number of years ago.

Are there options to be able to whittle that list down faster than just through the normal dental team visits of accelerating that or extending the time or taking in new contracts to have a concerted effort to reduce that list? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As the member would be aware, one of the issues that we have is, of course, that the wait-list is not static, that as we are providing services, we're having more children being added to the wait-list. We are, obviously, interested in getting that wait-list number down. Paediatric dental service weeks at the Qikiqtani General Hospital have been increased to 25 weeks from 11 weeks for 2022 and that's due to backlog.

When it comes to Churchill, we are limited by the amount of weeks of service that we can access, so our service levels in that community are at 12 to 15 weeks. That's what limits the amount of children that we can see through there. For very young children or

those with health issues related, there is hospital treatment provided in Edmonton, Winnipeg, and Ottawa and we're provided with appointments at those locations on an ad hoc basis. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really appreciate that response, Mr. Chairman. Going as far as more than doubling the amount of weeks that they're here in Iqaluit is definitely a step in the right direction, and I applaud the minister and the department.

I would like to take a step over to nurse practitioner. There were some discussions yesterday, I believe it was, on the virtual assessments that nurse practitioners are able to do virtually. A number of years ago there were, I believe, 17 or 18 nurse practitioner positions that were approved. I know there have been questions in the House on the staffing of those. I myself have probably asked a couple of questions over the years and answered a couple of questions over the years. I know staffing of nurse practitioners is a continual challenge.

Would the minister be able to update us today of how many licensed nurse practitioners are currently practising in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I appreciate the question. We continue to have difficulties in filling our nurse practitioner positions. Right now we have 3 out of 16 that are filled indeterminately. We do have a number of nurse practitioners on casual staffing action who are working in various locations.

One of the reasons why we're having difficulty filling those positions is that the salary that we're offering is not competitive in terms of the national picture and so that's something that we are working on trying to address because we do want to compensate the professionals adequately, obviously. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister must have borrowed Minister Nakashuk's crystal ball because that answered part of my next question.

What options are available? I know that some jurisdictions, for certain trades or certain professions, do like a market adjustment. The pay scale, as the minister mentioned, is not very conducive to the recruitment of the nurse practitioner profession, and as most people are aware, nurse practitioners can do close to 70 percent of what a physician can do. Especially at the community level, there would be some great opportunities to reduce medical travel by having nurse practitioners in health centres across the territory.

I would just like to ask the minister: what types of options are being put forward and how urgent is this topic in his discussions with the Department of Human Resources to evaluate those positions so that we can compensate the nurse practitioners across the territory more appropriately? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We are currently working with the Department of Human Resources on looking specifically at making those supplemental measures or adjustments. In terms of making sure that as a department, as an employer, that we are attracting the talent that is needed, it makes a lot of sense as to why we would be pursuing nurse practitioners. The ultimate goal would be to have them come to Nunavut and then stay in Nunavut as longer term employees.

My understanding is that the ratification of the new collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union is kind of a milestone that will allow us to further this initiative in terms of adjusting the salary paid to nurse practitioners and hopefully attracting or maintaining more of them. Mr. Chairman, we're also working with universities in terms of our recruitment efforts on the front end. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I strongly support the minister's endeavours in this area.

Before I go on to elder and elder care in facilities, just one more quick topic that I would like to touch on is with the Extended Health Benefit. I noticed a number of reviews and the business case submitted, the *Midwifery Act*, and a couple of other reviews that are going on.

I know the minister and I have had some discussions over the last couple of weeks on some of the challenges and maybe lack of efficiency in the Extended Health Benefit program where if somebody were to be accessing that program and had to travel outside the territory for an extended period of time, there are day limits when the program kicks in, when it kicks out, and what level of services are covered. In some cases, to restart that clock, people have to travel back to the territory and then basically turn around and have to travel right back down to continue their care, which puts them at increased risk and a number of different things.

