

NUNAVUT HANSARD

UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2024

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister Responsible for Mines; Minister Responsible for Nunavut Business Credit Corporation; Minister Responsible for Nunavut Development Corporation; Minister Responsible for Trade; Minister responsible for Human Rights Tribunal; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour

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

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

Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Education; Minister of Human Resources; Minister Responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

George Hicketts
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Hon. David Joanasi
(South Baffin)

Government House Leader; Minister of Community and Government Services

Joelie Kaernek
(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)

Minister of Finance; Minister responsible for Liquor and Cannabis Board; Minister responsible for Liquor and Cannabis Commission; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

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

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; Minister Responsible for Poverty Reduction; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Karen Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for Energy; Minister responsible for Languages

Joanna Quassa
(Aggu)

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

Alexander Sammurtok
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(Arviat South)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1
Ministers' Statements.....	1
Members' Statements.....	7
Returns to Oral Questions	10
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	11
Oral Questions.....	13
Tabling of Documents	37
First Reading of Bills	37
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	37
Report of the Committee of the Whole	79
Orders of the Day	79

A.

Daily References

Tuesday, October 29, 2024..... 1

B.

Ministers' Statements

479 – 6(2): Council of the Federation 2024 (Akeegok P) 1
480 – 6(2): Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day (Gross) 2
481 – 6(2): Update on Six Airport Terminal Buildings (Akeegok D) 3
482 – 6(2): Grand Opening of Kuugalaaq Kitikmeot (Qavvik) 4
483 – 6(2): Extended Hours of Operation Pilot (Main)..... 5
484 – 6(2): Wise Woman and Outstanding Young Women (Nakashuk)..... 5
485 – 6(2): Nunavut Corrections Programme Update (Akeegok D) 6

C.

Members' Statements

651 – 6(2): Appreciation of Adventure Canada (Nutarak)..... 7
652 – 6(2): Department of Justice Employees (Lightstone) 7
653 – 6(2): Disability Ramp at Igloolik Airport (Quassa) 8
654 – 6(2): Appreciation to Jeremy Tunraluk (Akeegok D) 8
655 – 6(2): Appreciation of Kuugalaaq Kitikmeot Heritage Society (Gross)..... 9

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

950 – 6(2): Intergovernmental Relations (Akeegok P)..... 10
928 – 6(2): Airline Sector (Akeegok D)..... 10

E.

Oral Questions

952 – 6(2): Sanirajak Needs a New School (Kaernek).....	13
953 – 6(2): Protection of Inuit Art and Artists (Brewster)	15
954 – 6(2): Boarding Home Concerns (Nutarak).....	17
955 – 6(2): Update on Staff Housing Review (Hickes)	19
956 – 6(2): Airport Weather Observer Operations (Quqqiaq).....	20
957 – 6(2): Kugluktuk Power Plant (Anavilok).....	22
958 – 6(2): Airport Infrastructure (Sammurtok)	24
959 – 6(2): Public Safety in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq (Killiktee)	25
960 – 6(2): Airport Infrastructure (Malliki)	27
961 – 6(2): Capital Funding for Elder Vans (Savikataaq).....	28
962 – 6(2): Legal Services Board and Inuit Court Workers (Lightstone).....	31
963 – 6(2): Igloolik Power Plant (Quassa).....	33
964 – 6(2): Nunavut's High School Graduates (Simailak).....	35

F.

Tabling of Documents

309 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Municipality of Naujaat Concerning Airport Runway Extension (Malliki)	37
--	----

G.

Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 60 – An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act – First Reading.....	37
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 13:32*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. Tony Akeoak) (interpretation): (No interpretation)

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): (no interpretation)

(interpretation ends) Just a reminder to people. If you need help there's help available. People will help you if you need it. Just like everybody else, you become wise after being foolish. After you become not afraid anymore, after being afraid. So there's help out there.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 479 – 6(2): Council of the Federation 2024

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I say happy good afternoon to Nunavummiut and all those.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues about the Council of the Federation meetings I attended in Halifax from July 15 to 17. Mr. Speaker, the annual Council of the Federation summer meetings brings together premiers from across Canada to advance joint priorities by working collaboratively.

We made history this year: For the first time, the gathering included three Indigenous premiers, my good friends, Manitoba's premier, Mr. Kinew, as well as the Northwest Territories' premier, Mr. Simpson, and myself. This shows advancements made by Indigenous communities right across this country.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to note that this year's meeting included significant discussions about Arctic security and sovereignty. As the chair of the Northern Premiers' Caucus, I worked closely with my colleagues from the Northwest Territories and the Yukon to ensure that our three territories had a strong and united voice on issues that directly impact our jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, as premiers we agreed that the provinces and territories should be important partners in Canada's security, maintaining vigilance against foreign interference, supporting the development of domestic critical mineral supply chains, and helping to ensure security of transportation corridors, energy sources, and vital infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Patrick Woodcock, who is here in this House, as an instructor and educator with United for Literacy in Iqaluit, the recipient of the 20th annual Council of the Federation literacy award in Nunavut.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Woodcock has worked tirelessly for the past two years to develop a formal literacy program for incarcerated Nunavummiut. Patrick works four days a week at Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility and three days a week at the Nunavut Women's Correctional Centre teaching people a variety of subjects one on one. When a person is released, Mr. Woodcock continues to work with them at Uttaqivik Community Residential Centre or within the community. On August 1, 2024 Ontario Premier Doug Ford will assume the chair of the Council of the Federation. Ontario will host the next summer meeting of Canada's premiers on July 21 to 23, 2025. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Minister's Statement 480 – 6(2): Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker, and good day to all of our colleagues and those here in the House with us today and those across our beautiful territory.

Mr. Speaker, early childhood educators play a critical role in Nunavut. They nurture children's compassion, resilience, and continual growth, so that our youngest learners can become future leaders and continue shaping the collective future.

Considering the critical role of early childhood staff and their hard work and dedication to our children, I am proud to proclaim that Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day will occur annually on the last Tuesday in October, starting today.

Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day is a time to recognize and celebrate the expertise, energy, and imagination our early childhood educators bring to their work. Across our territory the Department of Education has sent thank you packages to our licensed centres, showing our appreciation for their commitment to our youngest learners and future leaders.

Mr. Speaker, we have taken great strides for early learning and childcare in Nunavut. We are ensuring all licensed centres have the tools they need to create engaging play-based programming, grounded in Inuit culture. We also implemented the wage-scale program and are providing a northern allowance, which acknowledges the vital role of our educators through improved compensation and incentives.

Mr. Speaker, this is not just about our current educators. A career in early childhood education is exciting, creative, and filled with purpose. I encourage more Nunavummiut to consider a future in this rewarding field. Early childhood educators are some of the unsung heroes of our communities. Today we formally recognize the support they give to our students and families, and their key role in building economic prosperity by enabling more Nunavut families to work, pursue education, and much more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this House to join me in celebrating these educators who are instrumental in building a bright and prosperous future for Nunavut. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 481 – 6(2): Update on Six Airport Terminal Buildings

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on an airport terminal building project in the communities of Kugluktuk, Naujaat, Chesterfield, Whale Cove, Kimmirut and Rankin Inlet. These six community projects have made significant progress this past year, and I'm very pleased to report that the terminals in Kugluktuk, Naujaat, Chesterfield,

Whale Cove and Kimmirut are nearing completion and are expected to be opening to the travelling public by the end of the calendar year.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as a passenger terminal serving a regional hub airport, the new Rankin Inlet facility is the largest and most complex of these projects. The construction contractor has made considerable progress on phase 1 of the project and passenger operations should be moved over to the new building in the first half of 2025, allowing construction on phase 2 to begin operating out of phase 1, and will be an interim measure, but should not be cramped or uncomfortable, as the floor area of phase 1 is at least twice that of the existing terminal. Phase 2 is smaller and less complex than phase 1, and the construction on the final wing of the building should be complete as planned in 2026.

I look forward to seeing all these terminal buildings complete and in operation, and hope to have an opportunity to celebrate their openings with my colleagues and community residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 482 – 6(2): Grand Opening of Kuugalaaq Kitikmeot

Hon. Daniel Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say hi to my constituents in Hudson Bay.

Mr. Speaker, this past September I had the privilege to attend the opening celebration of a brand new building, Kuugalaaq, in Iqaluktuuttiaq, Cambridge Bay. Since 1996 the Pitquhirnikkut Ilihautiniq Heritage Society has been a leading example of observing, sharing, and renewing Inuinait culture and Inuinnaqtun language for the Kitikmeot and those who visit the region.

Kuugalaaq is a result of the continuous dedication to preserving Inuit culture, and this campus from the very beginning stages of its development to its use in the future. It is the true embodiment of how Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit is successful in supporting the needs of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Pitquhirnikkut Ilihautiniq Kitikmeot Heritage Society on all the work they have done in bringing this facility to fruition, as it will serve as a hub for successful programs but also instill pride to all those who walk through its doors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Minister's Statement 483 – 6(2): Extended Hours of Operation Pilot

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, to better meet the needs of Nunavummiut and staff, the Department of Health, with the support of the Nunavut Employees Union, are currently piloting extended community health centre hours of operations in three community across Nunavut: Kugaaruk, Pond Inlet, and Rankin Inlet. Mr. Speaker all three pilot communities will be extending their hours from 8:30 in the morning to 9 p.m. in the evening, for a period of nine months. Pond Inlet launched their pilot project in September, and Kugaaruk and Rankin Inlet officially began their pilots in October.

This project is based on the feedback and review of the first extended-hours pilot held in Baker Lake in 2019. The purpose of this expanded three-community pilot programs is fourfold:

- First, to enhance access to safe, high-quality care for all Nunavummiut by providing greater flexibility;
- Improve the overall patient experience by reducing crowding during peak times;
- Improve staff well-being by avoiding extended work hours, allowing for flexibility and rest;
- And lastly, improve efficiency and work flow, potentially leading to overall cost savings.

(interpretation ends) Health is anticipating positive results and valuable lessons from this new community health centre extended hours of operation pilot. There are ongoing evaluations of each pilot site to help inform if extended hours of operations pilot can be expanded to other communities.

This project will help us learn how to better meet the health care needs of Nunavummiut and the needs of our incredible health care staff across the territory. (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 484 – 6(2): Wise Woman and Outstanding Young Women

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, nominations for Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council's 2024 Wise Women and Outstanding Young Women awards are now open. These awards are given to women who are recognized for being role models in their communities, for their dedication and commitment to women and gender diverse Nunavummiut, and for their acts to ensure equality of women and improve their lives.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Qullit has recognized the accomplishments of these awards since 2009. I look forward to presenting the award early next year. In the meantime, I encourage Nunavummiut women to nominate women who inspire and uplift them and the women who fight for them. Mr. Speaker, the women who are making our communities better for us can apply and make nominations at www.qnsw.ca. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 485 – 6(2): Nunavut Corrections Programme Update

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight the efforts of the Nunavut Corrections to provide for more programming for its clients. More robust programming options help clients rehabilitate and reintegrate back into their communities, which in turn helps to reduce re-offending. The department has formed partnerships with agencies like United for Literacy and the Correctional Service of Canada to help provide programming based on specific needs of each correctional client.

Through Nunavut's corrections work with United for Literacy, the department is offering education programs for both institutionalized and community Corrections clients across the territory. The program includes instructions in GED and grade 12 equivalence; completing apprenticeship and trade entrance exams; general educational upgrades in math, history, culture, literacy, developing reading, writing, and language skills.

Nunavut Corrections has also partnered with Correctional Services of Canada to offer for the first time a comprehensive accredited sex offenders' program for clients at Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility. Given the prevalence of sexual offences in our territory and the considerable number of individuals on the sex offenders' registry, it is vital that this programming be made able to clients who have committed these offences.

>>Applause

The staff members will begin training in November 2024 and start delivering the program in early 2025.

Lastly, in September, Nunavut Corrections collaborated with Teaching Nunavut to launch the basic cooking skills program. The program teaches correctional clients valuable skills

and offer apprenticeship hours in commercial kitchens. Clients also receive assistance to prepare for trade exams to help with employment opportunities after completing their sentence. Participants in the cooking skills program were instrumental in preparing and serving food at the elders feast held on August 1, 2024 and at the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility. The feast was well attended, and served as a wonderful celebration for our elders.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to recognize the clients who are working to improve themselves by participating in these important programs, and as well the hard-working correctional staff who administer and deliver them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 651 – 6(2): Appreciation of Adventure Canada

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hello to Pond Inlet. We think of those and offer condolences to those. I want to thank for the families, that I ask that they could support in Pond Inlet for children's activities. Cedar and Alana have gathered funds to purchase or to give to Pond Inlet. Due to complications, we had ice and other issues, in September it was possible. We received 188 toys and we had a gathering at the community hall. Mayor Joshua Arreak there. We sang Christmas carols and we celebrated Christmas. It was an enjoyable time.

I thank those who have been supporting us when we come to communities. I want to mention (interpretation ends) Adventure Canada, Cedar Swan, CEO, Alana Bradley-Swan, managing director; Jason Edmunds director; Kaleigh Potts, education and program coordinator; Scott McDougall, director of sustainable and regenerative travel.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, they will be handing out toys for children for the recreation committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 652 – 6(2): Department of Justice Employees

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to pay tribute to the Nunavummiut who participate in the operation of Nunavut's legal system, from our public prosecutors to our Legal Aid lawyers to our Justice of the Peace and sheriffs. But, Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay special recognition to our Inuit court workers.

