

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
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
John Topic

Hansard Production
Uqausirmit Uqausirmit Inc.

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1
Ministers' Statements.....	1
Members' Statements.....	4
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	10
Oral Questions.....	11
Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.....	35
Report of the Committee of the Whole	55
Orders of the Day	56

A.

Daily References

Thursday, October 31, 2024 1

B.

Ministers' Statements

493 – 6(2): Skills Nunavut Junior Apprentice Program (Nakashuk)..... 1
494 – 6(2): 2024 Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarships Winners (Main) 2
495 – 6(2): Arts Sector (Akeeagok D)..... 2
496 – 6(2): 2024 Sport and Recreation Awards (Joanasie)..... 3

C.

Members' Statements

659 – 6(2): Power Outages in Baker Lake (Simailak) 4
660 – 6(2): Probations and Conditional Releases (Lightstone) 5
661 – 6(2): Availability of Alcohol in Nunavut (Malliki) 6
662 – 6(2): Impacts of Alcohol and Drugs (Sammurtok) 6
663 – 6(2): Have a Safe Halloween (Kaermerk)..... 7
664 – 6(2): Ghosts and Goblins (Hickes)..... 7
665 – 6(2): Safe Travels During Freeze-Up (Anavilok) 8
666 – 6(2): Appreciation of Aluki Kotierk (Kusugak) 8
667 – 6(2): Cambridge Bay Loves Basketball (Gross) 9
668 – 6(2): Have a Happy and Safe Halloween (Main)..... 10

D.

Oral Questions

978 – 6(2): Issues with Probation Orders (Lightstone).....	11
979 – 6(2): Drinking Water (Brewster).....	13
980 – 6(2): Elders Strategy Action Plan (Hickes).....	15
981 – 6(2): Public Housing Construction (Anavilok).....	17
982 – 6(2): Capital Procurement Practices (Savikataaq).....	19
983 – 6(2): Solid Waste Management (Quassa).....	20
984 – 6(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Power Issues (Simailak).....	22
985 – 6(2): Illegal Online Alcohol Sales (Malliki).....	25
986 – 6(2): Alcohol Education and Awareness (Sammurtok).....	26
987 – 6(2): Follow-Up to Visit to Kugaaruk (Quqqiaq).....	28
988 – 6(2): Search and Rescue (Kaernek).....	29
989 – 6(2): Update on the Staff Housing Policy Review (Hickes).....	32
990 – 6(2): Update on the Review of Decentralization (Malliki).....	34

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, October 31, 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 Kaernerker, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. Hon. Tony Akoak): Good afternoon. Mr. Kaernerker, can you please lead us in prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon. People watching on TV and listening on the radio, welcome. Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 493 – 6(2): Skills Nunavut Junior Apprentices Program

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon people of Nunavut and people in Pangnirtung.

(interpretation ends) Over the summer the Department of Family Services took part in a new initiative with Skills Nunavut called the Junior Apprentices Program. It was a tremendous success. Eleven students, ages 13 to 17, attended the five-week program and worked with industry professionals to learn basic skills in carpentry and plumbing trades. The junior apprentices also received certificates in Workplace Hazardous Material Information Systems, First Aid, and the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission Young Workers Safety Program.

The importance of staying in school was also stressed, and the students learned the new steps to take if they choose to enter into trades.

Mr. Speaker, by offering young relevant career-related programs we empowered them with skills, opportunities, and resources to thrive. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Mr. Main.

Minister's Statement 494 – 6(2): 2024 Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarships Winners

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce the selection of two outstanding recipients of the 2024 Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier scholarships. They are Katy Yu (ph), (interpretation ends) who is studying engineering, and Alexia Galloway Alainga (ph), who is in social work. These two exceptional ladies embody the values and aspirations of the scholarship, which honours the memory of Laurie Ulluriaq Gauthier, a visionary leader whose contributions were pivotal in establishing Nunavut's own energy utility and advancing the well-being of our communities.