Now, I'm not looking for a commitment. I know the minister has been getting quite a few requests for commitment, but I would just like to take this opportunity to urge the minister to take a look at the Extended Health Benefit program. It is very rare occurrence situations like I just described that could happen, so I would just like to encourage the minister to have a look at that policy.

My next question, Mr. Chairman, I would like to touch on the business plan on page 133 where it talks about the construction of regional long-term care facilities. I know that we have talked almost *ad nauseam* of what the plans are and there are a number of different questions that have been on those lines, but my question in this is: what steps have been taken to date to access training and certification opportunities for Nunavummiut who wish to work in the long-term care homes which are being built in Nunavut's regional centres? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the comment on the Extended Health Benefits. It's noted and the current policy is in place until the end of fiscal year 2024. It has been extended for an additional two years.

On the elder care and training requirements, for the facility in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut Arctic College is planning to offer a Licensed Practical Nurse Program starting in September 2022 and the graduates from that program will be able to work in the new 24-bed long-term care facility as well as in other communities, providing services to elders. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. Just to elaborate a little bit more on that, there are personal care worker positions in most of those facilities that have crossover opportunities to other facilities that are in the capital construction queue, such as the addictions and trauma centre here in Iqaluit. There are a lot of similar responsibilities of personal care workers. Are there any options going forward from this government on enhancing that education service delivery? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We're in the early stages, working with Nunavut Arctic College on developing a training program for home care staff, and I believe that would be in the area around what the member is asking about.

Right now there is nothing definitive in terms of a timeline or targets around where programs could be offered, but it has been identified as a need and as the member mentioned, it's a need that is not just around long-term care. There are other facilities that could benefit from having that type of resource or trained workforce. Out of the three continuing care centres and two elders' homes in Nunavut right now, there is a total of 178 employees. When we're discussing this subject, it's important to look at the workforce aspect of these facilities, of course. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response from the minister. Also on that same page, in the second-last bullet, it mentions “Enhance supports to improve daily life in continuing care facilities.” I wonder if the minister would be able to elaborate and give us some examples of what type of services are looking to be expanded or created to help the daily lives of our elders in those facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I can’t offer too much specifics on that currently, but I think I can say that we are looking at the needs of our elders who are in institutional or formal care in a holistic manner. Whether they’re in Nunavut or outside of Nunavut, looking at their needs around access to, it could be, radio or TV programming in Inuktitut, access to opportunities to participate in community events or recreational type programming, making sure that we’re looking after not just their health needs but also the mental and kind of family-related needs that we all have.

Unfortunately COVID placed a burden on elders in care facilities. Our dedicated employees did go above and beyond to make sure that they could try to compensate for the isolation that elders were under, following public health restrictions, and I would like to take the opportunity to commend them all for their incredible efforts. I hope to be able to provide more specifics on that item in the near future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the minister’s response and if I could make a suggestion to speak to local staff in these facilities, they come up with some great ideas.

A number of years ago, I was in our Speaker’s community, Gjoa Haven, and I had the pleasure of visiting the facility there. One of the things they do on bingo night is actually not just for the residents. They send their van out to other elders in the community so that they can participate. It gives the socialization, there’s a lot of people there that are not from that community, but they have ties to people in there. So, just a suggestion to solicit some advice from the staff.

Also, on the same page, Mr. Chairman, it talks about encouraging community-based initiatives to provide elders senior’s programming and supports for independent or assisted living.

I would just like to get a little more detail on how that is anticipated to be rolled out? There’s health committees in many hamlets, there’s wellness coordinators, how are they going to be encouraged to bring forward proposals to be able to do more community-

based initiative to just help the senior and elder programming in their home community?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. This is an item that we're working with culture and heritage on, trying to understand better how we can support community activities in this area.

We know that there is a clear pay back when we look at things like recreational programming, when we talk about recreation, quite often in Nunavut, we're a very young territory, we think of youth. We think of kids' hockey teams and kids' ping pong tournaments. But, there is a very clear, measurable benefit to providing elders with recreational activities. It helps to support their mental health, physical health, so that's what we're aiming at.