Mr. Speaker, our court workers in Nunavut are a critical lynchpin for our Nunavut legal system, and Inuit court workers specifically are essential for the effective communication between lawyers and their clients for case preparation and follow-up. These court workers provide services that range from delivering legal education and general information to the public, to actually representing clients in show cause hearings and trials.

Mr. Speaker, I absolutely agree with the importance that Inuit court workers play in our legal system. However, I cannot take full credit for these words as I've taken them directly from a report which was commissioned by the Department of Justice which was completed in October 2002.

I hereby give notice to Minister of Justice that I will be asking the minister to provide an update on progress that has been made over the last 22 years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Member's Statement 653 – 6(2): Disability Ramp at Igloolik Airport

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I brought up the issue in Igloolik for those with elders and disabilities. The airport facility only had stairs or ladders, and now they can go up a ramp for those departing and arriving. It has been finished. We had been requesting this and now we see that it is finished. I would like to thank the government for listening to us. Next we will ask for a bigger terminal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 654 – 6(2): Appreciation to Jeremy Tunraluk

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you're running for election it's sometimes difficult and the fourth year in the House, Jeremy Tunraluk brought his name forward for the Qikiqtani Inuit Association to represent Arctic Bay and the four-year term has come up. QIA will be having elections, and also Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated will be holding elections.

I want to thank Jeremy on behalf of Arctic Bay residents and we know that QIA, through the work of QIA was selected as secretary treasurer for three years and also he's a very good chairman for Kakivak Inuit Association. He represents me and I represent him. And I would like to thank him for those terms that are expiring.

Those that will run in the elections, good luck. We need representation. As Inuit we want good representation, and we like options at elections. I don't know what he's doing. I support whatever he chooses to do. He's made a lot of good work through the Inuit association and he's had the support of his family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's statement. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

Member's Statement 655 – 6(2): Appreciation of Kuugalaaq Kitikmeot Heritage Society

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to those listening in Cambridge Bay. I think it's just the start of the afternoon over there and I thank those who are tuning in and wish everybody across our territory a wonderful day.

Mr. Speaker, as our colleague Minister Qavvik shared in his statement, there was the grand opening of the Kuugalaaq cultural campus in Cambridge Bay, and it was a truly momentous day for the community, for Inuinait, and for our whole territory to have that space opened. I thank Minister Qavvik for coming to the community for that special occasion and thank the Department of Culture and Heritage for their support, along with all the other funders, who supported the Pitquhirnikkut Ilihautiniq, the Kitikmeot Heritage Society, in opening that vital space that's going to prove to have a lot of meaning for our people.

It was a day filled with pride, also a day filled with emotion. My previous employer, Mr. Speaker was the Kitikmeot Heritage Society. It was about ten years ago whether I first started there that I walked into the job, and said that the workplace was a bit too small for the work that we needed to do. The staff that work there now worked tirelessly to get that space up and off the ground. I thank Emily Angulalik, Kim Crockatt, Brendan Griebel, all of the elders and residents who are there, along with our, the board that they have at the heritage society for the work that they put in to get that space up and going.

I encourage people who come to our community to come and check it out and see the cultural programming that does happen and that will happen there.

I just, yes, I am so proud of the Kitikmeot Heritage Society for opening up that space and making it so energy efficient, working with Southern Alberta Institute of Technology for working alongside them to make it very energy efficient, and working with so many people in the community as well and making sure that the contracts were local.

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

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say once again congratulations to the elders and residents at the Pitquhirnikkut Ilihautiniq Kitikmeot Heritage Society, as well as the staff and the board of the organization, and thank all of the people who have put in tremendous hours to making that space come true, including Qillaq Innovations for their hard work locally to construct the building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 950 – 6(2): Intergovernmental Relations

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer I gave during question period on Monday, October 28, 2024. The member for Baker Lake requested information on the elders strategy commitments and where the funds for the private project came from.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify. We reallocated funds from within the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to the proponent to purchase and deliver the vans to the five Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Oral Question 928 – 6(2): Airline Sector

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A return to oral question asked by Janet Brewster, MLA for Iqaluit-Sinaa.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide additional details to an answer I gave the member from Iqaluit-Sinaa regarding our government's response and submission to the Competition Bureau study in competition in the Canadian airline industry.

Mr. Speaker, my department, in consultations with the Department of Community and Government Services, made a written response to the study in June 2024. At the time of the studies, terms of reference were being developed. That response is posted on the

Competition Bureau's website, though it is in a different section than that of the response from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador referred to by Ms. Brewster.

Following our submission, the bureau conducted interviews with our senior transportation policy officials as well as senior officials for the procurement division. These interviews took place during the second part of the study through August and September.

As the member knows, Mr. Speaker, air service in Nunavut are essential to our day-to-day well-being, and through our submission we stress the need to consider the special needs and requirements of accessing remote communities, including ways our needs differ from the broader Canadian market. We also took the opportunity to make recommendations on the need for study, specifically focused on air service in remote and isolated communities as well as infrastructure programs for remote airports and additional federal oversight over NAV Canada's obligations to air navigation services and weather observations in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, we take every opportunity to present these recommendations to our federal counterparts, whether it's through working groups or our council of ministers and deputy ministers or in meetings and correspondence. 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: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I have a special acknowledgement, Mr. Speaker, today, for acknowledging that today is the day of appreciation for early learning and childcare representatives. We have a few with us here in the House, Mr. Speaker, which I'm so pleased to welcome and acknowledge the hard work of our early childhood educators, and thank all of them, the staff that work with them, and those across our territory, whether they are in licensed child-care facilities or in day homes. Thank you for opening up your doors and providing service to our youngest learners, and for being there for them at oftentimes their second home, while their parents are either working or at school or in other areas sometimes, might be travelling, too.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the following people to please stand when I say their names. This first person I am mentioning, Mr. Speaker, she and I go back a long way, as she was actually an educator to myself in Cambridge Bay, and it's very heartwarming to see her still here, contributing what she knows and passing on that love she has for our youngest beings that are in our here.

Maureen Persaud. She is the executive director of the Inuksuk Infant Development Centre. Welcome, Maureen.

>> *Applause*

We also have Danielle Brown, executive director of Tundra Buddies Daycare.

>> *Applause*

We have the third person, Natalie Beaudoin.

>> *Applause*

She is the executive director of Pairivik Daycare. We also have Kanayuk Naulaq, the supervisor for family wellness day care.

>> *Applause*

And the last early learning and childcare representative we have is Alita Marriott, assistant manager of Aakuluk Daycare.

>> *Applause*

And Mr. Speaker, we have someone else with us today, who is with the Department of Education, and it's also her birthday, so a special shout out and hello to Sandi Chan, who is here with us as well.

>> *Applause*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly and happy birthday. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is great to see people from the high Arctic and I would like to thank them, although I mentioned them already, but this is a recognition of visitors. I would like to recognize Jeremy Tunraluk and his wife, Debbie Tunraluk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

Hon. P.J. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank you for recognizing me. I rise to recognize, first of all, Mr. Patrick Woodcock is here, and I recognize his great contributions during his work. He has taught many people, and it's great to recognize him here.

I would also like to recognize Mr. Jeremy Tunraluk and his wife, because we have to give ourselves to a service and Jeremy would not have been able to do what he did if his wife did not support him. So I would like to have them recognized again.

I would also like to also say thank you to the early childhood and day care workers, specially Alita. I give you my profound thank you. All my three children, she helped raise all three of my children, and she's also a grandmother to all the children. So I thank her for that, because they do great work in bringing up our children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 952 – 6(2): Sanirajak Needs a New School

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will like to direct my question to the Minister of Education again in regards to a much needed new high school. As I stated in my previous oral questions, I have raised this issue, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to follow up on my question regarding the need for a new high school in Sanirajak, when I asked the other day.

The minister was not able to agree with me on that, that the new high school would be built in Sanirajak any time soon, Mr. Speaker, as the minister has indicate that had the school condition was 61 percent. Under the recent correspondence to the Standing Committee indicated that for 2023 and 2024, the utilization elaborate was at 105 percent, and this was the highest school utilization in Qikiqtaaluk region, Mr. Speaker, not to mention Amittuq is in the Qikiqtaaluk region.

I have stated, Mr. Speaker, that the school is old and overcrowded. So, Mr. Speaker can the minister tell me and the House what will it take to get a new high school project for Sanirajak included in your department's next capital project plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for advocating for his constituency of Sanirajak for a new school for the community. There are two different ways where the member has brought up the school utilization, which is at 105 percent, and the condition rating of the school is at 61 percent. So using those two, we have a number of factors when we look at the school utilization to determine how, in

which our schools will go through the capital planning process pre-planning. As I stated when he first asked a few days ago, the school is considered to go into pre-planning.

It is not just the Department of Education that proves what projects go into pre-planning, Mr. Speaker. There's a few other departments that sit around the table and come up with which projects will go forward. So we are always, as I mentioned, advocating for our schools, and we have a number of schools that do need to come forward. We are busy trying to get them to come forward, and we do have other schools as well that we want to put through the pre-planning phase.

Mr. Speaker, it does come down to financial capabilities, and we can't do all the schools at once. We can only do so many a year, and we have to work within those means. But we do always want our schools to come forward to either get major renovations, expansions, or the creation of a new school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Just a reminder for everyone please keep your preambles short, questions and answers. First supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand what steps have to be taken when it comes to capital project planning, and there are pre-planning stages.

I should have mentioned that I greatly appreciate those teachers that are teaching our children in Sanirajak, and I would like to show my gratitude towards them as I mention that.

Mr. Speaker, Sanirajak's school was built way before Nunavut came into force in April 1999. So it is the community's oldest school from kindergarten to grade 12, with students ages from five years to 18 years and older. The mixed nature of the school body further reduces the effectiveness of the space, Mr. Speaker.

Now, can the minister clarify whether such factors at the separation of the junior grads and senior grads is taken into consideration when deciding whether or not to build a new high school in the community of Sanirajak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Across the territory, Mr. Speaker, we do have a number of schools that are from K to 12, and that's the nature of the reality of being a small territory, having small communities and limited budgets, Mr. Speaker. We do eventually want to see our communities grow and have more opportunity for additional schools and separating. However, that's not always the case. For Taloyoak, for example, they are getting a new high school in the community, and in other communities we do have to work with what we have.

At this point the school in Sanirajak is K to 12, and we do take that in note. There are about 12 schools across the territory that are from K to 12. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I talk about a new high school that is most needed in Sanirajak, I'm referring to the community of Sanirajak. The minister has stated that when it comes to the pre-planning stages, the minister mentioned there might be an expansion or a portable school might be needed.

Mr. Speaker, due to the overcrowding in Sanirajak school is contributing to high elaborate of students dropping out when they need to reach the senior grade. Now, Mr. Speaker, will the minister consider when it comes to the building condition assessment, will the minister agree with me to have the education officials when it comes to capital planners, to have her officials visit the school in Sanirajak when it comes to capital planning projects? Will the minister agree with me? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to the member for that question. We can definitely make sure that we have a staff member with our capital go to the community when the condition rating is happening, but that does happen through our partner department of Community and Government Services. But for his question, we can work to make sure that someone is there from our capital team. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 953 – 6(2): Protection of Inuit Art and Artists

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I've been caught buried in other papers than my question. Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of protecting Inuit art and artists. Mr. Speaker, when I last raised this issue during our recent spring sitting, the Minister of Culture and Heritage deferred the question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and, Mr. Speaker, I'm very deliberately asking my questions to the Minister of Culture and Heritage because I believe that his department does have a crucially important role to play in respect to this issue.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture and Heritage's current business plan makes it perfectly clear that it does have responsibilities in respect to our artists, and we know that it plays a lead role in representing the government in respect to such initiatives as the Nunavut Heritage Centre. The business plan clearly states that one of its ongoing priorities has been to support government efforts to create an online marketplace for

Nunavut arts and crafts. Can the minister provide a substantive update today on the status of this important work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the very excellent question. Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is leading this initiative, but I can definitely get back to the member in regards to the member from Iqaluit-Sinaa's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The question taking as notice, Mr. Qavvik. First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to again revisit the issue of copyright and intellectual property because it is my understanding and belief that the minister does and should be playing an important role in protecting our artists from exploitation.

As I noted in the spring, the federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry's mandate letter from the prime minister indicates that one of his priorities is to work with the Minister of Canadian Heritage to amend the *Copyright Act* to further protect artists, creators and copyright holders including to allow resale rights for artists.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's Minister of Culture and Heritage's federal counterpart is the Minister of Canadian Heritage, so it is incumbent upon him to answer this question. Can the minister clearly describe how his department is working with Canadian Heritage on this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that excellent question again. Mr. Speaker, we do have a working relationship with other facilities that are not in Nunavut. For example, the Winnipeg Art Gallery in Winnipeg is a facility where we provide collections and other arts and showcase in regards to our department. But, Mr. Speaker, the level of detail is not in front of me. I can get back to the member through proper channels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am disappointed that I'm not getting responses to these questions. I believe really strongly that even if there are shared responsibilities with other departments, it's incumbent again upon the minister to be fully aware of all the programs that Culture and Heritage is responsible for, and that includes the arts in a lot of senses. So I do look forward to getting those responses, Mr. Speaker.

Regarding other organizations that Inuit artists in Nunavut interact with, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Inuit Art Foundation's long and distinguished record of supporting Inuit artists. One of the foundation's recent initiatives has been the holding of workshops with a goal of focussing on the specific challenges that Inuit artists might encounter in preserving and safeguarding the unique heritage of Inuit artistic expression.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that the minister's department should be working closely and collaboratively with the foundation and other stakeholders on such initiatives. I strongly believe that we should be making every effort to facilitate of holding such events across Nunavut. Will the minister commit to providing this direction to his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, very much Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 954 – 6(2): Boarding Home Concerns

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Health.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my constituents continue to raise concerns regarding the Sailijaaqvik boarding home here in Iqaluit. An elder recently spoke with about this issue at the recent Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated meeting, as well.

