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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Hon. Tony Akoak**

**Joelie Kaernerk**

(Amittuq)

**Mary Killiktee**

(Uqqummiut)

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**

(Rankin Inlet South)

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

**Adam Lightstone**

(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

**Hon. John Main**

(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

*Minister of Health; Minister  
responsible for the Qulliq Energy  
Corporation;  
Minister responsible for Suicide  
Prevention*

**Solomon Malliki**

(Aivilik)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
Whole*

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(Pangnirtung)

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

(Gjoa Haven)

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responsible for Nunavut Arctic  
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(Hudson Bay)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;  
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Minister of Energy; Minister of  
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**Inagayuk Quqqiaq**

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**Alexander Sammurtok**

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**Hon. P.J. Akeegok**

(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

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responsible for Indigenous Affairs; Minister  
responsible for Seniors; Minister responsible  
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**Bobby Anavilok**

(Kugluktuk)

**Janet Brewster**

(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

**Hon. Pamela Gross**

(Cambridge Bay)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Education*

**George Hickes**

(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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

**Hon. David Joanasic**

(South Baffin)

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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Friday, May 31, 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. Adam Lightstone, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. John Main, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Karen Nutarak, Hon. Daniel Qavvik, Ms. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 9:00*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Tony Akoak)(interpretation): Good morning. Before we begin, Ms. Killiktee, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. Good morning, my colleagues and all Nunavummiut who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast. I hope that we have another productive sitting on our last day for the benefit of Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 455 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut Compensation Review**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Good morning, my colleagues. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government employees are the most valuable resource, and today I am happy to report that the Department of Human Resources has recently finalized a comprehensive review of Government of Nunavut salaries.

Mr. Speaker, the goal of this independent review was to ensure that the Government of Nunavut is competitive from a compensation perspective. Using reliable and relevant data from both the private and public sector, most Government of Nunavut salaries were compared to those of similar positions across the country and within the territory. In addition to identifying gaps in our salaries, the review also made recommendations with respect to the Government of Nunavut's existing pay structures, including some changes that will provide greater incentive for employees to advance their careers and take on progressively higher roles.

Mr. Speaker, because of this review's findings and recommendations, there will be a significant increase in salaries, with most positions receiving a 9 percent increase or higher.

>> *Applause*

This is the first time in the Government of Nunavut's 25-year history that an intentional salary philosophy has been set.

This represents another step towards the Government of Nunavut becoming an employer of choice. Mr. Speaker, what this means for our staff is that employees in the Nunavut Employees Union, excluded and senior management categories will receive salary increases effective October 1 of this year. A full information bulletin will be issued shortly that will provide the details. I am pleased to share that positive discussions were held recently with the Nunavut Employees Union that allowed us to implement these much-needed adjustments for September 30.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot emphasize strongly enough that our employees are this government's most valuable resource. Ensuring that they are well compensated is crucial to retaining current staff and attracting new employees to Nunavut's public service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 456 – 6(2): High School Graduations**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, it's that time of year when our students start to plan their summer adventures. As the school year draws to a close, it is with joy that we extend heartfelt congratulations to this year's high school graduates.

This year could very well mark an unprecedented achievement for our territory. Mr. Speaker, we may very likely see the highest graduation count ever, with well over 300 graduates. This serves as a testament to all their hard work, along with the guidance and unwavering support of school faculty and the commitment and support of elders, parents and our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in awe of our educators and school staff, whose tireless efforts are instrumental in guiding these students through their high school journey. They work tirelessly to educate and inspire our children and youth, shaping the foundation of a brighter tomorrow for our communities.



As our graduates embark on the next chapter of their lives, whether entering the workforce, pursuing higher education, or exploring the world, I am confident that they will continue to excel and make a profound impact wherever their journey takes them. To each one of our graduates, I note that this is one of those moments that can define your future. Walk with pride as you cross the stage to get your diploma. You earned it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of this House to join me in extending warm congratulations to our high school graduates and a safe and joyous summer to them all and the rest of our students and school administration. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Nutarak.

### **Minister's Statement 457 – 6(2): Personal Support Worker Program**

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to share that the college has added to its health and wellness programs with a Personal Support Worker Program. Through partnerships with the Department of Health and funding secured from the Nunavut Implementation Panel, the college is working to support "Aging with dignity in Nunavut," part of the *Katujjiluta* mandate.

Personal support workers are integral to Nunavut's health care system. In recognition of this vital profession, Nunavut Arctic College and the Department of Health have partnered to develop and deliver online personal worker programs to existing home and continuing care staff within the department.

This partnership and associated funding has allowed the college to develop 10 online courses. Individuals who complete and pass the 10 courses receive a certificate from the college. The college has rolled out an online pilot course which has received positive feedback from students and the Department of Health. Currently, two online courses are being delivered to 18 students from various communities, including Arviat, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Igloolik, Baker Lake, and Nauyasat.

The online work is complemented by a full-time in-person delivery of the Personal Support Worker Program, currently offered in Rankin Inlet, with plans to offer a second cohort at the Nunatta Campus for the 2024-25 academic year. These in-person classes are made possible through funding from the Nunavut Implementation Panel. The terms of this partnership allows the college to delivery 20 online courses in total. This funding is available until March 31, 2026.

The Personal Support Worker Program is designed to meet national standards and boasts an innovative design that features culturally specific multimedia components, such as video content and Inuktitut voiceovers. The college continues to evaluate its delivery and will make plans for future delivery based on the experiences of these courses. The college

thanks the Department of Health and the Nunavut Implementation Panel for the necessary funding to deliver these programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

**Minister's Statement 458 – 6(2): Nunavut Youth Share their Perspectives on Climate Change with Her Excellency Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada**

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, my department has in place a Nunavut Climate Change Youth Advisory Committee to provide voice for youth on climate change issues in Nunavut and facilitate a youth perspective and feedback on climate change programs, policies, and activities within the territory.

On April 3 our youth advisory committee was invited to share their climate change perspectives, ideas, and concerns with Her Excellency Mary Simon, Governor General to Canada. Youth were represented at this event by our advisory committee, graduating students from Nunavut Arctic College's Environmental Technology Program, and Inuksuk High School's Green Club.

Mr. Speaker, our youth were thrilled to have the opportunity to share their perspectives and thoughts with Her Excellency. To be given such a prominent platform to be heard was no doubt encouraging. I would like to publicly thank Her Excellency for taking the time to hear from our youth and for playing a role in inspiring our climate change champions.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of our youth advisory committee and the other young Nunavummiut that participated in the event. I am hopeful that many will go on to contribute to their communities and to be leaders as our territory responds to the challenges and opportunities that climate change poses.

If any youth are interested in joining the Climate Change Youth Advisory Committee, I encourage them to email our Climate Change Secretariat at [climatechange@gov.nu.ca](mailto:climatechange@gov.nu.ca). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 459 – 6(2): Funding for Pediatric Services at Umingmak Centre**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that, in collaboration with the Department of Health, Dr. Amber Miners was contracted as the Family Wellness Child Abuse Physician Lead at the Umingmak Centre here in Iqaluit. This position will provide medical care advice, training, and strategic direction for programming specific to children and youth who have experienced abuse and those who are involved with the child welfare system.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Miners will also offer frontline social workers capacity development support to improve their competence in managing pediatric cases. Our collaboration with the Department of Health has played a vital role in advancing the department's continued commitment to improving the quality of services offered to children and youth.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 460 – 6(2): Canada Parks and Recreation Association Awards**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut and my fellow MLAs.

Mr. Speaker, each year the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association presents four awards to individuals, organizations, and corporations who have demonstrated a high level of commitment, passion, and leadership on a national level to the parks and recreation sector.

Mr. Speaker, three individuals from Nunavut were recognized by the association, highlighting the commitment and work to Nunavut's recreation sector. (interpretation ends) I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the following:

- Qumangaapik Arnatsiaq from Igloolik works as the community recreation coordinator and was awarded the association's Emerging Leader Award, which highlights and celebrates young Canadians as the future leaders of the parks and recreation sector.
- Kimberley Young from Kugluktuk currently serves as the Recreation Parks Association of Nunavut's president and was awarded the association's Award of Merit, which recognizes the efforts of individuals or organizations in each province

and territory who have influenced the parks and recreation sector in a local, regional, and/or national capacity.