In terms of the specifics around the work that were doing with culture and heritage, it's a bit early yet for me to provide any specifics on it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Now, I shall go to the next name on my list, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to get clarification. You mentioned elders' facilities and also the one here in Iqaluit and outside of Nunavut. As I understand, for this, I want to ask in small communities we see and find people that need support.

When we visit with them and elders, since we started this winter, for training, educating those that will provide support in their homes for those that require support or are brought back to the community. They might be bed ridden and in that situation and they require 24 hour care. I too have worked in this area.

For communities whether there will be coordination to include and to work with Arctic College to provide basic homecare, not be health but to support elderly or disabled patients from what I've seen. My question is, sometimes I'm quite new to this game, but I want to understand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I think you seem to be asking about 24-hour care lack of training. You're asking for support for those on their deathbed? Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee: Okay. (interpretation) Perhaps for this... (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I would like to follow up. I'll just start again.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to follow up on the issue that has been raised by a number of my colleagues about the need for community-based elder care. As we know, the government will not be establishing elder care homes in most Nunavut communities.

For those that are less fortunate it becomes more important than ever to improve the delivery of the community-based caregiving. In most communities, caregivers are only able to provide a couple of hours of housekeeping and not having much time at all to care for the elders.

I'm talking about the caregivers that come into an elder's home and they are only given an hour or an hour and a half to two hours; not more. They are just rushing to sweep the floor, dishes, maybe change the sheets on the bed and that is it. So that is my point.

Can the minister indicate whether this department is currently considering making any changes to planning and delivery of caregiving services for elders in our communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. There is support for (interpretation ends) homecare workers (interpretation) annually. I'm not quite sure what you call them in Inuktitut.

We are increasing the support for elders. I don't have the numbers with me. It will be approximately \$1,300, if I recall correctly. The question, if I understand it: you are asking whether more hours could be added to the work scheduled in the units.

We have not looked at new procedures, but we are seeing in the plans that the Department of Health will be working. We want to hear what would support and what support we can provide we you go to an elder's facility as an elder like Gjoa Haven or Igloolik, for example, it is \$25,000 a month for that bed and the operations.

I support this funding, but if we saw this amount, if they were home, would they be able to get support and how much to support them in their home with the caregiver support. We expect to come from through this to benefit these situations. I hope I answered the question properly. We have to look at solutions; we want them in their homes, elders at home. We know that this is the best case scenario for many. It's better for some of them not to go to elder's facility and stay home for more years. That is something we want to support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for helping us to begin to understand this.

(interpretation ends) We're just starting to role the ball, to put it that way, to start making an effort (interpretation) on this behalf. In the communities, it's not the fact that we want a helper for all the houses. I think there are usually 5 or 10 per community. For Qikiqtarjuaq, there's only three houses that need help.

It can be somebody's recognized job and also be recognized through Arctic College. This should be initiated today. As you stated, it costs \$25,000 per bed. Perhaps if they can get 24-hour caretakers and that be their job. I know people can do this if it is supported and properly planned. It will need money to run, everything needs money to run these days. It can be heavily utilized and it would caretaker positions.

I'm thinking of people like my mother, she had to go to the health centre too many times, that's why they moved her to the elder facility. We can take care of her but, there is a 'but.' We have busy lives too, and once families get some support then care can be taken.

If a worker can help a family, someone that is trained on the duties that are needed to take care of their client? People can get trained in these areas through Nunavut Arctic College. Women in my community agree that we can be very good caretakers and if you can believe us, what I'm saying is true and I'm telling you what you wanted to hear. Once a community starts something like that, they can really utilize it and hire people to do it as a job. I know people who need care don't need care forever, just a period of time. Once that person passes away, they move on to the next elder. Someone has to die in order for another person to receive that caretaking service. I'm just informing you of the information that you wanted to hear from the community. What I'm telling you is just the tip of the iceberg.

I would also like to say, in English, (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Health, you stated that your department is looking to creating new ways to develop, promote, and ultimately retain key staff across a variety of vocations.