It is not clear how these concerns are addressed when they are raised with the minister's office or the Office of Patient Relations. Can the minister describe what steps he takes to address issues and concerns regarding the boarding homes when they are brought to the attention of his office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleague for her question. The patients that stay in boarding homes, we all want them to be safe and well, whether it's in Iqaluit, Ottawa, or elsewhere. Mr. Speaker, the boarding homes, we work with the boarding homes' officials and we have our memorandum of understanding and we have a contract. Through our contract, any changes or corrections needed are made known to the business through patients' relations, or not. What often mentioned is what needs to be rectified, sometimes come from the office, or from my office of concerns raised that we often relate to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank (interpretation ends) from my constituents that there are far too many intoxicated individuals at the boarding home. Many individuals are smoking cigarettes and drugs very close to the door. I appreciate that these issues have been raised before in the House, but it seems that they are not properly addressed. Can the minister clarify how often the Department of Health follows up with the contractors who operate the Sailijaaqvik boarding home to make sure that these issues are being dealt with? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My staff have bi-weekly meetings with the contract holders, so bi-weekly, so we're having approximately 26 meetings a year, plus on top of that we will have as-needed meetings with the operators.

Mr. Speaker, I've heard numerous issues regarding numerous boarding homes, and unfortunately, as the member raised, alcohol use and/or drug use is a common thread. We're always looking for ways to better support medical travellers. We look at things like we're looking to expand the availability of social work supports, so that, our target being to have social workers in every boarding home to support, because we recognize that medical travellers are affected by different issues, some of them social, could be addictions issues. We don't want to judge individuals, we want to support them as best as they can be supported, as well as ensure the safety and comfort of everyone else within the system. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I do recognize that it is individual medical clients or their escorts who are making choice to say behave in a way that is disturbing the safety and comfort of their fellow medical clients. However, the contractors also bear the responsibility of ensuring that the boarding home is a safe and healthy environment for everyone who is staying there.

The minister indicated that he meets with the contractor every week. Can the minister commit to reporting back to this House on what specific solutions will be implemented to address the concerns that I have noted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can commit to providing information in terms of responding to the member's request. I can

commit to providing information that I'm allowed to share here. There have been several new projects implemented at the boarding home to support staff, including a bilingual bonus for Nunavut Inuit staff, new training programs for staff, and improved operational procedures, including a new booking system. I'll be happy to elaborate on some of those ongoing improvements and I commit to providing some information. (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 955 – 6(2): Update on Staff Housing Review

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question today to the Minister of Human Resources. I'm sure she's been following along with some of the lines of questioning between myself and some of my colleagues. My first question, Mr. Speaker, is I would like to get an update on the staff housing review. Thank you.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question on staff housing. The Department of Human Resources does chair the staff housing allocation committee, and we are looking at the staff housing and where we can make improvements to staff housing. I know some communities have more staff housing than others, but I can say that we continue to collaborate with Nunavut Housing Corporation to improve the delivery of the staff housing program, and we do want to also have more staff in staff housing and have more people coming into the workforce with the staff housing units that we want, to meet the needs of employees to recruit and retain them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been three years now that it's been committed to a review of the staff housing program in a number of different components. We talked yesterday with the Minister of Finance on the housing allowance. It has been brought up on retiring members. The allocation. There was supposed to be a staff housing review, lead by the Minister of Human Resources. Can the minister give me a timeline of whether we can expect this review to be completed? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources. Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. I will have to get back to him on the timeline because I know that there is the staff housing policy that's undergoing review, and there are some potential barriers that

have been there and I know that we're working on further strategies to make changes and recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to ask for some highlights of the review, but I don't think I will bother.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Nunavut Housing Corporation spoke on a number of staff housing units that were converted to public housing stock. Was HR involved in any of these transfers? And were any transferred to accommodate Government of Nunavut staff retirements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member. I believe there were a few questions in there, so I'll try and answer to the best that I can to each of those questions.

Mr. Speaker, we have had a number of staff housing units, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation aims to reduce the number of vacant units, working on side with the Department of Human Resources. We also have made changes within the department and have allocated 73 Inuit on the wait list to continue to try and improve our process for staff housing.

We are working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation on the retiree members, which I think was the second part of his question, to get people who might be in staff housing over into public housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 956 – 6(2): Airport Weather Observer Operations

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I tabled a copy of correspondence last week from the Municipality of Kugaaruk, concerning the issue of weather observation services at Kugaaruk's airport. Mr. Speaker, as the minister is well aware, this is a critical function that is absolutely essential for the safe operation of both scheduled flights and medevacked flights.

Mr. Speaker, I pay attribute to weather observers across Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the municipality has expressed serious concern regarding the underfunding of this service, which is resulting in such problems as an inability to

provide after-hours callouts. Mr. Speaker, can the minister clearly indicate how he will address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for tabling the document, and I responded to the letter, I believe, yesterday. This work is the critical work on the community aerodrome services are done through NAV Canada, and it's a federal agency. We have an ongoing dialogue with them that we continue to make sure that critical positions are functioning in every community. We will continue to advocate for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am also concerned that the community of Taloyoak may be facing similar challenges. Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to having his department contact the municipality to determine if this issue is also happening in Taloyoak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the government's contract for weather observation services at most of Nunavut's airports is with a private company. Mr. Speaker, we often refer to these as community aerodrome radio stations, or CARS. Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate when the current contract will expire, and can he indicate what procurement process will be used to award the next contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I might have to correct myself, but from the understanding is that we have an agreement with NAV Canada for those to be delivered throughout the country, and Nunavut is one of the parts, and that their role will continue and that they need to make sure that the community aerodrome radio station are open and function. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Oral requests. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

Question 957 – 6(2): Kugluktuk Power Plant

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and they concern the issue of Kugluktuk's new power plant. When I raised this issue during the winter sitting, the minister confirmed that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has "received approval to enter into contract negotiations with the Kitikmeot corporation to enable this project to progress."

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the negotiations, and will he commit to providing a copy of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's with the Kitikmeot corporation to my office and the municipal council of Kugluktuk? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. The negotiations with Kitikmeot corporation is not concluded. They're proceeding forward. There was a brief pause, but we are working with them currently. We are aware of the issue of the power plant in Kugluktuk to be more efficient to be quieter, less noise, less emissions. It will have less emissions, and with the growth of Kugluktuk, that it will match the growth of the community.

Part of the question he is asking about negotiations. Once we have an agreement whether I would be able to give it to him, I would have to put in a request before I would be able to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot corporation plays an important role in the economic development of our region. I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the corporation's employees and management. The Kitikmeot corporation and Qulliq Energy Corporation are committed to providing training and employment opportunities to Inuit in the region. Can the minister describe what Inuit training and employment requirements will be part of the contract to construct Kugluktuk's new power plant? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for raising this issue. It's something Qulliq Energy Corporation believes very strongly in, in terms of developing Nunavummiut and Nunavut Inuit into careers and that desire or focus extends into our contracting.

At this point it's a bit too early, Mr. Speaker, to say what specific actions or targets would be included under a future contract, but I can tell the member that it would be an area where we would be looking for some commitments from the contractor, if a contract was to be awarded.

Right now our negotiations are proceeding through the Memorandum of Understanding that we've signed with Kitikmeot corp to allow us to speak about things like training, like design, layout, et cetera. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister provide a timeline whether Kugluktuk's new power plant is expected to begin operating and can he confirm the extent to which the new plant the renewable energy resources, such as solar power? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the timeline for construction, the generation industry or electrical power industry, there's huge supply chain issues right now and so in terms of a new genset, for example, a new generator, if you pay for it today you can expect to receive that new generator three years in the future. So that's reflecting kind of the global supply chain issues, and particularly in the United States that are currently happening.

In terms of the renewable power component, as originally the Kugluktuk a was going to have a solar component. Unfortunately that had to be removed from the project, due to budgetary constraints. However, we're focussing on a new diesel-fired power plant.

The however that I was trying to get to was the new plant will be able to integrate renewable power much better than the existing plant. All the switching technology, controls for the engines will be the highest, newest technology so it will be ready for renewable investments should they come in the future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 958 – 6(2): Airport Infrastructure (Sammurtok)

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Good afternoon, people of Chesterfield Inlet and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) My questions are to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. As the minister will recall, he tabled the Nunavut Airport 20-Year Capital Needs Assessment update in March of 2023. The important document identified a number of improvements that need to be made to the airport in Chesterfield Inlet, including the construction of a new airport terminal building. Can the minister provide an update on the status of the construction of the new airport terminal building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The building will be ready to be occupied before the end of 2024. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the Iqaluit International Airport is equipped with de-icing equipment, which are necessary during Nunavut's long winters. However, it is also my understanding that the smaller airports in Nunavut, including Chesterfield Inlet airport, do not have this type of equipment. Can the minister clarify what plans his department has to introduce de-icing equipment at all Nunavut airports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, de-icing the aircraft is an air carrier's responsibility, and where they put them is up to them. It's not up to the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will be aware, the runway at Chesterfield Inlet's airport is the second shortest runway in the region. It is also my understanding that the runway is only 3,600 feet in length, which is just 200 feet longer than the runway at Naujaat airport. The short length of the runway reduces availability for payloads that the air carriers can transport to the community, as well as reducing opportunities to use larger aircraft which can carry more passengers.

Can the minister confirm if the runway extensions are eligible for funding under the federal Airport Capital Assistance Program, and if they are, will he commit to submitting application to extend the runway at Chesterfield Inlet airport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the program covers existing air strips, so those are the ones that we can put applications under that federal program. At this point I don't have the information at the status on the member's request, so I can't commit to anything today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 959 – 6(2): Public Safety in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this afternoon to ask questions to the Minister of Justice and they concern the issue of Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers, especially in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq constituencies. As the member of the Legislative Assembly representing the constituency of Uqqummiut, I have been a strong advocate for increased measures of public safety for all of Nunavut's communities, which include Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for producing and providing members with monthly reports regarding their respective communities.

Mr. Speaker, my concern is that Nunavummiut feel less and less safe as the crime rates in our communities continue to rise. That's why I rose today. We have to see how we can lessen the crime rate, because they are under the responsibility of the RCMP.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister explain what crime-prevention initiatives his department is undertaking in collaboration with other identified key stakeholders?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the police are very busy and they've always been busy. As to initiatives to lessen the crime rate, my department has a number of programs. Perhaps I would better respond by correspondence as to what has been done, not just by the RCMP, but also by our staff in crime prevention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have raised this concern over the safety of our communities a number of times, because a lot of them affect lives, and so I've raised it a number of times here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, my hope is that the number of police officers in both Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq are sufficient to meet the needs of each community, looking at the crime rates in the communities. So do they have enough police officers to handle all the work. (interpretation ends) Can the minister clearly explain how his department is in collaboration with Royal Canadian Mounted Police determining how many police officers are stationed in detachment. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the RCMP does incredible work with the limited resource that is they do have. Through their headquarters and in our collaborations we have a shared service agreement working with the 'V' Division commander, which looks at getting criteria into determining how many members are needed in each community, and they follow that to determine where they can deploy RCMP members. And so each community is slightly different, but it's something that's calculated through their calculations in terms of where their limited resources can go into our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand it correctly, the police are there for safety. (interpretation ends) On May 31, 2023, the minister tabled the government's most recent Shared Directional Statement with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police 'D' Division. The Shared Directional Statement indicates that one of the government's priorities is to reduce and prevent crimes in the communities. The Shared Directional Statement also indicates:

"Alcohol is the major factor in the majority of the crimes and the calls for service in Nunavut. The Government of Nunavut and Royal Canadian Mounted Police commit to addressing the harmful effects and crimes associated with substance abuse in our communities."

Can the minister clearly explain what work his department is undertaking in collaborating with Royal Canadian Mounted Police to address these issues. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a lot of work is being done at the RCMP and at my level when it comes to try and combat alcohol in the

communities. One of the main factors is that alcohol are coming in through the mail, and I have written a letter to the Canada Post and to my federal counterparts. RCMP 'V' Division has done the same thing in terms of trying to resource Canada Post.

Just in the last federal-provincial-territorial meetings of justice, during the press conference, the federal ministers acknowledged, both federal ministers, the Minister of Justice and the public safety minister both acknowledged it and they committed to seeing how they can work with Canada Post to try and combat alcohol through the country. So a lot of good progress is taking place, and I'm very excited about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 960 – 6(2): Airport Infrastructure

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague asked my question before I could ask it to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. I would like to ask the same minister. As the minister will recall, he tabled the Nunavut Airports 20-YEAR Capital Needs Assessment Update in March, 2023 and I have had discussions with the minister that the Naujaat air strip is too short.

The minister knows about the issue and the Minister is aware of what needs to be done at the Naujaat airport. I will be presenting a letter of support from the hamlet later. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that project will be done before 2024 ends. I'm so looking forward to visiting your community and opening that terminal building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I left whether it was almost completed and it's really good to see.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall from last Friday's sitting of the House, my colleague from Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet tabled a copy of the resolutions that were passed at the recent meeting of Kivalliq mayors. I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the leadership and hard-working of all the region mayors.