The scholarships, valued at \$5,000 each, are strategic investments in the future of Nunavut. They are designed to support students as they pursue post-secondary education, and ultimately become the leaders of tomorrow. In recognizing Katy and Alexia today, we also acknowledge the importance of empowering our youth who will shape the future of our territory.

In their applications both recipients exemplified the leadership, dedication to community, and commitment to academic excellence that Laura Gauthier embodied. Their achievements reflect not only their hard work, but their desire to contribute meaningfully to their communities. They are role models for their peers and inspirations to us all.

Congratulations to Katy and Alexia. We are proud of their achievements and excited to see how they will continue to grow, inspire, and lead. Their dedication to education and the future of Nunavut is commendable, and I am confident they will make a lasting impact. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 495 – 6(2): Arts Sector

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the cultural industries and community operations sections of my department has been actively addressing key issues

within the arts sector. In light of the dissolution of the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, our territory currently lacks an organization to support the arts sector.

To address this gap, my department had conducted a feasibility study to explore options for a new supporting organization. In the interim we have hired additional staff and established a closer partnership with the Canadian Artists' Representation/Le Front des artistes canadiens, a national organization which advocates for artists' rights and provides service to artists.

Mr. Speaker, artists' rights remain a priority. In June staff participated in the Canadian Artists' Representation/Le Front des artistes canadiens national meeting to address issues such as intellectual property, copyright, and artist resale rights. Additionally, in response to feedback from the art community, the cultural industry section is developing a business skills and career knowledge program for artists and art administrators. This initiative aims to enhance artists, administrative skills, and increase their revenue, and ensure fair compensation for their work.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the cultural industry section staff and regional arts advisors for their diligent work. I also want to acknowledge the contribution of community economic development officers in hamlets and cities, whose support is critical to the art sector. My department funds these positions across the territory. Merci, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 496 – 6(2): 2024 Sport and Recreation Awards

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon MLAs and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, on October 19 we celebrated the 2024 Sports and Recreation Award recipients. The Sports and Recreation Division awards were presented in the following seven categories:

- Male athlete of the year, co-recipients, Ben Adivataq (ph) from Pangnirtung and Julian Gissing (ph) of Iqaluit.
- Female athlete of the year, Iris Sidlpee (ph) of Pangnirtung.
- Coach of the year, Cody Hughes (ph) of Arctic Bay.
- Official of the Year, Rex Willy (ph), Arctic Bay. Administrator of the year, Jonathan Lee (ph) of Iqaluit.

- Team of the year, the Under-18 Arctic Winter Games female and male football teams, which had a strong showing at the Arctic Winter Games.
- Special contribution award for outstanding contribution to sport, Daisy Eetuq (ph) of Cambridge Bay, Terry Akluriaq (ph) of Cambridge Bay, Francois Horton (ph) of Iqaluit, and Romaine Stephenson (ph) of Iqaluit.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut also presented three awards recognizing outstanding accomplishments and contributions to community recreation. These awards were presented:

- Calm Air Youth Leader Award of Excellence, John-Paul Kunguq (ph) from Igloolik.
- The recreation leader of the year, for the whole year, Rachel Tagoona Taputai (ph) of Baker Lake.
- And the volunteer of the year was Thomas Levi (ph) of Arctic Bay.

The non-profit Sport Nunavut recognized a Kivalliq community for their promotion and enhancement of sport programming in their community. This award was presented to, the Calm Air community sport award recipient was the whole community of Coral Harbour.

On behalf of my colleagues I wish to acknowledge their accomplishments and congratulate all the recipients of the 2024 Sport and Recreation Awards. So let's celebrate.

I would also like to thank the Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut for hosting the event, in conjunction with their annual Recreation Leadership Conference and Sport Nunavut's coaching symposium. So let's express our pride to all of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3, Member's Statement. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 659 – 6(2): Power Outages in Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and to my colleagues, have a good day. And everyone in Baker Lake, have a great day.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Baker Lake the power station was not running well and there were blackouts all night in Baker Lake. Around 80 buildings had no power all night. Last

month there were many houses that had no power all night and some of them had no power for two days.