To promote a culture of ongoing learning, Health has put a priority on workplace education and training to build capabilities of the public service and in the long term. So by saying that we are all aware that community health centres are experiencing increased demands for services, as community populations are also growing.

Can the minister indicate if that \$5.6 million of his proposed 2022-23 will be used to fund the creation of the community-based indeterminate staff positions and what consideration has been given to increasing the number of community caregiver positions?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you. I completely understand what you as an MLA are saying about elders. We need to have a bigger conversation about elders.

I want to correct the 1,300 figure, I made a mistake, it was 1,402 people that were helped in 2019-2020 within Nunavut. That is the number of homecare clients.

(interpretation ends) In terms of the question and in terms of caregiver positions, we're not planning, as part of this budget, we're not proposing to increase the caregiver positions. But, when it comes to homecare workers, we do have the ability to bring on more staff if the caseload in the community requires it.

The homecare staff, the team locally, it can vary depending on the number of clients who need service. So, in that way we try to meet the needs... . We'll hire staff on casual staffing actions if needed using our internal resources to meet that need. I hope that answers the question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'll go onto the next name on my list. And Ms. Killiktee, you can ask more questions by getting on the list again later. Mr. Malliki is next.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister and your officials, please feel welcome.

My first question is: (interpretation ends) "Conduct a review of the *Pharmacy Act*." (interpretation) How will you be reviewing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you. I understand how that one is going to be worked on, but I would like my expert, Ms. Ingebrigtsen, to respond to that if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Ingebrigtsen.

Ms. Ingebrigtsen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for question. As we are going to be doing the review, we don't have all of the details. What we do know is we want to look at increasing the scope of pharmacists in Nunavut.

For example, many other pharmacist across Canada were able to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine, but that couldn't be done here in Nunavut due to the regulations in the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for explaining that. Looking at the priorities for 2022-23, under bullet no. 4, it says (interpretation ends) "Begin accreditation process for the diagnostic imaging and laboratory services in the Kivalliq Health Centre."

(interpretation) Does this have something to do with cancer or is this just for taking blood samples? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Right now the only accredited health facility in Nunavut is Qikiqtani General Hospital. So we are looking to expand that. It is in the preliminary stages towards accrediting diagnostic imaging in laboratory services. So we are planning a primer site visit in the spring 2023. That is kind of the next milestone for that.

As to the member's question; yes, the diagnostic imaging and laboratory services go towards a range of health needs in terms of screening test results for our clients. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, minister for that explanation. On the same topic, under bullet no. 6 (interpretation ends) "Continue to work towards... . Access for staff working in continuing care facilities to culturally relevant training." (interpretation) So this would be the elders that are being taken care of? I don't know how to ask this question. Is it culturally relevant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When we look at an elder facility with that item, we look at a facility and we look at the staff who are providing services; I think we can recognize that many of the standards and guidelines that are in place are based on, I'll call it Western knowledge. Similar to what you would see in a southern facility. With that priority item, I think we are pushing ourselves to answer the question "What does it mean provide culturally appropriate care to Inuit elders and how can we enable our staff to recognize that they are not working in southern Canada."

I don't have any specifics on how we are going to make improvements, but we have identified as a need. We do have training around orientation for staff and we also provide training on medical terminology and cultural competency for our staff.

But, when it comes to linguistic needs, there's no substitute for having staff who can speak Inuktitut working in the facilities and that's what I mentioned earlier, there's a large labour component to these facilities that needs to be taken into consideration. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you minister. On the part of the health service housing, sorry I didn't catch that, perhaps I didn't understand that?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The opticians are two-fold; there are two separate contracts that are with non-insured, the amount of service days that are spent in each community are set by Indigenous Services Canada through Non-Insured Health Benefits. The service days depend on the size of the community.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, there is yet again a backlog in that area of service. We have been raising these issues to the service provider and trying to make sure that we are addressing the backlog. We recognize that having proper eye glasses or having your eyes looked after is a big part of quality of life. We are working on getting a second service provider to support this work as we try and address the backlog. If you'll allow, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Babstock can add some information. (interpretation): Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Babstock.