Mr. Speaker, one of the resolutions that was passed addressed the critical needs for the runway at Naujaat to be extended. As the minister is aware, Naujaat runway is the shortest runway in the region. This has caused many challenges for the air carrier service in the community. Can the minister indicate how his department is working to address the need for the runway extension at Naujaat airport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have the specifics with me, which community is getting their study done every year, at least one or two. We do a comprehensive study in terms of what needs to get done in particular airports, and Naujaat would be one of those too. I don't have the specifics whether Naujaat has already been done or will be done, but I will commit to ensuring that once I get that information that I will share this with my colleague and his community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the minister and I will expect an update.

(interpretation ends) As I noted in my preamble to my first question, the minister tabled the Airport 20-Year Capital Needs Assessment Update in March, 2023. The report identified a number of issues in the Coral Harbour airport, including needs to address several legacy, abandoned building and assets. Can the minister provide an update today on how these issues are being addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker. For the second question, I got the information that the study was done in 2018, and I'll provide more details to my colleague. In terms of the Coral Harbour legacy projects, those are still within our capital request in terms of getting some of those demolished or cleaned up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 961 – 6(2): Capital Funding for Elder Vans

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Arviammiut. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to question the premier on his Return to Oral. Mr. Speaker, quoting the Return to Oral, Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify, we relocated funds from within the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to purchase the and deliver the vans to the five different communities.

Mr. Speaker, I think we would have to look at EIA's, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs budget very closely, as these purchases of five vans and shipping was very close to \$1 million and it's just money that was there. I would like to ask the premier there was no capital funds when we did capital back in the winter of 2024, so can the premier explain to the House here how the purchase was made when there was no capital budget from EIA? Thank you.

Speaker: Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

Hon. P.J. Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking the question on elder vans and the importance of the elder vans.

Mr. Speaker, I did provide a Return to Oral to correct the statement that I did to the Member for Baker Lake and it allowed me to be able to highlight the quick mobilization we were able to do. And as such, with the elder being a priority of the Katujjiluta mandate and the importance that we heard right from the beginning of going back to when we were in Cambridge Bay, it was identified that we must act swiftly and we must move quickly in terms of addressing the issues that are there. And as such EIA took the opportunity to look at what we could do to quickly mobilize on the elder vans to ensure that we hit the sea lift to ensure the five communities would be able to have these services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there have been a lot of questions about the vans and none of the MLAs are questioning whether the vans are needed or not. The premier did not answer my question. I asked: How were these capital purchases made from EIA when there was no capital monies allocated in the House when we did capital projects? To the best of my knowledge, there was no bill or sub-bill that came to the house. There was nothing. These vans were just purchased. Can the premier please explain how almost a \$1 million of capital project was purchased with no capital project money? Thank you.

Speaker: Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

Hon. P.J. Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the member for bringing that question. As I had noted, we reallocated internal resources for that one-time grant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand about relocating but I believe there's quite a difference about relocating operations and maintenance monies to

capital projects. It's not done very often. I don't know if it's done regularly at all. Obviously I'm not going to get an answer from the premier about how capital funds were expended from EIA when there was no capital money.

If another department went and bought \$1 million worth of capital equipment and they did not have the capital budget for it, then there would be sparks flying in this House. But I'll get on.

The reason there are so many questions about the vans I believe is, I haven't seen no policy on it. Normally when a program comes out there is a policy. For example, the housing allowance; there's a policy on who qualifies to get it, how much it is, when it's paid, and how much it is. I have not seen any policies on the vans. It's very unclear how they were picked, the people that got the vans, were they favourite people? We don't know. There's no policy.

Who's going to pay for the operations and maintenance of it? Who's going to store it? Who's going to pay the driver? Who's going to put the gas there? What hours of operations are there? Is it going to be from 8 o'clock in the morning until 10 at night? Is it only elders? Is it elders and their grandsons, their grandkids?

There's so much here. Policy makes things smooth and easy and transparent. This is not transparent at all. We can't figure this out. That's why there are some questions on it.

I'll ask the premier: When will a policy come out on these elder vans? Thank you.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank my colleague for that question. Just for clarification, it was not a capital it was a grant that we did when we reallocated from within the department, and as such as this pilot is just off its feet, we very much look forward to seeing the successes and learning from that and continuing to look at what more we could do to provide the other communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 962 – 6(2): Legal Services Board and Inuit Court Workers

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I previously mentioned in my Member's Statement, my questions are for the Minister of Justice regarding the importance of our Inuit court workers.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, the court workers play a crucial role to our legal system and the Department of Justice's own report which was published in 2002 with Department of Justice Canada and the Legal Services Board of Nunavut highlighted the necessity of these new court workers and also made a number of recommendations to provide resources to enhance the role of Inuit court workers in the Nunavut justice system.

As there has been a considerable amount of time since these recommendations were put forward, I would like to ask if the Minister of Justice would be able to provide an update today on some of the actions or progress made in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of progress and a lot of good work has been done, especially for the court workers throughout the territory. We have them all across the territory, and they do get training on a regular basis. And for this year, the Legal Services Board acknowledged that and they have a senior manager specifically looking at their court workers and the engagements that they need to make to ensure they are fully trained and fully supported. That is something that I will continue to advocate for. I thank the member for raising this very important issue in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the Minister's response. I'm glad to hear that there has been a position created designated for the purpose of meeting this objective of enhancing training of our Inuit court workers.

And I'm glad that the minister had mentioned the Legal Services Board annual report also indicated this. That was my next question.

Mr. Speaker, the Legal Services Board is constantly operating at capacity. The lawyers and the work that they do providing Legal Aid to Nunavummiut, the Legal Services Board has been struggling, at best, and has requested additional resources from the Department of Justice to meet the recommendations made in this report to further train and support and mentor court workers so that they can represent Inuit in trials and in summary cases.

I would like to ask: How much has the Legal Services Board requested in both financial and human resources to help mentor and train Inuit court workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Legal Services Board has made a request on various to help with their resources. I don't have the specifics in terms of for the Inuit court workers, but I can definitely commit to providing that information. But it is one that my senior staff are working very closely with the Legal Services Board on their request for support, and they have very good justification that they do need more resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Court workers play such a crucial role, not just in the Nunavut justice system but in our communities as well. Court workers enhance trust in the legal system, and while there's been a revolving door of lawyers across Nunavut, one constant has been our court workers in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, one of the recommendations identified in this report was the need to encourage our court workers to stay on and try and address the rates of attrition that we see. And one avenue was that was recommended this in this report was to offer contract workers staff housing to help alleviate the turnover and assistance that Nunavummiut receive, and this is a sentiment that I strongly agree with.

I would like to ask if the Department of Justice has been submitting staff housing request for our Inuit court workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that. I don't know. Right now we have 100 per cent Inuit staff in the court workers, and there are 16 of them throughout the territory. I don't know their housing situation, but I'm very proud that they are there, and I encourage everyone and our department continues to find recruitments for court workers across the territory and we're going to continue to do that, whether they have staff housing or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 963 – 6(2): Igloolik Power Plant

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut, good afternoon. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, Igloolik's power plant has been in operation for around half a century. It is probably in competition with Mr. Sammurtok's power plant in Chesterfield Inlet as being one of the oldest in the territory. As the minister will recall, the Qulliq Energy Corporation submitted an application in February of 2021 for the construction of a new power plant for Igloolik. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this project. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. (interpretation ends) I really appreciate the question in terms of pointing out the member pointing out that it is a number of communities across Nunavut that are waiting for new power plants.

In terms of the Igloolik project, Qulliq Energy Corporation had put out a request for proposal and that process had run its course, and we're currently evaluating bids received on the project. So it's one of the many projects across Nunavut that is long overdue, and one that we are hoping to see move forward. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister. It would be nice before we get new housing. (interpretation ends) The Qulliq Energy Corporation's 2021 application, as you indicated, that the cost of constructing a new power plant for Igloolik would be approximately 35.745 million. Can the minister indicate how much of a budget shortfall is being faced by the corporation? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In term of the budget, that was in place a number of years ago, we have seen significant escalation. You know, in terms of the budgetary shortfall, I would classify it as significant, and that's where federal support through funds like the Arctic Energy Fund are so important, because they allow us to use those federal funds to protect the ratepayers across Nunavut. We don't want to fund new power plants purely on the backs of our valued ratepayers. We know cost of living here is high here in Nunavut. We need that federal subsidy to assist us to provide reliable and clean power to Nunavummiut.

We are looking to Arctic Energy Fund in terms of making some reallocations, and we need the message to get through to our federal partners that we know diesel power generation is not popular, in terms of this age of renewable energy expansion, but it's proven. We need technology in Nunavut that works at minus 30 and the winds are blowing 40 to 60. We're going to need diesel power in Nunavut as a backbone while we work on expanding renewables.

That's the message that we're trying to get through to our federal partners is we understand diesel is not the way of the future, but it's going to be the backbone here in Nunavut, given our climate. And we need further federal supports. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary. Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the minister. I totally agree with the minister as well (interpretation ends) A number of my colleagues from Chesterfield Inlet, Kugaaruk and other communities have spoken about the urgent need for power plants.

Mr. Speaker, power plants are not a luxury like a swimming pool. They are an absolute necessity. They are a matter of life and death. Can the Minister indicate approximately how much it would cost to replace all power plants in Nunavut that have reached or are close to reaching the end of their operational lifespan? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question and I apologize to the member that I don't have that number in front of me. I can say that we don't have enough funds available right now to initiate on a project of that nature.

I'll list off a few of the plants. You know Igloolik's plant is 49 years old. The one mentioned yesterday in Chesterfield Inlet is 48 years old. Kugaaruk's is 49. Sanirajak is also 49. Arviat is 52. Rankin Inlet's is 50. Resolute Bay's is 52. So those are all assets or facilities that have gone past their expected life span and are into a phase where we are spending more than we would like to on maintenance. There's increased risks of power outages.

So this is, as the member mentioned, an extremely important area where we need to make continued investments. We are making strong cases for federal support and we're looking forward to having some good news, in terms of awarding contracts, hopefully in the near future, to see new plants coming online and getting built. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: You did it, colleagues.

>>*Laughter*

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

Question 964 – 6(2): Nunavut's High School Graduates

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my questions are to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, earlier in this sitting the minister announced that 2023-2024 saw a record of 301 students graduating from Nunavut schools. I extend my warm congratulations to all those students who worked so hard to achieve this important milestone. Well done.

Can the minister provide an update how her department enables those students to continue with their studies in college, universities or trade school programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. The Department of Education is very pleased to work to support students with career pathing, and we have allocated funding for guidance counsellors in all of our high schools. We look forward to more students going on through after graduation into post-secondary programs and to work directly with their guidance counsellor on student supports to entrance into programming and to follow and apply to post-secondary institutions.

Mr. Speaker, we also have our validation statements which are sent out twice a year, and we started that last year. So our students, when they are in grade 9 to grade 12, twice a year they will receive their validation statements to keep them on track with how they are progressing through their high school careers and their credits that they are attaining. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that when a student is on an individual education plan, an IEP, they can officially graduate from high school despite not having passed all the formal courses required to meet Nunavut high school graduation requirements. Can the minister clarify how many of the 301 high-school graduates in 2023-2024 graduated under an individual education plan, and whether this is reflected in their graduation diploma documents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. That's a detailed level of questioning, so I'll have to look and ask the department to see if that's possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. I didn't hear a commitment to get back to me, so I do hope the minister will get back to me with an answer on that.

Mr. Speaker, every student is entitled to a complete education. I encourage every child and youth across Nunavut to take full advantage of the educational opportunities that are available in school to prepare themselves for success in their future lives. A number of MLAs in this Assembly and previous assemblies have raised the concern that many Nunavut high-school graduates finish their grade 12 education without having attained the basic educational skills that they would need to continue on to post-secondary education.

Can the minister clarify how her department works with all of Nunavut's grade 12 students to prepare them for what to expect when they graduate from high school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. The department does really want to see more students graduating and going through on to post-secondary education, and we have education programming plan that we work with our district education authorities, and the school system is based on improving the curriculum and working on the credits that might be available or need to be attained, and figuring out which programs to offer for the students to meet their graduation requirements and fulfil the option to go onto post-secondary and career pathing with what they might need to finish or what credits they might need to get into a particular program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members, be aware time allotted for question period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committee on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 309 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Municipality of Naujaat Concerning Airport Runway Extension

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy today of correspondence from the Municipality of Naujaat concerning the urgent need for the airport runway to be extended. I encourage all members to review it with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 14, Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motions For First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 60 – An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act – First Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 60, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act*, be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion?

An Hon. Member: Question.

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

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration of Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 53, 54, 55 and 61 with Mr. Hickes in the chair. Before we proceed with the committee, we will take 20-minute break. Sergeant-at Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:31 and Committee resumed at 13:52*

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

Chairman (Mr. George Hickes): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In the Committee of the Whole we have the following bills to deal with: Bills 53, 54, 55, and 61. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 61, the Appropriation (Capital) Act 2024-2025-2026 and the supporting document for

Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by the Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to deal first with Bill 61?

Some Members: We agree.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak, do you have witnesses you would like to appear before the committee with you?

Mr. Devereux: I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to allow the witnesses appear before the committee?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Just for the record, minister, before we proceed if you can introduce your officials for the record.

Mr. Devereux: For the record, Mr. Chairman, Airyn Devereux is the president and chief executive officer of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, to my right. To my left is Sol Vardy, Vice-President and Chief Finance Officer. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome. We'll go right to questions. The first name I have on my list, and members, if you have any questions please grab my attention to get your name added to the list. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for recognizing me. I don't have very many questions left. But the goal of Nunavut Housing Corporation I believe is to build houses, quality houses as cost effective as possible and make sure they are built in a timely manner.

