

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)

*Minister of Environment; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation; Minister of
Energy*

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(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Karen Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

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

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(Rankin Inlet South)

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

Hon. Joanna Quassa
(Aggu)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;
Minister of Languages; Minister
responsible for Seniors*

Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Education; Minister
responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

*Minister of Health; Minister responsible
for Suicide Prevention*

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield
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Joe Savikataaq
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Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

George Hikes
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*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of
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Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

*Minister of Family Services; Minister
responsible for Homelessness; Minister of
Human Resources;*

Hon. Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

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

Hon. David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

*Government House Leader; Minister of
Community and Government Services*

*Minister responsible for the Status of
Women; Minister responsible for the
Workers' Safety and Compensation
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, March 3, 2023**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, 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. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 8:59*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Deputy Speaker (Mr. George Hickes)(interpretation): Good morning. (interpretation ends) I ask Ms. Killiktee to lead us in prayer this morning.

>>*Prayer*

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. We will go to Item 2 on the order paper. Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 171 – 6(2): Community Health Representative Training

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, community health representatives, or CHRs, are vital to our health promotion and education efforts. Every day CHRs are on the ground in every community to:

- Help people understand the risks of illnesses;
- Guide them through the health care system;
- Promote health and well-being; and
- Support the staff at our health centres and public health units

(interpretation) Everyone has likely heard their community health representative on the community radio, seen them at events in the schools, or interacted with them at public events on various health topics.

Community health representatives bring a versatile set of skills and my department is committed to seeing their roles remain strong and relevant. That is why the Department

of Health brought every community health representative in Nunavut to Iqaluit from February 27 to March 3 for a group training session. This session helped to further enhance our community health representatives' skills and knowledge so they can better serve their communities.

(interpretation ends) Through this training, the community health representatives expanded their knowledge on:

- Social determinants of Inuit health;
- Advocacy, planning and organizational skills;
- Public speaking;

I think maybe I could use some lessons from them.

>>*Laughter*

- More understanding of how to apply *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in Western health systems
- Specific health promotion topics, such as sexual health, tuberculosis health promotion, chronic disease and injury prevention, immunization/vaccine, and maternal child health

(interpretation) Community health representatives will bring these enhanced skills back to their communities, allowing them to employ the appropriate tools and resources necessary to continue developing and delivering health education and promotion campaigns.

Community health representatives are part of the foundation of our health system in Nunavut. They are incredible teachers and health liaisons. I am grateful for all the work they do. Thank you.

I encourage everyone to thank their community health representatives for their hard work. They are committed, dedicated, and champions of health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 172 – 6(2): Amaqtaarniq Education Leave Program Success

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut and welcome those in this House.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today I rise to share an update with my colleagues on the Department of Human Resources' Amaqtaarniq Education Leave Program's most recent accomplishments. The program offers Government of Nunavut Inuit employees an opportunity to advance their post-secondary education.

Eligible Nunavut Inuit employees who wish to pursue a professional degree or accreditation, trade, or apprenticeship program in demand and consistent with the Government of Nunavut's Master Inuit Employment Plan can apply.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge successful graduates of the Amaqtaarniq Education Leave Program who recently obtained their Social Worker Diploma through Nunavut Arctic College. They include Geraldine Bruce, Elizabeth Issakiark, Geela Saviakjuk, Verna Strickland, Clarissa Vandenbrink, and Nangmalik Wiseman.

I would also like to applaud Jayko Ellsworth on obtaining his Business Administration Diploma through Algonquin College and Rebecca Taukie, who completed her Interpreter/Translator Diploma through Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of this House to join me in congratulating our Amaqtaarniq Education Leave Program graduates. I commend them for their hard work and dedication, and wish them success in their ongoing careers with the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister of Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Gross.

Minister's Statement 173 – 6(2): Trichinella Detection Program

Hon. Pamela Gross: Good morning, Nunavummiut and everyone here in the House with us today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize ongoing successes from the Trichinella Detection Program, which is jointly operated by the Nunavut Research Institute and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

In October 2022 tongue samples from an orca harvested near Mittimatalik were tested at the Nunavut Research Institute's lab. These tests confirmed the orca was infected with a species of trichinella known to be present in the Arctic. Our lab test was the first confirmed detection of trichinella parasites in an orca in arctic waters. This finding is scientifically significant as we have detected trichinella parasites of the same species before in walrus and polar bear but never orca.

This initiated important communication with the Department of Health and members of Mittimatalik and beyond about the health implications of eating raw or undercooked meat from the infected animal. Our health is closely tied to the health of the animals that we harvest.

In January, staff from this program attended a training conference hosted by the Department of Environment for community conservation officers. These officers play an important role in the Trichinella Detection Program by assisting local harvesters to collect and send wildlife samples for testing. Conference dialogue confirmed support for this program and resulted in recommendations to expand delivery of the program into more communities and for more animals. These recommendations have led to development of a joint work plan.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize the importance of animals to our communities. Country food is not just about sustenance; it is about family, relationships, and culture. Please join me in recognizing the efforts of the Nunavut Research Institute, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Department of Health, and the Department of Environment in working together to provide this important long-term diagnostic testing program which builds scientific capability in Nunavut and supports the health of our communities. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Simailak.

Minister's Statement 174 – 6(2): QEC's 2022 Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship Recipient

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, all and good morning to those in attendance. Welcome.

Mr. Speaker, today I have the honour of announcing the Qulliq Energy Corporation's annual Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship recipient for 2022 to Ms. Tati Connelly-Clark of Rankin Inlet. Ms. Connelly-Clark was selected for the \$5,000 scholarship based on her long-term dedication to volunteering in her community and her high academic achievements.

Ms. Connelly-Clark is completing her second year of the Social Services Diploma Program at Nova Scotia Community College. She is passionate about enhancing the quality of life for Inuit and is an advocate for food security in Nunavut. I applaud her dedication to promoting wellness in Nunavut.

Along with pursuing post-secondary education, Ms. Connelly-Clark is a talented baker and crafter. She is known throughout her community for having a positive attitude and

being a good role model. Her empathy and integrity drive her determination to make positive changes in her community.

Mr. Speaker, through this selection process, the corporation gets a first-hand look at the successes of Nunavut's students. The Qulliq Energy Corporation looks forward to opening the 2023 scholarship applications this spring and learning more about the commendable educational pursuits of Nunavummiut.

The corporation is proud to be able to contribute financially to Ms. Connelly-Clark's journey. I wish the 2022 recipient continued success with her goal of promoting healthy living and building strong communities throughout the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister David Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 175 – 6(2): Community Transportation Initiatives Program

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak about the Community Transportation Initiatives Program operated by my department.

This program has changed the face of many of our communities over the years. It has extended them outwards by making the lands and resources surrounding them more easily accessible. It has brought fishing lakes and rivers closer by cutting the time it takes to reach them; it has reduced the wear and tear of paths to many hunting areas; and it has made it easier for our elders and children to get out to areas they love, away from the buildings and sounds of everyday routine of our towns.

Mr. Speaker, the roads that have been built under this program are almost entirely the work of the communities. The routes are chosen by the community; the work is undertaken by the community; the resources for construction are provided by the community; and the result is enjoyed by the community.

In the upcoming year, we are pleased to once again contribute to these valuable assets through our program expenditures. Pending approval of the government's operations and maintenance budget, my department will send out letters to the communities in early April, inviting submissions under the Community Transportation Initiatives Program for 2023-24. We will further be tabling the 2020-21 program annual report, which will provide more details about the projects being undertaken in communities across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Joanasie.

Minister's Statement 176 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut Cyber Security

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to everyone in Nunavut, including those who are visiting the legislature today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight my department's Information Management/Information Technology Division's efforts in implementing a zero trust/least privilege access approach to ensure that Government of Nunavut's core business network is protected against potential threats.

Mr. Speaker, the Information Management/Information Technology Branch is responsible for providing multiple networks and telecommunications infrastructure to all Government of Nunavut departments and agencies. The branch has implemented enhanced security systems, advanced monitoring and management of threat detection tools such as multi-factor authentication, hardware tokens (YubiKeys), geo-fencing (protection against access outside North America) to restrict access and threats, and cyber security awareness training for all Government of Nunavut staff.

Mr. Speaker, the need for robust network security is real, continuously growing, and becoming more sophisticated with every new cyber-attack. Recently in Nunavut, the Qulliq Energy Corporation experienced a cyber-attack on January 15, 2023. The Qulliq Energy Corporation is a stand-alone entity that has its own information technology infrastructure that is managed by the corporation and is not connected to the Government of Nunavut's core business network.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, my department was initially engaged by the Qulliq Energy Corporation to assist in the response, utilizing lessons learned from the November 2019 cyber incident that impacted Government of Nunavut's network. The Information Management/Information Technology Branch has since taken the lead role in recovery efforts with the Qulliq Energy Corporation, engaging world-class expertise to review and advise on the optimal security posture based on emerging threats and working with the RCMP in the ongoing investigation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to assure members that the Government of Nunavut's core business network, along with our Community Services, Telemedicine, Voice/Video and Internet of Things (IOT) networks remain fully operational and secured with the latest cyber security technologies available to serve the needs of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item No. 3 on the order paper. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 222 – 6(2): Speakers George Hickes Sr. and Jr.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to take a moment. Mr. Speaker, it's not every day that we get to see history being made. With the creation of Nunavut in 1999, we created history in Canada that is taught to our students in school all across the country and across the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish everybody who is watching a good morning, especially those political nerds and family members who are tuned in and specifically, Dad Hickes, the former Speaker of the Manitoba Legislature from 1999 to 2011. Mr. George Hickes Sr. was the Speaker of that legislature, and today, Mr. George Hickes Jr. is making history by being the first person in the history of Canada to follow his father as the Speaker of the House, and I am so proud to be here to witness this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Thank you for the kind words, member. I'm just keeping the seat warm for a day for Speaker Akoak, but I thank you very much.

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

Member's Statement 223 – 6(2): Concerns about Health Services

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good day to my constituents in Kugaaruk and Taloyoak, and visitors in the gallery. Welcome.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge the comments made by my colleague from Kugluktuk earlier this week regarding health services and how his community it being impacted.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents are also experiencing problems with medical travel bookings. One major difficulty that has been brought to my attention is that medical clients are informed at the very last minute that they have been booked to fly out for an appointment.