- The President's Award of Distinction was presented to Dawn Currie. Dawn recently announced her retirement as the Executive Director from the Recreation Parks Association of Nunavut, a role she has held since 2012. Ms. Currie has been a vital part of Nunavut's sport and recreation sector. I would like to congratulate Dawn on her career and send our best wishes on her retirement.
- Mr. Speaker, Recreation North, which is a tri-territorial organization that supports training for recreation leaders across the territories, was awarded the association's Partnership Award. This award celebrates sector partners whose collaboration, creativity, and innovation enrich individual health and community well-being and enhance Canada's parks and recreation community.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to congratulate and recognize these recipients and thank them for their commitment to ensuring Nunavummiut have access to recreational programs and service in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 461 – 6(2): World No Tobacco Day**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. (interpretation ends) Welcome back, MLA Lightstone.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, today is World No Tobacco Day. (interpretation ends) Today is World No Tobacco Day. The Department of Health and I invite all Nunavummiut to participate by cutting back, supporting a friend quitting, or setting a goal of being tobacco-free. By quitting smoking, individuals can significantly reduce health risks and improve their overall well-being.

We know that smoking causes cancer, significantly raises the risk of heart and respiratory diseases, and is the number one preventable cause of disease and death in Canada, but it's also important to know that second-hand smoke exposes nonsmokers to many of the same risks.

The Nunavut *Tobacco and Smoking Act* came into effect last year and covers rules on smoking, vaping, and cannabis use in public spaces to protect Nunavummiut, especially elders, pregnant and breastfeeding women, children, and youth, from the harms of second-hand smoke.

Over the next week, you will also see and hear reminders in the newspapers, on our Tobacco Has No Place Here Facebook page, and on the radio.

New resources are already on their way to community health representatives to support Nunavummiut in being responsible tobacco users and reduce second-hand smoke exposure.

I remind all Nunavummiut that all public buildings, workplaces, public housing, staff housing, hospitals and health care centres, schools, daycares and playgrounds, and many other buildings, along with motor vehicles when a minor is present, even if the vehicle is an open vehicle like a Honda and skidoo, are now smoke-free. These buildings include a smoke-free buffer zone which covers nine metres, or nine very big steps, from every entrance or exit to a building.

For those who want to quit or reduce their tobacco use, we have an expanding list of resources and educational materials designed to help you be successful. These include a range of options to support those who wish to quit or reduce their use. I encourage those who want to quit to visit Tobacco Has No Place Here on Facebook or your community health centre for support and information.

By knowing and following the laws around smoke-free places and smoke-free buffer zones, we can protect each other from harmful second-hand smoke for a healthier future for all Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 616 – 6(2): Nattilik Cup in Gjoa Haven**

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge that on the date of March 29, 2024 to April 1, 2024, Gjoa Haven hosted the annual Netsilik Cup Senior Men's Hockey Tournament. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Team Gjoa Haven's Snowy Owls, the 2024 Netsilik Cup champions, and second place Kugaaruk Narwhalers and third place, Taloyoak Trailblazers.

Mr. Speaker, the Netsilik Cup was donated by former Netsilik MLA Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, which is currently utilized today. Mr. Speaker, the first Netsilik Cup was donated by former Hon. Netsilik MLA in 1991 by late John Ningnark, who is no stranger to this House, which is awarded to the champion team at the annual Netsilik region senior men's hockey tournament.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the former Netsilik MLAs before me and with great honours, as the Netsilik Cup is held annually for many, many years within the communities of Gjoa Haven, Kugaaruk and Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the sponsors, fundraisers, volunteers, as well as all of your constituents for the fun-filled weekend of hockey, which was great. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 617 – 6(2): Tusarvik Elementary School Graduation**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, my constituents and the people of Nunavut. In Naujaat, the kindergarten and grade 6 students held their graduations at Tusarvik School. There were very many students, and there are too many to name each of them. They will be going on to junior high school and I want to congratulate them and I would like to have everyone here congratulate them for their successful completion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 618 – 6(2): Commemoration, Grieving, and Healing**

**Mr. Lightstone** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning (interpretation ends) colleagues, visitors joining us in the gallery, as well as Nunavummiut watching our last day of the spring sitting.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned last week, yesterday I returned from Pond Inlet. I would like to pay a special shout-out to my anana, Mika Arreak, for making this beautiful *atigii*.

Mr. Speaker, my sons, Aiden and Aviaq, joined me and my extended family to lay a new headstone, as we held a special memorial marking nearly 13 years since we lost my sister, Sula Inuarak and her precious daughters, Alexandra and Aliyah. Many of us have not had the opportunity to properly grieve after their traumatic loss. Mr. Speaker, such significant loss had forced us, many of us, into autopilot as we tried to continue on in our lives in somewhat of a daze.

I would like to thank the Government of Nunavut's Department of Justice and their Victim Services Division for bringing my family together and allowing us to find closure.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a quote from one of my favourite aunts, Jeannie Arreak-Kullualik, but before I do so I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? Hearing none, please continue Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a quote from one of my favourite aunts, Jeannie Arreak Kullualik:

“They say that time heals, but this is not true. It is us who must take the time to heal, each at our own pace. For some, the process may take months; for others, years, or even a life time. So it is us that must make the time to do the healing journey.”

So many us in Nunavut have lost loved ones to avoidable tragedy, while others have loved ones who have just simply gone missing. After experiencing the benefit of bringing the family together for group counselling, I would like to encourage my fellow Nunavummiut who are grieving to talk to your families and consider contacting the Department of Justice’s Victim Services for assistance.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Department of Justice and the frontline workers for their important work, and for all they do for Nunavummiut and all they have done for my family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member’s Statement 619 – 6(2): Safe Spring Travels**

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues and everyone in Baker Lake. *Iringutaq*, (interpretation ends) I love you. I will see you in a few days.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, it’s now spring and it’s great that many people in Baker Lake will be going fishing and bird hunting now. It will be great to be outside, but I would like to remind everyone to tell someone where you’re going and when you expect to be back. Please tell your family or your friends and make sure you bring proper equipment, cell phones, iPhones, SPOT or GPSs and extra rope and extra equipment, and as the rivers are starting to run, it’s going to be more dangerous now to go on the ice, so be careful when you do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Have a great day.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member’s Statement 620 – 6(2): 2024 High School Graduates in Arviat**

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

Mr. Speaker, as you know Nunavut is now upon looking at the students who are completing their different grades and there will be 49 grade 12 graduates in Arviat.

>>*Applause*

I think this is the first time in Arviat that we've had that many, and I thank the parents for encouraging the students to go to school, waking them up every morning and looking after their children. I congratulate those that are completing their grade 12 education. I know it's an exciting opportunity now for them, that they will be able to further their education or examine their life as to what direction they would like to go. They will be wiser after completing their grade 12 level.

I'm going to be there tomorrow, depending on the weather. I'm very excited and looking forward to taking part in sitting and looking at the completion of these students, who have come a long way. I want to say thank you to each of them. We're so excited. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

**Member's Statement 621 – 6(2): Tribute to Nick Murray**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just before I get into my member statement, I would like to wish our graduating class this year, they are in the final stretch, to focus on those exams and please have a very safe grad season.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw attention to the media booth. Mr. Speaker, although we haven't seen Nick Murray's face in here too often lately, with his increased roles with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Nick Murray has been a fixture around this chamber for 10 years now. Mr. Speaker, it has recently come to my attention that Nick, Liz and Rory are going to be leaving the fine City of Iqaluit in the coming months. I just wanted to make a formal send-off to Nick, Liz and Rory. It was funny, I was watching highlights from the Canadian open golf tournament that's happening right now here in Canada, and Nick did a really good story last year on the link to Inuit art and the Canadian Open that happened years ago. In many ways I hope it gets revitalized in some manner, as well as numerous sports activities coverage, Olympics, Arctic Winter Games, Canada Games. I'm sensing a sports theme with Nick's interests, as well as the political interest.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure all of us have read stories out of CBC that were penned by Mr. Murray, and the professionalism that he brings to his craft and the information that he provides to people on activities in this House and outside the House, across the territory, if not across Canada and the world.