In opening comments on the bottom, in the minister's opening comments, it's the first time that housing developments of all types are underway in all 25 communities at the same time.

Mr. Chairman, can I get an update from the minister? Is this for public housing and staff housing units, which that's the only controlled builds that Housing does, I believe. In

each community what is delivered to that community, and what stage is it at, is it closed in, is the material there but they haven't started the work and what percentage of money has been paid to that project on each community. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Mr. Devereux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll provide it from 2023.

Iqaluit units. There was 18 units in the spring of 2023. They've had the floor, walls and roof substantially done in the fall of 2024. That has been completed since November 2024.

Arctic Bay had in the spring of 2024 eight units to become substantially complete by the fall of 2025. It was 45 per cent complete by fall of 2025. And in Arctic Bay again, another 12 units that received in the summer of 2024. The substantial completion date is fall of 2025. Currently it's at 14 per cent complete. It should be completed by fall of 2025.

Arviat has two units, two builds, eight units from fall 2023. Walls and framing was done in 2024. Substantial completion date of summer 2025. Currently it's at 46 per cent complete.

The other unit is 12 units, received in summer of 2024. Substantial completion by summer 2025, currently at around 27 per cent complete.

Baker Lake, summer of 2023, received eight units. Expect completion by summer of 2025. Currently at about 46 per cent complete. Another 12 units in Baker Lake received in the fall of 2023 is expected to be completed by summer of 2024, currently sitting around 44 per cent complete.

Cambridge Bay, 12 units received in summer of 2024, expected to be completed summer 2025, 44 per cent complete.

Gjoa Haven an eight-plex, I believe received in fall of 2024, expected to be completed by fall of 2025. It's around 40 per cent complete. Gjoa Haven, another 12-plex, fall of 2024, expected to be completed by spring of 2026 at 10 per cent complete currently.

In Rankin Inlet, eight units received in the spring of 2024. Expected to be completed by summer of 2025. Currently sitting at 46 per cent complete. The other 12 units in Rankin Inlet, same thing, received in 2024. Spring construction started and expected to be completed in summer of 2025, currently sitting at 46 per cent complete.

Taloyoak, two units one eight-plex and one twelve. Both received in 2024. Expect completion by spring of 2026. One is at 25 per cent complete, the other at 14 per cent complete.

We'll keep going. Chesterfield Inlet, eight units received. Site work pad started fall of 2024. Framing spring of 2025, expected to be completed by 2026. 12 per cent complete to date.

Clyde River, eight units received in the fall of 2024, and we expect that unit to be completed fall of 2026. It's at about two per cent completion.

Coral Harbour, 12 units received in the fall of 2024. Expected to be completed, substantially completed by fall of 2026, currently at 9 per cent.

Grise Fiord, six units fall of 2024, and should be completed by fall of 2026, currently at 4 per cent.

Igloolik, eight units received in fall of 2025 along with 12 units. Expect both units to be completed by fall of 2026, both sitting at 9 per cent complete.

Kimmirut six-plex is received and should be completed by fall of 2026. Hasn't started yet.

Kinngait, eight-plex received and should be completed by fall of 2026, 9 per cent complete.

Kinngait, 12 units received in the fall of 2024, expect to be completed substantial completion by 2026, 4 per cent complete.

Kugaaruk, eight units received so far and should be completed by fall of 2026. Currently at around 4 per cent complete.

Kugluktuk, 12 units received in the fall of 2024. Expect completion by fall of 2026. Currently sitting at 9 per cent complete.

Naujaat, eight units was received fall of 2024 and should be completed by fall of 2026. Currently sitting at 9 per cent.

Pangnirtung, two eight-plexes were received in the spring of 2025. The work started on the foundation. They should be completed by fall of 2026.

Pond Inlet, eight-plex received in the fall of 2024. Expected to be completed by fall of 2026. Currently hasn't started yet.

Qikiqtarjuaq, six-plex received in fall of 2024. 9 per cent work has been done there. Should be completed by 2026 fall.

Resolute Bay, six-plex received in the fall of 2024 should be completed by the fall of 2026. Currently at 4 per cent completion.

Sanikiluaq, eight-plex received in the fall of 2024. Expect completion by fall of 2026, at 4 per cent.

Sanirajak, eight-plex received by the fall of 2024. Expect completion by fall of 2026.

Whale Cove, six-plex received in the fall of 2024. Expect completion by fall of 2026.

These are different from what I have announced also.

Iqaluit, two units. Work site pad started 2025. Those are modular units. Modular construction in progress. The ones I will be listing are modular units.

Chesterfield Inlet, two modular units received in the fall. They are 60 per cent complete.

Clyde River, two units received in the fall. They are at 60 per cent complete. They should be completed this fall, though, or by summer.

Coral Harbour, two units, and they're 60 per cent complete.

Grise Fiord, two units, again modular units. They will be completed by fall of 2025.

Igloolik, two units. They have been received. They will be ready for occupation by summer of 2025. They are at 60 per cent complete.

Kimmirut, two units received and they should be ready by 2025.

Kinngait, there's two RCMP units in Kinngait that were brought in and they should be ready this fall. They are 50 per cent complete.

Kugaaruk, two units, and they will be ready by the fall of 2025.

Kugluktuk, two units should be ready this fall. They are 50 per cent complete. So are the two units in Naujaat. And the two units in Pond Inlet.

Qikiqtarjuaq, two units that were received they will be ready. They are almost ready now. They are at 90 per cent complete.

Resolute Bay, two units that were received should be ready by 2025 summer. It's at 50 per cent complete.

The Sanikiluaq has two units they should be finished later this fall. They are at 50 per cent complete.

There are two RCMP units going into Rankin Inlet. They should be. They're at 40 per cent complete.

Whale Cove has two units. They should be ready this fall. They are at 50 per cent complete.

In 2023 we had modular units also constructed, and in Arctic Bay those units are complete; Arviat the units are complete; in Baker Lake, these are two modular units in the community, I'm talking about, Baker Lake. They are 100 per cent complete since October.

Cambridge Bay, two units at 100 per cent complete. Gjoa Haven, two units are complete. Kinngait, two units were received in the fall. They are at 70 per cent complete. We anticipate completion by March of 2025.

Pangnirtung, two units are 90 per cent complete. Should be ready by March 2025.

Rankin Inlet, two units they have been completed since January.

Sanikiluaq two units received in summer of 2023. They are 90 per cent complete. They should be ready by December.

Sanirajak two units, they were ready in May. They are complete.

And Taloyoak two units and they are at 90 per cent complete. Should be completed by December 2024. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll just let the minister get a glass of water here after that long winded, or not long winded but all the information that was there. Thanks for the information.

Just for clarity, all these modular homes, the two units that come in to be one unit, I believe that's what Arviat got, two pieces came in, it was one building, those are all for NCC Development Corporation to stay in for free while they do construction? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Mr. Devereux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, those will be used by NCC for staff housing and they will be -- it's not free, they will be charged for it, and we will be paid back for it, Mr. Chairman. There's no such thing as free Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Minister. I'm assuming other than the ones you specifically mentioned for RCMP housing. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it not correct from our correspondence back and forth from last year NCC Development Corporation is leasing these units for \$1 a month? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Mr. Devereux: Mr. Chairman, it depends how you slice the apple, I guess. If we didn't, they would be billing us for where they are staying, and it would be a lot more than what they are getting right now.

As I said many times over, when we were looking at trying to build as many units as possible, NCC were looking at costs of two to three hundred thousand dollars to charge the corporation for their staff to stay in apartments, hotels, wherever they could stay. And so in exchange, the corporation went and purchased these units and leased them to NCC for nothing, or \$1 or something like that. In exchange they wouldn't bill us for anything else. So at the end of the day we gain infrastructure and they are not charging us for leasing, which they would have. You could call it what you want but at the end of the day we're saving a lot of money by doing this, and they're not charging us for staying in whatever other accommodations they would have had to. We are saving millions of dollars by doing this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that the free accommodations, or near-free, built into the cost? The minister stated it's roughly \$650,000 a square foot for construction and I would think if you want the true cost of what it's costing to build that unit, construction cost, you would have to include the accommodations, because in the old contracts that went out to tender, it was specifically stated that they had to stay in commercial accommodations in town to help the businesses in town, the Co-ops, hotel, or whatever other hotel or accommodations. Is the cost of housing NCC Development Corporation built into the cost that the minister states for construction costs of these units? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Maybe the minister understands that question better than I do. Minister Kusugak.

Mr. Devereux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think Mr. Savikataaq could muddy the question any more than he did.

Mr. Chairman, I thought we had been very clear in terms of the kind of effort the housing corporation is putting in to try to cut costs at all avenues, and I think over the years we've spent a lot of money on paying for bunk houses that are owned by the contractors themselves at the end of the day. There are bunk houses that I know of in Rankin Inlet that previous housing contractors have bought by charging for room and board, and at the end of the day they still charge for it but they stay in their own units.

This was an opportunity to work with NCC and say, look, you're going to be in there for a year or two, and we'll provide this accommodation and we'll take that money we were going to spend on you stay at a bed and breakfast, or your own accommodations, and turn it into more units for the community, like the modular units. So instead of renting space we're taking space and turning it into another unit.

In order to maybe give more of a bit of an answer on the other part of the questions I'll get through you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Devereux to respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Just if I may, before I go to Mr. Devereaux, I think I got the gist of what the minister is saying. I think it is related to what Mr. Savikataaq was saying.

If a contractor bids on a proposal and they had their own bunk house, wouldn't that lower their costs and subsequently lower their bid, because they wouldn't be anticipating having to use hotels? Where another contractor that doesn't have a bunk house would have to use hotels or private accommodations that they could arrange. Wouldn't that impact the bid price? If they had a bunk house it would be a cheaper contract so they would bid lower and get the business. So that's the way I'm understanding it. Mr. Devereux?

Mr. Devereux: Thank you, Mr. Chair and thank you, Member, for the question. Maybe I'll first address your comment. I think historically we've not seen that. I think we've seen the same, and our bid documents we see the detailed breakdown and whether or not the particular bidder is using their own accommodations, such as a camp, or if they're using third-party accommodation, such as a hotel or other properties in the community, we've seen similar bid amounts for local accommodation. Extremely expensive, in the neighbourhood of three to four hundred dollars per person per day. So high, high cost.

In a contract like we have been doing over the last two years, 300-million-plus. That would be tens of millions of dollars in local accommodation. Our strategy was to say at the end of that, rather than us not having any value from that expenditure, why don't we provide that housing and then at the end of the construction period we'll own those houses that otherwise we would have spent tens of millions of dollars paying for room and board to the bidder.

To the member's question specifically, when we reference the cost per square foot of those construction contracts with NCC, it's clearly a measure of the actual construction cost. So it wouldn't include the value of the accommodations, because it's \$1.

When we compare it to other contracts, I think it's probably a fair comment by the number to say it's not necessarily apples to apples, because the reference to when we close tenders before which bidders put in their own accommodation, the reference to NCC's contracts being roughly \$600 a square foot, the accommodation cost is only \$1 a month for those units.

If we had to normalize the \$600 a square foot to add in the accommodation piece that we're getting for \$1, or we're providing for \$1, maybe it's in the tune of \$650 a square foot, if you wanted to normalize.

And when we compare it to what those bids were over the two years that we received, they were \$1,200 to \$1,500 a square foot.

I'll just clarify when we referenced the 600 it didn't include any accommodations costs, because in that contract the only accommodation cost was \$1 a month. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you for that. I hope that information comes out in Community and Government Services' solicitation for information that's ongoing right now from the construction sector. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And this construction cost is for turnkey; I assume that it is, but I just want confirmation. There's no other contracts like for the electrical or for the mechanical? That \$600 is for a turnkey house, it's ready to move in? Thank you.

Chairman: I see some nodding heads. Did you want to supplement the response, Minister? Go ahead.

Mr. Devereux: Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of those that see our nodding heads, yes, that is the fact. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I should have said which way they were nodding, then, maybe. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other part of my question is how much is paid up. It would be good for the members to be informed how does the payment work. I assume you're not paying \$100 per cent of the cost as soon as the contract is awarded. Like when the material comes in do you pay 40 per cent? When the outside is done do you have 60 per cent? Can we get a breakdown of exactly how payment is made for these units in the communities? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Mr. Devereux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very good question, Mr. Chairman. There is a payment schedule in terms of that, at a certain point how much of the contract is paid out. And if I could get Mr. Devereux maybe to elaborate a bit on where we are on it, I believe it's around 40 per cent currently, but through you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Devereux.

Mr. Devereux: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you member for the question. The payment schedule on these major construction contracts is such that when the materials are received then the contractor invoices and we pay for materials.

Materials typically range in the cost of 40, 45 per cent of the overall contract value. So if we have 3 hundred million dollars' worth of contracts right now, you can assume that the value of materials is roughly 40, 45 per cent of that. For all the units we currently have that we're directly delivering, approximately 400, the materials would have been paid by now for all of those.

In terms of the payment schedule for the labour portion on construction, the contractors, after they complete progress, typically bill monthly or every other month to the contractor. We verify that that level of progress of completion is done, and then we would make payment on that certified progress.

So for the 2023 units that arrived fall of 2023, the 150 units plus the 22 modulars, a fair bit of the labour has been paid out on those units, because as we went through the percentage of completion on the construction side is 40, 50 per cent, varying by community. On the 166 units that were signed for this year's construction that just came out of the sea lift, we wouldn't have paid much in terms of labour to date, but we definitely would have paid all the material invoices as of this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and it's good that we receive all this information here, so that we can make an informed choice and get opinions on stuff.

