

NUNAVUT HANSARD

UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2024

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

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Beauchesne’s 6th edition, citation 55

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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee

(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South)

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Minister responsible for the Nunavut
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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

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Minister responsible for Suicide
Prevention*

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(Aivilik)

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Whole*

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(Pangnirtung)

*Minister of Family Services; Minister
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Minister responsible for the Status of
Women*

(Gjoa Haven)

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responsible for Nunavut Arctic
College*

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(Hudson Bay)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;
Minister of Environment;
Minister of Energy; Minister of
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(Rankin Inlet North-
Chesterfield Inlet)

Joe Savikataaq

(Arviat South)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
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(Baker Lake)

Hon. David Akeeagok

(Quttiktuq)

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Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety
and Compensation Commission*

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and
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responsible for Immigration; Minister
responsible for Indigenous Affairs; Minister
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for the Utility Rates Review Council*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, May 29, 2024**

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 13:29*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak)(interpretation): Good day. Before we begin, Mr. David Akeeagok, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good day, my colleagues. I hope we have another successful sitting day. I am grateful to see familiar faces in the House.

(interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 443 – 6(2): Governor General Mary Simon's First Official Visit to Nunavut

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much. It is quite humbling now to see the number of elders present in this House as it causes a seismic shift in perspective. Thank you for being here, and welcome to your House.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on April 1, we welcomed Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon. This was her first official visit to Nunavut as the first indigenous and first Inuk Governor General of Canada.

>>*Applause*

It was an especially joyous moment as we had celebrated the 25th anniversary of our territory.

Mr. Speaker, it was truly an honour to receive Her Excellency and His Excellency Whit Fraser here into the Legislative Assembly. I was joined by Commissioner Eva Aariak as well as Iqaluit Members of the Legislative Assembly Mr. Hickes, Ms. Brewster, and Mr. Lightstone, as well as His Worship Mr. Awa, the Canadian Rangers, Major Sean

Brinkema of the Canadian Armed Forces, detachment commander in Nunavut for Joint Task Force North, and Nunavut Member of Parliament Ms. Lori Idlout.

Throughout her visit, the Governor General graciously greeted Nunavummiut like family. Her warmth was contagious.

On the evening of April 1, we held a community celebration where hundreds of Iqalummiut, from young children to *innait*, joined us for country food, music, and dancing.

In her speech that evening, the Governor General said, “I am home.” It was clear the sentiment went both ways. She received a standing ovation after her speech, in which she spoke of the progress being made in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers’ Statements. Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Minister’s Statement 444 – 6(2): Northern Allowance and Wage Increase for Early Child Care Workers

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut. It’s so wonderful to be here with everyone who is here today.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform my colleagues that, as of April 1, 2024, the pay rates in the Early Learning and Child Care Wage Scale have increased by 3.9 percent and are further supplemented by a northern allowance. For some early childhood educators, this is the first time they will receive a northern allowance.

Through federal funding and collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and regional Inuit associations, the Department of Education developed a new wage scale to ensure fair pay for early childhood education staff, create additional incentives to pursue early childhood certification, and support retention in this critical employment sector.

Mr. Speaker, the northern allowance we have introduced aligns with the Government of Nunavut’s rates by community. This move supports cost-of-living discrepancies between communities and ensures a fair and equitable compensation system for licensed child care centre staff across Nunavut.

The increase in the wage scale and introduction of the northern allowance, along with the new infrastructure funding program undertaken in collaboration with Employment and Social Development Canada, aims to help recruit and retain the essential staff needed to operate licensed child care spaces.

Mr. Speaker, these programs demonstrate our commitment to the goals outlined in our *Katuujiluta* mandate that support children and families across Nunavut through continued

dedication and investments in high-quality, affordable, and inclusive early learning and child care. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 445 – 6(2): Supports for Persons with Disabilities

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the visitors in the gallery and I say “good day” to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I recently had the honour of sitting down with officials from the Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society to learn more about their important advocacy initiatives and to discuss how the Department of Family Services can better meet the needs of disabled Nunavummiut. The society is an impressive organization with many research projects and programs and services happening and planned.

Mr. Speaker, we discussed the many barriers faced by people with disabilities in Nunavut and how the severe lack of infrastructure impacts all aspects of daily life; how even leaving the house or getting to the airport or a medical appointment can be a struggle that seems too large to overcome. We discussed the problems created by housing units and buildings that aren't wheelchair accessible and what that means to the well-being of people.

(interpretation ends) I reinforced our department's continued and renewed commitment to ensure equal access to opportunities and services for disabled Nunavummiut. We committed to develop a more collaborative relationship with the society and to seek out new ways to partner on initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, Family Services will continue to fund programs for disabled Nunavummiut. Through Piqataugitsi, the department supports Nunavummiut with disabilities to enter and remain in the labour market. Our department is working to improve employment outcomes and fill labour market gaps by encouraging inclusive hiring, providing trades training and tutoring, job placement assistance, literacy programs, and accessibility accommodations to help organizations embrace equity, access, inclusion, and celebrate diversity in Nunavut.

Our vision is for all Nunavummiut to have equitable access to opportunities in all of our communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>>*Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 446 – 6(2): Major Project Permit Application

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and visitors in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to discuss the Qulliq Energy Corporation's continuous dedication to ensuring Nunavut's energy supply is safe, reliable, and affordable through strategic planning and the development of cost-effective and efficient capital initiatives.

After consultation with the Utility Rate Review Council, I am pleased to announce that five major project permits for the Qulliq Energy Corporation were recently approved to proceed to replace generator sets in Kugaaruk, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, and Pond Inlet.

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) New power plants and upgraded equipment provide improved reliability for our valued customers. While newer energy-efficient technologies serve the long-term energy needs of our growing communities, they also aim to reduce the territory's environmental impact by displacing diesel consumption through fuel efficiency. The new generators use modern power system technologies that make incorporating renewable energy easier in the future. These steps bring Nunavut closer to a cleaner energy future.

(interpretation) The Qulliq Energy Corporation is dedicated to the successful implementation of these projects and actively seeks federal and other funding investments to upgrade or rebuild power plants in all communities with aged power plants. This commitment ensures the financial sustainability of these initiatives while ensuring the realization of a cleaner energy future for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 447 – 6(2): Pewapun Partnership

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. It's great to see the elders in the gallery. I recognize each and every one of you and I welcome you to the House.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise in the House today to announce an important partnership with our neighbors and friends from Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation in Nelson House, Manitoba. What started as a chance encounter has blossomed into a significant relationship reflected in the partnership agreement signed this morning.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation and Nunavut Arctic College are working collaboratively with Pewapun Construction from Nelson House, Manitoba, to construct six new student family homes in Rankin Inlet starting this summer. Pewapun is donating approximately \$3 million in materials and support under this partnership. Arctic College students and teachers from the trade school will provide the majority of the labour to complete the much-needed housing units, while the Nunavut Housing Corporation is providing land, design, site work, and project oversight. Collectively, the three entities will leverage our respective resources to build affordable student housing for families wanting to advance their education at the Rankin Inlet campus.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I had the pleasure of travelling with officials from the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Nunavut Arctic College to Nelson House, Manitoba, to meet with Chief Angela Levasseur and other community leaders. During our visit, we were introduced to representatives from the Atoskiwin Training and Employment Centre of Excellence as well as Pewapun Construction, a social enterprise founded by the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this week it was our turn to host. Over the last few days, officials from Nelson House have joined us here in Iqaluit to share their best practices and lessons learned over the past ten years. I can tell you from first-hand experience they have something amazing happening in their community, and we will work to ensure that there are amazing things happening also in our communities.