I just wanted to publicly take a moment to recognize Nick, Liz, their impact on Nunavummiut, and maybe Liz more than Nick are going to be felt for many, many years with her background in the education system, Mr. Speaker.



I wanted to bring special notice to Nick Murray and his family, and appreciate the time that they have spent here in Iqaluit. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

**Member's Statement 622 – 6(2): 2024 High School Graduates in Iqaluit**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations on your move, Mr. Murray. I know that your volunteerism will certainly be missed in the city, related to sports activities in particular. Good luck and take care.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the graduates this year in Iqaluit, as well as everybody around them that have brought them to this time in their lives. What we know is that it has been a particularly difficult few years for the students who are graduating in June, with the loss of many classmates along the way. The educators and all of the support team around those students are an integral part of their journey and have provided much care not just to the children, but to the greater community as a whole. So I would just like to recognize those teams at Inukshuk High School.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to say that my son, Miles Napatsi Brewster is slated to graduate, if he finishes the last of his science modules. Mr. Speaker, you may recall a few months ago, actually, everybody might recall that I got in trouble because I was cheering Miles on while he was speed skating in Alaska. Mr. Speaker, throughout his years in high school, he has dedicated so much time to having a well-rounded life, and actually came home from Mat-Su, Alaska as one of the most medalled people for Nunavut. He came home with five metals. I'm very proud of that.

>>Applause

I've been trying to think of how to get that out publicly. Mr. Speaker, I'm so proud of my youngest child and proud of all of the graduates, and care so much about everybody who wraps around them to bring them to days like this. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 623 – 6(2): 2024 High School Graduates in Pond Inlet**

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy for the Nasivvik School grade 12 students who are going to be graduating on June 5. They are:

- Brandon Simonee
- Lane Onalik

- Marie Saunders
- Cassandra Carruthers
- Naiomi Kippomee
- Lillian (Liam) Milton
- Cobain Merkosak
- Timothy Tigullaraq
- Nuka Ootoova
- Yvonne Onalik
- Leah Kunuk
- Josie Singoorie
- Katharine Nutarak
- Delano Atagootak
- Madison Koonark
- Evan Kyak

Ever since COVID-19, this group has come a long way, so I would like to say I'm very proud. As well, my daughter is going to be part of the grade 12 graduates. I'm very excited because I too had to be away a lot, so I'm very proud of her.

>>Applause

I'm proud of each of them. I really hope that they will be able to further their education and whatever goals that they choose as well as employment, they will choose them wisely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 624 – 6(2): Retiring Teachers and High School Graduates in Cambridge Bay**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Ublaakkut* to everyone listening and everyone here in the House with us today.

Mr. Speaker, last night there was a dinner and celebration at the Kullik Ilihakvik School in Cambridge Bay for two extraordinary ladies set to retire. One was my former teacher, Ruth Roberts, who has taught a few generations of students through her career of 35 years of service, along with my dear aunt, Mona Evetalegak, who served as a student support assistant over the last 17 years.

Today on behalf of Cambridge Bay, I thank Ruth and Mona for their incredible dedication and service to our community. We wish each of you all the best in the next chapter of your lives.

Mr. Speaker, we know graduation season is upon us and again I want to celebrate the record number of grade 12 students at the Kiilnik High School who are preparing to celebrate this exciting milestone on June 8.

Mr. Speaker, I specifically want to acknowledge these high school students who are set to tackle new ambitious goals. Congratulations:

- Sienna Aitoak
- Kiana Akpik
- Savanna Avalak
- Iola Buchan
- Tyler Clarke
- Faye Edwards
- Heidi Cori Elias
- Waylon Gunn
- Willow Harvey
- Jonathan Ihumatak
- Hazel Kaotalok
- Wyatt Klengenberg
- Ayra Komak
- Emery Maksagak
- Shaye McCallum
- Madison Novoligak
- Tyrell Pye
- Dominic Sim
- Trista Uvilluk
- Seth Zukiwsky
- Nykesha Aknavigak-Dyer

Mr. Speaker, all these fine young people are going to do amazing things. It's uplifting and exciting to learn of their extensive list of their future pursuits, which include the Nunavut Arctic College, Northern Alberta Information and Technology and Women and Building Futures Recreation and Sports, University of Calgary's Indigenous Access program, Computer Engineering/Artificial Intelligence, the Canadian Armed Forces, Business Administration, Early Childhood Education and various trades.

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

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker and *quana*, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, these students are already aiming higher after being supported by a wonderful group of educators, so I thank each of you for contributing to their future success.

This House is aware that the success of these graduates is a testament to the support they receive from their communities, families, and friends. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of them from their unwavering support, guidance, and nurturing, which have brought the graduates to this significant milestone in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I'm thrilled for our graduates, and look forward to attending their graduation. I wish each of them all the best as they chase their dreams. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 625 – 6(2): 2024 High School Graduates in Arctic Bay**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Good day, my colleagues. There's a birthday. For some reason I always remember May 31 is Anne's and Johnny's, as well as some others in Grise Fiord's, birthday today. So I always remember that May 31 is a birthday.

Today I rise in the House to think about Arctic Bay because they will celebrate the grade 12 graduates. Those who are graduating are:

- Sipporah Ejangiaq
- Ashley Kigutikajuk
- Truman Mukpaloo
- Horizon Willie

They are four graduates. I also want to say "thank you" to the parents who woke them up every morning and also encouraged them to finish their education. They have reached this milestone. I want to say thank you to each parent. It's important to think about our young people, because it's going to open new opportunities for them, and they will now have choices in their lives. I know they will be a support. I will also be a support to them, if necessary.

I'm very proud of their teachers, starting from pre-school all the way to grade 12. They encourage their upbringing to reach this point. I regret that I can't be there. I really wanted to go and attend, but I am unable. Horizon is my wife's namesake and she's named after Lou, Lou's mother. I always say my Nuliakuluk, by namesake, when I see her. However, in Iqaluit my nephew also will be graduating from grade 12. I want to say congratulations and I'm proud of Jeremy James Akeeagok. I always call him "my Jeremy." I'm very proud of him. I know he's quite excited to be completing his grade 12. My family, I also want to thank them each of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

**Member's Statement 626 – 6(2): 2024 High School Graduates in Iqaluit**

**Hon. P.J. Akeegok** (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my fellow MLA, it's great to see you back in the House.

For Nunavummiut who are listening this Friday morning, Mr. Speaker, I want to rise today to say May 31 is important for us. My mother is here and it's her birthday, so I'll be able to see her today. It's a great day.

I also want to stand today to recognize the students in Iqaluit because I'm proud of them. They will complete on June 24. I look forward to seeing their accomplishments, and I know our future is looking wonderful now because there are so many people achieving grade 12.

I want to recognize their parents as well as their teachers because they put in a lot of effort to ensuring that they complete their education and so I want to say how proud of them, to express that. Perhaps in the future some of them will end up here in the House as representatives for some of their ridings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 627 – 6(2): Best Wishes to Father-in-Law**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will be graduations celebrated tomorrow, and I'm very happy for them.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to send a special shout-out this morning to Calgary, Alberta. I'm normally talking about either Arviat or Whale Cove in my member's statement, but today it's about Calgary. That's where my father-in-law, Brian Hansen, is right now. Brian, how's it going? It's 7:30 in the morning. Why are you watching the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, Brian?

>>Laughter

He follows politics very closely and he could talk about things like O&M budgets or capital budgets. He follows quite closely. He lives in Calgary, but he's a big Edmonton Oilers fan, so my colleague will be happy to hear that.