Mr. Speaker, imagine being informed in the morning that you are flying out today, with little or no time to arrange your work, your family, child care, finances, and any number of obligations and responsibilities that come up during your daily life. It can be very difficult, if not impossible. People can end up missing their flight and their appointment, as a result.

Mr. Speaker, patients should be notified of their travel in advance so that they can make the necessary arrangements. Mr. Speaker, my constituents have also expressed concerns

that they're unable reach the nurse on-call at the health centre. The problem with the situation, Mr. Speaker, is that people are going on social media, or calling my office to express their frustrations.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the most effective way of addressing the issue. However, people are frustrated and part of their frustration is because they are worried that their health concerns are not being addressed in a timely manner, and the delay in getting healthcare may lead to something more serious.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the minister questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 3. Members' Statements. Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

Member's Statement 224 – 6(2): Cambridge Bay Wrestling Team in Edmonton

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to those in *Ikaluktutiak* listening this morning. First of all, I'd like to wish my parents, Susie Fletcher and Rodney Fletcher, a happy 29th anniversary tomorrow. Wishing you all the best this year.

I would like to also say my best wishes to our young athletes, our young wrestlers, who have made their way to Edmonton to attend the Western Canada Youth Wrestling Festival, which also happens tomorrow in Edmonton at the Queen Elizabeth High School. We have six young athletes who are there, Raine Ekpakohak, Dominique Evetalegak, Lucas Kalluk, Tabitha Klengenber, Grayson Maniyogana, and Brooklyn Peterson. I would like to thank their coaches, Chris Crooks, Paula Clazingka, and Loryn Evans, as well as their chaperone Kiana Ekpakohak, for bringing them all the way to Edmonton at their young age to have this wonderful experience.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that they are practising with the University of Alberta as we speak, and I wish them all the best in their journey through their wrestling career. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Tununig, Ms. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 225 – 6(2): Recent Activities Regarding Pond Inlet

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

I'd like to say thank you to my colleagues, and to MP Lori Idlout, Member of Parliament and the Nunavut transportation minister. They were able to go to Pond Inlet. During their community visit, they listened to the council while they were up there.

I would like to express my gratitude as well that our mayors were able to come here this past week and we were able to meet with them and their ministers. We met with the Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Akeeagok, and we were able to talk about the Pond Inlet request for improvement. I say thank you very much for the warm welcome that our mayor had.

It's very important for our voices and concerns to be heard and the things that need to be improved in our communities. I encourage the leaders in the communities, all the Inuit, please come to the House here during sittings so we can have meetings with the leaders. We can work with the Premier to improve things. It is extremely important to me, so I encourage everyone.

I would like to say thank you again to Joshua Arreak who was able to come to our meeting and was warmly welcomed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 226 – 6(2): Recognition of Eemeelayou Arnaquq

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's Friday and sometimes when we are so busy working here, it becomes a little intimidating to be here. Before this week started, I thought I broke a rule when we were told to stand up, and I always think I've done something wrong.

Our Sergeant-at-Arms, whenever he stands up, I think of CBC all the time because we really miss him on CBC morning radio, and when we are planning to go hunting, he has us listen to his radio show. When I hear the Sergeant-at-Arms here, I always think that the radio is on somewhere. I would like to thank our Sergeant-at-Arms for the great shows that he has given us on CBC, and we miss him on air. To his son, I say Jonahngai to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Member's Statement 227 – 6(2): NHL Standings

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's Friday and I have something to say about that too this morning, about hockey. (interpretation ends) I just wanted to offer up, not a commentary in terms of what the best team is necessarily.

An Hon. Member: It's not the Leafs.

Hon. John Main: It's just a statement of the facts, Mr. Speaker. Here's the divisions in the NHL and here are the top three teams in each division. No commentary. The Metropolitan Division top three teams are: Carolina, New Jersey and New York. In the Central Division, the top three teams are: Dallas, Minnesota and Colorado. In the Pacific Division, the top three teams are: Vegas, Los Angeles and Seattle.

An Hon. Member: That's enough. That's enough.

>>*Laughter*

Hon. John Main: Finally, in the Atlantic Division, the top three teams are: Boston, Toronto...

>>*Applause*

...and Tampa Bay.

An Hon. Member: Shame, shame!

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I look forward to watching hockey this weekend, and we can all cheer for whatever team we like. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister for Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**Return to Oral Question 294 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut Office Closure Policy**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to supplement an answer I gave during question period on February 27, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Human Resources makes decisions regarding weather closures to in accordance with the Government of Nunavut's Weather Closure Policy. The concerns of residents are also considered when deciding if the Government of Nunavut offices will close. In the calendar year 2023, Rankin Inlet had two closures due to weather, and Chesterfield Inlet had three closures due to weather. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister for Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Return to Oral Question 303 – 6(2): Government Office Closures and Residences

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I'm proud that you are sitting there. (interpretation ends) I rise today to supplement and answer I gave during question period on February 28, 2023, Oral Question No. 303 – 6(2) asked by MLA Hickes, and it is regarding the Iqaluit office closures that have taken place since the start of 2023.

As of March 2, 2023, 15 buildings with Government of Nunavut office spaces in Iqaluit have been affected by a closure. Of the 15 locations interrupted, 11 Government of Nunavut departments occupy the buildings. The service interruptions have resulted in an office closure for a combined total of 51 business days since January 1, 2023.

These statistics do not include Iqaluit school closures, and Mr. Speaker, almost all government departments have been affected at different times due to these closures. The Department of Education, Justice, and Health being the longest with a total of seven days in a row to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. I'm sure the member appreciates that information. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. P.J. Akeeagok, Mr. Premier.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud as well that you have taken your seat there, and we are thinking about Speaker Akoak today as well as his family.

(interpretation ends) I am so honoured to be able to recognize in the House members of the African and Caribbean Association of Nunavut, as well as the Nunavut Black History Society, who I had the pleasure of meeting just late last night.

Mr. Speaker, Black History Month has just ended, and in Nunavut we should really celebrate and embrace the contributions that people of colour have made and continue to make in Nunavut. We aspire to develop a society in Nunavut that is inclusive and really builds on the strengths of all our community members. We recognize that we need to engage in dialogues to make Nunavut more inclusive.

So, with that, I would like my colleagues to help me welcome members who are joining us here today: Steven Wein, Shate Sheesha, Earnest Liquimbo, Nanesha Kamara, Nobie Koomaallow, Beacon Koomaallow, Judith Bizure, Dennis Itendum Neelow, as well as Leek and Thomas. (interpretation) Let us welcome them warmly in the House.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Please be welcome. Next name I have on my list: Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning. I would also like to recognize some residents of Sanikiluaq. It is always great to see my fellow residents here in Iqaluit, along with my sister Brenda Qavvik who is from Sanikiluaq. I would like to acknowledge her, my father and our father's brother, Brendan who are here. Thank you.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my constituents, and everyone here.

I would like to recognize a person who has worked at the nursing station for a long time in Naujaat; Simeonie Kopak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Please be welcome. I would like to next recognize the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Further to my ministers' statement, I would like to recognize our Community Health Representatives, Mr. Speaker. They have been here in Iqaluit all week for training.

(interpretation) Let us be proud of them. (interpretation ends) I would like to start with Theresa Koonoo, who is the Territorial Community Health Representative Coordinator. She has been responsible for organizing the training.

I'll through the list of names. (interpretation) Please stand up when I call your name.

Martha Malliki, Maggie Aqpik, Aimo Akulukjuk, Louisa Kipsigak. (interpretation ends) She is at the airport. My apologies. Lucy Kappianaq. She is also at the airport.

>>Laughter

Igah Sanguya, Rhoda Natanine, Reena Irgittuq, Susie Onalik, Mavis Manik, Meeka Kiguktak, Jo Quinangnaq, Hope Makpah, Diane Sammurtok. Hi Diane.

>>*Laughter*

Joan Killulark, Simeonie Kopak, but do not pay attention to the shirt he is wearing.

>>*Laughter*

Brenda Kavik, Nancy Aqqaq, and finally, Martha Quqqiaq.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation) Let us recognize these very talented individuals. (interpretation ends)
Thank you so much. (interpretation) Welcome.

Deputy Speaker: Welcome to your House and thank you for the service that you provide to Nunavummiut. It can't be over stated.

Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They were recognized, but I believe this is the first time there are individuals from all the three communities I serve and they're here. I am very pleased and would like to acknowledge these health workers, but they're always very active in the community. I know the community misses them already. Rhoda Natanine, who has her own dog team and is also a hamlet council member, and Mavis Manik from Resolute Bay, who is very active and constantly helping individuals in the community and thank you for coming from the community. (interpretation ends) Also, your Worship, Mayor Meeka Kiguktak, who is constantly working in the community of Resolute Bay. I would like to recognize her, and I'm very proud of her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, and welcome to your House. Next is, Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also from South Baffin there are health workers here. From Kimmirut, she is always hospitable, Susie Onalik of Kimmirut, and one who is not here, but is a community health nurse in Kinngait, and who was a participant; Martha Jaw. I want to recognize her even though she is not here. I would like to recognize these individuals, who contribute much to Nunavut. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Please feel welcome. The next name I have on my list. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this is the most time I have stood up for this part of the session; in one week alone, a third time. I have the honour and pleasure of recognizing Joan Killulark. She has been in this position for a number of years now, I think since I was a kid. I have known her all my life. I grew up with her children. Many a times she fed me some meals for which I'm very thankful for today. Along with her husband, she is also helping to keep the dog mushing alive in Baker Lake. They have a dog team there still; one of two now, I believe in Baker Lake. I would like to ask my colleagues to help me recognize Joan Killulark from my constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to recognize former Pond Inlet resident who will always be my in-law, Teresa Kunuk. She is very diligent and a hard-working individual, and she was able to move forward with the workshop. The Pond Inlet health workers could not arrive at that time. Perhaps in the near future they will. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome.

Deputy Speaker: Please feel very welcome. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Arviat. This morning I would like to recognize a health worker in Arviat; Dianne Sammurtok. Dianne, welcome to this House, and I have also been thankful to Dianne who once gave notice to Nunavummiut during the COVID pandemic, urging people to get their vaccination. I read her statement here in the House, and she urged earnestly that people get their vaccinations. I am very grateful to her for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize the members of the Black History Society and the African and Caribbean Association of Nunavut, or our African and Caribbean Association of Nunavut, depending on what your preference is. I have had the pleasure of volunteering for both organizations, and I can say without a doubt that the contributions that black people are making to Nunavut are so vital and important. I always feel so comfortable because we share so many values and those values, especially of treating our elders with kindness. I see both organizations doing that

for our Nunavut elders, and I appreciate that. The food is amazing as well. I love that you love to eat together like we do. I want to pay a special recognition to my constituent Lekan Thomas. Welcome to the House, and to my friend, Beacon, welcome to the House, I'm glad you're here.

