



## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Tony Akoak**

(Gjoa Haven)

**Hon. David Akeagok**

(Quttiktuq)

*Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour*

**Hon. Joelle Kaernerck**

(Amittuq)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation*

**Karen Nutarak**

(Tununiq)

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik**

(Hudson Bay)

*Minister of Environment; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

**Hon. P.J. Akeagok**

(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs*

**Mary Killiktee**

(Uqqummiut)

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**

(Rankin Inlet South)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Joanna Quassa**

(Aggu)

**Bobby Anavilok**

(Kugluktuk)

**Inagayuk Quqqiaq**

(Netsilik)

**Janet Brewster**

(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

**Alexander Sammurtok**

(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

**Hon. Pamela Gross**

(Cambridge Bay)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Seniors*

**Hon. John Main**

(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

*Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention*

**Joe Savikataaq**

(Arviat South)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**George Hickes**

(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole*

**Solomon Malliki**

(Aivilik)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Craig Simailak**

(Baker Lake)

**Hon. David Joanasie**

(South Baffin)

*Government House Leader; Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council*

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(Pangnirtung)

*Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Tuesday, October 31, 2023**

**Members Present:**

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

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Tony Akoak)(interpretation): Good day. Let us pray.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good day, my colleagues and those who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast. Welcome to the House.

(interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 317 – 6(2): Increased Capacity at Boarding Homes**

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

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtitsijii*, the Department of Health is committed to providing safe, secure and service-oriented boarding home facilities for Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) eligible clients and escorts during medical travel.

*Uqaqtitsijii*, we currently have six boarding homes which host these medical travellers, located in Winnipeg, Iqaluit, Ottawa, Yellowknife, Edmonton, and Churchill. All facilities except one are operated by third party contractors.

The Department of Health has seen a steady increase in medical travel over the years as Nunavut grows. We have seen a sharper increase in the last two years, as we work through post-pandemic recovery and address wait-lists for specialized services.

Fortunately, the opening of new boarding home facilities in Iqaluit, Edmonton, and Winnipeg has significantly increased the number of available beds. Previously, clients would often be displaced to an overflow hotel room once the boarding home was full. With the increased bed capacity, the need for overflow hotel rooms has been significantly

reduced and, in most cases, eliminated completely. The newer facilities also offer more space for cultural programming, larger dining areas, and some larger client rooms for those on longer stays.

*Uqaqtitsijii*, the Department of Health works closely and collaboratively with the boarding home operators to find ways of improving the care journey for medical travel clients. We acknowledge the difficulties patients face having to leave home for medical services and continue to be committed to improving care access and improved boarding home facilities and space. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Before I go to the next name, members, please note that we do not have any pages for today.

Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

### **Minister's Statement 318 – 6(2): Nunavut 3000**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy Halloween to all Nunavummiut and safe door-to-dooring wherever you may be. Some of the costumes here are pretty frightening themselves, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in October 2022 I was proud to be in my hometown of Rankin Inlet, where I'm always proud to be, in this case, to announce the Nunavut Housing Corporation's plan to build 3,000 new homes across the territory by 2030. Today I am pleased to provide an overview of some successes from the past year, starting with our most significant accomplishment so far: the transformational 10-year Partnership Agreement between the NHC and NCC Development (NCCD) that is at the heart of the Nunavut 3000 strategy.

In 2023 this ground-breaking partnership between the territorial government and Inuit-owned construction firm resulted in 150 new public houses in eight communities. This partnership is already demonstrating significant value for money, with reductions in the cost per square foot for NCC-constructed units. In addition to reducing the cost of building, NCCD's focus on training will help to increase local employment and develop a sustainable local housing sector over the long term.

Another highlight from the first year of *Igluliuqatigiingniq* is the partnership between the corporation and the Community Housing Transformation Centre (CHTC) to develop and administer the new \$1.3 million Nunalingni Piruqpaalirut Fund. This fund will be an important source of support and funding for the community housing sector, providing up to \$50,000 to move their ideas, projects, and initiatives forward. Interested individuals and organizations may contact the housing corporation now to start discussing their ideas.

Mr. Speaker, as we move into year two of the Nunavut 3000 strategy, I am confident that our government will meet its commitment to add 1,000 units of all types of housing and expand the continuum of housing options within our term. I would like to thank the corporation's board of directors and hard-working staff for all that they have accomplished so far. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Qavvik.

### **Minister's Statement 319 – 6(2): Celebrating Nunavut's Research and Education Network**

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On August 22, 2023 Nunavut Arctic College hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its Nunatta Campus here in Iqaluit. This ceremony signalled the going live of Nunavut's own research and education network.

Mr. Speaker, to appreciate the importance of this event, some context is necessary. While staff at Nunavut Arctic College have access to the Government of Nunavut network, including government Internet, Intranet and telephone services, Nunavut Arctic College students do not. This means college operations require separate and dedicated Internet to support its students and the programs they are enrolled in and the services they rely on.

Mr. Speaker, as Nunavut's only designated post-secondary institute, Nunavut Arctic College joined the CANARIE network in 2022. C-A-N-A-R-I-E is not an acronym; CANARIE is a Canada-wide, internationally connected network of institutes involved in research, innovation, and education. This network includes a wide range of benefits, notably, access to research data and information. The CANARIE network is made up of provincial and territorial hosts. As a member of CANARIE, the college had an opportunity to launch and host a Nunavut-specific research and education network. This Nunavut-specific network is open to private, public, and not-for-profit organizations in the territory that are involved in research and education and wish to become members of this territory-specific network.

To host Nunavut's research and education network, Nunavut Arctic College entered a partnership with Galaxy Broadband and InukNET, who is providing the college and its member organizations with dedicated Internet via access to new high-speed, low earth orbiting satellites. This Internet supports the network, which sits outside the Government of Nunavut system and is supported by CANARIE's cybersecurity program and Galaxy's managed services.

Mr. Speaker, this work was supported by many players, most notably the college's own information technology team. The college is relying on third party funding and some Government of Nunavut funding to support this network.



Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, the college remains committed to strengthening its presence within the territory and beyond. A Nunavut-specific research and education network is one way to secure that presence and ensures the territory also benefits from dedicated and secure broadband access. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 320 – 6(2): RV Nuliajuk 2023 Sailing Season**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that our children get lots of candy when they're out trick-or-treating tonight. I am dressed up as an angry politician, so I hope you're scared of me in my costume.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that our Research Vessel Nuliajuk has had another successful season of work in Nunavut waters.

This year, [Nuliajuk] supported research on Greenland halibut, bottom mapping in Nain, and conducted fisheries tracking and research in Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Pangnirtung. The research promotes marine safety and extends our knowledge of sustainable marine development.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to research, RV Nuliajuk also had a great outreach season. The crew welcomed onboard many community members in Pond Inlet and Qikiqtarjuaq. They also met with students in the communities to promote the marine sector as a viable career path. There are many opportunities for our youth to have rewarding and active careers in the marine research industry.

Nuliajuk will be in Iqaluit from October 26 to November 1. The crew will be welcoming the public on board the vessel. Please visit the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's website for the latest schedule and updates. I encourage our students, elders, and Iqalummiut to take the tour, meet with the crew, and talk about the important research we are doing.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the crew for yet another successful season. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

### Item 3: Members' Statements

#### Member's Statement 427 – 6(2): Hockey Equipment Donations in Igloolik

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also say “good day” to Nunavummiut, the people of Igloolik, and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my appreciation. As we are aware, the skates are very expensive nowadays and many parents can't afford skates. The skates are very good for children to practise skating and especially for hockey and other sports.

On October 27, 2023 at the Igloolik RCMP detachment, the children went to go get free skates there. Even though this individual has retired and lives in Vancouver, Barry Headman, although he is not listening to the session, had collected skates and sent the skates to Igloolik so that the children can get skates. I would like to ask you to join me in thanking the individual for providing support to the children. Because of their love, they provide equipment to the children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North- Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

#### Member's Statement 428 – 6(2): Happy Birthday to Namesake

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today because it is my namesake's birthday in Pond Inlet. (interpretation ends) I would like to send very warm birthday greetings to my namesake, Chantal Aapak Koonoo. Happy birthday, not happy Halloween. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

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

#### Member's Statement 429 – 6(2): Recognizing Martha Kyak

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Pond Inlet and Nunavummiut, and please practise safety when you're going around to the homes and make sure that the parents thoroughly check all the candy. I would like to extend baby a very happy birthday.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important to note some notable people. I would like to recognize Martha Kyak, who is a designer and an illustrator. She has set up a business called InukChic, where she takes traditional designs and puts them into contemporary use. We

have also seen some of her paintings and ornaments that are enjoyed all over Canada. She has also written children's books and she has been working for a very long time as a teacher.

Martha just recently became the Director of Nunavut Sivuniksavut, a program that teaches young Inuit. On September 10, 2023, InukChic owner, Martha Kyak, went to New York City for a fashion show and she showed her fashion designs. It was an international event and I would like to extend my gratitude to Martha for showcasing the Inuit culture and the clothing. I'm very proud of her today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

### **Member's Statement 430 – 6(2): Sanikiluaq's New Mayor**

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week, all across the territory, there were elections for mayor, council, and district education authorities, and last week, I committed to stand up and congratulate for our new mayor in Sanikiluaq.

Yesterday, elections took place in my home community of Sanikiluaq. Mr. Speaker, our new mayor just might be the youngest mayor nationally and perhaps the territory as well. I look forward to working with the new mayor and council for the betterment of our community and how I am proud to have youth have a voice in the political realm anywhere in our territory.

For that, I wanted to congratulate the new Mayor for Sanikiluaq, Masako Kittosuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 431 – 6(2): Recognizing Mialiralaq Ottokie**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut and the people of South Baffin. Please practise safety when you're going around to the houses.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mialiralaq Ottokie, who is a woman from my home community of Kinngait.

Mr. Speaker, Mialiralaq trained at the Iqaluit Nunavut Fisheries and Marine Training Consortium. Mr. Speaker, after completing this training, she now works at a ship called the Polar Prince, where they spent some time this summer charting the depths of the ocean for safety and future use.

Mr. Speaker, the Polar Prince was in Kinngait in August and Mialiralaaq landed to the shores of Kinngait on August 23, passing by the community where she was welcomed and greeted by her extended family and it was such a proud moment on her journey.

Mr. Speaker, after Kinngait, they also went to Coral Harbour and to Iqaluit, and she is now back in her home in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, if you would give me the time, on behalf of Mialiralaaq, I would like to extend my gratitude and thank the Nunavut Fisheries and Marine Training Consortium, Mayuriaq Quvianaqtuliaq, Kirt Ejetsiak, and the community of Kinngait for being so welcoming and the crew she worked with on the Polar Prince. We are very proud of you and we wish you success in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

**Member's Statement 432 – 6(2): Recognizing Charlie Evalik and Julia Ogina**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Happy Halloween, Nunavummiut. In the spirit of Halloween, I hope everyone has a spook-tacular day. To all our trick-or-treaters, please dress warm, stay safe, and remember to have your parent check your candies for safety while also avoiding candy tax.

Mr. Speaker, with great pride, today I want to acknowledge two constituents who were recently awarded medals from the Governor General. These two community members are well known not just in Cambridge Bay but also across our entire territory for their hard work, dedication, and relentless advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, on National Indigenous People's Day, Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Mary Simon handed out medals to two indigenous recipients to honour outstanding work and achievement.

Mr. Charlie Evalik received a medal and was named a Member of the Order of Canada. Her Excellency noted that Charlie Evalik has played a leading role in the social and economic development of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we admire him as one of the chief negotiators of the Tunngavik Federation. He collaborated on the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement settlement and later helped fulfill its terms as president of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. Charlie is a founding member of the Nunavut Resources Corporation, which helps diversify our economy and attract much-needed capital investment to our region. Mr. Evalik's leadership will continue to inspire future generations of business leaders across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Julia Ogina received a meritorious service medal for her work to protect and promote Inuit culture and traditions within northern communities and in

Canada and beyond. As a program coordinator with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Julia is always working to promote and revitalize Inuit language. She organized the Stories Told through Drum Dance project, which has amplified the importance of traditional drum dancing and singing in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please continue, Ms. Gross.