It is worrisome when that happens but we all went ahead. Our mayor, Kevin Iksiktaaryuk, was able to open the recreation building. Last month he could open the recreation space for two days so that people who had no power could stay in a warm place for the night. And we thank the mayor and the hamlet and their officials for that.

At question period I will have a question about the power in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 660 – 6(2): Probations and Conditional Releases

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I get into my statement I just want make a brief comment. With the high level of social issues impacting Nunavummiut, I would just like to give notice and a trigger warning to members as well as to the public that I will be discussing the very really threat of intimate partner violence.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to return to a topic which I raised in March 2024. Mr. Speaker, at that time I raised concerns that there is potentially insufficient of supervision of Nunavummiut who are on probation, parole, or on conditional release.

Mr. Speaker, at that time I had reiterated the purpose of probation is to provide offenders with an alternative to incarceration, while still holding them accountable for their actions and ensuring public safety. Mr. Speaker, the goal of probation must be to support rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders back into society, while reducing the likelihood of re-offending. Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut this falls upon the Department of Justice's Community Corrections who play a crucial role in Nunavut's justice system by supervising and supporting offenders on probation and/or conditional releases.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately at that time, just days before there, was an article published in Nunatsiaq News about the very preventable fatality at the hands of an intimate partner, who was on strict conditions to refrain from the consumption of alcohol. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately these types of articles and stories are not unfamiliar, and we do hear about this far too often.

Mr. Speaker, given the gravity of this situation, I can only assume that the Minister of Justice has had sufficient time over the last seven months to familiarize himself with this program, and I would like to give notice to the Minister that I will be asking some questions about this later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Member's Statement 661 – 6(2): Availability of Alcohol in Nunavut

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House that I will be asking questions on the issue of death caused by alcohol, and the dangers involved with more availability of alcohol in our communities. Too many families are losing loved ones, including our loved ones here in the House, because of alcohol. Life is not a game. I will be asking questions to the Minister of Justice at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Member's Statement 662 – 6(2): Impacts of Alcohol and Drugs

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a growing concern in Rankin Inlet with respect to the impact of alcohol and drugs in the community. Mr. Speaker, the community has experienced a series of violent events. There was a murder in the spring, a stabbing in the fall, and numerous road accidents in between. It is my belief that the use of alcohol and/or drugs were the factor, if not the driving force behind many of these incidents.

Mr. Speaker, it is well known that using both alcohol and drugs at the same time can be a lethal combination. Mr. Speaker, I'm not opposed to government supports to the sale of alcohol and cannabis. I support the initiative to cut down on bootlegging and legal sales of drugs. Unfortunately, it is not clear to me that the government's approach is having much success.

I would welcome a report on any work that is being done to evaluate whether the opening of beer and wine stores and the licensing of cannabis retailers has been successful in combatting the illegal sales of alcohol and drugs.

Mr. Speaker, we need a campaign to raise awareness for the dangers of mixing alcohol and drugs. More effort needs to be put into educating and warning Nunavummiut of the devastating effects of illegal drugs, some of which are highly addictive and do incredible harm to the bodies and minds of those who use them.

Mr. Speaker, alcohol education committees can play a role in helping inform and educate, but I think we need something stronger than that. The impact of alcohol and drugs can be very hard on communities, families and individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I'm seeking unanimous consent to it continue my statement.

Speaker: Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, alcohol education committees can play a role in helping to inform and educate we need something stronger than that. The impact of alcohol and drugs can be very hard on communities, families and individuals. We as a territory need to pull together to combat these issues. I look forward to new initiatives in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerk.

Member's Statement 663 – 6(2): Have a Safe Halloween

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Amittummiut and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we know today is Halloween. I'm dressed well but in a way I'm not.

Mr. Speaker, children will be going door to door. My children in our community, I love you and your mother I know is in Ottawa and I'm here. I am grateful for those caring for my children. You are being cared for very well and you're okay.