Mr. Babstock: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And again, thank you for the question. Through the pandemic we've absolutely taken notice that the backlog of vision care services has definitely increased, and that's as a result of our eye teams not being able to travel into the territory and then throughout various communities within the territory.

So, one of the things that we've immediately recognized is that we are looking to add to the service days that are currently being provided to us by Stanton Hospital for the eye team.

As well, we are looking at hiring some CSA capacity within each of the regions to help coordinate that work locally, to help with the outreach, the communications, making certain people are aware of when a clinic is happening and where it's happening.

We're working with Indigenous Services Canada, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and as well as internally within our Health Insurance Division to make certain that that backlog is being taken care of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister and your staff. Getting an eye appointment is almost impossible unless you see a nurse first. I think contracting would be an ideal as well. I just wanted to add that comment. Maybe he can respond to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Perhaps you want to answer this first, before I move on? Mr. Babstock.

Mr. Babstock: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for the delay. With respect to vision care we have information that identifies individuals who have not received an eye exam, and vision exams are self-referral. So it is very much making certain people are aware when a clinic and they show up at the clinic and make arrangements through there.

The backlog is absolutely growing as a result of the lack of trips people were able to make into the community, and in my mind it is about that outreach and making certain people are aware of the clinic so they can avail of when the eye team is there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you. I'll move to the next item. (interpretation ends) What residential substance abuse rehabilitation programs are currently available to Nunavummiut in or out of territory, and what services are currently being considered, if any? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) So in terms of out-of-territory programs that are available, there is a large range of provider vendors that we have.

They provide quite specialized services. Some for example are females only addictions treatment. There are other vendors who provide youth-specific services. Others specialize in family treatment that includes the whole family.

So year-over-year, the number of clients that we are referring to out-of-territory; mental health and addictions treatment has been growing. The budget is proposed to grow accordingly, and it's a good thing.

In terms of the in-territory, we have two facilities currently. I believe the member was asking specifically about residential care. There is also the on-the-land treatment programs that are spread across the three regions of Nunavut. There are in various stages of development and/or delivery. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) The budget for Medical Transportation Division has historically been one of the department's largest expediter area. This year, the Minister of Finance has indicated that the additional \$58 million in federal funding has been allocated to offset the territorial costs for medical travel.

Will this level of federal funding continue in future years, or is this a one-time contribution? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We certainly hope so. We are working securing a long-term agreement with our federal partners. We really appreciate the additional support that they have provided.

I think the benefit is clear if you look at this year's proposed budget. We are taking that reduced expenditure and reinvesting in the healthcare system, so we are really thankful to our partners at Indigenous Services Canada for their support. We hope to have a long-term agreement in place fiscal year 2023-24. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The budget for the Medical Transportation Division has been significantly reduced due to additional federal funding being allocated for medical travel. Will the medical travel policy with respect to escorts, and especially the escorts for elders be changed as a consequence of the new funding agreement? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So, the medical travel policy is one that we are working on or we are in the initial stages of working on it. As to what changes, specifically around elder escorts, will come out of that review process, I can't say right now.

I know that escorts are a very frequently raised topic from MLAs and also having communicated with my territorial counterparts, I'm aware that it's also an issue in the N.W.T and in the Yukon.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, I had the pleasure to appear in front of a Parliamentary committee and to speak about the administration of the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, and the issue of escorts did come up.

All that to say, Mr. Chairman, it is a top that we are actively listening and speaking internally on. But, I can't get into any specifics as what changes are coming. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you minister.

In regards to escorts, I want to ask if he knows that there's going to be a change, would he fight for it for our Inuit? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you. I think I understand the question. There are criteria that are set under the Non-Insured Health Benefits program around escorts. In a lot of cases we shoulder the cost for escorts as a department. There are different criteria that are looked at in terms of whether or not a medical traveller is provided an escort.

One thing that's come up recently is the Child First Initiative, which gives access to additional benefits for medical travellers through that program and we have flagged that to our federal partners that it appears that we have two parallel programs here and flagged the issue of how we can make it easier for Inuit to access these benefits.