Turning to this incredible group of people that is sitting in front of us on the other side, I would like to recognize Iqaluit CHR Martha Malliki, who is a good friend of mine. Welcome. Martha Quqqiaq, I grew up with you, and it's so nice to see you here. Last but not least, one of the first projects that I undertook when I started with the Department of Health in 2003, actually it was 2002 when I first started, but in 2003; I am going to not look at her, was a project with Territorial CHR Coordinator, Theresa Koonoo. We set up a CHR training program, where we brought trainees from their communities. I can't remember, was it to Clyde River, or to Pond Inlet? We set up an excellent training program, and had so much fun.

Over the years, Theresa was a steadfast supporter of bringing Inuit knowledge into the work that the Department of Health does. She is a champion for prevention, and to growing healthier populations. She was a confidant, we might have sworn and groaned about a lot of things, but together we work really hard to make changes, and every day accomplished a little bit. It's so amazing that you're back after a brief time away, and that you are continuing to do the excellent work that you're doing. Theresa Koonoo, I appreciate that. I'm so happy you are here today. Welcome.

>> *Applause*

Deputy Speaker: Please feel welcome. I think this is the first year in many years that I can recall where I missed the Black History Month festivities. I do apologize. With duty travel and a number of different issues I was not able to make it this year.

Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Uqqurmiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to rise to recognize and acknowledge the women who are here. I am very proud. Welcome to your House. First of all, I would like to welcome an individual who I grew up with; Igah Sanguya from Clyde River. Thank you for continuing on. Again, another girl that I grew up with from Grise Fiord, I would like to recognize and welcome Meeka. We were mayors together and had a close working relationship. When we were little girls, we used to shake baby bottles and drink them.

>> *Laughter*

Welcome.

>> *Applause*

Also, my friend, Rhoda Natanine from Arctic Bay, who organizes the dog team racing from one community to another. She is the main organizer, she and Igah. They're both from Clyde River. Another individual I would like to recognize and welcome is Martha Malliki from Iqaluit. I am proud of you, and welcome to the House.

Also, another friend of mine, Diane Sammurtok. Thank you. I'm so glad to see you once again. Welcome.

Lastly, this individual was from my community. She was very young and today she has come all the way from Resolute Bay, Mavis Manik. Thank you for giving me an opportunity. Welcome to the House. Thank you.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Netsilik. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very honoured to rise today, and I want to recognize my mom, Martha Quqqiaq, CHR for Taloyoak. Welcome to the House.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, my mom is like a momma bear to me, so I ask my colleagues to be nice today.

>>Laughter

It's an honour to have my mom here today, Mr. Speaker. My mom told me, and this was about 11-12 years ago, you should find work, and because I listened to my momma at that time, I'm here today. I advise Nunavummiut, please listen to your mom.

Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to recognize my son Clarence. I recognized him on the first day.

>>Applause

To my colleagues, if you hear accordion tunes at the Capital Suites, it's because my son is playing those tunes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These individuals were recognized already, but I too wish to acknowledge and recognize Hope Mucpah from Rankin Inlet, and Dianne Sammurtok from Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With my colleagues all recognizing people, I too, want to recognize an individual from Pangnirtung who is the CHR Emily Aimo Aakulujuk, who is visiting. Welcome to the House. I would also recognize and welcome the individuals beside her.

Some of these individuals have been working as CHRs for a very long time. I recognize Teresa Kunnuk, and Aiga, my cousin. I hope you are feeling welcomed here. I also would like to acknowledge that I was able to partake in the course last year.

They usually organize events in February, so I hope you are all welcomed. I recognize Mr. White and your wife Joanne White, who I used to work with, and I really appreciate her warmth. She's not here, but I would like to welcome you all. Thank you.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Please feel welcome. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me too. Not to recognize a community member, but a very special lady; a former colleague and who is still a mayor today. I would like to recognize Meeka Kigutaq for all of your contributions to your community and to Nunavut. It was a pleasure serving with her, and our colleague member for Uqqummiut while we were all mayors at the same time.

As a female mayor, Mr. Speaker, it was very delighted time to have other female mayors and we all bonded together and created a non-profit group called Amautiit. I would like to recognize that the work that all of our community members do, but thank those people who start non-profits for their contributions to encourage our societies to continue and to work on big issues that sometimes the government isn't able to do, and I thank Meeka and the team with Amautiit.

Also, all of our wonderful people who are here with us today, I thank you all for your contributions to Nunavut and to bettering our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome the black cultural society. Also, Martha Malliki, who has been stolen by the people of Iqaluit.

>>*Laughter*

These individuals aren't here; Louisa Kipsigaq and Lucy Kapianak. I would also like to recognize them for their tireless contributions for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Last call. I hope you all feel very welcome in your House, and thank you all for the services that you provide for our communities.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 339 – 6(2): Concerns about Health Services

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

Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement, I mentioned a number of concerns with health services that have been brought forward by my constituents.

In response to a question that was raised by my colleague from Kugluktuk regarding medical travel bookings, the minister indicated that a medical travel review will be undertaken.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide a bit more detail about when this review will take place, when will it be finalized and when he anticipates making changes to the medical travel booking process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for that question. In regard to medical travel, we are always looking for how we can improve the system. Our staff are working very hard to make sure that all is implemented. The Medical Travel Policy is currently being reviewed. We are also having discussions with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated regarding Article 32.

With the review, I can't tell you when the review will end, but it's currently under review. I don't know when the deadline is, but once the new policy is approved by cabinet, it will be implemented. There are going to be some changes once the new policy is approved and then implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Quqiaq.

Mr. Quqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister for your response. Mr. Speaker, as I noted, my constituents are very frustrated with the current delivery of health services. They are becoming less and less patient for the situation to be resolved. Voicing complaints over social media is not very productive, but people need to feel that their voices are heard.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe what efforts are made to inform community members and members of the public of how to get their concerns and issues addressed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the policy review, health is engaging with stakeholders, both internal and external, through a combination of in-person, teleconference, surveys and questionnaires, along with consultations with NTL.

Mr. Speaker, I am unsure whether or not there is a public-facing component to this, but if there is, I'll be sure to share it with the member. Mr. Speaker, I just want to emphasize that we're not necessarily waiting for the policy review to be complete in order to implement improvements.

In last year's budget, for example, we added 31 positions under medical travel, medical travel clerks, and that is right across Nunavut. The intention by adding these, and thank the members for their support in terms of the previous year's budget, because by approving that budget, you approved these additional positions to strengthen medical travel across Nunavut. Unfortunately, out of those 31 positions, we don't have very many of them filled. That's due to extreme backlog in the HR process. We very much look forward to filling those positions because they will strengthen service delivery. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqiaq.

Mr. Quqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you minister for your response. As I mentioned earlier in this sitting, when my constituents have issues with healthcare and health services, I always recommend that they contact the Office of Patient Relations. I'm very glad that the office exists to provide assistance in getting these complaints and concerns resolved.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, when someone has a health crisis and they or their family are unable to reach the nurse at the health centre, especially after hours, they are not thinking of contacting the office of patient relations.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to communicating more information at the community-level about what his department is doing to address their specific complaints and concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the suggestion. I'm going to just hold off on committing to that. I'm not quite sure exactly what the member is asking us to communicate. There are existing communications initiatives. A lot of them are run through the community health representatives at the community-level. Office of Patient Relations; I thank the member for mentioning that service. They do an excellent job. Their toll-free number by the way is 855-438-3003 and I encourage Nunavummiut to contact them if they have a complaint or concern.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the service delivery at the community-level, we have recognized that after-hours service is an area that we can look to improve, and for that reason we are currently working with the Nunavut Employees Union, as well as our colleagues at Human Resources at extending health centre hours of operation in certain communities where it is justified. That would mean having the doors of the health centre open longer past the normal closing time of five o'clock. That is something we anticipate that will improve service delivery. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Question 340 – 6(2): Activities and Operations of the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are to the Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation recently issued a public service announcement indicating that the customer services “are almost fully restored,” calling the reason a cyber-attack. That is good news, however the public service announcements also indicated that the corporation “is currently unable to print and mail out bills for January of 2023.”

In the normal times, the Qulliq Energy Corporation charges a late payment fee of 1.5 percent plus GST for customers who do not pay their bills by the due date. Can the minister indicate if there will be any grace period as a result of cyber-attack? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question with regard to late payment fees and interest charges following the cyber-attacks that has happened at the corporation. Each account could vary. At this time, there is no grace period. It was recommended that customers pay invoices based on the December invoices, but each account can be looked at individually. I encourage any customer to contact the customer service rep. to go over their account to ensure that whether or not interest fees need to be charged or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have heard concerns from a number of residents of Rankin Inlet that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is constantly late in their mailing out of its bills. In a number of cases bills arrive at the customer's mailboxes after the due date. In these circumstances it is not fair to charge the customer a late fee. Can the minister indicate what actions the Qulliq Energy Corporation is taking to address this concern? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question and bringing up the concern. That is actually news to me. This is the first I'm hearing of invoices being mailed out late and arriving in mailboxes after the due date. So I can commit to looking into this matter as soon as possible with the corporation and get back to the member with any information as to whether or not, or how often it is happen. I do commit to getting back to the member on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister for the response. I also have concerns that the recent cyber-attack may have compromised customers' personal information, including credit card numbers. Can the minister confirm whether or not the hackers were able to access this type of information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. At this stage in the forensic investigation, there is no evidence that any personal or financial data was compromised, but going forward, if Qulliq Energy Corporation finds evidence that personal data from customers or employees was compromised, the corporation will notify the customer immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Question 341 – 6(2): Fuel Prices

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, his department announced fuel price increases in December of 2022, three months ago. At that time, the department indicated that, “these increases reflect rising costs on world oil markets.”