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Let's all join our very own Inuk Governor General, Mary Simon, in honouring and congratulating Charlie Evalik and Julia Ogina for their tireless work and impressive achievements on behalf of our territory. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

**Member's Statement 433 – 6(2): Recognizing Albert Issigaitok and Kim Morgan**

**Hon. Joelle Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, people of Amittuq, and Nunavummiut.

Today I would also like to recognize and congratulate this individual from Igloolik, Albert Issigaitok. He had gatherings with boys and men and since he doesn't have anywhere to go, he usually gathers up the men and give them qamutik-making classes and small boats. He also uses his own tools. I'm very proud of Albert Issigaitok from Igloolik.

Please contribute to your communities in helping the youth. I would also like to recognize Kim Morgan, who also gathers the youth and since he works, he usually gets the boys and men together in the evenings at the youth centre.

I would like to thank you both and I am very proud of Albert Issigaitok and Kim Morgan from Sanirajak for their contributions to our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 434 – 6(2): Trick-or-Treating with Polar Bears**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is the last day that the community of Grise Fiord sees the sun. There will be sunrise and we won't see it for quite some time. In Resolute Bay it's a shorter dark season, but it will be happening.

Since children are going to be trick-or-treating in the communities, it's a little different in the communities where we have bear monitors because of bears roaming around. I think there are approximately 15 polar bears roaming around Resolute Bay right now, but there is a bear monitor present for the safety of the children. Please practise safety.

In Grise Fiord, the sun will be rising again in February. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

**Member's Statement 435 – 6(2): Child Sexual Abuse in Nunavut**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, I would like to warn members and the public that I will be raising a sensitive issue that may be triggering for far too many Nunavummiut. It is a difficult topic for anyone to discuss, including myself, but I believe we must be the voice for the most vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the very sensitive issue of child sexual abuse.

Mr. Speaker, protecting the welfare of Nunavut's children and youth is an important responsibility of our government and I have been calling on our government to do more to protect those individuals.

Far too often, children are victimized and we hear about it in the media and we know it's going on. It has been documented that Nunavut children experience rates of abuse 10 times higher than the national average, and I believe that this is in fact a crisis.

Mr. Speaker, during the Fifth Assembly, we held a televised hearing with the Representative for Children and Youth in 2019. At that time, I expressed my concern that the Department of Family Services' annual report did not include information or adequately address the rates of child sexual abuse in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, since then, I have been trying to drag that information out of the Department of Family Services and the Department of Justice to no avail. Both of the departments had indicated that they were unable to provide that information.

To my surprise, the Department of Family Service's 2021-22 annual report on family wellness did include a breakdown of the types of referrals that community social service workers received in that fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, to my shock, the report indicates that over 500 brave children came forward to report that they've been victims of child sexual abuse. All studies in this area indicate that only a fraction of victims come forward, therefore, the actual numbers are likely several times higher.

Mr. Speaker, the Government must do more to fulfill its obligations to ensure the safety of all children and youth through the prevention, intervention, and postvention. I will be asking questions on this matter at the appropriate time to the appropriate minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to Oral Question 563 – 6(2): Insurance Issue after Fire in Gjoa Haven**

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide clarification to a question during oral question period on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, No. 563-6(2) asking if there is a change in the value of the lease with the NCC Properties Limited after a lease amendment was made March 24, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, there was no change in the lease value. We continue paying basic rent for the NCC lease-to-own building because it forms part of the lease contract, and the payments go against the outstanding principle to purchase the building by March 31, 2030. The outstanding principle and the amortization period remain the same.

For greater clarity, the Government of Nunavut will have paid for the new replacement building by March 31, 2030. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguú, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

#### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. P.J. Akeegok** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut and fellow members.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize some very special visitors we have in the Gallery. Today, we have two representatives from the public affairs section of the United States Embassy in Ottawa, both Shannon Hill and Becky Hydrin. If you could please raise up.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, the United States has a strong interest in reinforcing its relationship with various stakeholders in the Canadian Arctic, including the Government of Nunavut, and building on the two visits to the territory of Nunavut this year by the United States Ambassador, a very good friend, David Cohen.

The objective of their visit is to meet with government officials, Inuit organizations, and other stakeholders in Nunavut, and to learn about Nunavut priorities, opportunities, and challenges. I would like to welcome both members to our House here. (interpretation) Welcome. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 612 – 6(2): Mandatory School Hours

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, fellow members, and my constituents, Coral Harbour and Nauyasat. My questions today are to the Minister of Education.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, parents in my constituency have raised concerns regarding the number of times schools are closed for early dismissal due to staff meetings and professional development.

Can the minister clarify how her department determine whether the legal mandate numbers of instructional time hours for students are delivered in each school, and what steps are taken when school does not deliver hours of instruction that are required by law? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank the member for the question. We are getting into the time when our schools are closed for unforeseen circumstances, due to bad weather, and that really can effect our schools in closure times.

We do have indicators if the school is closed. There are often factors otherwise. They may be closed for mechanical issues, or environmental hazards, as well. If there is any school closure for the latter reason it is usually for the safety of our students.

There are times when our district education authorities also has to make hard decisions to close our schools. For example, due to weather, that is an example when the schools may close.



We also advise the public that there is a school calendar which does take into account that we live and work in a harsh climate. So the district education authorities are asked to build additional hours into their calendar to create the buffer for those days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. She didn't answer my question. (interpretation ends) I asked staff meeting and early dismissals. Those are not answered.

Mr. Speaker, part 10 of the *Education Act* provides for instructional hours in school calendars. Section 85 of the *Act*, provides that district education authorities have the responsibility to amend school calendars to make up for lost instructional time in hours.

Can the minister clarify how her department works with the individual district education authority to ensure that the appropriate amount of instructional hours are delivered in a given school year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the member for that question and clarifying the first question.

Mr. Speaker, our schools have school regulations, and we have a number of instructional days that we have to go by. Our schools use the school calendar and have designated days for instructional days as well as professional development days as indicated.

We also have a letter that is sent for those days that are off for our students. If there are additional days due to unforeseen circumstances, due to mechanical issues; for example, if our schools have to close and they have to make up additional time, then the district education authority has that ability to build in additional time for our students.

As said earlier, Mr. Speaker, our school calendars are built in a flexible way that we do build in additional time into our calendars for unforeseen circumstances like weather. We know that weather is always going to be affecting our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I recognize that situations may arise where school staff needs to take time for specialized training. A good example of this is the departmental response to the recent violence incident at Tuugaalik High School in Naujaat.

I would like to thank the Department of Education for providing additional support to school staff and the district education authority to address this issue.

The current school calendar indicates that professional development days for the school in my constituency are scheduled for February 12-16, 2024.

Can the minister clarify what steps are taken to make up for loss in structural time for when school closed for teachers' professional development activities outside of designated professional development week? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank the member for that question. In terms of professional development, we do have professional development that our educators part take in throughout the year. This is to promote equality and standardization across Nunavut. There is also a focus on increasing access to a high-quality education program. We have for professional development, the framework that was created in partnership with the Nunavut Teachers' Association.

I hear the member's concern about professional development happening in February, and that is something that we have started discussions with the Nunavut Teachers' Association to see if we can change the date to an earlier time in the year when school first starts, to see if those accommodations for professional development can either happen when the school year first starts or when the school year ends, and not right in the middle of the school year in February.

We do hear that as a concern, but it is built into the acts and regulations for that time to be included. I thank the member for raising that as a concern, and I will definitely, when I next speak to the Nunavut Teachers' Association, ensure that we talk about this again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 613 – 6(2): Addressing Child Abuse**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of the Department of Family Services.

As I indicated in my member's statement, over 500 brave children have come forward to disclose to our community social workers that they were victims of child sexual abuse, as was indicated in the department's annual report.

I would like to ask, can the minister provide a clear explanation of how these numbers published in the report are determined? Given that what we know of the department's past difficulties in recording and managing this data, how can we be assured that these numbers are accurate, when it seems entirely possible that they may be much higher? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for the question. (interpretation ends) I'm happy you asked that question, and I too, like a lot of us, we don't like to see numbers like this, very high, especially when it comes to our children in the community. It's unfortunate when we look at this report, 518 in all, with South Baffin having the highest numbers.

I don't want to put excuses why we have not been able to provide the support our community needs, but I have to say that I have mentioned from the very beginning that the Department of Family Services has had the issue of not having enough staff and not enough social workers in our communities.

When we're also talking about standing committee reviews about the case management system, that has been another issue for which we have not been able to provide the accurate data. It was clearly stated in the OAG report that those are the flaws that the department has.

I have to acknowledge how well the staff works. The social workers deal with a lot of stress, and they deal with the most vulnerable population, and they are the voice for these children.

In our policies, they have to follow what is in place. If they see a child in danger or who has been abused, they have to follow protocol, and that is continued.

The issue that we've had at times is that they have had no support, very little support. This is something after the OAG report came out, which is something we are able to use to say this is what we need. This is what we've been trying to say. We need more support from the government, within the government, and from our community.

Since the OAG report, a lot has come out, and I'm happy to say that we are going to see more support coming to place because when we're talking about the lack social workers, we are really starting to gear towards hiring more staff in that area. The caseworkers and the social workers really do work hard, but the department is 10-years old. It has not had the support it has needed from the very beginning, so it's unfortunate that we have to see our youth suffer. We've had to see that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for a very sincere response.

The minister had indicated that the South Baffin region has been identified to have the highest rates of reports being made to our social workers. The report indicates that 716 children came forward to disclose instances of physical harm, 687 of them were here in South Baffin, that's 95 percent. Of the 518 children that came forward to report child sexual abuse, 458 were from South Baffin, that's 88 percent.

Mr. Speaker, I've been trying to emphasize the importance of prevention. Our government needs to do more to protect youth before they become victimized. One matter that I have been indicating is that children are safe at school, but in the evenings and weekends, that is when they're most at risk, and I've been asking our government to do more to open child emergency shelters to ensure that children have a safe place to go at any hour of the day.

I would like to ask: Can the minister describe what options have been explored by her department to establish youth shelters in any South Baffin communities, including any initiative being explored for the community of Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. (interpretation ends) When we're talking about Iqaluit itself, we see a lot more issues in the city, unfortunately.

Just when we were getting out of COVID in the last couple years, the Department of Family Services' office here was really struggling with staff, and we saw a lot of issues because of the lack of staff in that office right after COVID.

In the recent times, like I had mentioned, when we're talking about issues or reports that are coming in, the social workers do have to follow a protocol in terms of who they have to contact. We work very closely with the RCMP, and we work closely with Justice.

We work closely with Education in terms of what more educational supports we can provide in the schools and safe homes. We also have to work closely with the foster parents because they have to be educated and know the signs as well. The teachers know a lot more than we do.

I know there have been issues, especially in Iqaluit, like I had mentioned, but those are the things that we've had to lean toward. I have to say that it is not just the Department of Family Services that could solve this problem. It takes all of us. It takes parents, it takes community members, and it takes grandparents. It is not just Family Services that could solve this.

What I'm saying is what more support can we provide to youth? Like I had mentioned, we work with different departments to insure there are more programs in place, and especially with programs our department could provide for foster parents of children in place. Those are the things I could think of off the top of my head. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the minister that it is a whole-of-government approach and that it is required to ensure the safety, protection, and proactive measures to protect our children.

I hope the minister will one day commit to this House to create child emergency shelters in communities that have higher rates, to ensure that children have a safe place any time of day.

Mr. Speaker, the Umingmak Centre is a child advocacy centre in Iqaluit. It is a safe location for services such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, social workers and health care professionals to coordinate support and provide care to children and youth who have experienced abuse.

I do recognize that the Umingmak facility is not operated or owned by the Government of Nunavut, but we are very fortunate to have such an institution in our community providing a level of support and healing given the high rates of abuse in this community.

I would like to ask the minister: Can the minister tell the House whether there are any plans in place to build, or assist in the creation of other child advocacy centres, or assist the current Umingmak facility to expand to other communities, which also experience high rates of child abuse? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for asking those questions. The centre that the member talked about, the Umingmak Centre is for younger-aged children that need help, and we heavily utilize it. You stated that we work with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police through Family Services which is true, and that includes the Department of Health as well.

It would be good if we could have something like that in the communities. We have had children come in from other communities to go to the Umingmak Centre, but there are just not enough supports available for children and youth to try and keep them safe.

We need to do more educating in the communities especially within the schools and we, as parents, have to teach our children more about safety and keep an eye on them.

Also through Family Services, I have stated that we always have funding available for community wellness programs. We will always be open for those, but we have to work with others to bring the assistance to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 614 – 6(2): Solid Waste Management**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to ask questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services, and they concern the issue of solid waste management and metal dump management, which are part of the dump responsibilities in communities.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is well aware, many of our territory's smaller communities, perhaps all of the communities, suffer from outdated and inadequate solid waste management and systems for both garbage and sewage, because they're not set up correctly right now.