Of course, when we talk about these issues we try to keep our partners at Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in the loop, and we're communicating on this because they are able to flag issues to the federal departments responsible in terms of the partnership table that they participate in.

All that to say, it's a topic of interest. In terms of improvements, that Child First Initiative is quite promising. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you minister.

With regards to patients, you want to continually see escorts provided as a service.

(interpretation ends) The draft 2022-26 business plan indicates a proposed of \$10 million in funding for the Community Health Centre division in 2022-23. What additional care and public health services will be provided at the community level? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of that budget increase at community health centres, the additional positions that are being added are registration clerks, custodians, as well as security guards in the communities that they are needed. Those are the areas where we're targeting increases.

There is also a component that's included in there for agency nursing as well as paramedic services, and this will be our second year of including paramedics as a part of our health care team and that has been in response to staffing issues that we've had in the past few years. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Priorities 2022-23, bullet 3, "Introduce the new *Nursing Act*," (interpretation) when will this be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's currently in the drafting stage, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the timeline, we don't have a firm date as to when the whole process would wrap up. We're planning to amend the Act and we conducted public consultations from March 14 to April 14 of this year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The 2022-26 business plan indicates that the cost of out-of-territory hospitals and reciprocal physician billings will remain stable in 2022-23. If the territory experiences another health outbreak, either due to another wave of COVID-19 or some other communicable disease, what impact will that have on the overall budget for out-of-territory health services? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister has indicated that Mr. Babstock will answer that. Mr. Babstock.

Mr. Babstock: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a function of what we do through the fiscal year, we do monthly variance reporting. We would be taking a look at where we are on a monthly with respect to that out-of-territory budget. If we do determine that something comes about, as can happen, in terms of there's going to be a challenge to that budget, we would take the appropriate measures to reallocate budget from other areas of surplus or we would look to include it in a supplementary appropriation near the end of the year.

We're constantly reviewing and looking at the budgets to ensure that they're sufficiently met and when it comes to service delivery, that's our first and foremost priority to ensure it is funded so that there is no disruption to anything on account of financing. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) It's good to hear there might be a surplus in some areas. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification. (interpretation ends) The Department of Health's 2022-26 business plan indicates that one of the priorities for 2022 is to "Begin accreditation process" for diagnoses in the Kivalliq region. What is involved in this kind of accreditation process? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) In terms of accreditation, it falls under our territorial continuous quality improvement program. Basically, accreditation, as I understand it, involves meeting standards that are set

nationally and it involves meeting those standards and then proving to a third party that those standards are being met. Basically, at the end of the day, it's focused on the quality of the service that's being provided and so that's the root cause for working towards accreditation in this case in the Kivalliq. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Going back to page 144 of the business plan, (interpretation ends) bullet No. 5, "Continue to implement the Nursing Roadmap to Strengthen the Nunavut Nursing Workforce." (interpretation) Can you elaborate on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The nursing roadmap is pretty exciting. Actually it's a more recent initiative. It's focused on improving our nursing staffing situation in the territory. It is based largely, as I understand it, on consultations with nurses working in Nunavut and so it sets out five pillars. I don't have the information right here in front of me just now, Mr. Chairman, but basically under that roadmap there are five pillars that we are focused on improving on and those include things like professional development, workplace environment.

Basically, as I understand, through that roadmap, we want to recognize the needs that our nurses have in terms of meeting their needs from a holistic perspective, things like making sure they're not getting burnt out and that they have shifts that allow them to get enough rest and also providing incentives so that they will want to work and stay in Nunavut in the longer term. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's very good to hear. Nurses are the ones who provide assistance in Nauyasat and they are always in shortage. I'm happy that you are working on getting more resources in that area.