Can the minister look into his crystal ball and indicate to the House whether his department is predicting a fuel price increase or a fuel price decrease after this year’s resupply has been completed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question and unfortunately I don’t have a crystal ball, but we do closely monitor what is going on in and around the world and with the oil prices, it is all contingent on when we buy the bulk fuel, and Mr. Speaker I can’t anticipate or say for certain if fuel prices will increase. That is a matter that we will have to bring forward once we know we’ve bought all of the fuel for next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. (interpretation ends) Information published by the department indicates that its Petroleum Products Division “typically locks in its prices during the winter months in advance of the upcoming season’s resupply. This is achieved using “Futures Contracts” whereby the supplier, when directed by Petroleum Products Division, enters an agreement with a commodities broker to lock-in prices and take physical delivery at a later date.”

Can the minister confirm how much of this year’s resupply has already been pre-purchased? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Petroleum Products Division has acquired approximately 75 million litres worth of products, representing approximately 33 percent of the estimated 2023-24 fuel requirements; so about 150 million remains to be secured as of yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated recently announced that it will provide a one-time \$750 gas voucher to “harvesting households” in all Nunavut communities.

I urge the organization to make every effort to ensure that this money goes to those who engage in harvesting activities that benefit the whole community and I thank the Nunavut Tunngavik for doing that.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister is this: does the government consider the price of gasoline to be affordable for hunters whose primary source of income is harvesting? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When our Petroleum Products Division operates on a zero balance, the division doesn’t try to make money off of sales. It only tries to gain back what it costs to bring it to the communities, however that cost is continuing to increase and it is affecting not just our hunters. It affects our entire government and the private sector. We are trying to keep a close eye on how things are doing across the world in making sure that if we can maximize early purchase, and that will benefit the territory in the long-run, we will continue to do that. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Question 342 – 6(2): Nuclear Power in Nunavut

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Friday, to everybody and a big congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, for making history today.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Decarbonizing of the world’s energy supply is an essential part of humanities collective fight to minimize the impacts of climate change. However, we all recognize the significant technical and financial challenges moving towards alternative renewable energy sources, especially in the extreme environment of the artic.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to focus today on the subject of nuclear power. As the Minister of Qulliq Energy Corporation is aware, Qulliq Energy Corporation’s report *Alternative Energy Report*, which was completed in December 2022, indicates that “In 2018, the Government of Canada launched the Canadian Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) Roadmap as one of the actions under the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. QEC joined interested provinces, territories, industries and utilities to develop a roadmap for SMRs that included an engagement session hosted by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) in Iqaluit in May 2018. Due to the limited information available on the challenges SMRs face while operating in the Arctic, QEC is only in the

research stage, acquiring information on the technical viability and financial considerations of SMRs.”

Mr. Speaker, as this report was completed over two years ago, I would like to ask if the minister could provide an update in House on the status of this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question with regard to nuclear power, specifically, small modular reactors. Currently, Qulliq Energy Corporation continues to explore alternative energy initiatives, support climate change, and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Currently we are still only at the information gathering stage. The corporation has had a few consultations with the different communities in Nunavut and in a few jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Qulliq Energy Corporation has been working on this initiative for a number of years, it is a little disappointing that the corporation is still at such an early stage.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the public, small modular reactors are nuclear fission reactors that are being designed to be small in both power output, physical size, and portable and scalable, and be able to integrate with renewable energy systems.

Mr. Speaker, there are no current plans or projects underway for small modular reactors to be built or tested in Nunavut as of December 22, however, it has been proven to show potential to provide off-grid power to our communities, district heating, and desalination for remote communities.

Mr. Speaker, in the 2020 *Alternative Energy Report*, it indicates that “QEC is supporting NRCan’s objective to continue the dialogue with communities in Nunavut, provide an update on the SMR technology, and learn more about the stance of communities on nuclear energy.”

The minister had indicated that there has been some dialogue with communities, but I would like to ask if the minister would be able to elaborate a bit further what communities has the Qulliq Energy Corporation had dialogue with and what has the position been in those communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question there with regard to which communities have had consultations on this subject. In December 2020, Qulliq Energy Corporation attended an information meeting between

Natural Resources Canada and the Hamlet of Pond Inlet regarding the small modular reactor technology. These conversations were a part of the federal government's community consultation process on these reactors.

There was also, in February 2021, the Qulliq Energy Corporation attended an informational meeting between the hamlet of Cambridge Bay and Natural Resources Canada. The hamlet has proposed a second meeting to get some more information. That date has yet to be determined. We are waiting to hear from Cambridge Bay on that. Those are the two communities in Nunavut the Qulliq Energy Corporation has had consultations on small modular reactors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, as is aware, the proposed Chidliak Diamond Mine is located approximately 120 Kms from Iqaluit. On February 16, 2023, roughly two weeks ago, the Nunavut Impact Review Board released information concerning the next steps in the regulatory process for the mine.

The Nunavut Impact Review Board has indicated "there is potential unknown effects on the land and surrounding areas due to the proposed use of novel technologies including use of a modular nuclear reactor for power generation."

Mr. Speaker, it is to be recognized that there needs to be significant work done before we can begin to consider locating such technologies in our communities. This initiative may be a good opportunity for the Qulliq Energy Corporation to evaluate the use of this technology in the Arctic. I would like to ask: can the minister confirm the extent to which the Qulliq Energy Corporation is working with the proponent De Beers Canada on the element of this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Currently there have not been any discussions between Qulliq Energy Corporation and the proponent that is working towards opening up a mine close to Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Question 343 – 6(2): Broadband Connectivity

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a short joke with Mr. Main's energy compliments. I will be sure to wear my Edmonton Oilers pin by the next session.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. During my reply to this year's Budget Address, I spoke about the importance of all Nunavummiut, including my constituents in Sanikiluaq being able to access the information superhighway.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the Canadian Radio and Television and Telecommunications Commission has established a broadband fund in order to close the digital divide in Canada. Information published by the commission indicates that all Canadians, including Sanikiluaq, should "have an internet connection with access to broadband speeds of at least 50mbps download and 10mbps upload."

Can the minister indicate how much federal funding to date has been provided to Nunavut under this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I'm not mistaken, I may have missed it, but I believe he's asking under the universal broadband funding. If the member can clarify the question. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: He was asking for clarification of the question, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is correct; broadband fund that is federal funding. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Specific to the universal broadband fund, my department has a proposal in for funding to link the Kivalliq, but we have yet to receive a response on that to date. Once there is an update, I would be more than happy to provide members with an update at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year, the minister sent correspondence to all members of the Legislative Assembly concerning his department's broadband initiatives. I want to take a moment to publicly thank the minister for the ongoing effort that he makes to make to provide detailed information to all members concerning his department's programs and initiatives.

As the minister is aware, the government had a plan, at one point in time, to include Sanikiluaq in his fibre project. I would like to ask the minister: can the minister confirm whether or not this is still the plan, and if not, can the minister indicate how his department will ensure that Sanikiluaq residents have access to the internet in a manner

that meets or exceeds the Canadian Radio and Television and Telecommunications Commission standard for broadband speeds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The infrastructure projects that my department has been pursuing to date, including the fibre to Iqaluit through Milton, is still pending. We do want to maximize trying to connect other communities. It all depends on funding. Right now, the Iqaluit fibre project is one of hopefully, in the future, many projects, but it is going to be contingent on funding.

We know there are other proponents around the arctic that are trying to link the north up to fibre. Once those are in place, we do want to try to link up as many communities we can, provided that funding is in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do know that the Community and Government Services department has been involved in the early testing of low-earth orbit satellites technology as a means to increase the Government of Nunavut's overall broadband capacity, and enhance the delivery of broadband services provided by the Government of Nunavut.

I would like to ask the minister: what office, department, or programs participated in this testing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department's Information Management and Information Technology Division was heavily involved in this exciting lower orbit satellite opportunity. Many communities, I think, are starting to see immediate benefits to this. Our government is trying to see how this can work within our core network. We're trying to make sure that it's connectable and stable. We don't want to see any interruptions in our service connectivity. It needs to be reliable. Once those have been ironed out, we do want to make sure that every community benefits through low earth orbit satellites. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member from Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Question 344 – 6(2): Departmental Employment in Pond Inlet

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, as well.

As the minister is aware, his department has a total of 33 positions located in the decentralized community of Pond Inlet. However, the government's most recent employment rate report indicates that only 11 of these positions are currently filled. 22 of these positions are vacant.

Will the minister commit to providing me with a list of which positions are filled, and which positions are vacant? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Yes, our department and some divisions are experiencing higher than normal vacancy rates. That's due to different factors. I can commit to providing a list for my colleague's constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister for committing to that. Can the minister clarify what specific factors have been identified as the main barriers to successfully filling these vacant positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is, across the board, and not just within my department and maybe even the private sector, those who are experiencing high levels of vacancies. It's tough to recruit qualified individuals, and another factor may be due to some of these highly specialized technical positions. It's hard to attract in from other jurisdictions. For example, another factor may be housing of course, with a limited supply of staff housing available. Those are the top two that come to mind at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate whether or not his department is considering relocating any of the vacant positions to another community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not at this time, but Mr. Speaker, if this continues to be the trend, and if we are unable to fill vacancies over a long period of time, I think our government will have to do something about it.

We need to explore options around this remote work, which has been one that is highly anticipated, so I think that is something that we are willing to look at alongside our colleagues here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Oral questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 345 – 6(2): Accounts Receivable Debts to Qulliq Energy Corporation

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good day to the people of Arviat. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to question the minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, close to and along the lines of my colleague Mr. Sammurtok, who asked about the late payment bills and amounts owed.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the 2021-2022 annual report is done by the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and I would like to ask the minister: how much debt, in terms of accounts receivable did Qulliq Energy Corporation have as of March 31, 2022? What is the amount owing by customers on their power bill. Thank you.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. That level of detail, I do not have on hand, but I can look into it and get back to the member with that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to receiving that information on a timely basis from the minister as the corporation is self-funded. The more receivables that the corporation has, the less money it actually has on hand to operate and to purchase new power plants and all the other stuff.

So I'll ask the minister now: we know that some customers get limited meters where they can only use so much power, some customers get cut off completely, and I have constituents who go through hardship, whether they get limited meters or are completely cut off of power.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking the minister: what is the Qulliq Energy Corporation on when a customer gets a limited meter and when a customer is completely cut off? Is it if they haven't paid their bill for months? Is it an amount? Just, what is the policy on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question with regard to when customers have limited power or are completely cut off. The corporation does continually work with customers to try to get their power bills paid up and whatnot. It depends on each individual case, to my understanding. There may be instances where a customer says that they can pay on a certain date, so the corporation can wait a little bit longer. It depends on each situation. The corporation does try to be very understanding; we do know that there are hardships across the territory.