Last evening, we had a working session with Ministers and key staff from Family Services, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and Nunavut Arctic College to learn about the innovative approaches developed by our friends from Nelson House and the successes of Atoskiwin and Pewapun in developing an experiential model of training we can look to model here in Nunavut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, our collective goal is to break down the barriers faced by Arctic College apprenticeship students so there are more opportunities to successfully achieve their journey person certification. Nunavut 3000 is more than just building much-needed houses. It is also about building capacity of our people and significantly increasing the number of Inuit and Nunavummiut skilled construction workers by 2030. We are excited to take on this challenge and partner with other leaders such as those from Nelson House and our colleagues from Arctic College and Family Services to pursue this transformation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Qavvik.

Minister's Statement 448 – 6(2): Appointments for the Seventh Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit

Hon. Daniel Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce that nine members have been appointed for the seventh Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit. The Katimajit is made up of elders who are selected for their knowledge of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal values. The nine members represent Nunavut geographically and linguistically.

Mr. Speaker, this committee provides advice and assistance to the Government of Nunavut about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. Departments can call on the Katimajit at any time to seek advice about their departmental *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal values initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the seventh Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit members are in attendance with us today:

- Lew Philip, Iqaluit
- Willie Nakoolak, Coral Harbour
- Miriam Aglukkaq, Gjoa Haven

>> *Applause*

- Jean Simailak, Baker Lake

>> *Applause*

- Sandy Akavak, Kimmirut

>> *Applause*

- Nagleena Innuksuk, Sanirajak

>> *Applause*

- Sam Arnadjuak, Sanirajak

>> *Applause*

- Sarah Takolik, Taloyoak

>> *Applause*

- Sam Tullurialik, Taloyoak

>> *Applause*

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the contributions of the previous Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajiit members who concluded their terms in March 2024.

Mary Voisey of Whale Cove, Marie Anguti of Kugaaruk, Ootoovak Audlakiak of Clyde River, Abraham Oolalak of Sanirajak, and Celine Ningark of Kuugaruk, I would like to thank them all for sharing their time, their knowledge, and for the significant roles they continue to play within their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 594 – 6(2): Electoral Boundaries

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Good day. Welcome. It's great to see we have visitors and we want to do things more properly now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to address the issue of electoral boundaries in Nunavut. I appreciate the opportunity to make comments today on behalf of my constituents of Uqqummiut. As I have stated many times in the House, I am very proud to represent the residents of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that a number of my colleagues face the same challenge of representing more than one community in the Legislative Assembly, when we try to represent our own community and another community as well, and trying to represent them properly and say their words in the Legislative Assembly.

I want to make it very clear, Mr. Speaker, that I do not oppose the boundary changes that a number of my colleagues have supported in respect to their own communities. We have to represent our constituency, and that's very important in Nunavut and it becomes obvious when something needs to be changed.

However, Mr. Speaker, I also recognize that this is a challenging issue that I have asked to bring up here, and it will not just go away. Because of that, Mr. Speaker, the Electoral Boundaries Commission did their task well and they consulted and tried to hear from the communities, from the people of Nunavut, and also with the hamlet councils and holding public meetings.

Mr. Speaker, I believe what I'm saying is very important. I would like approval to conclude my statement.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the added opportunity to finish my statement.

From what we have understood, it's not really realistic for... . I know we have to work together with everyone, and I know that you cannot make everyone happy and we have to come up with an agreement. Even though that's the case, we try to make things correct.

(interpretation ends) Although it is not realistic for our smallest communities to have exactly the same number of MLAs as our larger centres, I believe that work needs to be continued to find ways to ensure that the residents of smaller communities feel that their voices are being heard, especially when they feel that they are sharing their MLA with another community.

By saying that, Mr. Speaker, I hope that the timeline for establishing the next boundary commission can be reviewed by a future Assembly, and I hope that a fresh look can be taken at low community pairings when electoral boundaries are set.

Mr. Speaker, I want to finish by again stating very clearly that I consider myself to be the voice for all constituents in Uqqummiut, and I will continue to speak strongly on their behalf. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Member's Statement 595 – 6(2): Happy Birthday to Daughter June

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hardly ever announce a birthday, but today our grandchild June Naujaat Savikataaq is having a birthday, so happy birthday.

>> *Singing Happy Birthday*

>> *Laughter*

If you didn't know who that person is, he sang on CBC Radio that song. Today it's her birthday. My daughter, happy birthday and have a great day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 596 – 6(2): High School Graduates in Igloolik

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome all Nunavummiut watching today, along with our esteemed Inuit elders. Welcome.

Now, students will be completing this school year soon, with local grade 12 students potentially graduating on June 12 and I wish to name them all. There are 15 graduating students:

- Taylor Kunuk
- Brandon Uttak
- Dasha Iyyiraq
- Kobe Iyyiraq
- Jovan Kayotak
- Brent Quassa
- Isaiah Angutimarik
- Rhianna Satuqsi
- Chloe Tapardjuk
- Elliot Tapardjuk
- Laurence Uttak
- Julianne Uttak
- Wally Kanatiak
- Inuaraq Angutimarik
- Madison Amaaq

I am proud of these students who will be completing their high school studies with the completion of grade 12, and I am even more proud of two students, as one is planning to go to university by focusing on their future career choices...what is that term. They will be studying law and the justice system, while the other has been approved to attend the Nunavut Sivuniksavut second year program.

They all have a bright future, but I would like my colleagues to share in my congratulating them for completing their high school courses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Member's Statement 597 – 6(2): Hamlet of Baker Lake Providing Nutritious Food to Children

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my fellow MLAs and to all the visitors here today. I am grateful to see you here and it will be good to have you all identified later and that is gratifying.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to quickly praise the Hamlet of Baker Lake. They just this month began the Baker Lake Child First food security program funded by the Jordan's Principle. Starting this month, May 2024 until March 2025, every child from birth to the age of 18 will be able to get \$500 worth of healthy, nutritious food from their local stores, and also one company from Winnipeg, Arctic Buying. Also, babies up to the age of three will get an extra additional \$250 a month, so a toddler will have up to \$750 a month for nutritious food and pampers and wipes.

Baker Lake residents with these children that have registered will be able to shop at the Northern Store, Co-op, Sanavik Co-op, Nunavut Purchasing and Supplies, or Arctic Buying out of Winnipeg.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, it is gratifying to see the hamlet succeed with its' initiatives and this is good, particularly the residents in Baker Lake especially for the youth who work in the stores after school, as some students work after school hours at the stores. The stores are unable to keep up with the demand, and just prior to my arrival here to Iqaluit, I tried to go to the store with my family however, there were some shelves that had no food.

We even asked if there were any other foodstuffs such as (interpretation ends) vegetables or fruits (interpretation) or even (interpretation ends) butcher shop (interpretation) meat cuts and if there was anything available. We were informed, no, they ran out of most produce.

Some children are facing...critical food shortages. It was enlightening to see the hamlet with that initiative, so I thank our hamlet along with the parents who are facing financial hardships as some are on income support and this will lessen their stress levels, so for that I am extremely thankful. That is all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Member's Statement 598 – 6(2): Safe Travels this Spring

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, especially the visitors here in this House, my constituents, and every resident of Nunavut. With the large number of visitors here today, it is very empowering.

I wanted to remind everyone to be aware of the need for local search and rescue components as they can suddenly be required to conduct an emergency search and I wanted to recognize all SAR personnel in Nunavut who deal with their local emergencies, as they strive to be professional even with the difficult conditions they face.

It can be the weather or other obstacles when they are trying to determine their searches even in dangerous conditions, so I wanted everyone to be aware of the need to keep vital communication devices, as it is now springtime, and many residents will be heading out onto the land to enjoy the weather.