I have another question here, (interpretation ends) "Develop regulations for the *Mental Health Act*." (interpretation) Has that just started or has it been in the works for a while? What's the status of that work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you. The *Mental Health Act* has been approved, but the regulations have to be developed and drafted. Once they have been drafted and developed, the Act will be implemented. It has not been implemented to date due to those reasons. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question. (interpretation ends) Funding for long-term care divisions of the Health Care Service Delivery Branch is projected to increase slightly in 2022-23. Currently, how many individuals are receiving long-term care in Nunavut, how many are in long-term care outside of Nunavut, and how many are on a waiting list? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently within Nunavut, we have 39 individuals receiving care and then outside of Nunavut, we have a total of 40 individuals receiving care and there are 12 who are on the wait-list for continuing care at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I shall go to the next person on the list. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've just got a few short questions.

In the past there has been some discussion about the negative impact that extended medical travel has on Nunavummiut who require dialysis. Last year the previous minister had made mention of purchasing a dialysis machine. I would just like to ask the minister if he would be able to provide an update on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of an update right now, Health is conducting a feasibility study and the study, unfortunately, was delayed due to COVID. The anticipated completion date is next month, July 2022.

We continue to work with Non-Insured Health Benefits to secure funding for coverage and equipment for peritoneal home dialysis treatment. Currently as of yet, we haven't been successful in securing that funding. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that response. I would like to move on to my next line of questioning. Earlier today the Member for Netsilik had made reference to some of the challenges that the department faces, as do many of the departments, in regard to our aging infrastructure. I was wondering: what impact does Health's aging infrastructure have specifically on the operation of health care service delivery? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for your question. It has a huge impact. We are doing very best to try to deliver services across the territory, trying to attract staff, trying to respect our clients or patients, Nunavummiut, and in some cases, unfortunately, the infrastructure that we're working with just isn't up to the task. You compare a newer health centre such as the one that's in Cape Dorset or Sanikiluaq, when we're talking about mental health or emergency treatment or dealing with tuberculosis, it's night and day between a health centre in a community like Qikiqtarjuaq or Baker Lake.

The infrastructure piece is huge and it has real impacts on our staff, it has real impacts on Nunavummiut, and I think that's the reason why, as a department, we're going to continue to make a strong case for investing in health infrastructure, not just health centres, but also elder care facilities, mental health programming spaces, as well as staff housing resources that we need. We need those pieces of infrastructure so that we can meet the needs and meet the expectations that Nunavummiut have of us in terms of the service delivery. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I would like to thank the minister for that response. One item that the minister had indicated with regard to investing in health care infrastructure, of course, he made reference to health centres and long-term care facilities, but he also made reference to staff housing.

Earlier in the week there was some discussion on transient housing and the need for additional housing to provide accommodations for the transient health care providers I was wondering if the Department of Health has any plans or desire to build additional staff housing to sort of ease the burden on the operational costs of those transient housing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I understand it, we're not allowed to build housing as a department. We don't have the delegated authority. That would fall under the Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. Therefore, Health Care Services. H-6. \$354,841,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to H-3. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$446,117,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded Health?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the health minister have any, and I'll make this explicit, short closing comments?

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll give my 10-minute speech, not my 20-minute speech. (interpretation) I'm just kidding.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) That would be my short version.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank my officials for their hard work, those who are sitting here and those who are not sitting here. We have a dedicated health team in Nunavut.

I would also like to thank the regular members, Mr. Chairman, for providing suggestions to consider. I used to be a regular member as well and sometimes it seems like you're not being heard. I have felt that personally. Please know that we are listening. All of your statements are put on the record. When you provide suggestions, please note that we are working on them behind the scenes. I hope that we continue to work collaboratively over the coming months.

Thank you very much for approving the budget. Have a wonderful day, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: I would like to report progress. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is non-debatable. All in favour of the motion. All against. Just won't do. Motion is carried.

>>*Laughter*

I will now rise to report progress. Sergeant-at-Arms...oh, they're already escorted out, so I will rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. (interpretation ends) Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) 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? Mr. Simailak. The motion is in order. To the motion.

Some Hon. Members: Question.

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

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. *Orders of the Day* for June 3:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. 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
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.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Friday, June 3, at 9 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:47*