I wanted to send a shout-out to you, Brian. We travelled to Hawaii a few years back, Mr. Speaker, and Brian still does this, so hang loose. That's the hang loose sign in Hawaii. Brian, I know you're going through some health issues right now, and I just wanted to say that we love you and that I'm so happy that you're part of our family. Sorry, Mr. Speaker. Amanda and the kids are there right now, so it's hang loose, Brian and see you soon. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

### **Member's Statement 628 – 6(2): 2024 High School Graduates in Pangnirtung**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since this is the last day of our sitting, I would like to mention there's going to be graduations on June 21 in Pangnirtung at the Attagoyuk High School, and there are 14 graduates. I would like to recognize them all and congratulate them and say how proud I am. They are:

- Kevin Akpalialuk
- Susa Aningmiuq
- Lollita Evic
- Devin Ishulutak
- A.J. Kilabuk  
Ruben Kunilusie
- Abigail Mosese
- Iris Sowdluapik
- Olivia Kilabuk
- Jonah Kunilusie
- Daniel Machmer
- Martin Nakashuk
- Susie Qaqasiq

I congratulate you all and I hope that you seek further education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 629 – 6(2): Safe Spring and Beautiful Weather**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "a very good morning" to the people of South Baffin.

Mr. Speaker, I love being outside in the springtime and it's the most beautiful time of the season. As this is our last day of our spring sitting, as I indicated earlier, it's very beautiful in the springtime with all kinds of out-in-the-land activities and also graduates being celebrated at this time of the year. It also indicates that we're a close-knit family and we will keep you in mind. Please help each other. We also think of Mr. Main and his family.

Mr. Speaker, this spring the animals and the birds are in our life, and I'm sure that there's going to be a lot of fishing done this time of the year. That is our livelihood in the spring, but I do wish everyone to have a safe trip back to their community and to enjoy the spring and the summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

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

##### **Return to Oral Question 857 – 6(2): Delayed Response to Correspondence from Representative for Children and Youth**

**Hon. P.J. Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We think of Minister Main and his family.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to an oral question asked by George Hicke, MLA for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, No. 857 – 6(2).

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an answer to a question I had received on May 27, 2024. The Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk inquired about the contents of the correspondence written by Ms. Jane Bates, the Representative for Children and Youth, as well as my subsequent response.

Mr. Speaker, the Representative for Children and Youth wrote to my office on March 30, 2023 regarding her concerns around the timelines of response by the Government of Nunavut. In her letter she outlined the Representative for Children and Youth's own review of the Department of Family Services beginning in July 2020. Cases reviewed were from 2018 to 2022 fiscal years. Ms. Bates provided recommendations concerning staffing and training, documentation, assessments, and planning.

I would like to clarify the timeline on my correspondence with Ms. Bates. Mr. Speaker, I responded to her within seven days, on April 6, 2023, in an e-mail, when I committed to ensuring an independent review be conducted on the placement of eight children with Ever Bright. I also noted to Ms. Bates that we would also share the findings of the review when completed.

Mr. Speaker, this review was delivered to my office on December 6, 2023. Meanwhile, this government had received the *2023 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut – Children and Family Services in Nunavut*, released in May 2023. We responded thoroughly to this report by providing resources and support to the Department of Family Services to rectify systemic and historical issues. The department began work immediately.

Related specifically to our independent report, our officials required time to address the potential legal and privacy concerns meaningfully and appropriately. Our decisions were made within the abundance of caution for the safety of our children. My deputy minister shared this report with Ms. Bates on March 7, 2024, and I shared it with the regular members the next day.

In addition, as the member is aware, I wrote to Ms. Bates on May 27, 2024, just a few days ago, when I made clarifications and commitments to working more closely with her moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Return to Oral Question 900 – 6(2): Fuel Filters on Snowmobiles**

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide further information regarding fuel quality assurance as asked by the Member for Arviat South during question period on May 30, 2024, No. 900 – 6(2).

As mentioned on March 4, 2024 during winter sitting, my department has been pursuing two types of measures to enhance fuel quality control in addition to the typical rigorous quality testing procedures.

The first measure was initiated in March 2024 where samples were taken from the point of sale in 24 communities, and laboratory analysis indicated that all samples met the Canadian General Standards Board specifications.

The second measure is the introduction of a dedicated communication e-mail to boost customer engagement and responsiveness for inquiries regarding fuel quality. This includes increasing access to testing services at laboratories to conduct a more thorough investigation into reported quality control issues such as fuel filter testing. This program was announced by way of a public service announcement on May 9, 2024.

I encourage all Nunavummiut with concerns on fuel quality to contact the Petroleum Products Division at [fuelquality@gov.nu.ca](mailto:fuelquality@gov.nu.ca). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.



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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. My thoughts are with Minister Main and his family. I worked with his wife as my supervisor at the Nunavut Impact Review Board, so you feel touched when you hear of hardships, but we think of them all and send our love.

Mr. Speaker, it's with great pride and happiness that I have a special visitor here in the gallery who has been with me and my family for the past week. One of my nearest and dearest friends from childhood is here in Iqaluit. She came all the way from Calgary. Her name is Tirzah VanLindenberg and she grew up in Cambridge Bay with me. We have been friends since we met at the swimming pool, Mr. Speaker, and we have so many cherished memories together. We learned together. We spent every waking hour together, her and a few of our other friends. It's always special to have someone come and meet your family, especially your little baby, and I thank her for doing that. Thank you, Tirzah. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to formally recognize Lou Philip, who has been watching proceedings here for the last week. He's a constituent that lives close to me, but unfortunately with the new electoral boundaries that we just decided upon, unfortunately, Lou, I won't be your MLA for the next term, unless you decide to move.

>>*Laughter*

I know he's not right in the gallery, Mr. Speaker, but he's mere feet away from it. I would like to again draw attention to Nick Murray and thank him for his service in his journalism, and as my colleague mentioned, the numerous volunteer activities that he and Liz are involved in. They will be missed in this community, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. As this is our last day, whoever puts up their hand up last will go first.

>>*Laughter*

No hands went up. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 903 – 6(2): Inuktit Language Services in Igloolik

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut and colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Languages and they concern the issue of Inuktit language services in Igloolik.

Mr. Speaker, it is an unfortunate reality that many of Nunavut's smaller communities do not have access to banking institutions. Many unilingual elders continue to be impacted by the lack of Inuktit language services when dealing with their financial situation.

Mr. Speaker, it was brought to my attention that a unilingual elder in my constituency was experiencing issues accessing her bank account. The institution advised her over the phone that she needed to go to a bank in person to resolve the issue. My constituent then purchased airline tickets from Igloolik to Iqaluit, out of pocket, to resolve a simple banking issue.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. Can the minister clearly explain what specific actions his department is undertaking to address this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for bringing the unnecessary issue brought forward to her attention, and as a department, we will further look into the issue. It's unfortunate that happened to her constituent member.

Mr. Speaker, under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, there are language obligations for the private sector. The private sector has an obligation to provide Inuktitut service within their businesses. Each year the private sector is provided \$5,000 to assist their translation services. That covers the language that they must provide within the three official languages that we have. Further, I will direct my department to further look into the issue of how we can address it as a department for the Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. However, with the importance placed on Inuktit, it is unfortunate that issues still persist in accessing Inuktit language services, for an entire year in some cases, especially for elders who should not have to experience any language barriers.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the issue of automatic banking machines not having the Inuktitut language available to users has been raised a number of times in the House. I understand and recognize that the department's private sector Inuktitut support program provides grants, as you just told us, to private organizations operating in Nunavut to assist in improving their Inuktitut language services.

Can the minister clarify what specific actions his department undertakes to inform the private sector of their Inuktitut language obligations? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): I just asked a question. I wish a response first.

>>*Laughter*

**Speaker:** My apologies; I was passing notes. It must be the last day.

>>*Laughter*

Minister of Languages, Mr. Qavvik.

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the continuance of her bringing the issue forward. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture and Heritage does not track language compliance of the private sector. However, Mr. Speaker, any concerns surrounding language compliance can be directed to the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, which has the office based here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, Inuktuuriaqarniq Namminiaqtunut grant program, as I stated, provides up to \$5,000 to assist private sector bodies with the replacement of signs, translations, or covering language training fees. I encourage all of Nunavut businesses to meet their language obligations and reach out to my department for support.