Mr. Speaker, what I want to mention is last year when Halloween starts, it was observed that there can be objects like needles and drugs in the candies. Those who will be giving out candies, I urge not to do so, because this can be very dangerous. If you are going to give out candies, don't do that. As parents, when your children visit the houses, make sure you look at the products that children collected. I don't want any incident from this danger we have.

I wanted to rise to say that and to add, Mr. Speaker, when you're a male, it's not always, we don't see what women see. All I can say is, listen to your parents, listen carefully to your parents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member statement. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Member's Statement 664 – 6(2): Ghosts and Goblins

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the upcoming interaction we'll be having with a lot of ghosts and goblins, hopefully, this evening, weather permitting.

Mr. Speaker, there is a chance of some winds picking up later this day, and with the snowfall we have had today, I really want to caution all Nunavummiut, but especially Iqaluimmiut, to be very, very cautious if you are on the roads driving, if visibility

reduces. There are going to be a lot of children and their families walking around. We want to make this a fun evening for all, Mr. Speaker and I would hate to have anything bad happen to any resident of our city.

I really want to thank all the parents and all the kids and the schools that are dressing up today and the fun that they are having. I briefly considered putting on a bit of a costume today, Mr. Speaker, but I didn't want to put me out of order, so I decided not to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Member's Statement. Member for Kugluktuk. Mr. Anavilok.

Member's Statement 665 – 6(2): Safe Travels During Freeze-Up

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The young people, if they are going to be riding skidoos when its nicer outside because the river gets dangerous once and a while. That's the only thing I wanted to mention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

Member's Statement 666 – 6(2): Appreciation of Aluki Kotierk

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to take the opportunity today to sincerely thank for Aluki Kotierk, for completing two terms as president of the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Mr. Speaker. It's not easy completing one. I commend her for completing two.

Mr. Speaker this is the highest position within Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and it's not easy to run for office and work for that long every time in leadership. It's hard enough when you're a man. I can only imagine how it would be to lead a corporation like that, being a woman, Mr. Speaker. I commend her and all women leaders in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I say that because I was disappointed, very disappointed to see the headlines on her resignation, Mr. Speaker, on her not running again. The headline on Nunatsiaq News says "Kotierk calls it quits." Mr. Speaker, she did not call it quits, she's just not seeking re-election. I believe Nunatsiaq News could have done a lot better in the headline that Ms. Kotierk is not seeking another term.

Mr. Speaker just below that comment was another headline, Dan van Dal Northern Affairs Minister, not seeking re-election. Why is there such a contrast on two headlines of two people doing exactly the same thing? The difference is one is male and one is female. Mr. Speaker, that's just not right, for Nunatsiaq News to be headlining our leaders, especially female leaders in a negative tone, while giving the non-female leaders a positive time. Mr. Speaker, shame on them.

A Member: Hear, hear.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: But, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the comment section in that newspaper, then you very quickly realize why they do those headlines. It's a sad day whether all the comments are racist and negative towards the opposite sex, and so on, but that's for another time of Members' Statements, Mr. Speaker. At the end I sincerely congratulate Ms. Kotierk for two years of solid service for the Inuit of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 667 – 6(2): Cambridge Bay Loves Basketball

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker and happy Halloween to everyone here in the House with us and those across the territory. I just wish everyone a safe Halloween trick or treating, and I commend my sentiments from my other colleagues on practising safe trick or treating by reviewing your candies.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to stand today and pay special tribute to two people that were recognized by our colleague Minister Joanasi in his statement recognizing awards for outstanding contribution to sport to both Daisy and Terry for their humbling years of service and contribution to our community of Cambridge Bay for dedicating years upon years, a few decades, in fact, Mr. Speaker, to basketball. They've coached a few generations now in our community, and they aren't that old. But they love the sport and the coaching, and it goes to show that Cambridge Bay loves basketball. And it's in part thanks to them for the hours they've put into the sport, into nurturing the young ones in our community, through taking them on tournaments, and representing our community. Not only in the territory but outside of the territory and nationally as well, Mr. Speaker. So thank you and kudos to them.