What I would like to ask now we have all these mostly eight-plex, 12-plex, six-plex being built and we've hear from my constituents and many Nunavummiut that they would rather have detached units. These modular homes that are being built for NCC Development Corporation to use, as soon as they come in, they are almost done. It must be 60 per cent done, I guess, as soon as they land in the community.

And if I recall correctly, from exchanges I've had with the minister, they are about I think about 1,000 square feet and they are either somewhere between 500 to 600,000 turnkey.

Which makes it, I don't know if it's cheaper than the stick-built apartments. But it's very close. And if that's the kind of housing that Nunavummiut want and they are done quickly and cheaply, why isn't housing corporation going that route? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Mr. Devereux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the comment from my colleague, because those are the very arguments we're making for doing that. You know, there was a time not long ago, and there are still people out there saying we would rather have stick built because it creates employment in our community. That is all well and said; and it makes a lot of sense, but we have so many people that need housing right now and through the training program we're working with NCC and through the trades, through Arctic College, I think that's being well addressed.

Moving forward over the next year we will be planning to take a good look at the modular units that are out there. Some of them are just as good. Many of them are just as good as being stick built. And they do come in and some of them are, if they are single modular units, they are just plug and play.

So I agree with my colleague, and that's one thing that housing corporation is looking at over the next by 2026-2027 we will definitely be looking at getting more modular units or single family dwellings and getting into that.

I don't think we want to see Nunavut become an eight-plex territory and 12-plex territory. We need more single units, two- and three- and four-bedroom standalone units. That definitely is in the radar and we would like to see it sooner than later. And it would include modular units.

This is what makes it exciting about seeing the work that Sakku is doing in Arviat to begin to work with those, and there are companies like Wapin (ph) that we are working with that builds SIP units and stuff. So definitely on our radar, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The minister read my mind about the Sakku units. I'm glad they are on the radar.

This one, the Chair will decide whether it's appropriate to ask it or not. It is touching on O&M. Part of the construction that was supposed to be happening and part of the training plan was to hire apprentices for these job sites. Have any apprentices been hired and registered in Arviat? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. That's directly related to the capacity to build, so Minister Kusugak.

Mr. Devereux: Yes, I didn't think you would let that go. Yes, for sure they are. I don't have that detail on me on how many in Arviat, but I'll look into it and get back to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister who will look into it, but I would like a commitment that the minister will provide me names of who is apprenticed in Arviat and what trade. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Mr. Devereux: Why not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it's always good to have these exchanges with Minister Kusugak there, and I thank him for providing us with the information there. And good luck, in a good way, good luck in building as many quality houses as the Nunavut Housing Corporation can that are of quality design and the kind that Nunavummiut want. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Just before I go to the next name on my list I would like a clarification on the difference between the contracting through NCC and what went out to public tender previously. Previous contracts the Nunavut Housing Corporation did the design. They had few different models of different-sized units that did the design. With NCC contract do they do the design build? Or is it supply and erect? Minister Kusugak.

Mr. Devereux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They did the design build, but there was consultation with our people too, Mr. Chairman. But it was a design build. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for clarifying that. I know there is a design team that Nunavut Housing Corporation employs, so I'm curious to see how that was impacting that team. I'm glad to hear that they are involved. Thank you. Next name I have on my list, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, on the substantiation sheets for the local housing organization, workshop, warehouse and administration, Administrative offices. At page 3 of 6, design and development will start in 2025 for Arviat, Pond Inlet,

Kugluktuk and Igloolik. On page 5 and 6 in the table for Pond Inlet it says design will start 2026. Which one is accurate? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Mr. Devereux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The one that's accurate is 2026-2027 Pond Inlet would have design, and construction should start 2027-2028. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Are the designs all the same for the offices? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Mr. Devereux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) they might not necessarily be all the same. Before the design is complete the least costly cost of construction, not that they might be all the same, in terms of what the floor design will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just I would like to follow up again we were talking about the modular units that Ms. Nutarak was just talking about. When they come land in a community, how long does it take to erect them, and have them on the lot and have the key turned in the knob and have somebody moving in? Minister Kusugak.

Mr. Devereux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman that varies a lot in terms of when they come in and when the team gets there. But in terms of those units it could take anywhere from a month to two months to do that. It depends on site development and preexisting issues. If there's power poles and everything there, sometimes -- once everything is there and in place in order to make the modular unit useable, like the power lines and everything is already in place, within four weeks it would be ready. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I have no more names on my list. Going once. Going twice. Sold. Minister Kusugak, any closing -- sorry, I'm skipping a step. Total capital expenditures, Nunavut Housing Corporation, \$109,771,000; agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree we have concluded with Nunavut Housing Incorporation.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister's closing comments.

Mr. Devereux: I would love to, Mr. Chairman. For this government, anyway, this is the last capital budgets for Nunavut Housing Corporation. I really appreciate the support that I've seen in this room. If it wasn't for the support I received in this room, we couldn't be where we are today. I think everybody should take a little bit of pride and credit in terms of where we've gone in terms of housing.

Just a very quick note, Mr. Chairman. The previous government built a couple hundred houses. We're building a couple hundred houses a year, and that has a lot to do with the will of this room to see more housing units.

I thank you for your patience. I know I've said we will stumble, we will fall, but we will get back up again and we will keep going. Housing is something that is near and dear to all our hearts. This is not doable without the support of the two people beside me, and more so the people that are in the offices and workplaces across Nunavut, the housing boards and everybody else out there that takes a lot of slack for housing. The core of so many Nunavummiut is housing and it creates a lot but it also solves a lot of problems in our territory and I appreciate your time and patience, Mr. Chairman. And I appreciate all the questions that have been given to us. I'll leave it at that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Witnesses may be excused. Sergeant-at-Arms. Please remain in your seats and we'll proceed directly to Department of Family Services. Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms.

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome back. Minister Nakashuk, do you have anybody you would like to appear before the committee with you, Minister?

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: My apologies. Can you repeat that, please.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Are there any officials that you would like to appear before the committee with you, Minister?

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Yes, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to allow the witnesses to appear before the committee?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms.

Thank you. For the record, Minister Nakasuk, if you could introduce your officials and proceed directly into your Opening Comments. Thank you.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. (interpretation ends) On my right is my Deputy Minister, Jonathan Ellsworth, and on my left, to your right, is (indiscernible), Director of Corporate Services.

Mr. Chair, I am pleased to be here today to present the 2025-2026 capital estimates for the Department of Family Services to the Standing Committee on Family Wellness.

The Department of Family Services is requesting a total of \$2.4 million in capital funding for 2025-2026.

Small capital funding of \$900,000 will be used to address office space improvements and replacement of old vehicles, furniture, and equipment across the territory.

The remaining 1.5 million will be used to boost capital projects initiated by local social wellness focused on non-for-profit organizations working to address core operation gaps.

Not-for-profit organizations have expressed challenges in finding office and programming space as well as the need for staff housing for recruitment and retention. Funding agreements would complement these efforts to address these challenges, with contributions to help with building purchases, improvements, and other capital needs. Not-for-profit organizations would be eligible to apply for funding if their work aligns with the Department of Family Services' mandate and contributes to the outcomes of the Macimaniq Plan, which include food security, life skills training, healing and well-being, family safety and homelessness. Eligible maximum funding threshold will be established for startup, growing and established not-for-profits.

Mr. Chair, the Department of Family Services is committed to strengthening the delivery of quality services for Nunavummiut. This capital request is critical in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the program service delivery in the communities across the territory, and it also aligns with our priorities to strengthen family wellness and community capacity. I look forward to your ongoing support as we work together to better serve communities the territory, and I welcome questions or comments that the members may have as we proceed. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee have opening comments? Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Chair. I'm happy to provide Opening Comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on social wellness since the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration with the proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates of the Department of Family Services.

Chair, the Department of Family Services' proposed capital estimates for 2025-2026 includes minor capital budgets of \$900,000 for projects including repairs, renovations, and replacement of equipment, as well as 1.5 million budget for its Not-For-Profit Capital Fund.

The Committee again appreciated the department providing comprehensive detail on its proposed minor capital expenditures for the upcoming 2025-2026 fiscal year and the five-year period of the capital plan.

This is the third fiscal year for the department's request of capital funds to support proposals for not-for-profit organizations. Members appreciated receiving details regarding the entities that have received funding for this budget since 2023 and details on what capital projects are being undertaking with the funding provided. The department is requesting an increase of \$500,000, for a total of \$1.5 million, to be allocated in 2025-2026.

When the Not-For-Profit budget item was first introduced in the department's 2023-2024 capital estimates, members were given understand that it would be a three-year initiative. Documentation provided by the department indicates that it will be extended for a further two years.

The Standing Committee anticipates that a review of projects that have been supported for the Not-For-Profit capital budget program and an evaluation of its implementation to date, including positive and negative results, will be undertaken prior to the department bringing forward requests for additional funding.

The Standing Committee notes that the department also makes funding available through its operations and maintenance budget to support such infrastructure-based programs as domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, transitional housing and wellness hubs. Information respecting planning studies being undertaken by the Department of Community and Government Services shows that test fitting and cost estimations are in progress for community wellness hubs in the communities of Arctic Bay, Kugluktuk, Baker Lake and Kinngait. The Standing Committee looks forward to updates in this area.

In February 2024, the Assembly approved the department's supplementary capital appropriation request for \$450,000 towards the acquisition and implementation of the department's new Case Management System. Given the importance of this system in addressing concerns raised by the Auditor General of Canada, the Standing Committee encourages the minister and her officials to implement this system as soon as possible.

Chair, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates of the Department of Family Services. Individual members may have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Chair. Corporate management, Department of Family Services total capital expenditures \$2.4 million. Any questions? Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome. (interpretation ends) My question is the department is requesting \$1.5 million in 2025-2026 to address the capital needs for not-for-profit entities.

Documentation provided by the department indicates that for 2023-2024, 15 proposals were received, and 2 million for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 has been committed to nine projects.

Can the minister provide further detail on how these proposals were selected and what steps are taken to monitor the success of the projects? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The proposals received to Family Services for support on non-profit organizations and changes needed is very obvious. With the funds and with many proposals coming in, and we initially started with \$1 million available and we added 1.5 million. However, the proposals in total including those not being approved, \$5.5 million was proposed. And these are in different categories. Some just started non-profit organizations, some growing, and some that have been established for a long time.

The reviews and the details involved are followed up and reviewed. However, my deputy can give you further details, if it's in your convenience. But it's clearly outlined who have been approved. My deputy can explain the criteria that was involved in approval. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for that question. So the criteria by which applications are assessed can be found at the department's Grants and Contributions Policy, and eligibility for the fund is defined by three levels of eligibility actually, Mr. Chair.

They are established organizations could be eligible for up to \$500,000. To be considered established, an organization must have existed for a minimum of five years, developed a strategic plan, no significant concerns identified through previous audits, completed feasibility building condition assessments, or building plans for the capital project.

Two, growing organizations would be eligible for up to \$250,000. To be considered growing, they must have existed for a minimum of two years, no significant concerns identified through previous audits, completed Feasibility and Building Conditions Assessments or Business Plans for the capital project.

Lastly, a startup organization would be eligible for up to \$100,000 on the basis of a project proposal.

As the Minister indicated, there were several applications during our first round in the amount of \$5.5 million, all of which had good merit. The ones that were not -- that we didn't issue funding for were all deferred to other government organizations where there was other pots of funding that they may be able to access.

I believe that sums up my response to your inquiry. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you. These are going to be very useful (interpretation ends) to assist communities to access such buildings as surplus government facilities or empty housing units to provide safe shelters, youth homes, or other spaces to support Nunavut's most vulnerable residents.

Is the Not-For-Profit Capital Fund being used to help communicate at this based-groups renovate buildings to be used as local shelters or safe homes? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To your question, there are different criteria how the fund is maybe used for renovations in the community, and also for abandoned buildings, or not used if they are planning to purchase a building, and again, for renovations mostly. Feasibility study also provided with funding are included in this, and for rent and maintenance and office supplies or any capital plan they may have. These are reviewed and contracting fees can also be included. The land also can be looked at and any upgrades that may be required are identified in some areas, and purchases are made of staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. When they will be required or the buildings be required. (interpretation ends) The capital fund was described as a three-year project when it was initiated in 2023-2024. However,

documentation provided by the department processes to increase the amount of funding to 2 million per year from 2025-2026 to 2027-2028.

Will the department be bringing forward a Supplementary Appropriation Request for capital funding under this line item in 2025-2026? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): (No interpretation).

Chairman: Thank you. The member asked if there was potentially a supplemental appropriation coming to increase it up to the \$2 million that's being projected forward. Are you looking at making it \$2 million in this upcoming fiscal year as well, or leaving it as is? Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At this time at 1.5 million. Qujannamiik.

Chairman: *Nakirmiik.* Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you. A thought comes to mind. Perhaps in the near future it would have to increase hinges on my question to have a slightly higher figure, will there be considerations on that in the upcoming year. What I want to know is on the shelters that are already established in the communities, I want to know how many there may be and how many may be shelters for... any thoughts to include this in 2026. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your question. You're correct that in the near future we will probably ask for more. As many have requested funds, and the requests have exceeded the total amount, and you have different categories, Not-For-Profit, whether it's for shelter or others in the near future, as we begin to see what demand there may be for funding.