Because of that Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) in March of 2022, the minister's department issued a request for proposals to develop a business case for solid waste facilities in the number of communities, and that includes Clyde River. The contract for this work was awarded to the company Dillon Consulting.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of developing a business case for a new or upgraded solid waste facility in Clyde River? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. The solid-waste funding that my department is funnelling from the federal government, we have three bundles for solid waste that we've put into a package, and Clyde River is among bundle 1. Included with that is Arviat, Grise Fjord and Resolute Bay.

My department has received some approval on an amended scope of work for this federal funding source, and based on that, it's allowed our department to undertake some site-specific upgrades, including encompassing site management, reducing risks of leeching due to off-site runoff, and prolonging the useful life of existing sites by applying different waste diversion methods.

Mr. Speaker, this work is ongoing, and we hope to continue our work with the hamlets to address their solid waste and their needs around this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for explaining that, minister. That's good to hear. I would like to ask further so that we're all informed about the process.

(interpretation ends) During my recent visit to Clyde River, I heard a number of concerns about this issue. The municipality is in need of adequate waste management infrastructure and equipment including fencing, crusher and shredders.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify the approximate cost of fully replacing and/or upgrading Clyde River's current solid waste facility? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department also will be working with the Department of Environment towards environment as the leading agency around solid waste management strategy, and looking at the capital, as well as the operational aspects associated with building and maintaining solid waste facilities.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of cost estimation based on planning studies, cost estimates per site have ranged between \$7 million to \$79 million, and there are different components to this too.

Given that some are much larger, depending on the scope, the costs were estimated at an early stage to be between those amounts. Of course, those figures could be different as we go through the capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for explaining that further, and for your response, minister. We tell the truth here. Clyde River really needs to be worked on. The dump is really close to the community as well. It is because of the development of the community that it's gotten real close. That's why they need help now.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) the five-year capital plan of the Department of Community and Government Services includes what are referred to as a solid waste bundle. In order to help our growing communities with issues like land development, we need to make progress on the solid waste management.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate what support is being provided by the federal Department of Infrastructures to address these issues? (interpretation) I know the minister answered part of the question already, and I would really like to hear more of the details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that. When we're talking about our infrastructure needs, as well as our solid waste, and having to deal with that, I think practically every community has many different pressing issues around infrastructure. This is an area that my department has tried to work very closely with Infrastructure Canada about how we are proceeding given our realities. Based on that, we are continuing on a path to address Nunavut's needs.

Mr. Speaker, this is something that we're continuing to bring forward, and it's been helpful to get support from other political leaders such as yourself, Inuit organizations, and even our MP around our capital needs. I think this is an area that is seriously lacking, so I encourage my colleagues and Nunavummiut to push that message home to the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 615 – 6(2): Departmental Positions**

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding government offices and staff in Kugluktuk. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. As the minister is aware, his department has a number of positions located in Kugluktuk.

As the minister will recall, I asked him a number of questions concerning vacant departmental positions in Kugluktuk during our winter sitting. 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 in the community are currently filled, and which positions are currently vacant? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, we have ten positions in Kugluktuk for Economic Development and Transportation. Five of them are filled as indeterminate, two of them are filled through the casual staffing action, and the remainder are vacant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) When I previously raised this issue, the minister indicated 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 six months? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The two vacant positions that are listed on my notes here are mentioned that they are in progress for competition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.



**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) When I last raised this issue, the minister indicated that one of the variables to filling the vacant positions was a lack of housing.

Last week, the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation confirmed that a number of new staff housing units are planned for Kugluktuk.

Can the minister indicate how many units will be allocated to his department's positions? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister, I would want all of them to be under Economic Development and Transportation, but in the process that does work is through our Department of Human Resources. They have staff housing allocation committees, and they look at all the departments and their needs within each community. It would go through that function to determine whether the position warrants a staff house or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

#### **Question 616 – 6(2): Family Abuse Intervention Act**

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the Nunavut Agreement, and this means serving all Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) Therefore, Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Justice, and they concern the issue of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize, understand, and appreciate the purpose of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* and how it provides Nunavummiut with tools to intervene and prevent the occurrence of family and intimate partner violence.

Mr. Speaker, last year, the minister's department held community consultations in Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven concerning the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*.

Can the minister indicate when he will table the completed report from these consultations in the House? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a timeline when I would be tabling it, but that report is being done, and the purpose of those consultations is whether or not to amend the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. All that work is being done through our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. I wish it to be that Inuit traditional knowledge is included and incorporated.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on May 25, 2023, the minister tabled the 2021-22 *Family Abuse Intervention Act* annual report in the House. The annual report describes tools to assist in intervening and preventing abuse, including the use of community intervention orders.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of community intervention orders is to “Address the root causes of abuse and undergo counselling. Both the applicant and the respondent will see their chosen respective counsellor. Both can choose a traditional counsellor, an elder, a professional counsellor, and/or a justice committee member.”

Not all the communities have all these counsellors, so therefore it would be good to know which communities don't have them, and also a number of my constituents have expressed their concerns to me about the underutilization of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* when mediating family issues.

What specific actions in his department undertake to enhance the use of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* with respect to family dispute resolution? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our department does a lot of work in this area and is very active. The majority of the community justice outreach workers are employed in each of the hamlets, and a lot of what our Community Justice Division is constantly doing is looking for resources for assistance.

One of the great examples that has been done is restorative justice, which is not only about the courts, it is more about restoring. We constantly look for different methods and ways. We have our annual conferences with all of our workers and look at best practices. *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* has always been paramount in any of these conversations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Your final supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): I'm very pleased, and I'm very pleased that you are working on these issues, and that you look further into it.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I recognize the important need for trauma-informed and culturally relevant support programs to be made available for victims of domestic and intimate partner abuse. I also recognize the need for appropriate treatment for abusers in order to stop the cycle of violence, and to assist in preventing the likelihood of reoffending.

Can the minister clearly explain how his department assists in the rehabilitation of individuals who have been served with restraining orders under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our wonderful community justice outreach workers do a lot of the work up front, in terms of both the victim and the accusers, and those that have restraining orders. They go through and offer what kind of resources are available and what ways they can use them. A fine example with restraining orders is often that they're not supposed to see each other.

In a smaller community, it's almost next to impossible, and often times, with overcrowding, you can't necessarily exercise that restraining order. Some of the work that our justice has developed is a short-term stay away from the house, so if they have other places to stay, or in another building, we can house them in the short term. If there are shelters, we provide for that. If at last straw, if hotels are needed, hotels would be provided for the individual, and our justice department pays to help for that accommodation, for those that are on a restraining order. That's just one example of many resources that our department provides to both the one that is in restraining order and the victim. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 617 – 6(2): Medical Escorts for Cancer Patients**

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

I received correspondence from a constituent who lost their spouse to cancer. They described the difficulties and loneliness faced by their spouse when travelling out for medical care, and also the tremendous stress on the single escort that accompanied them.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister advise this House what specific policies are in place to permit second escorts for medical clients, and especially those who suffer from a terminal illness and are facing the final days in a health facility far from home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his question. (interpretation ends) First of all, when it comes to medical travel, we do understand that it can be stressful, it can be draining on Nunavummiut. The Department of Health makes efforts to make sure that medical travellers are taken care of from when they leave their home community, to where they travel to their destination, and then on the way back.

We understand that for medical travellers who are on longer-term stays, say, for example, cancer treatment, that there are additional supports that are needed, and we do provide supports in terms of, for example, finding apartments, assisting with finding apartments for longer stays.

In terms of second escorts, there is a policy in place. The medical travel policy applies, so there is a process in place for requesting a second escort. It is closely tied; there's a connection to the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. Through that, the policies and procedures we have in place, the Non-Insured Health Benefits guidelines tend to be more restrictive around provision of escorts than the Department of Health would like to be. So there are some cases where we will approve additional escorts, even though strictly speaking, they are not funded under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

There's a process in place to request the second escort, and we consider all requests seriously. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very clear that our community health centres are not equipped to deal with providing the appropriate levels of support for a medical patient who is going through the final stages of a terminal illness. It is a sad reality of living in the north that for more serious health concerns, we are often thrown out of our community to a regional centre, or even out of territory.

For clarification, can the minister clarify whether the Department of Health has a process whereby family members of terminally ill medical clients can appeal the departmental escort policy to permit more than one escort to accompany them and be with them in their final days? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the appeal process, there is an appeal process in place, so if a second escort is requested and it is denied, there is an appeal process there that clients, guardians and escorts themselves can file. There is a form that's involved, it's available on the Department of Health's website.

It's also available at our health centres. All appeals must be submitted in writing. This is a process that is in place and our medical travel clerks or other medical travel staff do make sure that our clients know that the right to appeal is in place.

We target to get a decision back within 10 business days of receiving an appeal. I realize that when clients are facing end of life situations or a very serious illness, 10 days can be a long time. We aim to respond all requests as quickly as we can. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Speaker:** Your final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sure we can all appreciate how difficult it is to be the only escort to provide support and comfort for a terminally ill patient. It is important that they remain physically and mentally healthy to be able to provide that support. Sometimes, escorts also need support and respite.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to reviewing the medical client escort policy to permit more than one escort on compassionate grounds, and especially for terminally ill medical clients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his question. Yes, I can commit and we will have a review on this policy in regards to the (interpretation ends) medical travel policy (interpretation) is currently being reviewed to determine which areas require further revisions or amendments.

At this time, we have tasked staff to undertake this review with an empathetic approach, so we have provided a directive towards, and obviously to use this example or a medical mental health policy related to treatment outside for (interpretation ends) for mental health (interpretation) or elders' hospice care so I spoke to these earlier.

(interpretation ends) In terms of the appeal process, Mr. Speaker, we do take into consideration compassionate reasons, including end of life scenarios for our clients. Those are dealt with and given high priority within the department. We do anticipate finding more opportunities to improve supports going forward as we review the medical travel policy.

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

### **Question 618 – 6(2): New Territorial Parks Act**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, our territorial park system in Nunavut is truly a treasure. When I have the opportunity to be on the land or water, like many I feel a sense of serenity and peace and I am grateful for everything that our environment provides for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, information published by the minister's department indicates that community consultations are beginning this week on the development of a new territorial parks legislation. The first meeting was scheduled for October 30 in Baker Lake and the Iqaluit meeting is scheduled for November 22. I'll certainly make every effort to be there.

Can the minister confirm that an invitation to participate in the Iqaluit consultation has been extended to the Amaruq Hunters and Trappers Association? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The *Territorial Parks Act* consultation will be going to every community. To answer the member's question, yes, the Department of Environment will commit to informing the stakeholders within the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that commitment from the minister. Mr. Speaker, the minister's department has recently published a detailed discussion paper concerning the process for developing new territorial parks legislation.

For the benefit of our constituents who are following our proceedings today, could the minister highlight the most important changes that his department is planning to make? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our *Territorial Parks Act* has been operating under the Northwest Territories' *Territorial Parks Act*, which is no longer relevant to Nunavut because it does not reflect the *Nunavut Agreement* or the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement. That is an area that we need to change so that we can be aligned with our mandate, objectives, and goals within our *Territorial Parks Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A number of Members of the Legislative Assembly have recently been making reference to the current review process for the proposed new Nunavut Land Use Plan. As the minister will recall, that is an issue that I have addressed on a number of occasions.

Can the minister clarify the extent to which the approval process for the proposed new Nunavut Land Use Plan will be impacted by his department's work to develop new territorial parks legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The draft 2023 recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan will play a key role in responsible development and sustaining our pristine

environment within the territory. I will get back to the member with more details in that area, as the details are not in front of me at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 619 – 6(2): Water and Sewer Subsidies**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services today.

Mr. Speaker, in the water and sewage subsidy program, it stated that a municipal corporation may receive a maximum of \$2 million a year, depending upon available funding, and funding cannot exceed the total approved water and sewage subsidy budget of approximately \$8 million. Mr. Speaker, the amounts are based on the cost of providing a minimum amount of water specified to each community resident.

Other than one blip in Sanikiluaq in 2021-22, where it looks like they got exactly \$150,000 more than normal, numbers haven't changed since at least 2020-21. Mr. Speaker, with community populations changing, how can that be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department continues to provide funding for hamlets on an annual basis, including the city, through the block funding agreement for these municipalities to provide services.