Mr. Speaker, Culture and Heritage has grants and contributions in regard to Inuit language protection for our three official languages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, *Uqausivut 2.0* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 14, 2018. The document is a five-year strategy and identifies a number of outcomes and strategic priorities to promote and revitalize the use of the Inuit language across Nunavut.

The department's 2024-26 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2024-25 fiscal year is to "Finalize the review and evaluation of *Uqausivut 2.0* and develop updated comprehensive plan to implement Nunavut's language legislation."

Can the minister indicate when he expects to table the new comprehensive plan in the House? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Culture and Heritage has extended the current language plan to further implement a strategy addressing the four areas of focus from *Uqausivut 2.0*. The department will continue with implementation efforts until the new comprehensive plan is developed.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Legislation tabled its report on the review of Nunavut's language legislation, *Official Languages Act* and *Inuit Language Protection Act* during the winter 2024 sitting. The department anticipates putting forward a legislative proposal in summer 2024 to introduce the bill in the fall 2024 sitting, with the next language plan to be developed to reflect the updated legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 904 – 6(2): RCMP Agreement**

**Mr. Lightstone:** I would like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for continuing to bring lighthearted laughter to the Assembly. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice, and they concern the issue of public safety and the RCMP policing contract.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice and the federal government have a cost-sharing agreement, where the Government of Nunavut contributes 75 percent of the cost of the RCMP policing in Nunavut and the feds contribute the remainder.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut and the RCMP have a significant challenge and responsibility to maintain public safety across our territory. For my first question I would like to ask: can the minister elaborate on the budget development process of the RCMP in Nunavut? I'm very curious to find out who develops such budget requests, such as increasing detachment size, and who ultimately approves these requests prior to being considered in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Justice, Ms. Nutarak.

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you for your question. (Interpretation ends) The department and the RCMP work collaboratively on the budget to ensure that they have the proper resources. The RCMP submits a multi-year financial plan based on call numbers and detachment needs that identifies projects needed

in each community. The department may seek supporting materials or ask questions to ensure the projections are fully supported. Once these written resources are received and the multi-year plan is complete, the department and the RCMP will work together on the business case for the Assembly based on the identified needs.

I can assure the member that the department is responsible for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police resources needed, and regularly brings forward their business. Over the last five years, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have increased from 167 to 206, and the overall budget has gone from \$45 million to \$70.3 million. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the minister for providing that information. Mr. Speaker, as has been experienced here in Iqaluit, public intoxication, crime, violence, and vandalism has steadily increased in severity year over year.

Mr. Speaker, the RCMP, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, are stretched thin in Iqaluit. While attending emergency calls, they are far too busy to stop their vehicles and jump out and dump out open containers of alcohol. Mr. Speaker, the RCMP detachment here in Iqaluit is struggling to meet the demand, and our public safety is suffering the consequences.

As the minister indicated, the Department of Justice has the overall responsibility for the budget development and the business case submissions to increase RCMP resources. I would like to ask how many additional RCMP officers were requested and subsequently approved for the Iqaluit detachment in the current fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, Ms. Nutarak.

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you for your question. (interpretation ends) To tackle the public safety concerns in Iqaluit, the Government of Nunavut has recently approved the funding for two new positions in Iqaluit, including a First Nations and Inuit policing officer. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the alarming rates with the year-over-year increase in severity of crime and violence and threats to public safety in Iqaluit, I do hope that the two additional officers will be able to meet the demand. However, for my last question, I would like to ask the minister: what mechanisms are in place to temporarily bring additional officers necessary to meet the demand and curb the alarming rates of public intoxication, crime, violence, and vandalism in Iqaluit?

Mr. Speaker, if the trend continues and somehow this summer is worse than the year before, does the minister have the authority and the budget to bring additional police officers here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, Ms. Nutarak.

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We can get relief members if the commanding officer deems it's necessary, but we can bring it to the department if it's a concern.

I would like to add that since the last questioning, I have asked the department to meet with the Iqaluit MLAs with the RCMP, if you are interested, so you might be invited for a consultation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 905 – 6(2): RCMP in Arviat**

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning to the people of Arviat.

(Interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions, too, are for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, to the best of my recollection, a while ago there was supposed to be four civilian person-years dedicated to Nunavut for the RCMP and I believe one was supposed to go to Arviat. I would just like to get an update on those four civilian positions RCMP is supposed to create, and Arviat was supposed to be one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Justice, Ms. Nutarak.

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I can't find the page. However, I will return to the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Is that question taken as notice? Ms. Nutarak.

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Yes.

**Speaker:** Are you taking the question as notice?

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Yes.

**Speaker:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) In Arviat people speak Inuktitut a lot and the RCMP need assistance, or when they speak with locals, some may speak in English or Inuktitut, but they may not fully comprehend sometimes. The need in having

an Inuktitut speaker in the office would improve things a lot, even if that individual is not an RCMP officer.

The minister said she would look into it, so with regard to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in the (interpretation ends) contribution agreement, (interpretation) I don't believe it's really benefitting the community of Arviat. It's an outstanding issue that's not changing.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, can the minister talk with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and if it's taking too long, maybe a contribution agreement with the hamlet to create this person-year for a bilingual person to work in the RCMP office to help with the duties of the RCMP. Can the minister talk with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as that could be one of the options to speed up the process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, Ms. Nutarak.

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To answer your question, they're trying to increase the number of police in the community. The police are trying to hire Inuktitut-speaking people, but we will have further discussions with the RCMP to see if they can hire Inuktitut-speaking people sooner, because there is a big need for Inuktitut-speaking workers in the RCMP in Nunavut and the fact that we need more Inuit RCMP officers is there as well. If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming an RCMP officer, please encourage them, but make sure they speak Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague, Mr. Lightstone, was concerned about the number of RCMP officers in Iqaluit, I, too, am concerned about the number of RCMP officers in Arviat. To my knowledge, they have been short-staffed for quite a while now. At times even emergencies only were allowed. You couldn't do criminal record checks and other mundane tasks that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers have to do.

I would just like to get an update from the minister on what's being done to relieve the shortage of RCMP officers in Arviat. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, Ms. Nutarak.

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After I look into this matter, I will write to the member with what I discover. We have a shortage of RCMP officers everywhere in Nunavut, just like we have a shortage of nurses. We are working on the matter because we need to have police everywhere in Nunavut, and we will keep on working to get that to happen. We will keep encouraging the RCMP to do just that. Thank you, and thank you for the question.

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

**Question 906 – 6(2): Fisheries Development**

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is well aware, Baker Lake is Nunavut's only inland community, which is also the most beautiful, and that's not subject for debate.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the vast mineral resources that are located in our part of the territory, we are blessed with an abundance of wildlife. Mr. Speaker, economic diversification is an important priority for my community, so my questions today will focus on this subject.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Baker Lake is teeming with many different species of fish, including char, grayling, and trout, and even sculpins. Minister Main, if you want to go fish for some sculpin, you can do that.

>>*Laughter*

You were too late for this one, though.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, he recently tabled his department's Fishery and Sealing Division (interpretation ends) strategic plan. (interpretation) Can the minister describe how this strategic plan addresses the issue of potential fisheries development for Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think my colleague has ever been to Grise Fiord. If the member wants to see a beautiful place, you're more than welcome to come to Grise Fiord.

For fisheries, we recently announced it will be a new beginning and we're going to try and see what else we can initiate in the communities, including in Baker Lake. We're getting ready to see how we can organize it for commercial fishing or beneficial economic opportunities. We're always looking for those opportunities on behalf of the communities.

What I announced will be a new beginning. We will be using the Nunavut Development Corporation's meeting. I encourage them to see what they can create that can benefit the



communities too, because we have an opportunity and we have funding available for things like that.