Some people end up losing a job without knowing they are going to be losing a job. We do try to be understanding. We do not want to see any customers go without power or go on limited power, especially if they are homeowners. We do know that, so it can depend on each situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It appears that Qulliq Energy Corporation has no policy on when a customer gets a limited meter or when a customer is totally cut off from power. As the minister stated, they work on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Speaker, the reason most departments and most governments have policies is to make sure that it is fair and people know the rules so that everyone understands; okay, if this happens, this will happen. Policies are there for a reason. Policies are there to make sure everything is transparent and everything is above board and everything is fair.

What the minister said, it appears that they don't have a policy on when a customer will get a limited meter or get cut off, and I encourage the minister if they don't have a policy to come up with a policy so it's fair and transparent and the customer knows the rules, but I'll go on.

My next question is: we are handling our budgets right now. All the department, we are going through their budgets and their mains, and the one thing that is consistent with all the budgets coming forward is there is the increased cost due to inflation. Fuel prices are going up, supplies are going up, so each department is requesting more money on their budget for that reason.

I'll ask the minister: will Qulliq Energy Corporation be coming forward with a rate increase or a higher gas rider? Will the power rates of Nunavut be going up due to operating costs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question with regard to if there is going to be another rate increase, or I believe he said the fuel rate. I missed part of his question there; fuel rider, yes. With regard to the power rates, it won't be determined until the next general rate application, which is every four years, and the

fuel rider, at this time we do not know. It will depend on our colleagues over at Community and Government Services as to whether there will be a diesel fuel increase or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Question 346 – 6(2): Nunavummiut in Care

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to, and I have questions to the Minister of Family Services.

(interpretation ends) In many of our communities, there are individuals who have complex needs due to physical, mental, and behavioural issues who cannot be looked after by their family or community.

Mr. Speaker, in the past years, the report of the Director of Child and Family Services often provides information on the number of Nunavummiut who were in residential group homes. Can the minister provide an update on what residential care options are currently available for these vulnerable individuals? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The Hon. Member of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not really clear on what your question is. Perhaps you can repeat your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The minister is requesting that the member clarify your question. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): The question I was trying to pose relates to the programs in our communities that are offered either through mental health counsellors, or via the social workers on resolving mental health challenges or experiencing severe mental distress, and they are sent out for evaluation and treatment of their mental issues.

What is disconcerting is when the system gives up trying to resolve the mental issues or they are left on their own by their own relatives or parents due to their mental condition. Now, in looking at past years, there used to be treatment reports submitted on patients and children who were sent out for treatment, or young people, and adults.

They leave for treatment or for assessments, and I wonder if the minister is able to divulge the actual numbers of patients sent out for treatment, to group homes including the number of people sent out due to the lack of care facilities in Nunavut. Hopefully that clarifies my question, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for her question. Your question seems to pertain to either youth or children under the care of Family Services. The care and treatment are all different, but to date, the total number of youth or children was at 562 children or youth who are cared for by Family Services.

Some are placed with their families, or with their parents or if they have been sent south for care due to physical or mental disabilities, or if they are suffering mental anguish or distress, and the children all have differing symptoms and care requirements, so I can only state that 562 have been cared for to this date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The basis for my querying you is due to the youth who only require temporary care who do not form part of this issue that Family Services cares for. What I was trying to reference were those young people suffering mental health issues who are sent out of the community for treatment. This is what I am using as the basis for my questions.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) many Nunavummiut who are suffering from severe behavioural issues are also limited by a lack of education and opportunity. Many are unilingual.

Can the minister describe how her department ensures that counselling and other kinds of supports are provided to those individuals in their first language and in a culturally appropriate manner, whether these individuals are in care within Nunavut or outside of the territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your question. What I previously mentioned regarding the 562 clients includes the youth who are back with their families or their parents, nonetheless, who still require care while others are cared through other avenues and facilities, so this number correlates to the overall total of youth.

Now, with some of the detailed matters you alluded to, the total amounts provided as financial assistance is provided to the foster parents, and there are 180 of them. Additionally, there are 31 youth who are cared for by their families or parents. The remainder are youth who have been sent out for care.

You asked about the type of care that is provided to the youth, and I previously mentioned the (interpretation ends) client liaison officers (interpretation) as entitled, who work outside of Nunavut. Most of them are Inuit employees, and they visit the facilities caring for our youth to determine how the clients are doing.

Or they determine if the care facilities are sufficient to provide for them, or if there are other services or care provision required, so these are usually reviewed in light of this principle. Since this is a precedent, in having employees work for us outside of Nunavut, it is very heartwarming to see them assisting us while being outside of Nunavut.

The preparatory work in the past was generally done by local social workers and the foster parents or caregivers with no assistance outside, so now that we have employees whose sole work is to provide this support and who are capable of conducting evaluations of the facilities of extra provision of care, and this has made the process easier for our employees as they now have more options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for her clarification, and I appreciate that albeit I did not hear a response relating to the life counselling applied to older clients, especially when dealing with a social worker who has no cultural connection when you are either unilingual or functionally illiterate.

There is no focus or ability to bond due to the client being an Inuk or the cultural appropriateness needed within discussions. I wonder if enough consideration is given towards this linguistic and cultural dissonance. I did not hear reference to this part. Let me turn to this matter then, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) The last report to provide information on adult supports and residential care was for 2018-2019. At the time, there were 53 adults receiving care in territory and 97 adults receiving care out of territory.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to providing more up to date information on the number of Nunavummiut who are receiving specialized care, the type of care they require and whether they are in Nunavut or outside of territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also appreciate hearing the question from my colleague, and I believe it is more specific to the clients outside of Nunavut who are interred in care facilities, and if their assistance is being provided in Inuktitut or culturally appropriate ways.

This sometimes causes difficulties in trying to offer these services in that manner, and particularly since there are other clients under the auspices of the Department of Health, and we usually need an interagency agreement, and further, Justice sometimes also refers children to Family Services, and this results in our department looking after them.

The previous numbers I alluded to earlier are quite numerous as it includes those being cared for here in Nunavut, as well as those outside receiving assistance. However, with

respect to the different categories, you stated that 58 adults are outside of Nunavut receiving care, and there are 12 elders receiving care here in the Baffin region with another 46 being cared for in the Kivalliq region.

There are 112 elders who are currently received care outside of Nunavut in (interpretation ends) residential care placement (interpretation) and there are also 88 children and youth cared for outside of Nunavut, and there are 21 children and youth being cared for here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

Question 347 – 6(2): Departmental Positions

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the minister responsible for (interpretation ends) Economic Development and Transportation.

(interpretation) As the minister is well aware, his department has several positions emplaced in the different Kitikmeot communities, and Kugluktuk is one of them. Now, if the minister will recall, I previously asked questions, now getting more numerous about these vacancies in Kugluktuk, and during our last sitting on November 3, 2022, exactly four months to date.

At that time, I noted that the majority of the department's positions in the community were vacant. Can the minister update me today on which positions are currently filled and which positions are currently vacant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, in Kugluktuk there are 11 positions, and there are five that are filled, and six that are currently vacant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. First supplementary question, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) When I raised this issue last November, the minister assured me that he was concerned about the high vacancy rate in the community, and he assured me that vacant positions would be going out to competition.

Can the minister tell me today how many competitions for vacant positions in Kugluktuk have been held within the past four months? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have immediately in front of me what the last four months have been put into competition. I can surely follow-up with the member. Those are readily available within our offices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Towards a representative public service as of September 30, 2022, Kugluktuk had total positions of 11, with six vacancies, and five filled. Three of those positions were Inuit filled; Inuinnaq.

Can the minister clarify what specific barriers have been identified to filling his department's vacant positions in Kugluktuk and can the minister describe what specific actions his department is taking to address these barriers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud that our director is a beneficiary. She rose and got trained and is now our director. Her role is to fill these positions. I have trust in her to doing this. Also, we have to work closely with the Department of Human Resources when it comes to putting out the competitions. One of the biggest barriers that we face is housing and trying to attract people to these positions, as they'd like to have housing. That's one of the barriers. There are numerous factors in all those. I want to assure the member that we have a very competent director that is capable of hiring those positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Question 348 – 6(2): Emergency Support for Not-For-Profit Groups

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

As the minister will be aware from discussions in this House yesterday, the Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre can no longer provide a critical service to this community's most vulnerable residents due to the overwhelming damage caused by a massive freeze up in its main building. The minister will also be aware that her colleagues responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Department of Community and

Government Services have both been asked for emergency support to help address this situation.

Can the minister indicate whether her department will be providing any funding to assist the Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre in getting these damages repaired in order that they can continue offering this much-needed service? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the member for her question. In regard to the Qajuqturvik soup kitchen, we are aware of the situation at this time and we make sure that we are in contact with them on a daily basis to ensure that we continue to provide the support they need. They have informed us that they are trying to utilize their insurance to repair the damages and we are in the same situation as of yesterday. The Department of Family Services makes sure that they keep in contact on a daily basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. First supplementary question, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that within that daily contact, there will also be daily action on any requests that come forward from that very important organization.

Mr. Speaker, last November during this Assembly's review of the Department of Family Service's capital estimates, Members of this House approved the departments request for a not-for-profit capital fund to support capital projects initiated by established community-based not-for-profit organizations. Can the minister provide an update to this House on how much of that funding has already been committed, and if there is any surplus funding, would she be willing to allocate it to the Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre for emergency repairs to its facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the member for her question. We provide funding to Qajuqturvik through the department of Family Services, and to date with commitments, there has been \$125,000 that has been approved to be used for Qajuqturvik, and that is not going to change. That money is going to be provided on an ongoing basis. In addition to that, \$52, 000 for food was provided over and above the monies that were initially committed to help financially. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Second and final supplementary question, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if I understood the minister's response. If the minister could clarify whether or not that \$150,000 is from the emergency fund or the not-for-profit capital fund, I would appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize and greatly appreciate the role of the Department of Family Services in providing support to Nunavut's most vulnerable residents; either through such direct supports as income assistance, or through supporting local not-for-profit organizations. It is my understanding that when an income assistance client is in a crisis situation and needs additional emergency support, the department has resources set aside to provide urgent financial assistance. It is not clear to me whether or not the department has similar resources set aside to assist community-based organizations which experience such disasters as: fires, floods, or in this case a freeze up, to resume their much-needed activities.