Mr. Speaker, this is something that my department will have to take a closer look at around what things are at play, and through the water and sewage subsidy, I think it has been quite a constant funding level throughout the years, from what I can recall. Mr. Speaker, like I said, it's an area that we will have to factor in what are the changing environments and factors at play. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those changes in those funding amounts are exactly where I am getting at. It hasn't changed for a while and, according to the documents, it doesn't look like it's going to change for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Speaker, water and sewer services are to be operated on a cost recovery basis, and municipalities are responsible and accountable for how this subsidy is administered.

How did Community and Government Services determine that \$8,018,000 is sufficient to maintain affordable water and sewer services to Nunavummiut, taking into consideration the recent tabling of Government of Nunavut's *Drinking Water Strategic Framework*,

where it states that cost per community could look at increases of approximately \$600,000 to \$1.2 million? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I think the water and sewer subsidy that my department provides for municipalities is a cost recovery model. Mr. Speaker, when that subsidy was put in place, I think there were a few things that my department looked at, but again, given that there are emerging things that have come to play, I can discuss this with my officials and see where we can take this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Iqaluit currently receives just over \$1.25 million, the same as the previous two years, or exactly 15.69 percent of the fund, while population numbers tell me that Iqaluit should be getting well over 20 percent of the fund. Mr. Speaker, an example of this disparity shows that another, much smaller community receives nearly \$100,000 more than Iqaluit. Can the minister explain why this policy isn't following its own formula based on providing minimum amount of water to each community resident? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department has a number of programs and block funding programs that we provide for municipalities, and we do try to make sure that there are equitable funding levels, not just based on population but other factors. We do know that Iqaluit has an utilidor system as well. Not every community is different, but this is an area my department continues to work to make sure that our funding programs to the municipalities as well as things such as water/sewer subsidies are equitable across the board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

#### **Question 620 – 6(2): Chesterfield Inlet Water Infrastructure**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, and they concern the issue of Chesterfield Inlet's water infrastructure.

As the minister will recall, he tabled the Government of Nunavut's new *Drinking Water Strategic Framework* at the beginning of our fall sitting.

Page 15 of the document includes a photograph of Chesterfield Inlet's water reservoir, which is the subject of my first question.



Concerns have been brought to my attention that structural damage to the current reservoir is preventing it from being filled to capacity.

Can the minister confirm that his department is aware of this issue and is working with the municipality to repair the reservoir? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, if my department doesn't know about it, they will know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I guess they're aware of it now and will do some repairs.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the municipality wants to fill water trucks from a nearby lake and keep the road to town open on a year-round basis. Can the minister indicate if his department is working with the municipality to install the necessary pumping infrastructure? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Municipality of Chesterfield Inlet is experiencing some difficulties around their water infrastructure. My department does have prioritization where we're trying to mitigate risks, looking at which community has the highest risk. If Chesterfield Inlet is around the highest risk, then we will try to address it based on the priorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I noted in the preamble to my first question, the minister recently tabled the Government of Nunavut's new *Drinking Water Strategic Framework*. This document indicates that it will cost over \$600 million to "rectify the infrastructure deficit" in Nunavut.

Can the minister clarify what funding commitments have been provided from the federal government to address the water infrastructure needs of the smaller communities, including Chesterfield Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Infrastructure needs across the territory continue to come up on a daily basis. Mr. Speaker, my department works, again, very closely with Infrastructure Canada. Through the green stream funding, we have been able to address many infrastructure deficiencies and issues that we have been dealing with the aging infrastructure.

We discussed my department's capital estimates earlier this sitting, which included a number of at least seven communities that have projects on the go this and last fiscal year, and we are again looking at addressing some of the small and large communities, both included. Mr. Speaker, this is an area that we will continue to push forward and I hope to get the members' and this Assembly's support in continuing forward on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

### **Question 621 – 6(2): Critical Minerals and the Council of the Federation**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Baker Lake. I hope you're having a wonderful day and I hope you won't be too scared tonight during the trick-or-treaters and their masks.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Premier and they concern his recent minister's statement concerning the meeting of the Council of the Federation that took place this summer.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to read the official announcement from this meeting, which included a detailed discussion about the importance of critical minerals to our territory's future and our nation's future. Mr. Speaker, the announcement indicated that:

“Premiers are also focused on promoting Canada's potential as a global powerhouse in the reliable sourcing and supply of critical minerals and rare earth elements. Critical minerals extraction and processing will continue to generate economic prosperity, and create potential to support high value activities in the electric vehicle supply chain. Premiers called on the federal government to take action to ensure the accelerated approval processes identified in Budget 2023 are implemented in a timely manner.”

Mr. Speaker, can the Premier describe what specific changes to the approval process are required? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking the question. I, too, am very pleased with the support we are getting in terms of the opportunities that are right here in the territory, and critical minerals, I think we're all very excited when we see in the territory, we have 22 of the 31 identified minerals where we have so much potential.

During that meeting, I was very pleased to be able to share with all of my colleagues from coast to coast to coast, I would like to see infrastructure for us to be able to tap into these critical minerals that have been identified. During that time, the specific discussions we did talk about were in line to the infrastructure that's needed to unlock on, but also the approval processes that are there in place right now.

As I have mentioned in previous discussions, we have a very stringent and very robust regulatory process here in Nunavut, which respects the institutions of public government that are here, but it's the realization that in order for especially the north and Nunavut to really a key role and tapping this very important resource, we must look at all processes to see if we could expedite that process throughout. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for his response. I'm very glad he mentioned that Nunavut has 22 of the 31 critical minerals identified and they're hopeful that we can do something about extracting them out of the territory.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my colleagues have raised the issue of the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan during our current sitting.

It is my understanding that the Chamber of Mines and other stakeholders have raised serious concerns regarding the extent to which the draft land use plan, if approved in its current form, will prevent critical mineral deposits in Nunavut from being developed.

Mr. Speaker, I recently had meetings with Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. back in the summertime and they specifically spoke to me about the draft land use plan. They do have major concerns about what was drafted up. In their opinion, it will drive away the mining sector from Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, will the Premier assure the House today that the Government of Nunavut will not sign off on the draft land use plan until these concerns have been fully resolved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I really appreciate the member's interest around this. I think we're all eagerly looking at the draft land use plan like my colleague here and it will require a whole-of-government viewpoint. I, too, am aware of the concerns that have been brought forward both my Agnico among many other partners and stakeholders, who I believe want the land use plan to bring clarity about what areas are going to be protected and what areas are available for resource extraction in a sustainable way.

To the member's question, at this point in time, we are doing exactly that, we are deliberating from a whole of government, led by my colleague here, who will really

factor in those concerns that have been brought forward. I trust, through the institution of public government processes where they held public hearings throughout the whole territory at these regional centres where stakeholders, at that moment, provided their concerns and their suggestions.

So that record that has been provided to us, as well as the letters that we have since received are going to be all factored in. I look forward to working with my colleagues to find that balance, and as the member across is aware as well, it will require three signatures to get the draft land use plan. With ourselves, we also have Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, as well as the federal government who will have to sign off on the draft land use plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier, again, for the detailed response. I am glad you're looking at these very seriously and having, I'm sure, pretty good debates amongst yourselves.

I do hope this government will not sign off on it, as I mentioned earlier, it will drive away the mining sector from our territory. Baker Lake, for the last 12 years has enjoyed the pleasure of working for Agnico-Eagle Mines. I currently have over 120 constituents working for Agnico-Eagle Mines, along with subcontractors, at least a couple dozen more.

The Premier did mention we currently have strong, stringent regulatory processes such as the Nunavut Impact Review Board and Nunavut Water Board that go through all of these applications.

Mr. Speaker, the official announcement from the recent meeting of the Council of the Federation made specific reference to the potential of small modular nuclear reactors and uranium.

Mr. Speaker, I do know there is a lot of concern and worries about uranium.

Mr. Speaker, once upon a time, about 15 years ago, a junior mining company wanted to explore for uranium near Baker Lake, and the Nunavut Impact Review Board was brought in specifically on that application. There was community consultation to try to educate people, and I spoke to my grandfather about this to Norman Atungalaaq; he was a man of the land before there were communities, and he mentioned that people should not be worried that this was going to be near a traditional calving ground. My grandfather said that calving grounds will be moved from time to time.

I'm getting to my point, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier is aware, there have been early steps taken in Nunavut to exploring the feasibility of small modular nuclear reactors which are safe and have tremendous potential to provide carbon-free power. The Premier is also aware the Kivalliq is rich in potential when it comes to uranium mining.

Can the Premier confirm that the Government of Nunavut is open to responsible uranium mining in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I would like to thank my colleague too, because I went to Baker Lake when the first mine was opened, and I was able to go and see it myself in 2015. I remember the warm welcome I received in Baker Lake.

Last month, I found that there are a lot of Inuit that are working there, and I'm proud of that. I want to recognize that Baker Lake has contributed a great deal to the mining industry. During our meeting of Premiers in Canada, we started talking about how we can look at our non-renewable resources that can help us develop economically especially our deposits underground and to assess our potential.

In my report, I spoke about the minerals located inside Nunavut, that we have 22 different minerals out of the 31 critical identified minerals. These are part of our overall plan to administer all future mines and minerals as we believe in our public institutions created to deal with that.

As long as the IPGs are used properly, and our communities are engaged fruitfully as they form our foundations in looking at potential mines' economic feasibility, we are open to future developments that can create economic development, however, we rely on the IPGs to oversee impacts. We rely on the bodies that were created under the Nunavut Agreement as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I seek unanimous consent to extend question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There are none. Question period is extended for another 30 minutes. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

### **Question 622 – 6(2): Departmental Positions**

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for extending question period. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister is aware, Pond Inlet is a decentralized community. The minister's department has a number of positions located in the community and I believe that it is

very important that every effort be made to fill these positions with residents of the community.

The minister recently provided me with a listing of departmental positions and vacancies in Pond Inlet. I really appreciate the effort that he made to provide me with this detailed information.

Mr. Speaker, a number of the department's vacant positions in the community appear to be awaiting the allocation of a staff housing unit.

Can the minister indicate how many new staff housing units are required in the community and can he clarify how his department is working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my department continues to try to make some headway around our recruitment of vacancies, not just in *Mittimatalik*, but many of our offices are experiencing this.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have specific details on the number of staff housing units needed, but my department continues to work with the Department of Human Resources as well as the Nunavut Housing Corporation. My department, as well as many other departments, are trying to get those staff housing units made available for our departmental needs.

We are trying to do it as best we can, but, Mr. Speaker, I don't have that level of detail, unfortunately. I can follow up with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we foster healthy workplaces, and it is important that we do everything possible to support the retention of good employees. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that there has recently been a high turnover in the department's Pond Inlet office.

I believe that one of the important elements of workplace wellness is ensuring that new employees who are not from Nunavut receive a comprehensive orientation that includes intercultural awareness and communication.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate how his department's decentralized offices work with the Department of Human Resources to provide community-specific and culturally specific orientation to new employees?

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department alongside Human Resources, when a new employee is put into their position, they go through orientation as well as other training that's made available to the public service.

Mr. Speaker, this is something that we will continue to address through our existing resources as well as look at how better to equip our employees around making sure that they're in a comfortable environment. Mr. Speaker, I'll work alongside my colleague here, Minister Nakashuk, and if there are any other details that my colleague would like to share, I would be more than willing to listen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nutarak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. I'm open to helping out and giving suggestions.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Human Resources recently announced that the Government of Nunavut is introducing a new "interim remote work policy."

In her announcement, the minister indicated that the policy is "aimed at providing government departments and public bodies with a temporary recruitment tool to hire a limited number of highly specialized, professional positions."

Can the Minister of Community and Government Services clarify how many of his department's vacant positions in Pond Inlet may be eligible to be filled with non-residents of Nunavut as part of the government's Remote Work Policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department has many specialized and very technical-related positions within the field and between the different divisions, but right now, through the work that Human Resources has led around remote work as well as Nunavut-wide work, those, I think, are interesting opportunities where our government would like to see some progress around filling vacancies and getting some productivity.

Mr. Speaker, right now, we don't have a flood. I'll say that there is a small pool that we're starting to look at the fairly highly technical, specialized skill sets that fit this category and again, this would be on a temporary basis to try out and see how well it works. We hope to have good results on that and we look forward to the work in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 623 – 6(2): Boarding Home for Rankin Inlet**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions will be for the Minister of Health, partly to do with his minister’s statement, boarding homes.