I thank the member for asking questions about that. I want to work closely with his community to see what else we can create together, because we are quite able to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I went to Grise Fiord in 20189 or 2019, around there, but Baker Lake is still the most beautiful community.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the minister will also recall, his most recent letter of expectation to the Chair of the Nunavut Development Corporation's Board of Directors emphasized the importance of economic diversification. The minister's letter of expectation stated that the Nunavut Development Corporation should "seek new projects and investments in our commercial fishery and harvesting sectors that will lead to enhanced employment and income-earning opportunities."

Will the minister commit to ensuring that his new letter of expectation to the Nunavut Development Corporation sets clear direction for the corporation to undertake a feasibility study for the development of a commercial fishery in Baker Lake that would work closely with the corporation's existing meat and fish processing facilities in the Kivalliq, and if so, when would that happen with Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if I can commit to the letter about expectation. I believe we've done it for this year, but to do a feasibility study, that's well within the range of both the Nunavut Development Corporation and our department through our Fisheries and Sealing Division. I can commit to looking into whether we can do that for the community of Baker Lake.

For any communities that are interested, please approach us. The strategy that I launched here last session allows for that, and I would really encourage our Nunavummiut to start looking and start in how to help each other. I think feasibilities like that would be a good move forward. So I thank the member for raising this in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your responses. Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Development Corporation's response to the minister's most recent letter of expectation indicated that "the harvesting and fishery sector continues to work

with the local hunters and trappers organizations to ensure proper measures are in place so our natural resources are not exhausted.”

Over the past several years the Nunavut Development Corporation introduced beluga to its inventory for the people of Nunavut. To be clear, in Baker Lake we love beluga as well. We're inland, but we love it, too, so feel free to share. I can bring some back home to Baker, so if you have some, I'll take it.

Getting back to the quote, “We are currently looking into investing into a research vessel to expand on the availability of other marine life for Nunavummiut.”

Can the minister provide an update today on the corporation's work in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have an update in terms of what the Nunavut Development Corporation has done towards this initiative right in front of me, but I can assure you that they are working towards that. If not, our department will definitely do that.

I think those fishing vessels that are coming into Nunavut, expanding, not just from our government, but our Inuit organizations, our Inuit corporations, is a good step forward. For inland, a lot of the char that requires to become commercial fisheries. There's a process in place within the Department of Fisheries and Oceans that my department is very familiar with, and can help and assist the communities. I will continue (interpretation) to encourage my staff or direct my staff to do more work along these lines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 907 – 6(2): Public Intoxication**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some more questions today for the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, we did hear earlier about the motion passed by Iqaluit City Council regarding public intoxication in the city, and what we do know is that it's starting to ramp up again as the weather warms. I know that one of the other members has the intention to actually table a letter and perhaps that motion as well, and so I won't get into the details of the motion, but that motion does ask that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as Nunavut's contracted police force, to strictly enforce all laws relating to open consumption of alcohol. They focused a lot on the need to take that alcohol out of the hands of people, because the city's bylaw officers don't have that delegated task.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to hear, even though we know, those of us that read the monthly reports from the RCMP about the number of calls that they are responding to and how difficult it is to meet all of those needs, let alone go around and pour out alcohol, so I would just like to hear, Mr. Speaker: can the minister assure me today that she will actually immediately act on than that motion and ensure that the RCMP are seizing open alcohol in public, especially during this upcoming summer public drinking season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Justice, Ms. Nutarak.

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) The Department of Justice acknowledges the concerns raised by Iqaluit City Council regarding public intoxication and the related public safety issues. We are committed to working collaboratively with the RCMP and the City of Iqaluit and the community organizations to address the problem effectively. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The City of Iqaluit also issued a formal release concerning this issue in which Mayor Awa was quoted as stating "...addressing public intoxication is not solely about enforcement but also about providing necessary social services and support systems. Collaboration with community organizations, health services, and social workers will be integral to creating a holistic approach to this issue."

Mr. Speaker, the minister did just indicate that the department would be working on addressing this issue with a number of partners, and what I'm hearing from community members is that they're not just concerned about the public intoxication; they're concerned about the impact on the lives of why people are out there and why they're consuming so much alcohol.

Of course, not having a home to go and consume alcohol is why we're seeing the public intoxication, because they don't have somewhere that they can go and drink. There are thousand of us who go and buy beer and wine and we have the ability to go and drink in private.

I would like to know from the minister what specific actions are under consideration to address this issue, because it's not just about that public intoxication. It's about peoples' real-life experience and why they're drinking to complete intoxication; why they're doing it in public.

I would just like to hear more details about what those thoughts are. Is there a thought about creating a public space where people can go and drink the alcohol that they purchase at the beer and wine store that's managed and supervised, and that's not a bar? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, Ms. Nutarak.

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) At this time I can't say, but we are working with our partners. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are doing their patrols, trying to increase their patrols for safety, by foot and ATV. We will get back to you on your first question; I can't say until we have met. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our televised hearings with the Information and Privacy Commissioner, I asked some very pointed questions about why the staff at the beer and wine store don't have access to a list of people who are under do not buy, do not consume, do not possess alcohol orders from the Nunavut Court of Justice. I was very focussed on creating the opportunity to halt the sales of alcohol to people, especially when it comes to the knowledge that women and children are often the targets of the harm caused by those people who fall under those restrictions. Everybody knows I feel very passionately about that, as do many people around the table.

Mr. Speaker, what I wonder is: what are the other options, because what we heard from the witnesses that were present was that it's not really feasible for the frontline staff workers to be enforcing that, and so what are the options? If not that team, is there an option of working with the Correctional Services Canada with the probation and parole officers in order to do some of that enforcement?

I think that taking a step like that... We need to figure this out. I guess I'm just thinking out loud, so I'll just leave that question of to the minister. Is she able to work with everybody that she's mentioned, including Correctional Services Canada to look at creating an opportunity to at least limit the amount of alcohol that's going out to people who should not be buying alcohol? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, Ms. Nutarak.

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We can take it into consideration. In smaller communities the RCMP meet with the alcohol education committee after an incident has happened, but it's different in the city. So we'll take that into consideration. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 908 – 6(2): Public Service Announcements in the Nattilingmiutut Dialect**

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the new Minister of Languages, and they concern the issue of the Government of Nunavut's public service announcement in the Nattilingmiut dialect.

Mr. Speaker, I have raised the issue of the Government of Nunavut's public service announcements not being available in the Nattilingmiut dialect a number of times in the House. Mr. Speaker, the last time I raised this issue in the House, I reminded the minister's predecessor that the Government of Nunavut's Inuktitut language incentive policy formally recognized five distinct dialects of the Inuit language, including Nattilingmiut. Mr. Speaker, the minister's predecessor indicated that "In terms of hiring somebody that can work in a department that speaks Nattilingmiut, that's something we can look into."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide the House with a status update on this important work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for bringing the very important issue to the Netsilik area. Mr. Speaker, we do have the translations bureau within our department and they focus on the delivery of high-quality translations services in a timely manner. The translation bureau also collaborates with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, the Nunavut Arctic College, as well as client departments and agencies.

On terminology and fulfilling translations, funding is available to communities to adopt the public service announcement when it is read on the local radio for Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member of the Legislative Assembly representing the Netsilik riding, I will continue to strongly advocate for the inclusion of the Nattilingmiut.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture and Heritage Translation Bureau has a total of 30 positions allocated to its branch. Documentation published by the department indicates that as of January 17, 2024, there were a total of 13 of the positions in the translation bureau that are vacant.

Mr. Speaker, a number of those vacant positions are for an Inuktitut translator. Mr. Speaker, can the minister commit to filling one of those translator positions with an individual able to speak and write in the Nattilingmiut dialect? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question. The different dialects across our territory are very important to continue and use our language for generations. It's important that we revitalize and continue to speak Inuktitut so that we can pass on our knowledge and tradition for the continuance of our language.