Can the minister confirm whether her department has an emergency relief fund to assist not-for-profit organizations in a state of emergency? If not, will she commit to establishing one? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the member for her question. (interpretation ends) Just to clarify, because I will answer in English. Family Services continues to provide funding to Qajuqturvik, and for the O&M budget, the department has given \$125,000 for this fiscal year, so that budget has been used up. Other areas where the department has provided financial supports to Qajuqturvik is also for \$20,000 for a literacy workshop, and another \$52,000 for a food-skills program.

I know with the emergency state that they're in right now, we are keeping in contact with them. I can't provide whether the funding that we have recently provided for the extension of the buildings. I have to get into the details of who has applied up-to-date, but we are hoping to see more fundings come through after the new fiscal year.

Like I had mentioned, the department is continuing to keep contact with Qajuqturvik to this day. So we will continue to provide support when we can, and where we can. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Question 349 – 6(2): Alternate Classroom Space in Coral Harbour

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker for again recognizing me. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

I had a question about the overheating of the building, and the minister indicated that around March 1, there are going to be moving the students to another location. Has that gone ahead? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker and *quana* to the member for the question. In regard to the Sakku School and Nunavut Arctic College's CLC, Arctic College took the member's comments into consideration and took action right away on finding an alternative location for the NTEP program students.

I can say that there has been a lease signed with a private company to move the students as of March 1. The NTEP students will move to the new location as early as next week. Currently, the instructor is travelling, so they are not there to support the move at this time. That will happen as soon as the instructor gets back to the community.

I would like to note that the adult educator, who is running the ABE program is currently not facing any or the same challenges and is staying at the location at the CLC in Coral Harbour. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. First supplementary question, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to thank the minister for dealing with the issue right away.

Mr. Speaker, the students have to continue their education. When they're moving to another location, will they move all the contents of where they were training? Will they move the equipment, as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker and *quana* for the question. The particular details of the move, such as the contents, I am not sure exactly what's being moved, but I can say that the NTEP students will be going to the Sudliq Development Ltd. building, where the KIA office is. They'll be working out of there. So if that gives any context to what the building is like, or what it has currently available in the facility, if they need things from their classroom at the current location, I'm sure that would be moved next week. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the response. Mr. Speaker, the community learning centre is impossible to remain in since the overwhelming odour of mould is so overpowering and this mould is practically over-running the adult education facility, as it is attached to the Sakku School. I wonder: can the adult education (interpretation ends) portion (interpretation) be closed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. The tender has gone out for the renovation of the Sakku School, which includes the CLC, and we hope that we will be able to provide information in the near future for that project. I'm hoping, in the next day or so, that the information will be released in terms of the renovations that will come forward.

In terms of shutting down the CLC, as I mentioned, the adult educator is still wanting to work out of the CLC and wanting to teach out of there to ABE students that are enrolled, but if there is a desire for them to move as well, we can work to move them to the same location. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. As I have no more names on my list, we will move on. 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. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 13: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 013 – 6(2): Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 14, *An Act to Amend the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Bill 14 will be placed on the order paper for Tuesday, March 7.

Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Minister Simailak.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 107 – 6(2): 2018-19 Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal Annual Report

Tabled Document 108 – 6(2): 2019-2020 Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal Annual Report

Tabled Document 109 – 6(2): 2020-21 Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal Annual Report

Tabled Document 110 – 6(2): Nunavut Law Foundation Annual Report 2020

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table four reports: the 2018-19, 2019-2020, and the 2020-23 annual reports of the Nunavut Human Rights

Tribunal, and the Nunavut Law Foundation's annual report for the year ending December 31, 2020. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Minister of Justice, Minister Simailak. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 with Mr. Savikataaq in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 14 – 6(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, please, members, don't go too far; we're only going to take a five-minute break. Thank you.

>>*House recessed at 11:09 and Committee resumed at 11:19*

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

Chairman (Mr. Savikataaq)(interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I welcome everyone back to our committee meeting. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of the main estimates and business plan for the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement to first deal with Bill 18?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 18 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2023-2024 – Education – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Okay. I would like to ask Minister Gross, do you have any officials you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes I do. *Quana*.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials to the witness table. Minister Gross, for the record, can you please reintroduce your guests to the committee members? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. To my left, we have Deputy Minister Rebecca Hainnu, and to my right we have Assistant Deputy Minister Sonja Osbourne. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We're going to continue on the continuation of the mains. We're doing Department of Education, and if the members can go to G-7. Early Learning and Childcare. I just give members a little bit of time to get to that page. Do any members have any questions on Early Learning and Childcare? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, madam minister and your officials. (interpretation ends) One of the department's priority 2023-24 was to develop an early learning and child care quality framework in consulting with key stakeholders. What are the key components of this framework? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. The Nunavut quality framework will be based on core guiding principles. Children are curious, capable and competent. Children have social, emotional, physical, spiritual and intellectual dimensions. Children want to belong and contribute to their families and communities, and children need to play, experiment and practice.

Following the development of a quality framework, the department will use the framework to initiate further action plans to address the growth of standardizing ELCC across the territory. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. (interpretation ends) \$170,000 is allocated to the Young Parents Stay Learning Program. How many young parents are currently accessing this program support so they can stay in school? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. We currently have 17 young parents stay in school using that funding and are accessing the program dollars to support that initiative. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the total figure, it doesn't seem to be enough for the whole territory of Nunavut's population. Why is this figure at a low level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. Although this is a great initiative and we do encourage our young parents to stay in school and to utilize the funds that are available to support child care or the child or children if a parent would like to be in school.

I can say that not all of the funds are used, but they are there should we need to access them for the growth if more people do want to utilize the program. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. The funding that is available, allocated to Young Parents Stay Learning Program perhaps there is not enough promotion about this information. Was wondering why this is not utilized fully. What is the reason why? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a correction. I said there were 17; there are actually 26. Sorry for my mistake.

We do have \$170,000 allocated towards this program and I can say that we do inform our principals and our school community educators to encourage, if there are students who are parents, to encourage those students to apply for this fund. If there isn't a daycare in the community, the students can still access the funds to pay a family member or somebody that they trust to look after their child or children.

We are doing more work by talking about the program and talking with hamlet councils as well as other stakeholders who have a vested interest in their young populations and students in their communities to encourage all community members to know about this fund.

When we do visit our schools, this is something that I ensure that I do bring up to the school staff and the DEAs. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) The business plan indicates that funding for early childhood

resource development and administration will be reduced in 2023-24, however the main estimates indicate that seven new positions will be added to this division.

The department will receive federal funding of \$13.4 million for Canada-wide early learning child care initiatives. Are all of these positions supported through federal funding? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, all of the positions are supported through that agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Where are these positions located? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The positions are located here in Iqaluit. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, madam minister. I would also like to ask (interpretation ends) how many licensed daycare spaces currently exist in Nunavut and do they all cost \$10 a day? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. In total we have 60 and that breaks down to 33 daycares, 8 preschools, 7 head starts, 6 after school and 6 day homes.

We have all of those that are eligible. There are currently 2 daycares that aren't accessing the \$10 a day, the community of Pond Inlet and Kugluktuk, but we have been working to try and get them onto the \$10 a day program since it came out. We're hoping that Kugluktuk will be signing any day, and we still need to get some more support for Pond Inlet. Also Qikiqtarjuaq has not applied as well. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for explaining that clearly. So once the \$10 per day is being utilized, does the government pay to the daycares on top of the \$10? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes we do pay operation and maintenance to the daycares, and we do support the offset of the \$10, so the parents will see the \$10, but the daycares will see additional funds from the \$61.1 million to support the \$10 a day. There's fees that go directly to the daycare for the portion that the parents would have been paying. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To clarify this matter, so the daycares pay on their own, let's say the \$30 a day, and the \$10 per day is paid by the parents, so the left over \$20 is paid by the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member's correct, we pay the difference in the child care fee to the daycare. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for clearly explaining that. (interpretation ends) One of the department's priority for 2023-2024 is to develop a strategy action plan for inclusion and equity. To date, what input has been provided by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the regional Inuit organizations to develop this plan? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. The work that's been done in regard to the strategy is that we have department staff level working group meetings, and we have an interdepartmental working group that has been established to determine the path forward to develop a labour market strategy, and the working group will consist of various departments such as Education, Family Services, Human Resources, Economic Development and Transportation and the Nunavut Arctic College who currently offer training to support services to enhance Nunavut's labour market. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Can I remind everyone here to turn their cellphones on to mute so we don't hear when someone's getting a text? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question I am asking, are they part of the development process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I still hear a cellphone. Can the member or official or somebody please turn their cellphone off or on to mute? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I think some of the question was lost in translation, but the department is working with our stakeholders such as the regional Inuit associations and NTI to develop the strategy. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister. So the Inuit organizations and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the minister just stated that they work with them. How many times a year do you meet with them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The first of three regional training sessions happened in Rankin Inlet January 17 and 19 for the Kivalliq region, and then in Iqaluit February 21-23 for the Qikiqtani region. The Kitikmeot, regional training will take place this March.

So the regional training and community based training will continue to be planned and delivered in collaboration with the regional Inuit organizations Kakivak and NTI. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just before I go to my next name, just for more understanding. The \$10 a daycare fund there, is there a budgeted amount, for example, when there are too many daycare spots? Or the budget is just going to keep going up to make sure that everyone always has \$10 a day daycare? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. They will always have \$10 a day. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) That is good to hear. The next person on my list, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask about the \$10 a day daycare price. Is it causing any of the daycares to go into deficit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. No, this isn't the deficit for the daycare. This is a positive piece for our daycares, as they will always be at capacity, Mr. Chairman. We're using the numbers of how many children can be enrolled in that daycare. They will receive the funds to support as if they're full every day. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I still hear a cell phone, so please check your cellphones. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some daycares can't follow their budget for the day. They generally don't have enough money. I'm just concerned about that. That's why I asked the question.

I would also like to know (interpretation ends) how many DEAs currently provide early childhood education in their community? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was my last question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information on hand at the moment, but I can provide that in writing. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We look forward to receiving that in a timely base. On my list, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome back to the minister and her officials.