Mr. Speaker, last week, there was an exchange from Member Sammurtok and Member Malliki about looking at establishing a boarding home in Rankin Inlet, and after that exchange, lots of Arviarmiut were concerned and were disappointed with the outcome of the exchange between the Minister of Health and the MLAs, saying that the numbers don’t warrant establishing a boarding home in Rankin Inlet.

I don’t know if the minister’s numbers were just medical travel going to Rankin Inlet or if it included medical travel from Kivalliq communities going to Winnipeg and from Winnipeg. When there are transportation complications, they have to overnight there, but I will go to the numbers.

Mr. Speaker, my first question to the minister is: what are the numbers for medical travel to Rankin Inlet compared to the boarding home in Churchill, Manitoba, which has five full-time employees in Churchill, Manitoba? Are there more medical patients going to and through Rankin Inlet and Churchill or Churchill? What are the numbers comparing Churchill and Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question on this issue. I heard three questions there. I’ll try to respond in part.

The boarding home in Churchill is called *iglualuk* right now, and it’s the only one being operated by the government. It is generally used for dental patients, and we are concerned about the fact that there’s not much use for the Churchill boarding home right now. People who need surgery, especially children, are generally sent to Churchill. There are many children who need dental work and there is a long waiting list of children. Looking at our numbers, there are just not enough numbers of people to justify it.

Many of our children require pediatric dental care, and we have quite a number of them on a waiting list, and the numbers are being checked to determine how to lessen them as it is a big problem, and our children require dental surgery in many cases, which is (interpretation ends) Pediatric Dental Clinic (interpretation), where they are given general anesthesia for surgery.

We need to provide better dental care for our children, and we are looking very hard to lower the numbers of our children requiring dental surgery, so we send out children to Churchill and to other places such as Winnipeg, Ottawa and here to Iqaluit as well. The



numbers are depressing to look at the facility *iglualuk* in Churchill and seeing the required cases, it is quite worrisome to us, but we need to keep providing dental services out of Churchill for surgical dental procedures. This is the main use for the facility in Churchill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister did not respond to my question. I was asking a question: which one has less patients, going through Rankin Inlet or going through Churchill? Which figure is larger, the ones that are going through Rankin Inlet or going through Churchill, Manitoba? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Rankin Inlet, I know that this is not the first time we have heard about Rankin Inlet wanting a health boarding home, and the questions were posed to the Department of Health. I met with the health officials, and we started research on the figures and the numbers of the patients, so, the staff of the Department of Health had stated that the patients going through Rankin Inlet, perhaps, would be approximately three per day. That would be average.

(interpretation ends) The average number for the medical travel into Rankin Inlet, and this is the result of very close monitoring in recent times, is a nightly average of three medical travellers.

As was previously explained in the House, if we are going to set up a new boarding home, we would need to work with Indigenous Services Canada, and if we go into a room and we sit down with Indigenous Services Canada and we say we want to establish a boarding home in Rankin Inlet, the first thing they're going to ask us, Mr. Speaker, is what's the demand?

What are your numbers? How do you justify this? I'm not sure what the member would like me to say, might like my staff to say, when we can quote an average nightly need for three rooms. What's going to happen and what has happened is we are told to use hotels. That's what we use in Cambridge Bay. That's what we use in Rankin Inlet. We have a very important duty to take care of medical travellers and that's what we do and we make sure that they are taken care of from when they leave their home, when they go to their appointment, and when they come back.

We have other priorities we're trying to deal with in Nunavut. We're trying to deal with mental health. We're trying to deal with public health; tuberculosis. We're trying to deal with many different things. If the member would like a boarding home in Rankin Inlet to be a priority, perhaps the member should suggest something that we should take off of our list to make room to address this need that is perceived. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister is still not alluding to the medical travel numbers between Rankin Inlet and Churchill.

If the minister is suggesting that I ask what to take off, my suggestion would be to shut down the boarding home in Churchill and move it or make another one in Rankin Inlet. I believe the boarding home in Churchill is underutilized and the minister has stated that it's only used for dental travel. I don't know if there are three patients per night in Churchill where the government is operating a boarding home.

If the numbers are the reason they can't build a boarding home for my constituents for travel purposes when there are travel complications, the minister wanted suggestions, then I'll ask the minister: will the minister shut down the Churchill boarding home in place of building one in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As in indicated in my first response, we have a high waiting list for pediatric dental surgery and if we were to shut down the boarding home in Churchill, it could impact our important work to address the backlogs in pediatric dental surgery. These are children with very serious dental issues and so I don't think that shutting down a boarding home would be a good idea. We are concerned with the underutilization of the Churchill boarding home and we are examining options with regard to the Churchill boarding home.

Another concern that we have with the Churchill boarding home is regarding the building itself. We don't own the building; it's leased, actually, from the education authority in Churchill. It's a concern for us in terms of the utilization of that facility and like I had mentioned in this House, the numbers have to be there to justify a facility and, if it's underutilized, then we have to look at options. That's what we're doing right now with regard to Churchill.

However, we do also have to balance that with the very real and pressing medical needs that can be addressed through that operating room and through our partners in Manitoba with regard to pediatric dental surgery. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 624 – 6(2): Child Sexual Abuse**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity to ask questions a second time today.

My questions are for the Minister of Health. I realize he was a little bit emotional just a minute ago and I hope he understands that I'm not targeting him.

Mr. Speaker, the Inuit Health Survey in 2007 and 2008 indicated that over half of Inuit women, 52 percent of Inuit adult women and 22 percent of adult Inuit men had experienced severe sexual abuse in childhood.

Mr. Speaker, we know that experiencing sexual abuse in childhood often leads to committing sexual abuse in adulthood.

My question to the minister today is whether or not the Department of Health is tracking the number or doing injury surveillance related to child sexual assaults and whether or not that surveillance information can be made available to the regular members. That's injury surveillance on child sexual assaults by parents, caregivers, spouse, partner, or anyone else. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for raising this issue. I think the exchange with Member Lightstone and Minister Nakashuk was important in my opinion and it's very difficult to talk about these issues, but they need to be discussed and so I thank the member for raising this issue.

There are protocols in place within the department in terms of how we deal with medical needs related to sexual assaults, whether it be on minors or whether it be on adults, but in terms of the specific question around data and how we can share that data, it's something that I am currently not aware of what specific statistics could be pulled out and whether or not those statistics would be able to be shared.

As I mentioned, I do appreciate the question on this issue and it's something that I can commit to looking into further and responding to the member or the members. If the member would prefer that the response go to all members, then that's what I can certainly commit to looking into. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. I would prefer that the information go to all members. We're a pretty good team, I think, and the more information we have, the better it is for all of us.

If the minister will excuse the fact that I can't quote or can't tell you where I'm quoting these rates from at the moment because I just hastily pulled together these questions, Mr. Speaker, in my research just now, I pulled up some information and I think it says as far back as 2004 that Nunavut's chlamydia and gonorrhea rates were 20 times higher than the national average and being highest amongst adolescents. In that same piece of research that I found, it stated that 20 percent of Nunavut's school children have been treated for sexually transmitted infections.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you from my experience being the manager of health protection where the team reported back to me and where we were responsible for collecting this data at that time that the rates are alarming; they're shocking. I would like to also ask the Minister of Health if he is able to provide more up-to-date data on those sexually transmitted infections and I'm not talking about congenital infections, which is infections that babies are born with, usually transmitted by the mom. I'm talking about sexually transmitted infections that an infant or a child might catch from an individual who is doing harm to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the chief public health officer's duties, I can share that sexually transmitted infections in Nunavut are a key concern and the Department of Health is committed to improving the public health reporting so that we can keep Nunavummiut up to date in terms of public health issues.

Health is currently working on a status report on the three most common sexually transmitted infections in Nunavut, which are gonorrhoea, chlamydia, and syphilis. The report is currently being translated for publication and I look forward to seeing that being published and made available. That report will provide the statistics the hon. member is looking for. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister Main, over the course of my career, I had the great pleasure of working with Dr. Allison Crawford, who I'm not sure if she is still the Director of Northern Psychiatric Outreach Program for the Centre of Addictions and Mental Health in Toronto, but I know she did work with us in that capacity. At one point, she said that "The degree of childhood abuse is something I think is talked about even less than suicide." She testified at the suicide inquest that occurred here a few years ago and she said that it's still present and prevalent in communities.

Mr. Speaker, we know that child sexual abuse in particular is often a determinant that ends in suicide for those who experience it.

My question to the minister is whether or not the new Nunavut Recovery Centre will have a team and a program to help children and adults who have experienced sexual abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking those questions as they go hand in hand. Suicide prevention and sexual abuse need help through the Mental Health Program. We know that children who are sexually abused

are closer to committing suicide at any point throughout their life and they are at a greater risk of danger.

(interpretation ends) In terms of Aqqusariaq and the specific questions around the programming that will be offered there, it's a really good question. The programming side of Aqqusariaq Nunavut Recovery Centre has not yet been finalized. We have an amazing team. There are actually several committees that are working on developing the programming for the facility. We have really placed an emphasis on putting Inuit societal values and Inuit culture at the forefront of that.

As the Aqqusariaq development team continues their work, I'm really looking forward to seeing what types of programming they're going to be recommending or developing to use within the facility. I have already committed to look into something for the member, so I can commit to looking into the work to date and whether child sexual abuse has been singled out or highlighted to date through the development team's work. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

#### **Question 625 – 6(2): Diseased Wildlife Monitoring**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for recognizing me again, especially since I missed four days last week for medical travel.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my questions to the Minister of Environment regarding his minister's statement of yesterday on wildlife diseases monitoring of caribou. On the second page of his statement at the very top, "...the Kitikmeot sample confirmed parasitic disease. These suspected parasites are causing inflammation/swelling of muscles and connective tissues."

I'm wondering: is there a known cause as to why these caribou are getting these kinds of sicknesses? Is there a standard reason for something like this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the years, hunters have reported diseases within caribou, but it's very rare for reporting of wildlife diseases within the territory for caribou management.

For the member's question, I sincerely have no information as to how I can share it as that information is not in front of me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. I do hope that if the department does find out, he will relay that information to me.

Mr. Speaker, going on, on the same page in the next paragraph, he mentions that his “department is still awaiting the diagnostic results from the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) for the Kivalliq sample.” Mr. Speaker, I’m wondering: when he receives the results, will he be publicizing that to Kivallirmiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I can commit the Department of Environment to make a public service announcement in terms of how it can work together with communities in terms of reporting through caribou harvesting. I will keep the member informed when the results do come from the laboratories that were sent to Canadian southern counterparts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his commitment. Going on again on the same page, he mentions that they “continue to work with wildlife and other disease experts and the regional environmental health officers to coordinate further response.” I’m wondering: does the minister also have a working collaboration with our neighbouring regions, such as the Northwest Territories, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan? I believe we share some caribou with those regions and, if he does, whether or not they are noticing more illnesses in caribou. I’m wondering: can I get an answer from that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have a close working relationship with our neighbouring jurisdictions of the Northwest Territories, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan in terms of caribou management, but they do have their own ways of managing caribou within their jurisdiction. We work closely with our neighbours, as I stated, and we will continue to be proactive in working with our counterparts for the betterment of our caribou population across the territory. I can get back to the member as well in terms of how we work together with our neighbouring jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period is now over. Today was a long-winded day of questions and long-winded day of answers on important topics, but maybe only because the blizzard never arrived.

>> *Laughter*

Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading

of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 31, 32, and 33 and Tabled Documents 1 – 6(2), 120 – 6(2), 163 – 6(2), and 174 – 6(2) with Mr. Hickes in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:57 and Committee resumed at 16:22*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Hickes): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 31, 32, and 33 and Tabled Documents 1 – 6(2), 120 – 6(2), 163 – 6(2), and 174 – 6(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki**: Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with Bill 31 and continue with the review of the 2024-25 capital appropriation for the Department of Health and, if time permits, we will commence with the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Is the committee in agreement that we first deal with Bill 31?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

### **Bill 31 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2024-2025 – Health – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman**: Thank you. Minister Main, do you have any officials that you would like to appear before you in committee?

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

**Chairman**: Thank you. Does the committee agree to allow the minister's witnesses to appear before the committee?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you. Just for the record, Minister Main, if you could introduce your officials.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To my right, your left, is Deputy Minister Megan Hunt; to my left, your right, Greg Babstock, Executive Director of Corporate Services. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We left off yesterday just right after both the minister and the chair of the standing committee provided opening comments. I'll open the floor right now to general comments to the opening comments. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to welcome the minister and his officials here.