We look forward to more basketball athletes coming across the court floor over the years to come. I just want to say thank you both so much for all of your hard work and dedication. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 668 – 6(2): Have a Happy and Safe Halloween

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Like Member Hicketts, I was tempted to put on something a little fancy today, but I was similarly quite apprehensive about your rules, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to say that (interpretation) Arviat and Whale Cove residents, I wish them well with respect to the weather. We may not see many trick or treating, but the children, we dearly love them when they trick or treat, and they're so cute when they dress as monsters and so forth. I hope you have a great time, and that children are guided during the Halloween time. And those going by vehicle, make sure that in the dark or in areas it's not really clear visibility, that you are safe and be cautious.

And your parents, and I'm also telling myself: Children love candies. Make sure they brush their teeth. And you always worry about children having bad teeth. And when you see them, you feel that, too, as a parent. So let us remember that.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank those who are wearing (interpretation ends) some of the most popular Halloween costumes, police officers, firemen, firewomen, the people who keep us safe in emergencies, paramedics, the wildlife officers, the polar bear guards. Thank you so much to all of the hard working men and women who are keeping us and our children safe, not only on Halloween, but throughout the year. (interpretation) I really thank those who care for us, to ensure we are safe. And I commend them whether they are in the field of paramedics or other areas. Thank you and happy Halloween.

Speaker: Thank you. With today being some sort of fun day for children, we in the House will be able to take our masks off at the end of the session today.

>>*Laughter*

Member's Statement. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize today my family and my partner, Marilyn, my wife Marilyn Ukpatiku and oldest child, Lilly Ukpatiku, and her younger sister, Maggie Ukpatiku. It was great to see them come into this community.

(Interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the twins, the kids back home, they watch some of our proceedings just before they go to school, lunch hour. And when I Facetime with them or

when I get home I tell them, I'll say, "I met with Margaret Nakashuk", and they'll say, "Oh, you mean that girl?"

>>*Laughter*

Or I'll say, "I had supper with Solomon Malliki." "Oh, you mean that boy?"

So they are starting to remember faces and names, and I'm very glad that they've done that. So please, a special welcome to my family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to recognize my wife, Susan Savikataaq. She doesn't come into the House here very often. She accompanies me to Iqaluit almost every time I'm here, but normally she watches the proceedings on TV. But today she's here to watch in person, and I'm glad she's here to watch us. Thank you very much. *Mut'na*, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 978 – 6(2): Issues with Probation Orders

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my Member's Statement, my questions today are for the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, again I would like to rise to raise my concern with regards to the elaborate at which we read articles in the media about court proceedings indicating that convictions include breach of probation, parole and other court-ordered sentences. Mr. Speaker, probation is very important role in our society, providing offenders with an alternative to incarceration while still holding them accountable and ensuring public safety.

I guess I would like to ask the exact same question that I asked of the Minister Nakashuk back in March 2024. Does the Minister of Justice sharing my concerns over the lack of adequate supervision and programming made available to the clients of community corrections, which is then leading them to re-offending? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Before I go to the Minister, I'm just letting the members know that Ms. Nutarak and Ms. Killiktee will not be in the House today due to personal reasons. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for continuing to raise this. It's something that needs to be discussed in the House and in the public, in terms of people re-offending and more people getting to incarceration. We need to have our territory become healthier, and through that, my department has a number of programs that helps our public, whether they are on parole or incarcerated. There is a lot of programming that is delivered from our department and I'm very proud of the department's work that they do towards this. The individuals really have to try and get healthier if they are in these situations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the minister's response. I do understand that he takes this matter very seriously.

Just the other day, on October 29, the minister had provided a minister's statement about Nunavut Corrections programming, including a partnership with Corrections Services Canada to offer for the first time accredited sex offender programming in our correctional facility and the minister indicate that had given the prevalence of sexual offences in our territory and considerable number of individuals on the sex offender registry, it's vital that this programming be made available to clients who had committed these offences.