Mr. Speaker, our grants and contributions under the Inuit Language Implementation Fund also has up to \$100,000 that his community can apply for. Currently we don't fund any communities for translators as this is a municipal responsibility. However, the hamlet can apply for funding under our grants and contributions program that our department supports. I can commit to having my department look into the question the member is posing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My dialect is something that I value very much, and at times it's not understood, but I would like to truly represent my constituents and to understand what's coming from the government.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the department's 2024-26 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2024-25 fiscal year is to "Implement the new Translation Policy."

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Languages update the House on the status of this important work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the department is undertaking a review of the translation policy to improve quality and efficiency of translations. This review will also clarify how the bureau works with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit and it will identify areas for improved collaboration and coordination on new terminology development and standardization.

In 2023, Mr. Speaker, I can say that the translation bureau transitioned to a new cloud-based translation software platform called Grace. It replaces Pro Portable and provides an integrated solution for producing translations and managing translation requests.

Mr. Speaker, we're looking into reviewing the translation policy. Once we have the full details of the new policy, it will come to the House for the Standing Committee on Legislation for their consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 909 – 6(2): Federal Bail Reform**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, last week the Premier made a minister's statement on the Northern Premiers Conference that he recently hosted, and it reminded me of an article that came out after

last year's premier's conference, and one of the topics of discussion was then Bill C-48 was one of the topics that came out.

Mr. Speaker, that Bill C-48 or the former Bill C-48 proposed changes to strengthen Canada's bail system or the federal bail reform legislation. Mr. Speaker, that bill received Royal Assent and came into effect January 4th of this year. I would like to ask the minister first: what are the some of the notable changes and bail reform impacting Nunavut from this federal legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Justice, Ms. Nutarak.

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware at the moment. I'll take it as notice.

**Speaker:** The question taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

### **Question 910 – 6(2): Fuel Resupply and Quality**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services concerning the issue of fuel supply quality.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, summer is just around the corner. The annual sealift and resupply will be starting soon. As the minister is aware, it is vital communities receive their annual bulk fuel resupply on schedule. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the annual bulk fuel resupply, and can he indicate what impact the current world price of oil will have on the next fuel adjustment in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, my department and through the Petroleum Products Division are dedicated to securing the 2024 resupply bulk fuel needs, and as of late December 2023 the division had secured approximately 135 million litres of fuel. This constitutes about two-thirds of the need for all communities, and we are preparing for the resupply to ensure that the needs will be met.

At the time of this purchase, the two-thirds of the 2024 fuel needs, the West Texas Intermediate oil prices at the time were about \$70 to \$75 per litre. In contrast, late last month, I think they were hovering about \$83 per barrel, and so I think hopefully that will have a good impact on our fuel prices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought there was going to be an increase to \$75 a litre.

>>*Laughter*

Of course, it's one barrel. Mr. Speaker, our hunters and outfitters rely on high-quality supplies of gasoline and naphtha. It seems like more fuel is used during the summer, as many people go boating and more people will be going out on the land and they will be using more naphtha.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, I have previously raised concern about the risk of contaminated fuel and damage that it can cause to snow machines and other equipment.

Earlier this month the minister's department issued a public service announcement concerning "enhancement to fuel quality control." Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister taking action to address this issue. Can the minister describe what specific improvements are being made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to correct myself, it was \$70 to \$75 per barrel when the bulk fuel purchase was made.

Mr. Speaker, the new enhanced fuel quality assurance program that we're rolling out, we do want to ensure that the fuel quality that we are providing to Nunavummiut, and it was stated earlier, too, that we do have premium gasoline, which is, compared to the rest of Canada is unleaded premium, and some prices are going much more higher than what we're paying currently.

Mr. Speaker, regarding quality assurance, it is to allow for a bit of monitoring and collecting samples. If there's a concern around that, the division will be able to collect then, and as stated in my return to oral to one of my colleagues here, there's a dedicated e-mail customers can direct their inquiries towards. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased that you are dealing with this directly so that our equipment doesn't break due to the quality of the fuel.

(interpretation ends) It is important for the department's Petroleum Products Division to work closely with hunters and trappers organizations to ensure that any concern about fuel quality are reported quickly and acted upon quickly. Can the minister describe how his department is addressing this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department's Petroleum Products Division does checks and balances all throughout when we first get the fuel and after it gets delivered. Those are done on a regular basis.

Mr. Speaker, again, through this new program that we've rolled out, it will provide another opportunity. If there are cases where individuals in the territory are experiencing issues around that, again, we do have a dedicated e-mail. I encourage Nunavummiut to go to their local service's fuel provider to report these and ensure that their issues are addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 911 – 6(2): Decentralization**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning to the people of Clyde River. My questions today are for the Premier.

I would like to follow up with the Premier today on some of the answers that he provided earlier this week to my colleague from Aivilik, who asked him about the issue of departmental positions and decentralization.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier indicated that he had directed an independent review of the status of decentralization in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, can the Premier confirm who conducted the review, and can he indicate what recommendations have been submitted to the government. That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank you for that excellent question. We had an independent review on the status of decentralization in Nunavut outside of Iqaluit and what types of problems we have in these offices. We have not reviewed the motion, but it's being analyzed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to be informed of what types of changes there are going to be. As the Premier is aware, the government's most recent quarterly employment record indicates that almost 2,000 of its positions remain vacant.

In my constituency of Uqqummiut, we had very few employment opportunities in our community, and almost one out of every three Government of Nunavut positions are vacant. Can the Premier clarify if the independent review also looked at the high vacancy

rate in non-decentralized communities such as Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member and agree I with you. We are currently reviewing how we can make improvements in the non-decentralized communities. We were looking at approximately 60 percent jobs be outside of Iqaluit, but I will factor this in during this review and where we can make improvements or look at other options. I thank the member for giving me this recommendation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was talking about a slightly different issue, and I want to indicate this to you that in Nunavut, you have jobs created in these decentralized communities at the government offices in the smaller communities. What I want to touch upon and mention is in one community that had the maximum positions vacant, is the community a problem that people don't want to go there and work? Has that been considered? Is the community as a place to live great for people who may be employed? We also see houses vacant due to lack of jobs in the decentralized communities.

That's what I want to touch upon, Mr. Speaker, a community that perhaps the problem of filling the positions should imply that maybe move those positions to another community. Have you taken note on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for raising this. We have not made any changes yet; we are looking at that. I can say here in the House, even the decentralized communities and the positions are there, but they are vacant, that is something that is often expressed here. These are issues we hear about. The houses vacant for a lot of years and alongside the positions being vacant, yes, we have looked at this. They're part of our analysis how we can arrange this.

To date since 2012 was the last review, so I'm really hopeful about the review of this and to see what is working in our communities and whether we should move them or not. We're looking at the totality of this all. That is all I can say at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 912 – 6(2): Public Safety**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are again for the Minister of Justice concerning the issue of public safety.

Mr. Speaker, as spring and summer approaches, many communities across Canada are at risk of wildfires. However, the warm weather of the spring and summer across Nunavut brings increased crime severity to our communities.

I would like to thank the minister for the notice of the upcoming invitation to meet with our local RCMP detachment. I found this exercise to be very beneficial when we last met with the previous Minister of Justice with the RCMP and the Iqaluit MLAs. I would hope that we can arrange this meeting to occur before the summer, and then again have a post-meeting in the fall to discuss what worked and what didn't over the summer months.

I would also like to give the minister notice that I will have an open line of communication with the minister to share any concerns over the public safety that I receive from Iqalumiut.

I would like to ask, when the minister sends out this invitation to meet with her staff as well as the RCMP, if she would also extend an invitation to the mayor and city councillors as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Justice, Ms. Nutarak.

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I haven't, but I could invite them as well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response and I do hope that councillors will receive and accept the invitation.

I would like to echo some of the concerns of my colleague, Member Brewster, regarding the issue of public safety and open consumption of alcohol and public intoxication. As Member Brewster had stated, many of us are lucky enough to have a home to go to and a place to enjoy or consume our beer and wine store products in private, in the privacy of our homes. However, many of those currently consuming alcohol in public across Iqaluit do not have that same privilege to consume alcohol in the privacy of our homes.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of safe consumption sites has come up in the Assembly in the past, and of course, we do have legal consumption sites here in Iqaluit, and those are called liquor establishments, those with liquor licences, such as bars and restaurants.