During the minister's opening comments, he stated that they want to build facilities for elders so that they can be closer to their home communities. However, the elders that I've heard from want to be in their own communities. That's the comment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Any other general comments to the Opening Comments? I see none. I'll open the floor for comments on Directorate, Department of Health, \$21,720,000. Mr. Malliki, I believe you had some questions as well? My apologies. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening minister, Ms. Hunt and Mr. Babstock.

Before going into my question, I'll start off with a comment. I was very happy to receive the last-minute addition to your capital request for the Qikiqtaaluk and Kitikmeot regional long-term care facilities.

I was worried when I did not see this in the initial budget one committee had reviewed earlier in the fall, I was a bit concerned about the timeline of these projects, but again I am very happy to see that the Department of Health was able to submit or include these two projects in the current upcoming capital budget.

Along the lines of the long-term care facilities, in your opening comments you state that on page two, that the long-term care facility in Rankin Inlet substantial completion is now expected in January, and first cohort is expected to take place in the new home in spring of 2024.

This is excellent; all three of these long-term care facilities are very excellent projects and I appreciate your comment to enhance the other elders' facilities in other communities as well.

One thing that I have been raising about this Rankin Inlet long-term care facility is the training and the employment aspect which would be necessary to bring this facility online.

Forgive me, Mr. Chairman, this is sort of borderline operations and maintenance, but the incremental O&M aspects are tied to this capital project, so if you will let me, I would like to ask the minister if he would be able to update us on the progress in filling the positions in the Rankin Inlet long-term care facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. I will give you a bit of leeway here as it is directly tied to capital infrastructure that's nearing completion.

I can speak, I'm sure for all of us, that we don't want any major piece of infrastructure like that sitting there without an operation plan, or without staff. I will allow this question but be careful how far you go down it. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for the questions. Requests for proposals, for the operations of the Rankin Inlet elders facility to be a private facility and not to be run by the government, but to be run privately; that would be our main desire.

The request for proposals has a closing date of today, so we will see if its trick or treat once its closed.

(interpretation ends) I think, you know, from a high level, we are hoping that the request for proposals will close successfully, but at this point its too early to say.

We do really see value in collaborating with the private sector where possible and I think this is one of those situations. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister for providing that update.

I really hope that the RFP will be successful. I would hate for the Department of Health to come along with similar situation as the Department of Economic Development and Transportation with their proposal to operate the deep sea port here in Iqaluit. Again, I wish you success in this RFP and would hate to have that threatened, the potential timeline for opening that facility.

I'll move on to my next line of questioning in relation to the Nunavut recovery centre, Aqqusariaq. The Department of Health is still trying to determine who will operate this facility as well. When will the Department of Health make a determination on that aspect? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Aqqusariaq I think, is a very important project for the Department of Health and the territory as a whole, and from the beginning, it's been a trilateral project between Nunavut Tunngavik, Indigenous Services Canada and ourselves.

In terms of the governance and the operations of the facility, we've been evaluating a number of options, and recently, a decision was made to go down the road towards a non-profit governance structure, and so that's the avenue that we are now pursuing.

The groundwork is happening there at the site of Aqqusariaq. It's really exciting to see, and the ground-breaking that we had, the tundra turning this summer was a real kind of touching event due to all the special people who were there, including some residential school survivors, as well as some people with really extensive lived experience. It was a really happy moment for the Department of Health. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. People in Iqaluit have been raising concerns in recent years over the issue of public safety, and many of those concerns are fueled by those suffering from addictions and mental health issues, which do require a complex needs.

Unfortunately, the subgroup of people in Iqaluit have fallen through the cracks and really haven't been provided with many options to assist them in their road to recovery and making the right choice. The topic of programming in Aqqusariaq has come up on numerous occasions.

I am wondering if, throughout the discussions, the Department of Health has had with the tripartite group, if the complex needs of those individuals in Iqaluit suffering with addictions and mental health issues have been included? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, there's been representation from the community of Iqaluit on the development team, and some of the non-profit groups locally have been represented. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, for that response. I highly suspect I know which non-profit you are referring to.

With regard to the complex needs of these individuals, and it states in the business case summary that there will be residential treatment, as well as outpatient programming. For this group of Iqalummiut homeless, living on the streets, and self-medicating to address their past traumatic events, which category of programming would they be able to utilize at this facility? Would they be able to access residential treatment in one of the 24 beds, or would they be limited to outpatient programming? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The answer would be all of the above. At the end of the day, it depends on the individual's care plan, their plan for treatment. At different points in an individual's recovery journey, you could see them participating in some of the public events, such as Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, which can be held in the public part of the facility. You could see them participating in day programming. You could see them taking part in on the land programming which will also be a component of Aqqusariaq and the residential component.

It really depends, but I think for the question, the answer is it could be all of the above at different points in time. It depends on the individual's needs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I'm glad to hear that, all of the above and potentially both residential and outpatient programming.

This group in Iqaluit that are suffering through mental health and addictions, causing all the public safety concerns, this group has got to be in the range of 60 to 100 individuals. Will the amount of programming be sufficient to meet the demands of all those Iqalummiut plus others from across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) It's a really good question. There is a huge need, not just in Iqaluit but Nunavut-wide for this type of service. I really can't answer the question, whether that will be sufficient to meet the need.

I can say that we are... Aqqusariaq isn't the only bright spot on the horizon. We are seeing increasing strength of non-profits across Nunavut. The Department of Health really wants to support partnerships and we want to support non-profit organizations. We look at all the different pieces that are needed, whether it's transitional housing, whether it's non-profits providing day programming, or whether it's residential treatment through Aqqusariaq. There are a lot of different pieces that need to come into place.

We won't know whether the service quantity, the number, is enough until we've actually started to offer the treatment. It's really something we're looking forward to, opening the doors on that facility for Iqalummiut, but also for all of Nunavut. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister Main. For my last question, we all understand how important and needed this facility is for Nunavummiut. For my last question, it's indicated in the substantiation sheet that the substantial completion date is August 2025, which is less than two years away. Are there any risks that the project could face with meeting this projected completion date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Babstock to respond to that, Mr. Chairman. I would thank you if you let him.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Babstock.

**Mr. Babstock:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks again for the question. As of right now, we remain on track for substantial completion, but any number of different things can occur to cause delay, as is typical for any capital development project.

We carefully monitor, along with our project management team at Community and Government Services, to ensure that we are as on track as we possibly can be and keep the schedule as we've got it posted now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name I have on my list, Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am grateful and wanted to express my appreciation to the fact that this is included in the capital plans. The proposed Qikiqtarjuaq health centre is probably the oldest facility and it is acknowledged that it is (interpretation ends) 51 years old as a health centre with two or three renovations that have taken place.

(interpretation) Our community is ecstatic to be informed that this new facility has received approval for future construction, and this fact that construction will commence shortly. I have a question under the design of this health facility and that it falls under the planning stages where there is no question it will proceed.

The design of the facility and how it will be built is what I want to question here and although it is written within this area (interpretation ends) under the scope of the work package (interpretation) in the community. This includes the local leadership who make the decisions and whether they were engaged or included, and in reading the language, I am impressed by the details under this plan.

I would like to know if the project will garner inclusion of the leadership of our community, as arbitrarily constructed buildings are generally more expensive as people know of the local weather conditions such as the prevailing wind directions, and when the architectural designers do not know this information, they place the front doors in the worst positions.

In most major construction projects, the local people of the communities were not included nor consulted, it leads to huge maintenance issues for the building since the design was done without the inclusion of local knowledgeable people, and in past designs, poor placement of the doors and windows led to having to renovate the building doors since the prevailing winds would keep the doors opened, even without the winds being that of a blizzard.

I am making this preambular comment although I don't really have questions on the design, Mr. Chairman, but I wanted to commend the way it was planned out and to provide this information to you and your departmental planners.

Lessons have been learned in Sanikiluaq and Cape Dorset, having dealt with major problems with prior capital infrastructure constructed using the past practices, and I wanted to ensure that these previous mistakes are not repeated.

I was in the mayoral position at that time during that planning phase, and our council decided that if we could be patient as other communities had higher need of a health centre, we decided that we could spend the time negotiating more design changes, and now our turn has finally materialized.

The remaining query I have is related to the actual lot that was identified for the health centre construction phase, and I cannot recall if it was lot 340, lot 341 or 342. I would like to ask if the minister is aware of the lot that will be where the centre is built. I would like to hear that if the minister can recall the number. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I completely understand the comments the member was making, and I thank her for them.

In regard to the question about the lot for the health centre, we don't know. We only know the lot number. I only know the lot number right now and I'm not sure exactly where in the community it will be. I don't know what part of the community it will be built on, but I can get back to the member with that information.

People of Qikiqtarjuaq will have to be invited to a meeting when the designer has been selected and we will let the company doing the design, the fact that they have to meet with people in the community to consult with the community and hear options presented by the community.

The other two health centres that were mentioned, the one in Sanikiluaq and Kinngait; we are always trying to find ways to improve them. Looking at the design and architectural drawings, it's looking better. Whenever something is built, sometimes there are deficiencies, and they always look for way to correct the deficiencies and Mr. Babstock knows the details.

If it's okay with Mr. Chairman, I would like him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Proceed, Mr. Babstock.

**Mr. Babstock:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks again for the question. With respect to health centres, we have progressively learned and applied best practices from right back to Arctic Bay into Sanikiluaq and into Kinngait. All those lessons learned will be again brought forward into the new building in Qikiqtarjuaq.

Some of these improvements including mental health calming rooms and incorporating negative pressure rooms for tuberculosis clients.

Also one of the latest things that was put in to the Kinngait facility were specific services for our nursing staff to help with recruitment and retention by providing a little weight room and a private kitchen area for them to help with recruitment and retention effort.

Again, those are the types of best practices and again the input from the community is vital. To that, not only in terms the point that you raised about the orientation of the building, but also things like the fixtures, the colours that are being used, the artwork that gets incorporated into the building to make it homely, make it personalized, make it a representation of the community itself.

Again you hit right perfectly on exactly the process that we do follow in the development of a building within the community, and I am appreciative for you raising it Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you,. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for giving that good information. So the lessons learned are being utilized and that's good to hear. The question I have is: Will there be space for eye doctors, or dentists rooms that the eye doctors and dentists can use? They really have a lack of space in the centre, in the old health centre. I would like to if there is going to be any accommodation for those two disciplines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, eye doctors and dentists will have space at the health centre. All communities have a day. For example, in one year a dentist can go to a community for 50 days and do their work in the community. Those numbers are always getting higher in Nunavut, and we are always lobbying the federal government for more days in Nunavut. It's good that we know that dentistry is getting stronger in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) There is a list of other specialists, Mr. Chairman, that are supported through health centres. In communities like Qikiqtarjuaq, where the health centre is sadly inadequate, our ability to bring in specialists to the community level is hampered.

That's where we look at this new facility. It's going to allow more specialist like pediatrics, physiotherapists, and more of these specialist services to be delivered at the community level. As opposed to sending clients out of the community, we can send the specialists in to the community. That, for us, is really exciting because that's what we want to do, we want to deliver care closer to home.

We want to be transporting the medical professionals around and not necessarily transporting the clients around if we can reverse those situations. That's something that we're looking forward to for (interpretation ends) people from Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we would be very proud of that, and it would settle many things if that could be done. It really sounds good the way you describe it.

Moving on to a different question now. We always want to get bigger buildings where people can work.

Have there been any agreements or questions, or where are the plans for the old health centre after the new health centre has been built? Looking five years into the future, what are your intentions for that asset? Do you want the community to plan for it, or are you going to notify the hamlet? What are the plans for that facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Once we no longer need the 51-year-old facility, we look forward to that day very much. Once we no longer have a need for that facility, it would be surplus and turned over to our partners at Community and Government Services who have a policy for surplus assets and how they are dealt with. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's what we do in the communities. We demand it and then we really want to use it. I'm sure that will happen with the new health centre.

I would like to move on to another question in regard to Qikiqtarjuaq staff. There are 12 staff at the moment. Once the facility is constructed and completed, do you envision or

estimate perhaps 29 staff could be housed in that new facility? I was wondering if you have considered this very carefully to make sure that it goes through properly?