And when the Chair read a letter that this was for a three-year project, but we requested two additional years, due to a high number of proposals and the requested need. And we know that a Not-For-Profit organization want help in the area of infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. The next name on my list, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister for the Department of Family Services continue to share space with the Department of Health in several communities. In which communities does the lack of adequate or suitable office space still impact the delivery of the service? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for asking that question. I will have to get back to the member, because there are different kinds of offices that we use in the communities as our offices.

I'm not sure how many communities in how many communities where we share space with the Department of Health. I'll have to get back to the committee on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I will be expecting that. (interpretation ends) 2026 capital estimate budget for small capital include the request to purchase five new vehicles. Department vehicles are often used to visit clients, transport children to and from the school, and visit children in care. Are those appropriate insurance policies now in place with the respect the use of Family Service vehicles. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, yes. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the Minister. (Interpretation ends) 2024-2025 include 145,000 for furniture for the headquarters office and an additional 85,000 is being requested in 2025-2026 again for the furniture for the headquarters office. What specific furniture items are being purchased with these funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the question. My Deputy Minister can explain that fully, if it's okay with the Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for the question. In response to the inquiry, our view that the office space is not currently being utilized to its full capacity, so we're currently working with our colleagues at the Department of Community and Government Services through the lens of getting that best use of space, and we're doing it over periods of time, this is why you see an allocation being requested for this year and next year, because we suspect we'll do half the building in one fiscal period and the other half in the other. I trust that responds to your inquiry. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the minister for explaining that. (interpretation ends) There is a plan to buy five new replacement vehicles in 2024-2025. Will these vehicles replace older vehicles or is the department's fleet of vehicles expanding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the question. They are going to be replacing old vehicles. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In the past, the minister had indicated the plans to establish wellness hub in four communities were approved. What is the current status of establishing these wellness hubs, and what kind of service will be delivered out of these facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the question. At the last time when we looked at Class D estimates review, but those reviews have been approved, so we'll be planning to establish wellness hubs. Once the proposals come in, we'll add it to them.

As to what the community wellness hubs will look like, we've been thinking along the lines as to what the community wants to use the wellness hubs, either for furs and skins treatment activities.

It will be the communities that decide on how these wellness hubs will be used. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Kivalliq Inuit Association are working on establishing a cultural centre. Have your department had discussions with them to see if you can work together to create these hubs sooner? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have held discussions with Nunavut Tunngavik about that, but there's been nothing confirmed. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The need for transitional housing has been identified across Nunavut. What specific steps is the department taking to working with Community and Government Services, the Nunavut Housing Corporation and municipalities to develop a functional program to meet the needs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the question. The communities were thinking of doing that in the future. There is one being established in Iqaluit, and there is another plan to establish one by non-profit organizations. That's why we helped them financially. There is one being established in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to get back to the wellness hubs. The four communities in Nunavut, Arctic Bay, Kugluktuk, Baker Lake and Kinngait, are the communities that were chosen. Can the minister tell us how these communities were chosen? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The communities were selected following the concerns coming from the communities. We're always hearing about concerns from the communities, and these communities seem to be in critical need of these hubs, so that's how they were selected, and as they have been requesting to see how else the youth can be helped in the communities. When the communities request for more wellness activity, so that's what we followed and chose the communities.

My Deputy Minister can explain this further, if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for the inquiry. I understand, Mr. Chair, that in the spring of 2021 there was collaboration between the Department of Family Services, Department of Health, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and some input from the Department of Justice around developing a scoring grid to help prioritize communities with the greatest need.

This scoring grid, as I understand it, Mr. Chair, is based on existing wellness spaces in any given community, social needs indicators like income assistance and housing levels of violence according to RCMP file counts, suicide rates, current capital initiatives under development.

And so these were sort of the criteria by which communities were assessed. And based on that criteria, the communities selected as mentioned earlier, were Arctic Bay, Kugluktuk, Kinngait and Baker Lake. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be probably my last question. (interpretation ends) Which communities are currently being considered for transitional housing projects? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with you, I would like my Deputy Minister to explain that further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I didn't catch the first part of the inquiry, but if I may hear it again it would be helpful. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Which communities are being considered for transitional projects (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for the clarification. I understand that currently there are transitional housing operations in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, Rankin, Kugluktuk, and Cambridge.

There are some other not-for-profit transitional housing projects that are being developed. We don't have any current proposals before us, so I would be remiss if I was going to sort of try to guess which ones would come to us before the others.

So certainly we do aim to support any transitional housing programming, and our non-for-profit capital is a testament to that, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one topic I would like to touch upon today, that's the capital funding for non-profits.

If I recall correctly, the minister had responded that the intent is for the budget to remain constant at \$1 million. After reading the summary of project applications that the department has received, this confirms the tremendous potential that a \$1 million fund can have on the territory.

Looking at the summary that you provided, safe homes, expanding Umingmak, opening a youth shelter, I mean, these are exceptionally tremendous projects with so much potential.

I just want to follow up on that last question with regards to the budget for this capital fund. When will the Department of Family Services be in a better position to mature the program and expand the budgets? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. I'll let the Minister respond. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think when we first put this budget out for not-profit organizations, we didn't think that the number of applications would come in so high. And we do recognize now that we will certainly need to request for more funding. But when the department is reviewing the applications, some could be transferred to a different department that might fit under more of their program criteria. So we've had to do that this time around, but I think down the road that is something that we will certainly have to look more into, in terms of requesting for more funds, because we do recognize the need in the communities. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Minister. I appreciate the response. I suppose I just didn't capture your entire response from earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Brewster. My apologies, I'm jumping ahead in my list. Mr. Simailak was next on the list. My apologies, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wouldn't have minded, because it's usually ladies first, but I'll go on.

Good afternoon, Minister. A few clarification questions from questions asked earlier. The first one, when Ms. Quassa was asking questions, the response given was pots of funding was deferred to other departments.

I was wondering did Family Services continue the dialogue with the applicant to make sure that they did get the proper service that they were looking for, instead of just saying we can't help you with that, you have to go talk to Economic Development and Transportation, or Health, or whoever. I want to make sure there's proper dialogue with the applicants. Was that done? Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If my deputy can answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for the inquiry, sir. My understanding is that we continue to work closely with applicants to ensure that they can access the different funding pots because, quite frankly, there are a lot of them, but there are also a lot of competing needs in communities.

So I can say with confidence that the ones that were deferred weren't simply told to go talk to CGS, or go talk to Culture and Heritage, but rather there was an engagement by the Director of Policy to make sure that there was dialogue with those applicants. Whether or not they were approved through those different departmental funding pockets, I can't say with certainty, but I do know we take this program very seriously and we want to ensure that the needs of communities are met to the extent that we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the responses. That's refreshing to hear that things were followed through, and not just brushed off. It's easy to get lost in the government departments and programs and whatnot, so it can get quite discouraging

for our constituents that are trying to do more for their communities. So it's refreshing to hear that.

My next clarification question. The department plans to buy five new replacement vehicles. Where are those vehicles going to, which communities, and is it Family Services or another department within Family Services? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The vehicles will be assets of Family Services for the staff, Resolute, Chesterfield, Iqaluit and Sanirajak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. Is the department now looking at perhaps expanding the fleets of vehicles that the department has just because of all of our communities are growing in size, our populations are getting higher and higher? And if so, when can we expect to see a request for more monies for vehicles? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The review will be based on the requirements. When the assets age, or some last longer, they would review each community on its own merit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Minister. I think my last question that I'll put for today, it's regarding the wellness slated for Baker Lake. There was community engagement held two years ago now, or about a year ago in Baker Lake, and it was pretty good. I'm wondering when is the department coming back to Baker Lake to continue working on that. And can I please be notified before they come, so that I can ensure the hamlet is aware, the Qilautimiut Elder Society is aware, and the churches, so that they can take part in this planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure when we would be in Baker Lake, but they will notify before coming. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can get maybe a broad scope, like I said, month of November, or December, or February, or in the spring; is it known when they might be travelling. It's only a few communities, four communities that need to be visited again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. If we get approved here, we'll have to come up with a business case to review, and which ones are priority. If we proceed, we would plan. And to assess the rollout, it would be more clear in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list is now Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: That's okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I admit that I was distracted a little bit by you during Mr. Lightstone's final two questions, so I hope I'm not going to repeat anything. I know that one of the responses that the Deputy Minister provided spoke to a scoring grid, I believe related to the transitional housing projects. My question is I guess whether or not there's a similar scoring process in place for the Not-For-Profit capital budgets. How are those decisions made about which entities would receive the funds for that project. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: (interpretation) Thank you. If it's okay, my deputy can answer. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for the inquiry. I believe Mr. Lightstone's question, there was a couple questions on scoring grids and criteria. One was wellness hubs, and the other I believe that I did mention earlier in the proceedings that there's three levels of eligibility for accessing the non-for-profit capital fund.

And those go to first the established organizations would be eligible up to 500,000. And to be considered established they must have existed for a minimum of five years, developed a strategic plan, no significant concerns identified through audit, and a completed feasibility or business plans for the capital project.

The second criteria for organizations that would be eligible for up to \$250,000, Mr. Chair, and to be considered growing you must have existed for a minimum of two years, no

significant concerns identified in the course of an audit, and finally, completed feasibility or building condition assessment or business plans for the capital project.

And finally, a startup organization would be eligible for up to \$100,000 on the basis of a project proposal.

So, Mr. Chair, recalling the purpose of this capital fund is that it's to support capital projects initiated by local social wellness focused non-profit organizations, which their vision or outputs align with the mandate of Family Services. I hope that answers the question, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is there any consideration given to the equitable dispersion of that fund, in terms of regionally or community by community; is it concentrated in one area. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy can answer. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our department feels that equitable distribution of funds is of primary importance to ensure there's equal growth or equity amongst non-for-profits in the territory as a whole.

For example, in the 2023-2024 year, we funded projects in Arviat, Cambridge Bay, and Iqaluit.

For 2024-2025 we have Iqaluit times three, Arctic Bay, Cambridge Bay. And so generally speaking, we like to make sure that it's equally distributed regionally and by community. And certainly any applicants are taken and considered on the basis of the eligibility criteria together with the fact that we want to make sure that there's an equitable distribution of funds. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for that response. What are the annual semi-annual reporting requirements related to receiving these funds, if any. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The proponents have to provide a report, the use of the funds. And we review those reports and any additions that are required working with the clients and whether they're meeting the department's criteria. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I could just get a little bit more information on what's contained within the report, because any time we're using public funds to support community level interventions, there's an opportunity to build knowledge, not only right from the beginning at the proposal phase where the proponents come to you with their rationale and with information about the realities of their communities.

And then there's the additional opportunity in a self-evaluation for those projects as well as an evaluation by the funder. Can I get a little more information related to that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Sorry, Mr. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for the inquiry. I think, in my considered opinion, it's very important to ensure public funds are use for their intended purpose. Through that lens, I understand that in the framework of the contribution agreements with the projects that are being funded, there's also an accountability framework being built into it, together with a monitoring and evaluation component. I can get the specific details for the committee, if that is the wish. And certainly again we feel that it's of utmost importance to ensure that public funds are being used for their intended purpose. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that commitment of course related to the fiduciary responsibilities, and in addition to reporting based on the impact of their programs I think is really important. It informs the public service, it informs us. I wonder, Mr. Chair, if I could have the same commitment to have information shared about the transitional housing fund as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We certainly can provide more in-depth information about the request. Qujannamiik.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe those were all of the questions that I had jotted down. I would like to commend the Department of Family Services specifically for the Not-For-Profit Capital Fund as well as the Transitional Housing Fund, because I know that these have been areas of great need for a number of years. And every step that we take to support our communities in supporting our community members is extremely important. So I would just like to say "great job". Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you for that comment, Ms. Brewster. The Department of Family Services corporate management now being appropriated. Total capital expenditure, \$2.4 million. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree we have concluded with the Department of Family Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister, closing comments, please.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. I really just wanted to express my gratitude for this being completed, and to mention that the \$1 million for Not-For-Profit organization with additional \$500,000 is now in place, \$1.5 million. Disregard my \$100 million figure.

I would like to thank those who developed the plan, and many of these will now be included for the plans and operation.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: The witnesses may be excused. Thank you.

Either remain in your seats or don't go very far. We will break for two minutes and proceed with Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you.

I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. Minister Nakashuk, do you have committee members you would like to call before the committee with you, Minister.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Yes, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to allow the witnesses to appear with the minister?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them in. Minister, if you could introduce your officials to the committee and proceed directly to your opening comments. Thank you.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right Jackie Price, President of Arctic College and Anuj Verma, Capital Projects Planer. (interpretation ends).

Mr. Chair and committee members, I am pleased to present to you Nunavut Arctic College's draft 2025-2026 capital estimates. The college is requesting \$2.3 million for the upcoming fiscal year, and the breakdown of the funding is as follows: 500,000 for small capital, 1.5 million for ongoing life cycle, 300,000 for information technology infrastructure. Funds allocated for small capital support the college in meeting its daily operational needs ranging from vehicle purchases to classroom and residence furniture.

For 2025-2026, the college has earmarked these funds to support mobile equipment in various communities to address minor repairs in multiple communities across the territory, and to support necessary operational purchasing throughout the year.

The college's largest capital request is for Ongoing Lifecycle. This funding allows the college to maximize the life and use of its facilities through repairs and replacements. The college has earmarked funds to renovate college facilities in Arviat, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Iqaluit, and Rankin Inlet. The remaining funds will be used for emergency repairs that emerge throughout the regular operations in the year.