However, those less privileged, suffering from alcohol addiction and consuming alcohol openly in public, do not have the ability to consume alcohol safely in these safe

consumption sites that we have across the city, and it's clear that we need to do something differently to address the issues of public safety.

I would like to ask if the issue of a safe consumption site for the homeless has been raised within the Department of Justice and their officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, Ms. Nutarak.

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We recognize the matter and Justice is happy to work with these stakeholders. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to echo my colleague, Ms. Brewster, about another issue, and that's the issue of repeat offences, alcohol-related harm caused by those that are currently under probation and parole.

I strongly believe that the minister and Department of Justice must collaborate with Corrections Canada, as well as their own community corrections office, to really enhance the monitoring of individuals under the order not to consume alcohol in Iqaluit.

I would like to move on to my last question. As the minister is the Attorney General of Nunavut, I would like to seek the minister's interpretation with regard to the *Nunavut Liquor Act* and whether or not the issue of a safe consumption site, aside from a bar or restaurant, would be applicable under the *Liquor Act*; and in addition, under the *Liquor Act*, what sort of role and authority is bestowed upon peace officers to enforce the *Liquor Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, Ms. Nutarak.

**Hon. Karen Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all have to be in the same environment, yes, and I also feel for the concerns he has. It's not just in Iqaluit. We have to be in a safe environment. Often, we see now people drinking outside, not just in Iqaluit, but in small communities as well. This is something we can further look into, perhaps, and to see whether we can entertain that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 913 – 6(2): Federal Bail Reform Review**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, after the Northern Premiers' Conference last year ended, there was an article that was covered in the media titled "Premier plans 'in-depth review' of bail-reform bill's impact in Nunavut."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my question. At that time the Premier was quoted, “Now that [the new bill has] been tabled, I am preparing to have an in-depth review of what was just submitted and what impacts it’s going to have specifically to Nunavut, specifically to Inuit, and the challenges that might be there.”

Mr. Speaker, this federal legislation has now been in force for nearly six months. Has this in-depth review been completed and, if so, when is the government planning on tabling it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the follow-up. I know my colleague, the Minister responsible for Justice, took this question as notice. During our time at Northern Premier’s we did bring this forward, and at that time I did reach out directly to the Department of Justice, specifically to the minister, to look into the bail reform discussion. As such, the Department of Justice is a lead on this since that moment of the news release. So I would request for the Minister responsible for Justice to follow up with the member as indicated, as a question came up as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Question taken as notice. My apologies. The question was not taken as notice; just duplication of a question. Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand the Premier would have tasked the department to do, but the Premier was quoted that he was going to be preparing an in-depth review of what was submitted. I just find it difficult to understand why I just can’t get an answer on whether this review was done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank my colleague. As the member would recognize, I had assigned that specific task with the Department of Justice to look at that specific legislation with the federal government. They are the appropriate minister. I did work directly with the department to ensure that the concerns that are being brought forward from Nunavut are voiced at the table that I was in, and as such, I think it’s important that the question that was taken as notice be respected and that we allow that department to provide the proper responses in terms of what that review entailed and what information is within that important bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect, my question to the minister that was taken as notice had nothing to do with this in-depth review; it was specifically to changes that were noticed in the bail reform. This in-depth review is a totally different topic, Mr. Speaker. I would have gotten to it if I would have been allowed, with the appropriate minister, but the Premier is the one that stated publicly in the media that he

was going to be the one ordering this in-depth review, and I would like to think that he would follow up with his cabinet or with his ministerial colleagues that those directions are undertaken.

I'm again asking the Premier: was this in-depth review completed and, if so, when is it going to be tabled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did work directly with the Department of Justice to ensure that the concerns of Nunavut and the direct impacts it would have on the residents, of Nunavummiut, are factored in in the discussions of when the bail reform was being discussed at the federal-level.

I do not have the specific details in terms of what those were, but I did work directly with the department, and I did task the department to ensure that those concerns are vetted appropriately to the Department of Justice as well as the Department of Justice in the federal system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members be aware, the time allotted for question period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Savikataaq.

### **Item 7: Written Questions**

#### **Written Question 008 – 6(2): Ministerial Duty and Home Travel**

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions today are for the Premier, and they concern the subject of ministerial duty travel and home travel.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are:

1. What duty travel was undertaken by the Premier and Members of the Executive Council between January 1, 2024 and May 30, 2024?
2. What were the cost, duration, itinerary, and purpose of each trip?
3. Who took part in each trip?
4. Within the meaning of the “Home Travel” provisions of the Government of Nunavut’s Ministerial Benefits Policy, how many trips were undertaken between January 1, 2024 and May 30, 2024 by Members of the Executive Council who are not residents of Iqaluit?
5. What were the dates and duration of each trip?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** 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 Specials on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 288 – 6(2): Speaker’s List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements**

Thank you. I have one document to table today, which is a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. Thank you.

Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Lightstone.

#### **Tabled Document 289 – 6(2): Correspondence Regarding Public Intoxication and Alcohol Consumption in Iqaluit**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague, MLA Brewster, had indicated, yesterday the Iqaluit MLA were cc’ed on a letter that was from our mayor, addressed to the Minister of Justice, as well as the Minister of Finance, and this letter was in response to the motion introduced by Councillor Kyle Sheppard, which was unanimously passed by council. The motion was calling on the Government of Nunavut to address the pressing issues that affects our community safety.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table this letter for the benefit of the public, and would hope that the ministers will also table their response at a future date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

### **Item 16: Motions**

#### **Motion 036 – 6(2): Extended Adjournment**

**Mr. Malliki:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. 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. There are no items in the committee. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. There is no report to be read.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. There are none.

Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chamber to give assent to bills.

### Assent to Bills

**Commissioner Eva Qamaniq Aariak** (interpretation): Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be seated. Thank you.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following bills:

Bill 38, Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2023-2024;

- Bill 41, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*;
- Bill 42, *An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act*;
- Bill 44, *An Act to Amend the Creditors Relief Act and the Public Service Garnishee Act*;
- Bill 45, *An Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act and the Hamlets Act*;
- Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act*;
- Bill 47, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2024-2025*;
- Bill 48, *An Act Respecting the Constituencies of Nunavut*; and
- Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Those are many bills that have been given assent today.

As winter's snow is washed away by the rains of spring, we look forward to welcoming the warmth of summer.

As you prepare to return to your constituencies and families, I wish you safe travels. Thank you very much.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.



**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, a reminder that the MSB meets at half past one in the Tuktu Boardroom, followed by a meeting of the Regular Members' Caucus at three o'clock in the Nanuq Room.

*Orders of the Day* for October 24:

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:** Thank you. Before we end the day and the sitting, we have people to thank. Our pages, C.J. Vincent-Wolf.

>> *Applause*

Makayla Mike.

>> *Applause*

The important people as well, our interpreters.

>> *Applause*

Thank you so very much for making people all over Nunavut to understand. Thank you very much.

We have people in the House as well and in the building that do a lot of work behind the scenes. I thank them very much for keeping all the paperwork up to date.

I would like to thank my staff in front of me who make me look good every day.

>> *Applause*

They do well and I hope you have a good break.

Thank you to members. I hope you have a good spring. Enjoy the fishing, hunting, look after your family, and I have been saying this, to look after your children. Children are so important. They are our future and I'm giving them some graduation applause to them.

>> *Applause*

On a tough day, they can make the day look really good because, although they try not to be funny, they can be funny. A few years ago we had a young child that went to school at the elementary. I told this before. He was sent home. The child was sent home and the parent was surprised and asked him, "How come you're home so early? What did you do?" The child said, "Nothing. I didn't do nothing." "How come you're home so early then?" And his only reply was, "I got fired." Hopefully, today he's back at the school.

Thank you all very much for this sitting. Look after yourselves and look after your family.

I forgot to say thank you to our Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *Applause*

His Inuktitut is improving.

>>*Laughter*

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:31*