Although it's written down, I would like to hear from you. I know that you will use the plan and implement it in order to get more employees. I would like to hear more information in regard to more employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Treading a little bit into the O&M, but I'll allow this one. We'll cut off this discussion after this response if it's adequate. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the O&M component to the new facility, and if there is a need for additional staff, it's quite likely that there would be an opportunity to bring on more staff.

The Department of Health would, through the budgetary process, seek additional resources to fund those positions, and ultimately bring it to the Assembly and to the MLAs for their review and approval. It would need to go through the budgetary process, looking at the roles, looking at the scope and the function of the positions that would be needed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Other than repurposing existing positions, that is the only other avenue. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I want to go back to one of the questions that I asked earlier about the design modifications of the new health centre project that may include the addition of safe rooms for mental health patients, isolation rooms for individuals with such diseases as tuberculosis, a birthing centre, and care beds.

Will there be any specific modification of Qikiqtarjuaq's new health centre?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think the best way to answer this is that those questions are important, and they'll be answered in the design development process.

Looking at what types of functions that are required in the community, for example, the dentistry needs and the needs around eye care, so the different spaces in the facility would be set out through the design process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. This is my last question. With the new health centre, according to the increased number of staff



when the new health centre is completed, will they be adding new nurses? I know that they will require staff homes. Is that on your radar of your plans? Staff housing for the nurses; that's my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I think this is an important question, so I thank the member. Looking at the most recent example, a new health centre being built, which is Sanikiluaq, there is work that has happened in that case with our partners at Nunavut Housing Corporation and Community and Government Services with regard to the staff housing piece.

With regard to Qikiqtarjuaq, we will be looking to use a similar approach. We have moved away from that, but there is no question that adequate staff housing is a key component to operating a health centre effectively and so we would be looking to work with the housing corporation and Community and Government Services on that need as part of the project. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name I have on my list: Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and your staff. I just had a quick flashback when nursing stations were now being called health centres and it took me a lot of practise to say "health centre" instead of "nursing station." My mother kept saying "health centre, health centre."

Mr. Chairman, regarding the minister's opening comments, I've got a few questions from this. On page 2 in the second paragraph, it speaks to "Health continues to make progress towards addressing the long-term care needs of Nunavummiut. It has been a key ongoing priority of the department to build long-term care bed capacity in Nunavut to support all levels of care for the elder population."

Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering if the minister can speak to what progress he actually is referring to in that paragraph. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think, in terms of the progress that we have seen, we have seen construction activities at the Rankin Inlet facility move steadily along. There have been a few hiccups in the process, a few delays, but that has been a major undertaking and we're very thankful to our partners at Community and Government Services for their support.

In terms of the other two facilities that we are working on, it has been more progress behind the scenes in terms of all the work that our staff have been doing around planning, scoping out facilities, and analyzing options. I know that it's a project that's really important and it's really central in our mandate. Health has been working with our

partner departments to advance things and we've gotten to the point where we are asking for monies towards planning and design, and it's quite exciting.

I can say personally that it hasn't happened as quickly as I would have liked, but at the end of the day, we are making progress, so that's what we're referring to. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for the clarification for that paragraph. I was actually hoping, for the planning portion, if there were going to be other communities listed besides Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay. I believe those are the two other facilities that you are referring to because, in the paragraph, it does say "...bed capacity in Nunavut to support all levels of care for the elder population."

I'm wondering: is the department looking at other communities for bed capacity? It's no secret that I have brought it up numerous times now where Baker Lake once upon a time had an elder care facility that was shut down in 2018. Baker Lake still does have a high population of elders and we have, unfortunately, had to fly some elders out of Baker Lake for elder care. I do know that there is one in Gjoa Haven. I believe there is one in Arviat and I do know that there is another in Ottawa. Those are the three that come to mind.

I'm wondering: is the department now looking at planning now after these two other communities that were mentioned earlier? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's a really good question and I think the member's question was one that I faced last month or very similar to ones that I faced last month in the standing committee, the health and wellness standing committee.

The question of what development needs to happen following the construction of Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay, at this point, we don't have any definitive plans. As a department, we are focused on getting Rankin Inlet completed, getting Rankin Inlet operating, moving into planning and design, if the Assembly gives us the support for that for Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay, but the request for more facilities in more communities has come through loud and clear.

I can't give any specifics in terms of what would follow after those facilities, but we are looking to add more beds in Nunavut and there are some alternative models of care that could be considered, looking a few years down the road. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you again, minister. Can the minister explain as to why there aren't any definitive plans yet for after these two other communities? If they are constructed, it would be nice to see if there is actually planning happening for what's next. We've got to start planning ahead now for years to come so that we're not surprised as to what may come if we're going to go in that direction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Again, it's a good question. At the end of the day, we only have a limited amount of resources and so I'm talking both in terms of our budgets and also in terms of our staff. If you look at the different projects that the Department of Health along with our partners are managing, we are pretty much full-out right now in terms of what we can handle. We would like to be able to do everything. I would love to see us building multiple health centres at once. I would love to see us leaping forward on elder care capacity in territory, but we are limited in terms of how much we can handle at any one time.

As part of our mandate implementation plan, I mentioned alternative models of care. The Green House model is one that we have committed to looking into. It could possibly be useful in Nunavut for smaller communities. There are other models of care, such as the Eden Alternative and the Butterfly Model of Care. There are a few different models that are in use in other parts of Canada and worldwide that in our unique, rural context, it could come into play in the future.

I hope that answers the question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks again, minister. It does kind of answer my question, but at the same time, it doesn't fully answer. The minister mentioned that there are partners with Health with planning and whatnot or going through the process of planning and construction. Is there something else delaying the thinking of what's next after these two communities? Rankin Inlet is coming online now and then right after that, there are only two communities listed so far for construction. When you look at it, 2 out of 22 or 23...25 communities in Nunavut, thank you, minister, it's very short-sighted, I think, that we're only looking at two for now. Why aren't we looking at what's next and start planning now?

Mr. Babstock, I think, is that his name, mentioned that they're learning from each project every time and I'm sure that there are lessons learned so far from the Rankin Inlet project and these two other facilities. Anyway, what partners is Health working with and is there a known delay as to why the government isn't thinking of what's coming after the two other communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the planning and development, we're working with Community and Government Services. We also have support from the Department of Justice in terms of looking at options. The Department of Finance has also been able to support us. Behind the scenes, the analysis of options and the process that I described earlier that has brought us to the point of asking for planning and design dollars for Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit, those have been our main partners.

One piece of work that I should mention is the senior strategy that's being led by Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs in terms of what's next in Nunavut. The senior strategy is not focused on long-term care; it's focused on taking a broader look at the need of seniors. I'm not trying to dance around the question, but we know that there are several factors that bring elders into long-term care earlier than would be necessary if other supports were available.

Using the Department of Health as an example, increased home care supports and increased supports for families at the community level to keep elders in their homes longer, we know that that can have an impact on the need for long-term care. It's a very complex need and long-term care is only a part of a continuum of services that we can offer. I think it's through the senior strategy that we're going to see a path forward articulated that won't just involve the Department of Health; it won't just involve long-term care. There will be lots of different elements in there to strengthen services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you again, minister, for the responses. You mentioned the senior strategy. I was hoping that that would have been done by now at least. We're halfway into our term now. I'm hoping it will lead to showing the actual need for more of these facilities across Nunavut and I think it will in my opinion, but I wonder if the deputy minister can commit to looking at Baker Lake specifically for elder care facilities and long-term care facilities of some sort for what's next after the other two communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm hesitant to commit specifically for Baker Lake, but I can commit to pushing as hard as I can to advance the planning and advance looking at alternative models that I mentioned earlier, particularly the Green House model.

As I mentioned from the standing committee, this was one of the top issues that we heard about. Again, we have it raised here in Committee of the Whole. I would like to reassure the member that when you ask questions and when you ask for or point out needs, those don't fall on deaf ears and that it is incumbent on the Department of Health to listen and

to respond. I hope that's some commitment or reassurance that the member can take from this. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you; when given the opportunity to answer questions. Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you again, minister. I do hope that this government will listen and really listen to our needs. It's not just wants; it's the actual needs. I think it has been known nationwide for a while now that these types of facilities are in greater demand now and I do hope that this government will start actually planning towards seeing some of these things. He did mention that there are other options that the department will look at. Looking at and actually committing to trying to fulfill some of these are two different things. I'm hoping that this government will actually work towards seeing more after Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay, if those are approved.

Moving on to my next line of questioning, Mr. Chairman, same thing in the minister's opening remarks on page 5 at the very top, "Baker Lake is the next community health centre that Health has identified," see, it's easier to say but you get stuck with health, "...Health has identified for replacement and is proposed as a planning project for the coming fiscal year." I'm wondering; it says "...planning project for the coming fiscal year." If this is approved, will that really be in there for next fiscal year for planning? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the planning process and the different steps, if you will allow Mr. Babstock to elaborate. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Babstock.

**Mr. Babstock:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks again for the question. As part of the capital development process of the Government of Nunavut, the first stage of that is the planning phase where they will go and do things like lot selection, do various lot examinations like the geotechnical aspects of it, and come up with the class "D" cost estimate for the facility. That is what is planned to commence in '24-25 for Baker Lake. It has been a long-standing priority of ours and we're coming through with that and getting the support to move that forward to see the replacement of that existing building within the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Just before I go back to Mr. Simailak, I would just like to make an announcement. Unfortunately, the City of Iqaluit has postponed Halloween until tomorrow evening due to the very windy weather, just to make sure that our little ghosts and goblins stay safe out there. I know it's a tough pill to swallow or a sour piece of candy. It depends on how you want to look at it, but Halloween will move forward. It's just that unfortunately, it will be tomorrow. Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Safety first, so I'm glad that they're looking at the weather for our little ghosts and goblins.

Thank you, Babstock, for the response. I have noticed that since I became an MLA, once you look at class "D" estimates and then when you finally get to class "A" estimates, there is a huge difference in the dollar figures or the estimates. The departments usually end up coming back asking for more money, saying, "Oh, we underestimated. We actually need another million dollars." Can you please explain why you're going with a class "D" estimate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The class "D" estimate would be developed through the planning process. As you move closer, if you move right to class "A," the margin of error becomes lesser and lesser and the estimates become more accurate.

I think what maybe the member is referring to is the cost escalations that we have seen post-pandemic with inflation in the country and different inflationary pressures. We have seen that on numerous occasions. Once the detailed design phase would be completed for the health centre, we would then have a class "B" estimate. I think that at the end of the day, we want to present the most accurate information that we have to the Assembly for your consideration. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move along. Further down on the page, the department is also request its annual budget allocation of \$1.5 million for small capital procurements. I'm wondering, what exactly does that mean? I know there is medical equipment in there.

I'll use Baker Lake as an example. Sometimes some of my constituents are medivacked to Rankin Inlet, the regional hospital, because they have better equipment there or equipment that the Baker Lake Health Centre doesn't have. It's just so that smaller communities can secure more medical equipment so that my constituents can stay in Baker Lake longer and receive service at the local health centre instead of being medivacked out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When we look at the small capital item, as is detailed in the substantiation sheet, we're talking about everything from defibrillators to snow blowers to chest compressors, disinfectant machines. So this fund is shared between different facilities across Nunavut.

When you look at all the specialized equipment that's in the health centres, for example in Baker Lake, we are continually needing to upgrade and stay current with the equipment on hand. Mr. Babstock and his team stretch this small capital budget as far as they can with prioritization on health and safety type considerations getting to the top of the list. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. If I can re-ask the other part of my question. This is so that we can keep patients in their home community for longer. This is so that we can get specialized medical equipment in our local health centres, instead of flying them down to Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, or Cambridge Bay in the Kitikmeot region. This is so that the local health centres can get more specialized medical equipment and keep our patients in home community longer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this to my deputy minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Deputy Minister Hunt.

**Ms. Hunt** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you to the member for the question.

I really appreciate your question because it's very important one. It really is very much three-fold. One, this is really a way to make sure that we maintain the facilities and its equipment to a standard that allows us the opportunity to deliver quality healthcare services.

The second is that it does advance the opportunity to then continue to have services coming closer to home. So as we maintain these facilities, we upgrade with minor areas of equipment and things that keep the facility sound. It also helps us with recruitment, retention and being able to services closer to home. Those are really the main objectives around the items that you see as part of the small capital. Thank you, *iksivautaq*.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, deputy minister. With my last bit of time, I think I will go back to regarding the Nunavut long-term care facilities for Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit. (interpretation) Have the drawings for the two projects been done for the next elders projects? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, they have not had the drawings done. We have requested funds for Cambridge Bay plan and also the one in Iqaluit that we can proceed to plan and further develop the drawings.