Please keep your family informed about your destination, either for hunting or camping destinations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 599 – 6(2): High School Graduations

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to the visitors, people from Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to the voices of my colleagues in congratulating our youngest constituents on reaching one of their first milestones in their careers, their successful high school graduation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to advise you that I will miss a day of this sitting to attend the graduation ceremony of my youngest daughter, Danielle. I'm very proud of her.

Mr. Speaker, I am also very proud of all the other high school graduates from Rankin Inlet's Maani Uluyuk School and Chesterfield Inlet's Victor Sammurtok School.

Mr. Speaker, it takes a lot of hard work, focus, and dedication on the part of the student to achieve this important milestone. We cannot forget the role of the parents, guardians, families, teachers, principals and the school staff, and many of the other community members who encourage and support our youth.

I ask my colleagues in joining me in congratulating this year's high school graduates in wishing every success in the future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 600 – 6(2): 2024 Tuugaalik Cup

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today that on the date of April 4, 2024 to April 7, 2024, Kugaaruk held its second annual Tuugaalik Cup senior mens hockey tournament. I wanted to acknowledge and personally thank the tournament organizer, Alex Ittimangnaq Jr., who again did great organizing the hockey tournament.

Mr. Speaker, I did witness this tournament two years in a row, and I did travel by land again, by snowmobile, to also enjoy a fun-filled weekend of hockey with my household family.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Team Naujaat who are the 2024 Tuugaalik Cup champions two years in a row. Second place was Kugaaruk, and third place was team Igloolik.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the communities of Gjoa Haven, Naujaat and Igloolik for participating and visiting the beautiful community of Kugaaruk, which brings family and friends together.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Alex Ittimangnaq Jr., who is the grandson of the famous *Netsilik Series*' Tuktu Ittimangnaq.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank all the sponsors, volunteers, and billets who did great. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 601 – 6(2): 25th Annual Nunavut Quest

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Good afternoon to everyone here, and welcome. It is very gratifying to see so many visitors present in this House.

Indeed, this year is the 25th anniversary since the creation of Nunavut and our government. This coincides with the original dog team race *Panngagujjijit* or Nunavut Quest that ran from Arctic Bay to Pond Inlet, as the original committee created this dog race on the creation of the territory 25 years ago.

At the end of April, the annual dog race commenced going from Arctic Bay to Pond Inlet, and it was very exciting to watch the progress. Additionally, the organizers locally need to be acknowledged as they do a splendid job. In Arctic Bay, the committee is led by Moses and Seeporah Oyukuluk who have participated since its' inception 25 years ago as volunteers.

They have remained involved, and this includes being part of the dog team racers as a family and they are continuing our tradition today. Their fellow committee members, Rhoda Natanine, Leah Kines and Benita form the rest of the committee. We met with them as they prepared for the event, and it was exciting to watch them work.

For this annual dog team race, QIA has committed a large pot of funding towards this event and due to the prize increases, the number of dog team owners participating has also increased, and I was able to go up with Jeremy Tongaluk, who is the local QIA representative who represented the QIA President as well as to Pond Inlet.

We also participated with him and Levi Barnabas of QIA to host games, and this year there were ten dog team owners who were a part of this race, and whom we watched over

the course of the race. It was very exciting especially the starting point. I was unfortunately unable to go to Pond Inlet, but I watched the progress via social networks. I am grateful to Pond Inlet residents who provided live feeds and I thank them for their hospitality when the racers arrived.

At the same time, the women had a (interpretation ends) beauty pageant (interpretation) during the event. The Arctic Bay participant...

If possible, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my comments.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? Hearing none, please proceed, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues, for this consent.

This beauty pageant wasn't just about beauty and pageantry, but included local community volunteer activities and ways they provided assistance to their kinfolk locally. The participants competed in this event in Pond Inlet, and the person from Arctic Bay, Robert Qaunaq initiated this event, and fundraised over the entire year for the prizes by holding dances and other events.

They raised over \$5000 in prizes, and the first prize winner from Pond Inlet, a fine young lady won \$3000, and this added to the wonderfulness of this first event. It highlighted ways how youth can volunteer and provide more local assistance and this event showcased that.

I am grateful to the organizers who think up these events, as they are never by chance but are a result of planning and organization that leads to a successful event. Also, there was a hockey tournament as hockey is now a part of this event.

We had the Arctic Bay team who was able to win the cup again or (interpretation ends) two in a row (interpretation) and we are proud of the team and organizers of the Qamutik Cup. I thank everyone in the North Baffin and I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 602 – 6(2): 2024 Pirurvik Graduates

Hon. Karen Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to express my pride related to Pond Inlet residents who will be celebrating various graduation events over this week, and next week as the different schools will be holding their last weeks of school courses.

I wanted to acknowledge the Pirurvik preschool program, but if I were to try and name everyone, it would take too long and there are 49 graduating students in kindergarten. It

would take too long to announce all the names, so I will compensate by naming the teachers instead.

Lena Enuaraq has the morning and afternoon students, along with Joanna Kunuk or Akkiutaq's afternoon students. I am proud of all of their students who are completing their kindergarten classes this spring. Additionally, the Pirurvik preschool teachers are very competent, and there are eight children who will be completing their course, and I am very proud of them as well.

I also anticipate and hope that these children will all continue their next grades at the school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 603 – 6(2): Kimmirut Participants at Volleyball Tournament

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day especially to our visitors here in the gallery and to all Nunavummiut and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, during this members' statement item, I rise to voice my pride as an MLA as this past weekend, there was a large volleyball tournament here in Iqaluit, and the Kimmirut ladies' volleyball team was able to arrive to attend to this tournament. I was very proud of the team, and I want to announce their names:

- Miki Lyta
- Shelaine Nutarasungnik
- Angela Kolola
- Angel Kolola
- Jennifer Salluviniq
- Napachie Kuniliusie
- Nellie Pitsiulak
- Yvette Barrieau

Mr. Speaker, although these are athletes, they have chaperones and coaches too. I would like to thank Simata Akavak and Mary Pudloo.

Mr. Speaker, volleyball is increasingly popular in Nunavut and one of the players, Mittuq Lyta participated in the Arctic Winter Games as part of Nunavut team in volleyball. I would like to express my appreciation to these players. Although we had ten teams from Nunavut, Kimmirut placed fourth, just outside the medals even though it's not a big community.

It was great to see their individual skills, and they were very friendly to everyone they met and made friends. Tournaments in Nunavut may be small, and school communities

not very big here, but it advances the skills a lot. I wanted to express my pride in the organizers of the Volleyball Nunavut tournament, and to the parents and communities that were able to participate in fund-raising and involving our youth, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 604 – 6(2): Appreciation of Nunavut Elders

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker, and once again good afternoon to everybody. It's so nice to be surrounded by so many esteemed elders from across our territory. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our elders here with us, and those in my community of Cambridge Bay for all of their hard work and dedication that they do to pass on our language, our knowledge and keep our Inuit culture going in our communities and across the territory.

It's so important, too, the work that they're doing, but the work between the generations is always heartfelt, and we learn so much from listening, by watching, and observing everything that the elders do. To have such a great group of people here with us, you can feel their presence. It feels so calm and beautiful.

I really thank all of our elders across our territory for their input into whatever groups they are a part of, whatever organizations they work with, the hamlets, the governments, all over our territory. I think that's one of the most fortunate things with us for as a territory, is that we have such a wonderful core group of elders that are always involved in our communities and in our territory. On behalf of Cambridge Bay, I thank you all for your hard work.