I would like to go back to that question about the commitment to develop a strategic action plan for inclusion and equity providing guidance and direction on inclusion to all ELCC stakeholders in Nunavut.

The minister responded stating that there is a staff level, and then inter-departmental working group. When asked about the collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the regional Inuit associations, the minister mentioned training that has taken place. I'd like to know from the minister whether or not that collaboration with NTI and the regional Inuit associations actually includes meaningful participation in the development of that strategic action plan, or whether or not that training that the minister mentioned is about providing training to those stakeholders on the strategic action plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. As I noted before, we have had meetings with our regional ELCC and we have completed the draft strategic plan which has been received and is reviewed in February. Our second draft has also been expected for February as well. We're working with them on many different fronts to develop the plan, talking about research, wage grid for Nunavut, pilot evaluation on the nest program, partnerships with other organizations that support ELCC work, development of job descriptions and work plans, licensed child care start-up manual, and ELC resource development guide, just to name a few of the topics that have been talked about with that working group. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a lot of musical chairs going around, so I'm a little bit confused today.

Minister, I'm still not clear about that response in regard to that commitment to collaborate with NTI and the regional Inuit associations. The minister's response centred on regional ELCCs and I'm not sure who makes up those regional ELCCs and whether or not those regional ELCCs include representatives of NTI and the regional Inuit associations. Is that the venue for collaboration with NTI and the regional Inuit associations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow me to elaborate, the working group is made up of various partners and we have had the engagement with the key stakeholders and partners, which include Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the regional Inuit associations, and Kakivak. We have also talked to the Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society, the Black History Society, and the Department of Family Services.

In terms of the regional training, there are staff members from our regional Inuit associations and Nunavut Tunngavik who hold ELCC files and they work in partnership with our ELCC division to implement that training and to host the training in the various regions for our ELCC workers. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for that response. In regard to the commitment to develop a strategic action plan to implement the framework, I would like to know: what are the components of the action plan, the implementation plan, what are the key performance indicators, and how far along is the department in the implementation plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. That was quite a few questions in one and I'll try to answer them. This might be a little bit of a lengthy answer because there has been a lot of work happening.

The first one is that there has been, as I mentioned, the development of a strategic action plan for inclusion and equity that provides guidance and direction on inclusion to all ELCC stakeholders in Nunavut. As I mentioned, that work is in the first draft and we have the second draft which was just completed in February. Our next item is to research and develop the wage grid for Nunavut's ELCC workers to support fair and transparent wages and to incentivize certification and advanced education. We are on track with that.

We're in phase 2 of an inter-jurisdictional scan which is complete and we're now working on drafting the Nunavut grid.

Other responsibilities that the working group has talked about are a pilot and evaluation of language nest programs, in collaboration with advanced education, using culture and heritage funds. This work is on track. We're in our second pilot program which ran in Naujaat, meeting to discuss finding of evaluation scheduled for early March, and the final deliverable from Ilitaqsiniq, a pilot tool kit, to be delivered by March 31.

We're also doing a partnership with community organizations to promote ELCC inclusion and equity. That work is on track; a contract with NDMS to pilot sensory toys and the NBHS developing a proposal to create an ELCC book.

We have also done, this work is completed, developed descriptions and work plans for new positions required to implement the Canada-wide agreement. Job descriptions and work plans are complete; two positions created, one staffed in October and interview complete and underway for the second job.

We have also created and we're on track with a licensed child care start-up manual and this work is undergoing to the final copy and editing.

The final piece that this stakeholder working group has touched on is the ELCC resource development. The development and production of numerous cultural and linguistic appropriate ELCC resources is ongoing. The current year projects are on track to maximize our Vote 4 budget. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) If I can just remind members to try to stay away from acronyms; the interpreters may not know what the acronym stands for. Both our officials and minister at the witness table and our members on the committee, please, as much as you can, refrain from using acronyms. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, the first bullet on page 124 of your business plan under priorities for 2023-24 is "Provide early learning and child care professional development and training for child care centre staff and boards to support the increase of qualified child care workers." Can the minister please just elaborate on that bullet? What is the training, what does it include, and how will it increase the number of qualified child care workers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for that question. The training aspect for early learning and child care workers is an ongoing piece to the ELCC framework. We do have a lot of communities that we have to serve and that are out there. We can only do so many at a time and Nunavut Arctic College is also supporting this work by offering training in that field in the communities of Arviat and Igloolik.

Right now, with the first of the three regional sessions that I mentioned earlier, those were hosted and we have the focus at the regional training sessions on child care regulations, resources, program planning, as well as trauma-informed, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder training, which is presented in Inuktitut, and we have simultaneous translations that are provided for all regional training. We are also offering creative ways to support training services to child care centres on a regular basis. As I mentioned, we are collaborating with our regional Inuit organizations, Nunavut Tunngavik and Kakivak to deliver that programming. What we do with that training: It promotes quality child care, education and early childhood development through the support of training opportunities for our parents, board members, and early childhood educators. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you (interpretation ends) I'll remind the minister; the beginning there, please stay away from acronyms. I may have to stop the flow. It's for the interpreters. The interpreters may not know what the acronym stands for. So please just say it all out instead of acronyms. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I flipped back to page 121 to figure out what the acronym ELCC stands for, and for the record, it's early learning and child care.

Minister, on the same page, 124, under your priorities for 2023-24, there is a commitment to "Develop a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning database to meet federal reporting requirements of the 2021-26 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement."

Minister, can you tell us what this database will consist of; what sort of metrics are being captured in that database? I think yesterday I really let everybody know through my questions that I'm really interested in data and databases. So if the minister could advise us of that, I would really appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. That database will be a pay system, a reporting of a financial reporting database. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to be clear, how will that pay system monitor, evaluate and create learning through that database, and again, what metrics are being captured within that database? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The pay grid and the salary supplement or bonus is a part of the agreement and we need to track that information, so utilizing a piece of database under this development we will be able to host reporting requirements

as a means to output statistical data regarding early learning and child care in Nunavut.
Quana, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So just to be clear, that statistical information that you are talking about is only on pay and salary. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is correct. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, minister. Minister, can you tell us, or through the Chair, what the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement consists of? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement consists of \$66.1 million, which is there to support a number of different initiatives, including the \$10 a day, which we received in December 2022, ahead of schedule, also to promote wage enhancements for child care workers, and also to provide funding to renovate some child care centres that need to go through renovation. That funding is also there to support new child care spaces, which is 238 spaces for Nunavut and professional development training. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Also listed under the 2023-24 priorities are to “Support child care societies, centres, and other partners and stakeholders to participate in consultations related to proposed amendments to the *Child Day Care Act* and regulations.”

Mr. Chairman, can the minister let us know whether or not that *Child Day Care Act* is a Nunavut *Child Day Care Act* or whether or not that is a reference to a federal Act? Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. That Act was adopted from the Northwest Territories. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. What are the timelines for proposing those amendments to the Act and regulations and when can we expect to see that come to the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. A consultation plan for the child care Act in 2023-24. Our department will consider the *Education Act* and the language protection Act to ensure that *Child Day Care Act* amendments align with existing legislation. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I missed it, but when can we expect that Act come to the House for changes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. After the 2024 fiscal year. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that same bullet, there is a mention of supporting stakeholders in addition to participate in consultations. Mr. Chairman, can the minister tell us who those stakeholders are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The stakeholders are the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, our regional Inuit associations and Kakivak. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that same list of priorities there is a priority to “Continue to pilot language nest programs in Nunavut communities to provide early childhood education language and culture programming to parents with preschool children at home.”

Can the minister talk to us a little bit about that priority? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman and *quana* for the question. So the Family Literacy Nest program, our department continues to work with the family and literacy,

the nest program, which is a pilot program as an initiative that is targeted to stay at home parents or young children, with a focus on strengthening Inuktitut skills. So this work is funded through the Department of Culture and Heritage, their Inuktitut language funding, and the program will combine cultural relevant childhood education programming and adult learning activities.

Our department is collaborating with Iilitaqsinig to develop and deliver and manage a second two-week pilot program project. We had the pilot project in Naujaat and in the fall of 2021, with a second pilot which began in early September 2022. The pilot that is being supported is through the Naujaat District Education Authority. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will there be child care provided to those parents to support them in participating in this educational opportunity? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The parent is with the child or children as they are participating in the program. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really like to hear that because the sooner that parents start learning and learning through play with their children, I think has a great impact on the child's educational career, so I'm really happy to hear that.

Down two priorities for 2024-25, on page 124, there is a priority to "Further increase the number of licensed child care spaces in Nunavut, including licensing home day cares, and investigating the use of community venues."

Can the minister tell us what sort of community venues are under consideration and what support there is to ensuring that those community venues up regulations in terms of safety and everything that needs to happen in order license a venue for child care spots? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman and *quana*, for the questions. The department works to establish, as I mentioned earlier, 238 new child care spaces and we have been able to develop 30 new spaces in this past fiscal year, with the opening of the Igloolik high school and a new day home in Iqaluit that we are able to create all those new spaces. Our plan is to open more licensed child care facilities and work with those

people who are interested; either non-profits or business owners who want to open up a day home in their home or for their communities.

The buildings, in terms of the community spaces, are mainly high schools or working with other departments to see if other new infrastructure that will be built can possibly house a child care facility.