(interpretation ends here) So the request has come both through the capital estimate, as well as the supplementary appropriation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. The drawings of the plans haven't been done. I thought perhaps if they become too fancy, they become expensive. We need something basic or are you making these fancy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the facilities and what they will end up looking like; for Cambridge Bay, we are looking to model it after the Rankin Inlet facility. Whether that facility is *miraarjuk* or not, it is very nice. It will be a nice looking facility once its completed and will meet standards.

We are conscious of capital costs, and we do make efforts to reduce costs where possible. When you look at the cost per bed on the capital side, it is a concern for us that we need to be, building capacity, but doing in it in a cost-effective manner.

I spoke to Cambridge Bay for Iqaluit. It would be a 48 bed facility. In terms of what it would look like, I can't speak too much in terms of the design elements, but we will make efforts to control costs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, the next name I have on my list, Ms., Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome Minister Main and your official. My first question is: On November 1 of last year, Minister Main indicated that the substantial completion date for Aqqusariaq, the Nunavut recovery centre, would be January 2025. On page 5 of 7 of this year's substantiation sheet, it indicates that the substance of completion would be August 2025.

I wonder if we can get an explanation about the change in date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) When that original timeline was communicated, we were still in the planning process.



Now that we've moved into the construction phase, the timelines are much firmer. We awarded the construction contract to Arctic Fresh, who is working with a construction outfit known as Pemko, and we look forward to seeing the construction advance. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I just, again going back to responses last year, minister. In response to a question from me, you indicated that that the costs implications related wastewater and water for the projects would be placed on the projects, or lot developer. I'm just wondering if that's still the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't have that information here, but I am willing to get back to the member on that, if that would be acceptable. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, last year, in response to a question by Mr. Hickes, and there was a discussion about the child care facility in the centre and the minister stated that it will include a daycare, so there will be some staffing needs around that and administration as well as support services. I know that we're kind of treading a line towards operations, but this was spoken about last year, so I would just like a follow-up on what the plans are. I have more questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Brewster. We do try to tread on this kind of grey area when we are talking about new capital infrastructure and the staffing that's going to be needed to fulfill the goals of that infrastructure. We have been fairly lenient on allowing those questions through. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the facility, yes, it will include child care. The lack of child care has been identified as a deterrent to people seeking treatment.

In terms of the staffing, now that we have made the decision to move towards a non-profit governance model, the employees of the facility will be tied to the non-profit organization. In terms of the workforce planning aspects for the facility, those are still under development. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 2 of the substantiation sheet, it states that child care will be provided for both outpatient clients as well as for family cycles in

the residential program. What I'm wondering is whether or not there is a plan for family-specific programs that include children in treatment and recovery. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy if you would allow my deputy minister to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Hunt, please proceed.

**Ms. Hunt** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) *Qujannamiik* to the member for the question. As part of the work that the development team, who really has been instrumental in the design and the intention around programming and how the recovery centre will serve Nunavummiut, it is one of the considerations that is being looked at. Individual, family, and gender-specific treatment are all areas that are being considered to serve different and diverse populations and groups of people across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Page 3 of 7 of the substantiation sheets, in the fourth bullet, it states that the child care section should include a daycare for infants and toddlers, as well as a classroom for school age children. I would just like more information on that because it really does impact a family's ability to seek or even just an individual's ability to seek treatment for whatever ails them. I would like to know more specifically about that classroom setting and what the approach there will be. Will it be a tutor? Is there work being done with the Department of Education to create a classroom setting that will be staffed by employees of Education who are teachers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister is more familiar with the details, so I would be happy if you would allow her to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go ahead, Ms. Hunt.

**Ms. Hunt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question from the member. I think the best way to answer that question is that as part of the offering model and areas of program design that are being considered, those are things that are being looked at. A specific response to the exact model of the programs and services for children from an education perspective, we will have to come back and give you further updates.

What I can say is that we're looking at many different things that will be important to a diverse age range of children and families that will be served by the recovery centre. That may be things like early childhood education. There may be areas where it is around education for children, kindergarten and older, whether that be with tutors, elders, or teachers from our school system. Those are all things that are being looked at so that we can provide the most quality services as well as experience and outcomes for any family and children that are coming through the facility doors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hunt. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did note on the same page that there is a plan for a fenced playground for child care. I really do appreciate that, knowing that there is a large body of water very close by and that creates a safety issue.

That same page, 3 of 7, the first bullet, indicates that there will be sobering bedrooms that will be available at the centre. I know we've had discussion about the fact that the recovery centre will be partnering with the Qikiqtani General Hospital to help out anybody who is withdrawing from alcohol or drugs. I would like a little bit more information about what this sobering bedroom will be and whether or not it is a secure bedroom, and why there is a need for a sobering bedroom if there is a plan to send clients to the hospital for sobering up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow my deputy minister to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Hunt, please.

**Ms. Hunt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, member, for the question. I think what's really important about your question is really around patient safety. A sobering bed often is meant for someone who is more likely to be in a position where, in that facility, they are safe to sober without being in a medical centre that requires significant potential interventions, medication, other assessment, and treatment.

That really is how you distinguish between the two, that it is around the level of care, safety, and requirements that a patient may need and if they are safe to be in a sobering bed in the facility, and then that would be the course of action, and then if they required a higher level of care, intervention, and support for their safety to get ready to be able to step down into the recovery centre, then that would be the goal of the medical facility to support those things. Thank you for the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I actually see, looking closer, it says "sobering bedrooms." I am happy to see that because I know that many people who are seeking

treatment often will arrive at treatment having consumed drugs and alcohol and knowing that it won't preclude them from starting a program or continuing of a program if they should lapse, I think, is really important because we know that it takes a lot of work to avail of the treatment program.

I'll move on to the care section. In the third bullet on page 3 of 7, it speaks to the care section having medical examination rooms, or the care section contains room data sheets for the medical examination rooms and that there will be two medical examination rooms.

I recall from my time at the Department of Health that when the Qikiqtani General Hospital was built, a number of practitioners had issues of concern related to the examination rooms. They weren't safe for the practitioners because the way they're set up in some of the rooms, the patient or client can be situated between the practitioner and the door and anybody who has gone for appointments there knows that the way that the beds are set up and in relation to the computer systems that the practitioners need to use ensures often that a practitioner has their back to a patient or client.

I would just like some reassurance that those safety factors have been taken into account in the design of these examination rooms. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As Mr. Babstock mentioned earlier, we're continually learning from, I won't say mistakes, but we're learning through experience. For this Aqquariaq facility, we would be looking at experiences or concerns like the ones that the member mentioned and incorporating those into the design. The short answer is yes, we would be taking safety concerns into consideration. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister just expand on how that's going to happen or how that is happening? Are the end users or are practitioners a part of the design phase? How are they being consulted? Specifically, how are these end users being consulted outside of the very wise practitioners that are a part of the design? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you will let my deputy respond. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please proceed, Ms. Hunt.

**Ms. Hunt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. A few things to help answer that question or further explain around the examination rooms, so there are specific standards and regulations around licensing where medical services or primary care is being accessed. Of course, the goal is to make sure that those standards are met, but also to ensure that there is an understanding around cultural appropriateness and welcoming and safety for both practitioner and patients in those spaces.

Many of our folks who are a part of the development team as well as the engagement that the development team has done with the folks who work in these different areas that would be utilizing these spaces have done engagement and further looked at what are the experiences, what are the things that help to keep people safe, that make it comfortable, and to ensure that quality services can be experienced in that space in a good and safe way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hunt. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarity, I know that we're opening the space for infants, toddlers, and children as members of the family for people who are accessing the programs there; however, if children are there for a longer period of time, they may need to access some medical supports. I'm wondering whether or not there is a plan to allow that for children there or whether or not they would avail of the Qikiqtani General Hospital for any medical needs that should come up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think the shortest way to answer it would be that it would depend on the specifics. If it's a very simple medical need, it's possible that it would be addressed at the facility itself, but if it's something more complex, let's say for example, it requires pediatric examination, then we would be relying on the services available to the public in Iqaluit at the Qikiqtani General Hospital. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm thinking in terms of potential growth for the centre, knowing that earlier today, there were questions in the House about the Umingmak Centre and the care that they provide children and families, and knowing that if there is a family-centred program related to healing during a person's stay and recovery, issues of concern may arise for their children and that's specifically related to the knowledge that we all have of the intergenerational impacts of trauma and knowing that the people who have lived trauma experience often struggle to ensure that their children and the children they have may not be facing trauma.

Though the plan is family-centric, however, right now focused on adults, I'm just thinking in terms of the potential for growth and looking far ahead to the ability to provide services, like more holistic services for families in recovery and ensuring that

there is the ability to either retrofit an examination room to make it more child-specific and child-friendly or whether or not we can create these examination rooms now so that they are child-friendly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I appreciate the comments from the member. I think it's important to take that long-term view in terms of the capacity and the needs. We will be looking to go through kind of a phased approach to developing the services at the facility where we will focus on, once the building is completed, and there will be quite a lot of training involved beforehand with regard to opening the facility, but the initial phase will be focused on getting up and running.

It's going to be very complex when you consider the different elements; the on-the-land element, the day programming, the residential or the child care, as was mentioned. It's not a small undertaking, but certainly, further down the road in terms of additional specialization, that opportunity would be there. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name I have on my list: Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't have very many questions.

Under regional health facilities, the Assembly approved capital carryover funding for ongoing work to upgrade the Qikiqtani General Hospital's central sterilization room. What is the current status of that project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Babstock is in a better position to respond and I would like to ask if you will allow him to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Babstock.

**Mr. Babstock:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks again for the question. The request for tenders has gone out several times for that and come back excessively high, as we have seen with a number of our tender processes of late. CGS is going to be republishing that request for tenders again and publishing in January 2024, with the intent of having that completed by the summer of 2024. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Babstock. Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for that response. My next question, (interpretation ends) although part of it was answered earlier, this is sort of part of it in regard to services within Nunavut's smaller communities. Is the Department of Health considering any new renovations or expansions to the regional health facilities to offer new areas of health services that are often provided outside of Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There are no major initiatives that we have planned at the moment. As I indicated earlier, there are things that we would like to address if we had more resources, but looking at where we are at with the recovery centre, with long-term care, with the health centre renewals and construction, we're at the limit of what we can take on right now for additional projects. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) The next one is under capital funding. The department's 2023-24 capital estimates include \$1.5 million for small capital. Have all of the small capital items requested for 2023-24 been purchased to date and, if not, which ones will be carried over for purchase in 2024-25? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Many of the items have been purchased. There are still a few that are outstanding, but we are looking to complete those purchases as soon as possible when we're talking about specialized equipment, such as defibrillators, the supply chains can be an issue, and as well, another issue that we face is sealift schedules, which can't always neatly match up with budgetary appropriations. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) The next is that the list of small capital items being considered for purchase in the current 2023-24 fiscal year includes a number of new vehicles. How does the department work with Community and Government Services to ensure that it has an adequate number of vehicles in its fleets and in which communities do they go to? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you will let Mr. Babstock take the wheel and drive us to an answer on that question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Drive away, Mr. Babstock.

**Mr. Babstock:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Vehicles, like every other piece of our small capital, are prioritized through our ongoing process to make certain we get the optimal use of our \$1.5 million. Fifteen vehicles were procured in '23-24 and they went to a variety of communities, including Arviat, Sanikiluaq, Rankin Inlet got two, Arctic Bay, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, Iqaluit got several, as well as Kinngait and Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Before I go back to Ms. Quassa, I would like to recognize Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and it's not subject to debate. All those in favour. Motion carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Minister and officials, you can leave the witness table 'til tomorrow.

**Speaker:** Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hickes.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 31 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you.

**Speaker:** There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Qavvik. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

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

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for November 1:

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 26
  - Bill 27
  - Bill 28
  - Bill 29
  - Bill 30
  - Bill 31
  - Bill 32
  - Bill 33
  - Bill 34
  - Tabled Document 1 – 6(2)
  - Tabled Document 120 – 6(2)
  - Tabled Document 163 – 6(2)
  - Tabled Document 174 – 6(2)
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Before we leave for the day, a special thank you to our Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Albert, for keeping members hydrated today.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

In accordance to the authority provided to me by Motion 22 – 6(2), the House stands adjourned until Wednesday, November 1, at 10 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:01*