I would also like to say, I have constituent here who's an elder, and he's an interpreter-translator Henry Ohokannoak. Henry, I thank you for all of your tireless work with all the other interpreter-translators, Eva Ayalik and James Panioyak, for their dedication to passing on our language and being the ones that work to ensure that we're passing it on. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statement. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Member's Statement 605 – 6(2): Arviat Cod Derby

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will continue my discourse on fishing derbies from yesterday as I spoke to the competition in Whale Cove, but due to my continual need to meet, I shan't attend any of these fishing derbies so I can only speak to them.

In Arviat, a cod fishing derby took place, as practically the entire community goes to this derby and the hamlet was also celebrating so it was quite the festive event. I caught the beginning, but I had to return to attend to my duties. The following were funding sponsors whom I thank here: the Arviat Minor Hockey, Hamlet of Arviat, Eskimo Point Lumber Supply and Arctic Connections. I thank you all.

The surrounding sea ice in Arviat on the shoreline, was packed with tents and cabins. It was like the actual community of Arviat had barely any residents, and the sea ice held most of the residents close to the shoreline. This is a tradition there.

Looking at cod fishing derbies across Nunavut, I think the one in Arviat is the largest one: \$15,000 was awarded to the winner. Mr. Cedric Maniq who caught a fish about this length, or a 69-centimetre cod.

>>*Laughter*

Cedric, I'm happy for you.

There was also a sculpin derby that transpired at the same time. The winner of the sculpin fishing derby was Jerome Qitiqlilik who won \$6,000, with one sculpin. It was apparently a big reward behind sculpin fishing. Although it may not be the most beautiful fish, the win is worth it. This derby is called in English (interpretation ends) the Ugly Fish Derby (interpretation) so beauty is in the eyes of the beholder as the winner gets a lot of cash.

To all the volunteers and sponsors, I would like to thank them. We'll have another year for another cod derby and everyone is welcome to the derby if you have the time to visit Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 858 – 6(2): Fuel Tank at Arviat Airport

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm doing a Return to Oral Question 858 – 6(2) that was asked on May 27, 2024 regarding the fuel tank at the Arviat Airport.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to correct the answer that I provided on May 27, 2024 in answers to questions from Member for Arviat South Joe Savikataaq.

In the course of answering Mr. Savikataaq's questions regarding the failure of the fuel tank for the Arviat Airport Terminal Building, I stated that the Government of Nunavut's

buildings are self-insured and that it would fall on the government when it came to replacing the failed tank or cleaning up any contaminations resulting from the spill.

Mr. Speaker, the answer was incorrect. The Government of Nunavut does carry insurance for our assets, including our airports' assets. My understanding is that the deductible under the policy is \$1 million. In this instance, however, Mr. Speaker, the failure of the fuel tank was due to its age and to normal wear and tear, rather than to an accident or a failure that would normally be covered by that policy.

I apologize for providing incorrect information in my answers to the member's questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I would like to recognize my parents, and I'm happy that they're here. My father, Mr. David Simailak. You may recognize him as well as my mother, Jean Simailak. My mother made this outfit for me because she thought of me when I was going to be away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Put your hand up again. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have relatives and members of my constituents here today at the gallery. There's a couple here, Mr. Willy Nakoolak and his wife, Ida Nakoolak. I want to welcome them.

>>Applause

Whenever I talked about search and rescue, and there was a fishing derby and the rescue didn't really need to be required, but there was an emergency, Nagleena Innuksuk, and he was okay afterwards. He's here.

>>Applause

My uncle Sam Arnadjuak is here, who's from Sanirajak.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, they are all here. Everyone who's here, I want to welcome them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize many people here. Albert Netser who is here from Rankin Inlet. He's one of the core leaders of the Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize four of my constituents who are here today in the House, Mr. Speaker.

First I would like to recognize Sarah Takolik, who is my auntie. She was recently appointed to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit.

I would also like to recognize Sam Tullurialik of Taloyoak. He was just recently appointed to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit.

Mr. Speaker, I have tried very hard to have representatives for Taloyoak for the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit, and I want my constituents that I just mentioned to know that I'm very proud of their appointment.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Leah Tullurialik, who is Sam Tullurialik's wife. Welcome to the House.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize our mayor of Taloyoak, Lenny Panigayak, who is in the House of Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize two of your constituents, who is my auntie Miriam Aglukkaq. She is well known all over Nunavut. So I would like to welcome her to the House.

>>Applause

Also, Mr. Speaker, my cousin John Aglukkaq, who is in your House, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome to everybody to the House of Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Let's have a good day. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my minister's statement I was sweating. I was anxious. Now I feel better.

Mr. Speaker, it's great to have our Members of the Legislative Assembly to recognize their constituents who became my friends, and now they are Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit within the Department of Culture and Heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize again our recently appointed members of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit. The Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit was established by the Government of Nunavut to provide advice and assistance to the Government of Nunavut on incorporating *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. Its members are appointed for a term of up to three years, and are comprised of nine members from across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the following members I would like to now recognize again, of the seven Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit who are in attendance with us today. Lew Philip from Iqaluit.

>> *Applause*

Willy Nakoolak from Coral Harbour.

>> *Applause*

Miriam Aglukkaq from Gjoa Haven.

>> *Applause*

Jean Simailak from Baker Lake.

>> *Applause*

Sandy Akavak from Kimmirut.

>> *Applause*

Nagleena Innuksuk from Sanirajak.

>> *Applause*

Sam Arnadjuak from Sanirajak.

>> *Applause.*

Sarah Takolik from Taloyoak.

>> *Applause*

And Sam Tullurialik from Taloyoak.

>> *Applause*

Congratulations on the members' new appointment and re-appointees. I look forward to their valuable advice to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize my department staff for providing support to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit members, specifically Susan Enuaraq.

>> *Applause*

And Elizabeth Qupee.

>> *Applause*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have longtime friend who is also in the House today. I would like to recognize Jeremy Tunraluk.

>> *Applause.*

And his spouse, Debbie Tunraluk.

>> *Applause*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Hon. Karen Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to recognize our team with Nunavut Arctic College, Albert Netser, Dean of Trades Technology.

>> *Applause*

And John Pearson, Chair of Construction Trades.

>>Applause

They're from the Sanatuliqsarvik trade school in Rankin Inlet. I would like to recognize my friends. I didn't realize that they had come, Jeremy and Debbie, the elders. (interpretation) Welcome to your House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are several residents from the Tununirusiq area who are now living here, although they were recognized, I wanted to also recognize them further.

Firstly, my namesake's son who is now in the role of our internal elder, Lew Philip, welcome.

>>Applause

When I was being birthed, I believe this person is similar in age as his mother told the story of when she bore her son and prior to my mother getting her first breast milk, I was fed by her and to date, due to her assistance I was able to survive to now. I am forever grateful to his mother, Elisapee Qupee.

>>Applause

Additionally, I wish to recognize the leadership of QIA, actually the chairperson of the Finance committee who was acknowledged, Jeremy Tunraaluk and 'little' Debbie Tunraaluk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For a moment I was getting worried my friend from Sanikiluaq was going to introduce everybody.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I stand here to recognize my cousins.

>>Laughter

I'm kidding. I rise here to recognize some very special guests. As mentioned in my minister's statement, we have people joining us today from the from the Atoskiwin

Training and Employment Centre and Pewapun Construction Limited from the Cree Nation based in Nelson House.

There's Mr. Moore, board member from Pewapun.

>>*Applause*

Jody Linklater, Founder of Pewapun Construction.

>>*Applause*

Cheryl Linklater, boardmember from Pewapun Construction.

>>*Applause*

Daniel Kenway, consultant from Pewapun Construction.

>>*Applause*

And Marlene Gogal consultant with Pewapun Construction.

>>*Applause*

Also they are accompanied by our President of the Housing Corporation, Mr. Aaron Devereaux.

>>*Applause*

And Winter Fedyk from the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Welcome.