We are also talking to stakeholders, our regional Inuit associations, to see their plans as some of them do have their own plans for infrastructure and to support the creation of child care spaces. I do know that there are a number of different avenues for the creation of opening up new daycares and new child care spaces in different ways, and the staff within the early learning and child care are always eager and happy to support any person or society that is wanting to opening up a facility or a day home in their community or in their home. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We have a motion on the floor to report progress and that motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. You lose, I think. Okay, again. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. We will have to continue. The motion is defeated. Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just want to go to Child Care Development and Administration and Maintenance funding. Can you elaborate on that for a bit? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman and *quana* for the question. The Department of Education does support operation and maintenance for our child care centres and that includes renovations if there is a need for renovation under the early learning and child care agreement. We do have funds available if there is a facility that is in need of supporting a renovation. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thanks for that. Day Care Grants and Contributions. “Early childhood facilities are licensed by the Department of Education under the *Child Day Care Act*.” I want to go to “...inspects facilities annually...”. What part of the year do you do inspections in the facilities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The department does those inspections year round, but we try and complete them within the year because they are valid for one year. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This might be just a comment or a suggestion. In Kugluktuk, the day care in the mid-winter, in the coldest time; March, it gets pretty cold. The floor gets cold. The kids have to wear their kamiks sometimes or even boots to be in there. It does get pretty cold. The Aboriginal Head Start preschool, every spring it leaks. That has been going on for maybe two or three years now. It leaks every spring. It looks like it's getting pretty rotten where at least there are maybe two or three places where it leaks. I guess it would be a suggestion that those are the times that are good times to do inspections; the coldest part of the year and spring time when everything is thawing and you can notice leaks. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) That was just a comment, but if Minister Gross, you would like to comment on the comment. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The member's comments are taken and noted. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Anavilok. Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sorry about that. The next person on my list: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to go back to the discussion about the Young Parents Stay Learning program, which is budgeted at \$170,000 for this year. Mr. Chairman, through you, can the minister let us know whether or not the department keeps statistics on how successful this program is in terms of how many of the parents go onto graduate, as well as how many of their children are then successful in their education? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. For the young parents that are enrolled in that program, they have to provide attendance to stay in the program as we encourage attendance and to be going to school. In terms of the graduation statistics and if anyone is accessing that fund and is graduating, we don't collect that data. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the department does not collect that data, then how do they measure the success of the Young Parents Stay Learning program or initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The students that are accessing the funding are going to school because we do expect them to have their attendance there to be going to school. We have the subsidy for that program which assists our young parents and for their costs to go and stay in school. That there, in itself, is incentive that we are working to support those young parents to be in school and to work their credits and graduate. We keep encouraging our students out there to do that.

If you know of any young parents that are high school age and wanting them to be in school, we encourage them to speak to their principal and work through the department to access that funding. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask again: how is the success of the Young Parents Stay Learning initiative evaluated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, that information is not tracked, but we do appreciate the success of our students and I said earlier, we have 26 young parents accessing that funding across the territory. We have 3 in the Kivalliq and 23 in the Qikiqtani at the moment who are accessing the funding and in school as young parents. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think members will agree with me that it's really important for us to track how effective the funding that we allocate to initiatives such as this. How effective is that funding? Is it a good use of funding? This is to say as well that obviously everyday that we can help a young parent stay in school is an important day and is a successful day. However, I think again, it is vitally important for us to evaluate these programs so that we can learn from that evaluation and change the program or grow the program based on those evaluations. Through the Chair, can the minister commit to evaluating the Young Parents Stay Learning program in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. So having 26 young parents accessing the program right now is a great success, and we do evaluate those young parents on a yearly basis. As I mentioned, we are getting their attendance numbers and we hope that they will continue through pathing and continue onto graduating. Everyone comes from a different situation, but we do encourage our students to stay in school and if they are young parents, that we have the support out to help them graduate. Our ultimate goal is to get

the highest level of education you can. We are hopeful that this funding is well received and utilized and whether it's one student or 26, that is a great number in itself to be proud of those young parents who have children or a child and are going to school to further themselves and their child or children. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, evaluating the success of programs is extremely important and to me, a component of that evaluation and tracking the value of a program would include tracking how far those students actually go beyond high school. Are we tracking how many students who avail of the Young Parents Stay Learning program in order to be successful in graduating from high school are going on to post-secondary education? Is there an ongoing continuation of support for those young parents to continue their education beyond high school so that we can manage these students to greater success in their education? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the comments on tracking statistical data. It is a big task to be doing so and we do need a statistician to help support that work and we will take into consideration the member's comments about tracking data. There are a lot of things that we don't track and measure. Some of these things that we would like to track and monitor are there for the future. Our department doesn't have the capacity or the funding at the moment to support that work, but we will take the member's comments into consideration for future possibilities of what kind of data we can sample and learn from. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next person on my list, of the long list: Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and your officials.

In my budget address that I delivered yesterday, asking the government to provide information on how the program will operate in terms of providing a \$10 per day child care program, I have heard parents in my constituency that when the child is registered to the daycare programs, even when they're not attending daycare, the parents have told me that \$10 per day will still be collected. What I'm trying to say is that the child is not attending daycare but is registered and the parents told me that the child will be charged even though they don't attend. Is this the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just one correction before I go to the minister, Member Qavvik did the return to budget address. The finance minister actually did the Budget Address. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. As the department, we're not able to give direction to a society. It's up to them to give their own policy and

regulations for those types of instances. They each have their own rules for daycare and if the child isn't there, it is their policy to abide by.

What I can say is that those fees are now down to \$50 a week, which is very affordable for Nunavummiut and we're happy to have gotten that ahead of schedule and to have more money for Nunavummiut and their families by accessing this funding at an earlier time than anticipated.

I would encourage the member to speak to the society and find out if they still have those rules in place with this new \$10 a day. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Ma'na*. Mr. Qavvik. Anyone else wants a crack? This is Education. Branch Summary. Early Learning and Childcare. Total operations and maintenance to be voted. \$5,705,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay. Go on to the next page. G-8. Advanced Education. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The business plan indicates that the budget for general education development will be reduced to zero while the budget for adult program and adult secondary education school will be significantly reduced. Why will this budget be decreased? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Ma'na*. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Sorry Mr. Chair. There were technical difficulties and I was on the wrong channel when the member was asking the question. Can he please repeat? *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Ma'na*. Mr. Malliki, can you please repeat your question?

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The business plan indicates that the budget for general education development will be reduced to zero while the budget for adult program will be significantly reduced. Why will this budget be decreased? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Ma'na*. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Sorry for that little delay. So under our financial assistance program, we have grants and contributions for our financial assistance program, also for our contribution for NTEP, Nunavut Teacher Education Program, contributions to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and contributions to the Nunavut Literacy Council and contributions to Nunavut Sivuniksavut, and that line item

is at zero as the member stated. They have the money for those programs. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Ma'na*. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Department of Education has been delivered pathways to adult secondary school program in collaborating with Nunavut Arctic College. Does the business plan indicate that the department has worked to support increased engagement of Inuit men in this program? What effort to recruit more men into programs has been successful up to date? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Ma'na*. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would like Assistant Deputy Minister Sonja Osbourne to answer that question. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Ma'na*. Ms. Osbourne.

Ms. Osbourne: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Clearly this is my first time. While there has been an effort to recruit more men in the past and we are continuing that effort, but at this time we are still assessing how to move forward in that, because it's not necessarily the main priority, however it is a continued effort that we are making. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question: (interpretation ends) The Department of Education delivers financial assistance for Nunavut students through the FANS program. The business plan indicates that extra staff have been hired to support the workload of FANS. What are the current challenges in administering the FANS program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman and *quana* for the question. We have hired seven additional casual staff to work in Arviat and these are frontline workers. The casual staff support in applications, communications with students and travel. We have had the capacity for the extra staff support the FANS program and working to resolve some of the issues that we have had.

I'm happy that we are under review of the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program and one of the major pieces of the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program successes is that we have been able to pay our students in early January for the winter semester and they received funding on January 1 and 15 for living expenses to give them more time to submit their student enrollment form.

Then we have also had the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students office that is undergoing plans for a renovation which will support the staff in the operation and better suit the needs of the staff to operate the program. We also implemented a new approach to supporting our students. So each student now has a case worker and they are handling the student files so that that initiative was incentivized this past fall, so all the current students from the fall semester and winter semester have a worker that deals with their file. If their case worker isn't in the office for some reason, those files will be handled through another case worker.

We have also implemented biweekly follow-ups with our students, which also started this fall. We are also conducting in person training for our staff and that work is ongoing. Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program (interpretation) the payments were always late because of the capacity issues, apparently. Will they be more on time in the coming school year once the new school year begins? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Sorry about that. Yes, we have made great strides to improve the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students and as I had mentioned, they have been paid before the winter semester started, so they received their first payment on January 1 and their second payment on January 15, which is an amazing thing for our students. We want to be there to support them and I'm very pleased and thankful to all the staff who have made that possible. We hope that this will never happen again to our students.

We want to be there for our students to encourage them and not have any barriers for the students. We look forward working more with our students and the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students comprehensive review and the work that is ongoing with this big undertaking is going to see a lot more improvements to that program to support our post-secondary learners and their success for Nunavummiut. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Is the department working with Arctic College to further advance the Nunavut graduates for each community in Nunavut for NTEP? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Department of Education does provide financial support to the Nunavut Arctic College for the Nunavut Teacher Education Program and enhancing that program to as many communities as the Nunavut Arctic College can. We look forward to more Nunavummiut taking that program at our community learning centres and our campuses. Wearing my Nunavut Arctic College hat, we look forward to the students going to that program. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you. NTEP is very important. We want to make sure that the students are taught and are able to get employment in the communities. How many are enrolled right now? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. We currently have 176 students enrolled in the Nunavut Teacher Education Program across the territory. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In which communities? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The communities are Iqaluit, Arviat, Arctic Bay, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, Kinngait, Naujaat, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, and Sanirajak. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The business plan indicates that one of the priorities for 2023-24 will be to support intergovernmental work to identify labour market needs and develop a strategy to meet those needs. Will this strategy replace the current Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy, and if so, what is the timeline for the new strategy? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. No, this won't replace anything and there is no timeline. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The next person on my list, and this is a new one, but Minister Kusugak might want to ask questions. I don't know.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, a couple of questions. I'm kidding.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Chair reports progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We have an identical motion on the floor which is not debatable, to report progress. In favour of the motion. I will count this time. The minister at the table cannot vote. I have been notified. Okay. Opposed. The motion is carried.

>>*Applause*

I will rise to report progress.

Sorry. Officials can leave the witness table.

Deputy Speaker: 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) That was an interesting committee meeting, but Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 18 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.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Kusugak.

>>*Laughter*

The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

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

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills.

Just before I go to Item 23, I would just like to make a brief statement thanking all Members of this Assembly and being so welcoming to me today. I know I'm just here to keep the Chair warm for a day and the historical context of this is not lost upon me as well. I'm very humbled that you all put this faith into me, and Speaker Akoak, I wish a speedy return and look forward to asking more questions on Monday. Thank you all, members.

>> *Applause*

No. 23. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Ball.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Mr. Ball: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to remind members that the Regular Members' Caucus will be meeting at 2:30 this afternoon in the Nanuq Room.

Orders of the Day for March 6, 2023:

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

- Bill 19
- Bill 20
- Bill 21

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

>>*Applause*

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 14 – 6(2), this House stands adjourned until Monday, March 6, at 10 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 12:39*