As each academic year passes, Nunavut Arctic College continues to expand the use of information technology in its program delivery. The college continues to invest, replace, and innovate in this area, providing enhanced services for students. In addition to securing the necessary hardware for programs across the college, if approved, the information technology funding will also support the ongoing efforts to connect college facilities to the CANARIE National Research and Education Network services.

These are the capital plans for 2025-2026 fiscal year. I'm happy to answer your questions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee have opening comments to provide? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development as the Committee of the Whole begins consideration of the proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates for the Nunavut Arctic College.

Nunavut Arctic College's proposed capital budget for 2025-2026 is again \$2.3 million with the proposed funding being allocated to three budget lines to address Minor Capital, Ongoing Lifecycle and Information Technology needs across the territory. The level of funding being requested has been consistent over the past three fiscal years.

Documentation provided by the government indicates that a number of vehicles and equipment will be purchased under the college Minor Capital Budget.

Many of Nunavut's Community Learning Centres are old and require ongoing renovations to deliver adult learning opportunities and post-secondary education. Committee members note that a number of Community Learning Centres have been identified for renovation projects under the Ongoing Lifecycle budget in the upcoming fiscal year. Members encourage the College to work closely with community representatives to address priority concerns with the facilities. The Standing Committee appreciates the College's ongoing work to update Community Learning Centre fuel tanks and fuel systems to prevent fuel spill issues which can interrupt program delivery.

Members have expressed some frustration with the lack of progress made by this Minister and her predecessors, as well as the Board of Governors of Nunavut Arctic College, in working with industry partners to develop and proceed with infrastructure opportunities for delivering heavy equipment, mines and trades training in communities outside of the regional centres.

Online learning has become a popular and viable route for accessing education and training opportunities for adult learners. Members look forward to updates on the College's long-term IT Infrastructure strategy and further detail on how the funding will be allocated in the upcoming fiscal year. Members support the College's efforts to expand program delivery and provide educational resources over the internet and were pleased to note that several Nunavut communities are now linked to the CANARIE National Research and Education network with another five communities planning to go live in the upcoming fiscal year.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates for Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Nunavut Arctic College headquarters, amount requested total capital expenditures, \$2.3 million. Any questions. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question. In regards to a new high school that's being built in Taloyoak which will relieve pressure from overcrowding at Netsilik School. The Community Learning Centre is currently located in the Netsilik School, and just one question I have here, Mr. Chairman. Are there any plans to change the structure or location of the Taloyoak Community Learning Centre once the new high school is built. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the question about the plan. That is how it is being planned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was the only question I had, so I've leave the rest for my colleagues. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to start off with my question on the capital plan of how many visited a number of our communities learning centres to assist assess their condition. Which communities were visited in 2024 and which communities will be visited in 2025, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. I'll get Mr. Verma to respond to that more clearly, because I know he does visit the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Verma.

Mr. Verma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the question. I have visited Chesterfield Inlet, Gjoa Haven and Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the member for the question.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I would like to know which communities will be visited in 2025 in that fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with the Chairman, I would like Mr. Verma to explain that too. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Please proceed, Mr. Verma.

Mr. Verma: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for the question. In 2025 the plans are to visit Baker Lake, Arviat, Sanirajak and Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the member for the question.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kaernerker.

Mr. Kaernerker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for mentioning the community of Sanirajak. The fact that Arctic College is very in need of a new college, I suppose, and so up-to-date Mr. Chair, how many community learning centres have been identified as having a below standard building condition, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the question. If it's okay with you, I would like the President of Arctic College to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Price, please proceed.

Ms. Price: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the member for the question. The college appreciates that a number of its community's learning centres are in need of replacement and repair. The college has identified ten CLCs that we would like to see replaced. That information is based on a number of factors.

As members will be aware, the Nunavut Arctic College has tabled an Assessment Report in the previous government. That in addition to the visits made by our capital planner informs us.

Although the college has its own loose list currently working at ten, we are working to finalize that and to create more formal correspondence to share with stakeholders and ideally possible partners in funding as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaernerker.

Mr. Kaernerker: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is Sanirajak Community Learning Centre below the standard building conditions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community learning centres are in different conditions. The one in Sanirajak, there are plans to replace that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for telling us that it's being planned. This may be my last question. It's been a long day. Now for long term planning, you make long term planning for capital projects.

What about the community learning centres that are too small now, or too old now that need to be that has been renovated. So how does the Nunavut Arctic College recognize learning centres that need to be replaced.

Can you let us know when the Sanirajak Community Learning Centre can be improved or replaced. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for asking that question. We should remember that not only Sanirajak needs to have their community learning centres replaced, and there are others that need to be expanded with classrooms.

They are all in different conditions, and we have to make a financial proposal to do the work, and because we always have to look for other places where we can get more funding, like the Inuit organizations. We have to consider them, too, whenever we plan to build new community learning centres. So we have to come up with different funding sources to do that. And we don't usually know if they can be built right away, so that's why we make proposals for financing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaerner. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon officials. Going based off of the Standing Committee Chair's Opening Comments on the second page, at the top, he mentioned members have expressed some frustration with the lack of progress made by this minister and her predecessors, as well as the Board of Governors of Nunavut Arctic College in working with industry partners to develop and proceed with infrastructure opportunities for delivering heavy equipment, mines and trades training in communities outside of the regional centres.

I brought this up a few times a few times now since I've become an MLA. I'm wondering has there been any headway with Nunavut Arctic College with providing trades training outside of the regional centres.

One of your predecessors, Minister Qavvik, was visiting Baker Lake and I showed him the community centre and there's a classroom sitting in the that could have used a simulator to train heavy equipment operators. Is there any headway now for the Nunavut Arctic College to head in that direction with capital monies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you Mr. Chairman and thank you for the question from the member.

We are interested in supporting training programs in Nunavut, and we know that there are a number of classrooms that are not being used, but everything costs funding, and we only hold programs after requesting for funding and then the course take place afterwards and we have to rely on other funding like from the mining companies, if they're interested in helping, or non-profit organizations can help if they want to create training programs, or if the government has plans to make training programs using Nunavut Arctic College and we will have to agree with them as to how long the program would be.

So all of those have to be considered. We can't just plan and start training program in the community. There's a lot of work ahead of them that needs to be done at first. And if its okay with the Chairman, the president can explain this further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Price.

Ms. Price: Thank you, Chair. I thank the member for his questions. Following what Minister Nakashuk reiterated, the college is working with its stakeholder partners to identify opportunities to fund additional programs outside of our core-based training programs.

I will assure the member and this House that the college has been working within its operating budget to support trades training. We have been working to fill key positions in the college which oversees the training that had been identified by the member. We haven't been successful, but we continue to try to work within the HR process to support that.

The college, speaking directly on heavy equipment operating, last year the Rankin Inlet trade school was able to welcome a group of municipal workers from Naujaat. I understand that was through funding secured by the municipality. So the college is willing to work with its stakeholder partners to make this training available.

And the last point I'll make is that the college continues to engage with its industry stakeholder partners as well to find opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for the responses, but I did state in this House during this Assembly that there was one contractor in Baker Lake, Peter's Expediting Limited, that had secured third party funding to start providing trades training, but all they got was red tape and nothing positive coming from the Nunavut Arctic College. So I'm getting conflicting responses, I guess.

The college is saying they are willing to work with industry stakeholders and whatnot, but they have had that opportunity, and that fell through. So what assurances can the minister provide that that's going to change and it will happen, because it did happen with one of her predecessors. This Minister is new to the portfolio. What assurances can I have from the minister that it will not happen again. They kicked a gift horse in the mouth. They could have helped provide trades training in Baker Lake, and it fell through. What assurances can I get from the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the question from the member. It's not like we do not want to have training programs to go ahead. We want training programs to go ahead in the communities. We have to see if things ran well or if they did not run at all. There should have been more considerations put into the matter apparently.

The one in Rankin Inlet has different training programs in the trade school, and I don't know if the college has talked to them some more to see what else they can come up with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the responses. Again, my next question, the college's 2025-2026 Capital Estimates include \$500,000 for minor capital projects. The documentation indicates that the mobile equipment, including vehicles will be purchased with some of these funds. What type of vehicles will be purchased, what will they be used for, and where will they be sent to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two, one for picking up students in Iqaluktuuttiaq, in Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'm going to make a comment before we go to the next name on the list. I'm looking at the clock. I'm going to be using my discretion as Chair today. We will conclude with Family Services and then we will report ourselves out. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Welcome, Madam Minister. Coral Harbour school has not been ready and where will the students be going to school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for this question. If we can have the president answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Price, please.

Ms. Price: Thank you, Chair, and I thank the member for its question. Last academic year the college offered the Nunavut teacher program. I understand that that program has been completed. This academic year I don't believe we have a course offered in the community for this academic year.

The college continues to work with the Department of Education to get updates on the completion of that project so that we can continue to carry on delivering programs in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe there will be no learning opportunities this winter, just staff still working.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): What community are you speaking about. For Coral Harbour there will be no school in Coral Harbour this year. There was a teacher education program in Naujaat.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When is the Arctic College going to be finished in Coral Harbour.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: If you don't mind, Mr. Verma will have a completion date of next year.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Verma.

Mr. Verma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the member for the question. Yes, the completion is expected in the next fiscal year. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): I didn't hear a date.

Chairman: Thank you. Maybe Mr. Verma. If you don't have a specific date, maybe at least a quarter or within the next fiscal year that the completion is intended. Mr. Verma.

Mr. Verma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the member for the question. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Sorry, Mr. Verma, which quarter of the next fiscal year is it anticipated to be completed. Mr. Verma.

Mr. Verma: My apologies last quarter of the next year it will be completed thank you Mr. Chairman and the member for the question.

Chairman: Thank you for that clarification. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you for the clarification. To go to another issue, the school in Naujaat is one of the older facilities. What is the status of the Naujaat Adult Education Learning Centre in terms of renovations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The doors replaced. Windows replaced is in the planning process.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No new facility will be renovated.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Currently there is no new facility. We are looking at ways to look at renovating as old as the facilities might be. That is in the planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The last name I have on my list, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the smaller communities, a community learning centre, whether they would receive vehicles, Pond Inlet is on top of a mountain and it has been requested for even a bus, a van for adults, students to and from school. Has this issue been brought forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it's not in the planning process. It is not currently in the planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Madam Minister. It would improve enrolment for adult students. The daycare becomes a problem where the smaller facilities don't have a daycare, or the larger communities community learning centres have daycares. Have you spoke about the smaller communities getting daycares, and that would improve enrollment and completion of school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are concerned about this issue in all communities. Perhaps the president can speak to this and has heard about it before, if that's okay, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Please proceed, Ms. Price.

Ms. Price: Thank you, Chair, and I thank the member for her question. The college also appreciates because of our student body being larger adult learners, we appreciate the need for support for their families. One of the newer CLCs the college has built was in Whale Cove, and it did include space for daycare.

Currently the college doesn't have any major capital plans for CLCs, but the college is of course open to recommending daycare space, wherever it can, and appreciates that final decisions are of course at the mercy of the capital process and the funding required to build. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, President, for the response. On another issue, the smaller community learning centres do not have adequate computers, and they lack

computers for students. It's hard for the teachers. Is there going to be improvements or less internet for the smaller communities, whether they will be getting...

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good question. Thank you for the work on the computer system. That's not the first time that we're dealing with this issue. We have looked at absence with the federal government to secure funding to be used by students and communities to have better access to the internet and to provide access to communities. The details, whether they will be using different kinds of screens, Mr. Verma could speak better to this. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Verma.

Mr. Verma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the member for the question. Yes, it is in planning. We are planning to upgrade the computer lab and the internet has been improved from the previous speed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the member for the question.

Chairman: Thank you. I understand Mr. Simailak has one or two more questions. Please proceed.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for recognizing me again. It's regarding the last question I asked. It's about the vehicle purchases. I was switching channels with the translation, and I might have missed it, but did the minister say only Clyde River is getting vehicles if this budget is approved. Can I get clarification please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) for Cambridge Bay and one passenger van in Iqaluktuuttiaq, Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The substantiation sheet I have also has Baker Lake and Iqaluit for mobile equipment purchases. What happened to those two communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Those were for fiscal year. The proposal is for the upcoming fiscal year. Thank you.

Chairman: I understand Mr. Sammurtok now has one question. Please proceed.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was an assessment done for the Chesterfield Inlet Nunavut Arctic College. Would we be able to get a report in regards to that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's in your discretion, Mr. President can respond to that assessment.

Chairman: Ms. Price.

Ms. Price: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the member for his question. Correct, in the last government the college did table an assessment report providing an overview of its college facilities. Since that time the college has been working with its capital planner to do community visits and inform that report, based on our own visits to communities. So at this time the college doesn't have plans to do an additional assessment report and we continue to update our own information on the status of the CLCs. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you for that Ms. Price. Nunavut Arctic College headquarters, total appropriation, total capital expenditures, \$2.3; agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Agreed, thank you. Do members agree we have concluded with Nunavut Arctic College?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Minister, closing comments, please.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank everyone for passing this regarding the learning centres, and also the staff for putting together the plans. I thank them and hopefully the plans will move forward. And I would just like to say thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hicke.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been dealing with Bill 61 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I also move that the report of the committee be agreed to. Thank you.

Speaker: Is there a seconder? Mr. Anavilok. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22, *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for October 30:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statement
3. Members' Statement
4. Returns to oral question
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 Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motion; Motion 40
17. First Reading of Bill
18. Second Reading of Bills; Bill 59 and 60
19. Consideration of Committee of the Whole and Other Matters
 - Bill 53
 - Bill 54
 - Bill 55
 - Bill 61
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 30 at 1:30 p.m.
Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:13*