>>*Applause*

I want to take this opportunity to thank our new-found friends from Nelson House for their great hospitality that was shown to our team when we were down in your community, and enjoy your visit in Nunavut. We hope to see you again soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's so nice to see so many Kitikmeot Inuit in this House, I feel a little bit of balance is being achieved today.

Of course I would again like to recognize Sarah Takolik who was such a great surrogate auntie to me when I was a little child. I remember one time I caught a minnow and it flipped away, and we spent some time looking for it, and then I was devastated when we found it under her shoe.

>>*Laughter*

Sam and Leah, welcome. Miriam, it's always nice to see you.

Mr. Speaker, speaking of cousins, Sandy Akavak, his wife Ineak was cousin to my Anaanatsiaq Nipisa.

Today, I would like to take this opportunity to pay special recognition to Sandy. We are connected through marriage and in many ways, and his sons always take time to visit my mother Nuvalinga, and they always think of her when they have *Inuksiuti* to share here in Iqaluit, and that's so important.

Mr. Speaker, Sandy's son Matthew took our Jayko in and took care of him for many years after my auntie, his mother Sylvia, passed away, and I will forever be grateful for Sandy and his family and for Sandy, especially, for being Jayko's *Ittuk*. He had an elder that he could rely on and spent so much time wrapped in his love and guidance. I am so happy today to be able to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge Sandy Akavak for taking such good care of Jayko. *Nakurmiik*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 882 – 6(2): Status of Taloyoak School Repairs

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister may recall, I have asked about the repairs to Taloyoak school on a number of occasions.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that most service requests are handled by staff at the Department of Community and Government Services, but that is only if they fall within the department's "facility management program."

Mr. Speaker, I have been advised that a number of service requests for repairs to the Taloyoak school were denied by the Department of Community and Government

Services and it is now up to the client department, that is, the Department of Education, to resolve the issues.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify whether her department has received information about the denied Taloyoak school service request from Community and Government Services and tell us what steps her department has taken to resolve them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for the question. We are working on a new school in Taloyoak to meet the needs for the community.

In terms of the Netsilik School and the denial, I would have to look into it with the department and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What specific item at the Taloyoak school needs urgent attention? Is it the flooring which requires new tiles to be installed?

Mr. Speaker, it is not clear to me why repairs to the flooring are not considered a facility management issue by the Department of Community and Government Services, but the minister of that department has indicated to me in writing that flooring issues are the responsibility of the client department.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update to this House on what specific steps have been taken to identify funding and initiate a capital project to fix the flooring at the Taloyoak school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for the question. In terms of the repairs to the flooring, we do have budgets that we can work within. However, that is a limited budget to address the 45 schools across our territory. To the particular matter I'll be sure to look into the matter further, as I said in the last question, and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very important that the requested repairs are undertaken to ensure the safety of all those who use the school. However, we must also recognize that students should not be interrupted from their studies if we want them to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, we will soon be on school break and students will not be in school for a couple of months.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to working with her officials to ensure that the necessary repairs to the Taloyoak school will be completed this summer, and specifically that the flooring will be fixed before students come back for a new school year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. As I said, we can look into the matter, but I believe that the repairs have been completed but I'll just confirm that with the department officials and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 883 – 6(2): Protection of Inuit Art and Artists

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the new Minister of Culture and Heritage and they concern the important issue of the protection of Inuit art and artists.

Mr. Speaker, I do not need to remind you or any member of the House that Nunavut is home to many extraordinary artists and creators, many of them intergenerational artists, which is amazing. Their visionary work and inspirational creations showcase our uniquely beautiful traditions and cultural practices.

However, Mr. Speaker, an unfortunate reality is that the Inuit art world continues to be subjected to the mass production of inauthentic art that masquerades as the real thing. We live in a time where not only are some people pretending to be us, others are continuing to exploit us.

Mr. Speaker, artists invest money, time and energy into their creations and spend countless hours bringing their visions to life. The mass production and sale of inauthentic pieces deprives Inuit artists from the opportunity to make a decent living from the sale of their creations. Mr. Speaker, I want to say our creations, as an Inuit artist.

Mr. Speaker, our hardworking Member of Parliament for Nunavut recently raised this issue in the House of Commons, and has strongly recommended that federal legislation be considered that would strengthen penalties in cases where non-authentic pieces, fakes, to be blunt, are passed off as having been created by an Indigenous person.

Mr. Speaker, can the new minister indicate how his department is working with relevant partners to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for questioning this area. For the artist and the resale rights of our artists, that is overseen by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and I will defer that question to the appropriate minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister has deferred the question to department of Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department continues to advocate for artists and will continue to do that, and all the good work that's being done, whether it's with our Member of Parliament or of our department. The need to ensure that Inuit art is authentic is very supported by our government, and we will continue to advocate for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge important initiatives such as the Government of Nunavut's authentic Nunavut logo trademark and the Inuit Art Foundation's Igloo tag trademark. These tags verify authentic Inuit art or Inuit-made arts and crafts. They identify the artists and the community in which the piece is made.

Can the minister clarify what other initiatives his department is currently undertaking in collaboration with other stakeholders to support our artists and the creation of authentic Inuit art? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. As part of the *Katujjiluta* mandate we were directed to renew each of our strategies and this is one area that we are working towards. We're doing the research and consultation phase of this project, which also includes interview with stakeholders from across the territory. That portion has been completed and we are working towards the strategy.

When we are building the strategy and throughout *Katujjiluta*, we don't make strategies on our own as much as we used to; we rely heavily on our partnerships. This is one area that we're going to need our full partners in order to ensure that those voices are heard and are protected. They really need to be protected. It's something that my department has been advocating for and we will continue to advocate for our artists. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister mentioned, artists' resale rights are another problematic issue of concern to a lot of Inuit artists. More often than not we see artists underselling their work, and the same piece will be sold at a significantly higher price without the artist receiving the fair share of the resale price.

That also includes estates of artists. I've mentioned before about the enchanted owl that first sold for \$25 and then went on to be resold at auction after the artist Ashevak passed away, and so it was resold in 2018 for over \$200,000.

Mr. Speaker, I was interested to note that the federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry's mandate letter from the Prime Minister indicates that one of his priorities is to work with the Minister of Canadian Heritage to amend the *Copyright Act* to further protect artists, creators, and copyright holders including to allow resale rights for artists.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm what discussions or actions his department has undertaken with the federal government to advance this priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Apologies (interpretation ends) Thank you very much for this question and the advocacy that's connected to the federal government in terms of the need to protect it from all levels to ensure Canadians for us.

There have been ongoing deliberations within the staff level in terms of trying to ensure those should take place. When, if I'm given an opportunity to meet with the federal minister, those are the one areas that I continue to raise and it's something that I will definitely work with closely with my cabinet colleagues in terms of ensuring that those voices are heard from our territory to the government.

I applaud the member for raising this very important issue, and that issue needs to continue to be heard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 884 – 6(2): Ministerial Attendance at Health Programs Convocation

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

Mr. Speaker, it is well known that Nunavut is desperate for health professionals who know and understand the culture and lifestyle of our territory. Nunavut Arctic College delivers a number of courses and programs to train and qualify Nunavummiut to take on

these much needed jobs in our community. The class of 2024 health programs convention will be held in Rankin Inlet on June 10, 2024. The minister has been invited to attend, but has advised that he is “Unable to attend due to other commitments.”

Can the minister clearly explain why she will not be attending this very important event?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Member responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Nutarak.

Hon. Karen Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have other commitments so I won't be able to go to that event. I want to go to my daughter's graduation in Pond Inlet. She's having her grade 12 graduation, and that is why I can't go to Rankin Inlet at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, we have an important role to play in representing our constituents and communities. When members take on the role of minister, it is anticipated that it will also promote the service and program delivered by the departments an entity of the profile assigned to them.

Attending the Rankin Inlet health program convention would have been a great opportunity for the minister to encourage more Nunavummiut to take the step to enter the health care profession.

Can the minister tell us what commitment is more important than attending the Rankin Inlet convention on June 10, 2024? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker..

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

Hon. Karen Nutarak (interpretation): My apologies, Mr. Speaker. I didn't realize that the date was June 10, and we're having a Makigiaqta meeting, and after that we're planning to go to a meeting in Nuuk. After that I know I have a commitment.

As a minister, and to give myself to the legislature, I know it is my commitment and I have let my family know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there are many different demands on the minister's time and I appreciate that there are limited amounts of time to attend all the events and meetings that are happening.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sammurtok: However, it is also my understanding that the ministers have the option to charter aircraft to visit communities when time is short.

Will the minister commit to reviewing her schedule and make necessary changes so that she can attend the Rankin Inlet health program convention in two weeks' time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Karen Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now I cannot, but I will try to do what I can, and if I can I will try to go, but at this point I cannot agree to that. I'm going to be a part of the ceremony. I'll be on video that they can watch because technology allows us to do that, so I'll be able to attend virtually. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

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

Question 885 – 6(2): Iqaluit Condominium Program

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation today with regards to the Iqaluit Condo Program.

Mr. Speaker, my first question is I would like to get an update on the status of the condo units that are available and when will the remaining units be available for sale? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from my colleague.

Mr. Speaker, as of now there are 11 remaining units available in the plateau, Mr. Speaker, and they are currently going through them and we anticipate another call by the fall, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: First supplementary Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is very well aware, a number of constituents have approached me with concerns about completing purchase agreements on units that they have resided in, in some cases for over four years.

Mr. Speaker, the minister and I have had a number of conversations about this, and discussions with his office on this matter. I would like to get a firm response.

What is the path forward on behalf of Nunavut Housing Corporation on honouring these sales agreements made in good faith? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The path forward lies between the corporation and the clients, and they are working out the situations between each one individually, Mr. Speaker. I hope that the path forward is good for all parties that are involved in this, Mr. Speaker. That's about all I can say at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One contributing factor in my constituents' dissatisfaction with how the process is going is the units that they are in are the only three-bedroom units that were available for sale, and these units were chosen specifically to meet these families' needs.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any remaining three-bedroom units that will be available out of the unsold condo units that currently are under possession of Nunavut Housing Corporation. What options are being offered to these constituents that are currently in three-bedroom units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate the discussion on this, and I appreciate the back and forth I've had with the member on previous discussions in our offices to deal with this. The concern of housing and the lack of it is very near and dear to both of our hearts.

Mr. Speaker, as of right now, my colleague is correct; there are no current three- or four-bedroom units available in the plateau subdivision where there are currently 11 units.

Mr. Speaker, from what I understand there have been a couple of clients who were looking to gain possession of the condo units in the Aput subdivision who are now working with the corporation to access two of the units from plateau.

As for the other tenants, from what I understand is that the corporation and the clients are working together to see what resolution they could come to, not being limited to leasing the units that they are currently in, Mr. Speaker. Both parties are working to try to resolve this issue for the betterment of both parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 886 – 6(2): Search and Rescue

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the important issue of search and rescue in Nunavut. I know that there are some improvements that need to be made.

(interpretation ends) When I raised this issue in last Friday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the speaker confirmed that his department has "Initiated dialogue with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities concerning the creation of a new search and rescue association in Nunavut."

Can the minister clarify the timeline for the creation of this organization? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to my colleague for asking questions about search and rescue and search and rescue workers in the community. They always need support.

This is still under discussion. I cannot yet say when a new association for search and rescue will be created, but we are having talks as to what it will look like. We expect that this will progress, and we'll be working with the hamlets and search and rescue groups in Nunavut. They are part of the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the ministers. I hope that this will be started soon.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, there have been a number of tragedies recently involving death on the land, and who more with the family who have lost loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about what appears to be needed for better communications between the minister's department and local search and rescue organizations, when it comes to such a matter as assigning tasking number.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that the communication between communities and the department will improve.

Can the minister indicate how his department currently dialogues with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities in addressing this issue? (interpretation) 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 his questions on this. I would like to first off pay tribute to the people that do go into the field on ground search and rescue, and especially when it relates to a death out on the land. It's very hard on many involved.

Mr. Speaker, regarding the tasking of ground search and rescue operations, this is done at the operational level and it does factor... . There are many factors that go into this when they make a decision on that.

On the communication aspect to this, and this is an area, again, my department, Nunavut Emergency Management, we do work with many different groups around search and rescue including the local ground search and rescue teams, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police joint rescue coordination centre, as well as hamlet staff and the list can go on. We do want to try to ensure that communication is clear, concise and that every step of the way people know and are understanding of what needs to be done.

This is an area that my department, and I've specifically asked that for example when there's briefing and/or debriefing, that people should be clear on what are the next steps that to improve upon these situations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I believe that recent incident in the Kivalliq needs a complete independent review, as the communities are clearly not satisfied with how the situation was managed.

Will the minister commit to have such a review, and will he commit to tabling the results of the review in the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for that request. Mr. Speaker, we are always open to different, and it's an ongoing discussion around how our operations are conducted. I'll work with my department on what's next steps, who to take. I think the spring season is a busy time for our search and rescue or emergency management teams, but I will consider that, what the member is requesting, and work with my colleagues.

Of course I would be willing, and it's a discussion that that my department again is continuing with the municipalities and local search and rescue groups, to find ways on how we can make things work better. This is always the idea. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 887 – 6(2): Municipal Governance

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise at this time to ask a question to the Minister of Community and Government Services. The question concerns, as the minister may recall, I did ask him questions during the winter sitting, in January, concerning the order that he signed in January of this year to place the affairs of the Hamlet of Clyde River under supervision, that you signed.

As such, after this I had an opportunity to meet with the municipal leaders in Clyde River, and I know that they are working hard to address this issue and where it is to date, and a lot of work that has been put into this regarding what needs to be addressed and have progressed to date.

Can the minister, I would like to ask him, give an update today on the status of the municipal supervision order, if he can respond at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member. The Clyde River hamlet had a motion, and after the motion we appointed an individual who will be providing assistance to be in the position to the year end.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is from my office, and our understanding of the Hamlet of Clyde River and the SAO have been sought and interviews have been made during the job hiring process.

Where it is at right now, however, and where it will roll out regarding the newly appointed member of the hamlet, the person who has been appointed at this time as a minister that I signed as an order, it's still in place and we will end the process when a new SAO has been identified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With good communication perhaps they won't be confusing, because sometimes confusion does take place when there is lack of communication.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support efforts to help our smaller communities to strengthen their administrative and financial management capacity that they also have responsibility for. It is an important area, and I often mention that. I have seen it firsthand being important. You need resources and you need the foundation solid where the hamlet can work on to ensure everything is working as it should.

As at today, needing to have a good organization, I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe how his department will work closely with training courses with the municipality and what training, what courses may be provided for the Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq staff, to ensure staff are able to do their work? That is my question, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a good idea, I think. For example when we work at CJS, when we want to provide municipalities with support in their daily operations, they keep up.

Mr. Speaker, the Municipal Training Organization, as they are called, perhaps, is something that training and courses may be provided more. As an example, in the area of if it's financial management or utility services, the operations, some of the examples, that we have provide support. But if we need something larger, that is something we will also consider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for clarifying this point. Now, then, as the minister you also signed an order with the office of the Municipality of Kinngait, under supervision. That was quite similar.

When you have closely related issues here, as the minister, can you clarify without mentioning communities, with hamlets that are not running efficiently and if it's operational or financial issues, are there still any concerns in any other communities after similar situations in different communities with an order that had to be issued? That's my question, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll often learn to ask myself these questions, and perhaps if I can respond as the MLA for Kinngait, these issues came up pretty closely together and actions had to be made. Similarly, Kinngait is still working within the year to progress and they are still in the process to hire a new SAO. We all want our municipalities to run efficiently, and if there were concerns and this had to be taken on, we can do that.

To your question, then, are there other questions in similar situations, we don't want to see any of those, but if there are and we have to take action, we can make appointments and with agreement and a resolution coming from the municipality. Supervision arrangements can be made through that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 888 – 6(2): Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, it is sometimes said that good things come in threes. This will be the third time this sitting that I have raised important questions about the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan, so I am hoping for some very good answers today from the minister.

Mr. Speaker, the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan was submitted to the Government of Canada, the Government of Nunavut, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated back in June 2023, over 11 months ago or about a year now.

Mr. Speaker, when my colleague from Iqaluit-Sinaa raised this issue during our winter sitting, the minister publicly stated that he had personally met with the president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to discuss the plan.

Can the minister provide a substantive update today on the status of the review which is being led by his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for questioning the recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan for 2023 that was submitted in June 2023.

Mr. Speaker, the three signatory parties have been meeting to try to review the plan since its release. The parties may accept the plan or reject it with written reasons, and there is no legislated timeline for a decision within the *Nunavut Agreement*.

Mr. Speaker, in March 2024 the signatory parties submitted a list of potential errors in the plan to the Nunavut Planning Commission. The Government of Nunavut and Government of Canada also held discussions of topics such as existing rights, transportation corridors, future conservation areas, and community boundaries.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated has stated they are not able to share their views at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for the response. It sounds a bit interesting. I'm glad there's back and forth happening now, so that's what's interesting about it.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate and recognize that ministers are very busy and that they do not necessarily have the time to read every single word of what are often very lengthy and

very technical documents, but I strongly believe that they do need to be engaged and that they do need to ask tough questions of their own officials.

For the record, can the minister confirm the extent to which his department is using outside consultants to support the work of the government's interdepartmental land use plan working group? 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, as we know, the Department of Environment is the lead department for the process of the Nunavut Land Use Plan. We had created an interdepartmental land use plan working group, which comprises every departmental employee that are meeting to discuss the issues within the plan identified.

For the member's question in regard to whether the department has outside consultants, we do have an ability to find ways of how we can find outside consultants. At this time, we're working as a department and we will continue to review the plan. Once the issues have been identified, we're seeking to fix the errata within the plan. It's our plan that we all want to have a perfect plan. We want the best plan, to have a Nunavut Land Use Plan for the territory that will seek to balance the environmental protection and also the economic portion that comes with the opportunities that we have in the territory.

With that, I'm hoping that I answered the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if I actually did get an answer to the actual question because I asked for confirmation to the extent to which his department is using outside consultants, but I'll move on to my final supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker, I have noted that serious concerns have been raised that the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan in its current form will result in significant quantities of critical mineral deposits being stranded and unavailable for development.

Both the Premier and the Minister responsible for Mines have gone on record this past week in supporting this vital sector of the green economy.

What assurances can the minister provide me today that the Government of Nunavut will not approve the land use plan until this issue has been resolved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the great questions. Mr. Speaker, as I stated, we want the best plan for the territory of Nunavut. Again, I continue to state that we need to strike a balance. There are some outstanding

issues that we are reviewing as a department. The Government of Nunavut Land Use Plan Working Group is reviewing the key issues to assure alignment with the Government of Nunavut goals and to support discussions with the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

There are other outstanding issues within the plan. In February of this year the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada sent follow-up letters to conclude consultations with many of the indigenous governments and organizations potentially impacted by the plan, which are based in our neighbouring jurisdictions in Dene Ghotelnene K'odineh Dene, my apologies for my pronunciation, and Athabaskan Denesuline within our borders that are in the Northwest Territories. They have expressed their significant concerns that the current plan does not adequately protect the caribou herds that they rely on and that consultations have not been adequate.

To the member's question, if I remember, on the economic portion, it is very important. It's one of our top employment sectors within Nunavut that economics is important, our mining, and the protection of our land. There needs to be a balance between the two, and hopefully there will be a plan that will be the perfect plan. We want the best plan, as I have been stating. Without a concrete plan, we cannot strike a balance, but I stress that the economic portion is important and also the protection of our environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 889 – 6(2): Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to question the Minister of Environment too on one of the department's programs.

Mr. Speaker, what I want to concentrate on today is the Wildlife Damage Prevention Program. Mr. Speaker, that program; I am going from memory, so I stand to be corrected, but it lapses more than 50 percent of its budget year after year.

Mr. Speaker, in 2023-24 there were 16 applicants that applied to the program. Fifteen were approved and one that was not. Well, that one was one of my constituents. At a meeting I had with the minister and his officials, I was told that the one person who was denied out of everyone in Nunavut should appeal the application to the deputy minister. This person did, the client did, and was still denied.

I would like to ask the minister: why would his officials make such a decision when the same application is going to be replied and waste my constituent's time, my time, and the minister's time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for bringing up the issue. The member is correct; there were 16 applications and 15 applications were approved. That pinpoints to the application being denied for his member constituent.

I did advise that any appeal can be forwarded to the Deputy Minister of Environment. To my knowledge, the applicant requested material that is not within the application form, meaning the applicant requested the siding material that are metal, where in fact we provide wildlife damage prevention programs that are wood material, for example. The application was denied for that reason. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for reiterating and repeating everything I said.

Mr. Speaker, I'll ask the minister now: which is more deterring to a polar bear breaking through, plywood or metal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question. Mr. Speaker, theoretically, compared to wood material, metal would withstand the force of a polar bear as opposed to a wood material where... . We can only imagine how the force of a polar bear can damage the wood material, but that's a very good question. I would say that material compared to wood material would stand stronger than wood. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know for a fact that, I worked in the wildlife field for many years as the minister, that metal siding is more way of a deterrent for any animal trying to get into a building. I personally know of applicants that were approved for metal siding before this one here, so it's not very consistent here. The minister stated that the metal siding is more of a deterrent for a polar bear going through a wall to get into a cabin.

I'll ask the minister: what recourses are given to my constituents? Can the application be looked at again? This is a new year and, if the policy needs to be changed to include metal siding as opposed to plywood, then so be it. Policies are made there to be changed for the betterment of Nunavut, so Nunavummiut can benefit. Mr. Speaker, half of that budget is lapsed year after year after year, so it's not a budgeting issue. If the policy needs to be changed, change it. It's not that hard to change a policy for reasonable and practical reasons.

I ask the minister: will my constituent's application be looked at again? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the questions. Mr. Speaker, the policy and application process are currently under review. The department aims to have changes and improvements finalized and implemented by mid-2024 and this will be accompanied by a reworking of the Environment website to make it easier to find information and application forms.

During the conservation officers' conference that was held this winter, the discussions regarding the delivery and administration of the program in Nunavut communities was reviewed. These discussions were useful in identifying issues and problems encountered by the officers that had been relayed to them by their community members. The information gathered will be used to better direct the improvements that are being worked on for the harvester support programs administered by the Department of Environment. Following the policy amendment process mentioned, we are currently in the policy review, and as a department, we will be sure to inform the public of the new policy.

In regard to the member's question in regard to do another appeal and review, my departments are listening at this moment, and I can definitely and will bring the issue to the department's attention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 890 – 6(2): Water Infrastructure

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they concern the issue of water infrastructure in Igloolik.

As my colleagues from Aivilik and Uqqummiut have both noted, the Government of Canada announced \$2.0 million in funding last Thursday for work to “develop proposals for upgrading the drinking water treatment facilities in Igloolik, Coral Harbour and Clyde River.” Mr. Speaker, this funding is very important.

Can the minister provide a clear timeline today for the upgrades to Igloolik's water treatment infrastructure? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this time to again... . We are trying to address many water treatment plant upgrades or replacements. Over the next three years, we're looking at \$127 million in multiple communities. We are also preparing for planning around for Igloolik for this fiscal year, 2024-25. The \$2 million

that was announced recently for Igloolik, Clyde River, and Coral Harbour, we're anticipating after the planning stage is completed that we move and request for funds for design as well and/or construction. That is yet to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once I have further details, I'll be more than willing to share. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. As Igloolik is an island, we don't have any lakes for drinking water sources. The community needs good quality water.

(interpretation ends) My question for the minister is this: does the current water treatment infrastructure in Igloolik meet the current federal *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*, yes or no? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): I apologize. (interpretation ends) *Uqaqtii*, thank you for the question. Mr. Speaker, my department continues to try to press and address some of the deficiencies around water quality. We do know that all of our drinking water in the territory is safe for consumption, and I again stress that it's of the utmost importance that if it is at a state of concern, then we do work with Health in implementing boil water advisories, for example.

For Igloolik specifically, we do know that there are seasonal changes to their water supply, and turbidity has been an ongoing issue or challenge. With that, for the treatment plant in Igloolik specifically, I'll have to get back to the member on her question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. We would like to know about the water infrastructure and whether we meet the current federal *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*. I would like to get a response to that question I asked earlier. He did respond partially to my next question.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, Igloolik has experienced numerous boil water advisories in recent years due to high turbidity levels. Can the minister clarify the extent to which the planned upgrades to Igloolik's drinking water treatment facilities will resolve this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the water source in Igloolik, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the treatment of the water source in Igloolik involves filtration as well as chlorination at this moment, and we are trying to

advance on making sure that there's better quality water for Igloolik as well as other communities.

Mr. Speaker, again, this is an area where my department is investing heavily into making sure our treatment plants are designed and operated as intended at the highest level. The standards that we're working with, again, continue to go up and up. The water supply and regulations that are corresponding regulations around this, we're working with the Department of Health on, and ensuring that our departments and hamlets as well are well informed on that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 891 – 6(2): Lottery Administration and Training

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, his department recently announced that it would be “delivering a two-day lottery licence administration training program for individuals and organizations in Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak.” The training in Taloyoak was scheduled to take place from May 23 to May 24 at the hamlet hall, the E.W. Lyall Complex.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister highlight the objectives of the training sessions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have a *Lotteries Act* which is quite dated, but also with that there are specific lotteries that are regulated currently and then there are some that are not regulated.

With our communication plan in providing communities with this training opportunity, it is about ensuring people are informed around successfully delivering a lottery scheme, whether it's a bingo or Nevadas and those types of things, and ensuring organizations at the local level have the available resources to support that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud the minister for ensuring that this type of training is delivered in the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, he tabled the most recent annual report on the administration of the *Western Canada Lottery Act* earlier this year during the Legislative Assembly's sitting of February 28, 2024.

Mr. Speaker, the most recent annual report indicated that applications had been received from retailers to install lottery terminals in a number of Nunavut communities, including Kugaaruk, Pangnirtung, Sanirajak, Pond Inlet, Kugluktuk, and Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm the status of the Kugaaruk application? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have a number of hamlets or communities that have requested lottery terminals for Kugaaruk specifically. It has been approved and is awaiting installation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, section 4 of the *Western Canada Lottery Act* provides that:

“The profits accruing to the Government of Nunavut from the Western Canada Lottery shall be used for the purpose of promoting sport and recreational opportunities for Nunavummiut.”

Mr. Speaker, for the record, can the minister confirm approximately how much revenue the Government of Nunavut received during the 2022-23 fiscal year from lottery-related activities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this topic, the current sport and recreation budget that is allocated currently exceeds the revenues generated by Western Canada Lottery terminals, and so the revenues currently go to the Department of Finance’s general revenue. If the revenues do exceed the sport and recreation budget, the department will be reviewing the funding mechanism. As for the 2022-23 revenues through those lottery terminals, it’s at about \$550,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 892 – 6(2): Water Infrastructure

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to follow up on these questions about water infrastructure, so my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. I just want to assure my colleagues that they have my full support as they advocate for the well-being of their constituents, especially when it comes to water.

Mr. Speaker, I was very struck by the fact that a Member of Parliament from British Columbia raised this issue just a few days ago in the House of Commons, and I sincerely thank the Member for New Westminster-Burnaby for taking some of his valuable House time to address this issue.

Mr. Speaker, it was stated in the House of Commons that “only 8 out of 25 water treatment facilities in Nunavut pass their health and safety tests.” To put it another way, Mr. Speaker, almost 70 percent of facilities fail, according to this.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the federal Minister of Indigenous Services did not dispute this figure.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister for the record: can he confirm whether or not this figure is accurate, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the attention water works are receiving in our legislature, and I think it provides the prominence of we need to focus our attention and investments towards this.

Mr. Speaker, when I tabled the Government of Nunavut Drinking Water Strategic Framework, in that, it did state that many of our water treatment plants do not meet the standards. With that, I would concur with my colleague when she brings up 8 out of 25; that’s probably about there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for that response. It’s hard to think of a more fundamental function of government than the provision of safe drinking water for our citizens. I do appreciate and recognize that work is underway to develop new infrastructure in a number of communities, and we know this will take time.

Can the minister provide a clear answer today as to what specific actions are being undertaken in the immediate future and now to ensure that the drinking water is safe in every single one of our 25 communities, given the response that he just gave? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that question as well. Mr. Speaker, despite some of our water treatment plants not meeting the current *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality* treatment objectives, we do treat drinking water. The treated drinking water does meet the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality* maximum acceptable concentrations for microbiological and chemical parameters. At that level, and I can confirm further to that, that daily operational testing is

done at all of our water treatment plants to confirm chlorine levels and meet the minimum levels for disinfection, in addition to turbidity tests, as an example. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that reassurance, Mr. Minister. Mr. Speaker, I have been very vocal on the need to invest in long-term, sustainable water solutions for Nunavut's largest community, which continues to grow at a rapid pace.

As the minister will recall, we successfully achieved a federal investment of almost \$215 million to create a new reservoir and improve the city's water distribution system.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder: can the minister provide an update on the status of his department's engagement with the City of Iqaluit on this very important strategic project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The announcement towards the city's water infrastructure was a very welcome announcement for Nunavut as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, my department, again, we do work with City of Iqaluit as well as all other municipalities on a regular basis. Department officials do touch base on multiple topics, including capital needs and water quality, on a regular basis and will continue to have those conversations and plan forward around mitigating and making sure our drinking water supply is adequate and safe and good for consumption, including for everyone in the territory. 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. I seek unanimous consent to extend question period. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays?

An Hon. Member: Nay.

Speaker: There is a nay. 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. Hon. Minister of Justice, Ms. Nutarak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 283 – 6(2): Family Abuse Intervention Act 2022-23 Annual Report**

Hon. Karen Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Family Abuse Intervention Act 2022-23 Annual Report*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. I recognize the Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 14: Notices of Motions**Motion 036 – 6(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice**

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday May 31, 2024, I will move the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until Thursday, October 24, 2024.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: 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. As there are no items in the committee, I will proceed directly to Item 22. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at 4:15 today in the Nanuq Room.

Orders of the Day for May 30:

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

8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. 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
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 30, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:56*