I would like to again thank the minister for provide this programming and partnering with Corrections Services Canada on this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of sexual offences is a matter that I've been raising consistently over the years but is not a matter I've really been able to get an entire grasp upon.

As I mentioned, I'm very concerned over the rate of re-offences and recidivism, and it's quite often that we hear about it in the news media. And unfortunately, the majority of those articles are related to incidents that occur here in Iqaluit.

So the next question to the minister. Would he be able to tell me and the House how many Community Corrections clients currently there are in Iqaluit and how many have been convicted of committing sexual offences? Again, if the minister does not have this information on hand I more than welcome that he provide it through a Return to Oral Questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker its one of the rare times that a member answers on my behalf, so I'll take your suggestion and do exactly what he suggested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to the minister's response.

For my last question, the Department of Justice Community Corrections Division has a total of 27 positions allocated to it. And when I last raised this in March, the minister had indicated it that that were a number of vacancies. Given the crucial role that Community Corrections plays in our communities in ensuring public safety, would the minister be able to provide an update to the House on the status of the Division of Community Corrections? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, of the 21 community corrections officers across the territory, 16 are currently filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 979 – 6(2): Drinking Water

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy Halloween, everyone, and I hope everybody has a safe time of trick or treating and going to bed with tummies full of candy. And that's for the parents as well, because I rather enjoyed that time of my children's lives.

I would like to welcome the Minister of Community and Government Services back. Mr. Speaker, since the very beginning of this Legislative Assembly, I have endeavoured to raise the issue of clean drinking water at least once every sitting, and as the minister will recall, I asked him for an update during our spring sitting of the status of the \$215-million federal investment in Iqaluit's drinking water infrastructure. At that time he agreed with me about the importance of ensuring that our territory's capital city and largest community has a safe and sustainable drinking water for generations to come.

Can the minister provide a more specific update today on how his department is collaborating with the City of Iqaluit on this project? Thank you, MRRS.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member for requesting the update on Iqaluit's water and infrastructure needs.

Mr. Speaker, as you recall, the City of Iqaluit directly applied for funding for those funds, over a \$1 million for Iqaluit. My department, as I understand it, continues to work with the city on these matters. Specifically I don't have details on what work is ongoing, but I do note that the city, we do have block funding that we provide to address their capital needs, and that was just renewed and that's on the site of the water infrastructure announcement that the city was able to receive.

Mr. Speaker, I'll commit to bringing back some details to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, I appreciate that commitment. Mr. Speaker, the government's responsibility to ensure that drinking water is safe in all 25 of our communities is absolutely fundamental, and as the minister will also recall, many members on this side of the house raised serious concerns during our spring sitting regarding this issue. I know the minister recently provided some detailed correspondence on this issue, so I'm very happy to invite him today to provide a public description of how the Department of Community and Government Services is supporting the Department of Health as it works towards updating the territorial public water supply regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again I appreciate the question. Mr. Speaker, my department continues to address many capital water treatment plant, either upgrades or to build new ones. We have a number of them on the go.

Mr. Speaker, the drinking water, the strategic framework that I had tabled, it does identify multiple objectives that we're trying to reach. And with that we are working closely with Department of Health to ensure that our drinking water remains safe and when there are issues or concerns, that advisories go out as and when needed, and we'll continue on that path. There's daily and monthly monitoring and testing done to ensure that our water remains safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister for that reassurance about the regular testing.

Mr. Speaker, it has now been over a year since the minister tabled the government's new drinking water strategic framework that he just mentioned. We know that resources at all levels of government are finite, but we also know that the provision of safe drinking water is a priority that cannot be compromised.

Mr. Speaker, information provided by the minister has indicated that full implementation of the strategic framework would entail over \$600 million in capital expenditures, to upgrade or replace aging water infrastructure across the territory.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, we're talking about amounts that exceed the half-billion mark, again, with a B.

Mr. Speaker, we know the most recent meetings of provincial and territorial premiers have called on the federal government to announce a new national infrastructure program. Can the minister indicate what progress has been made towards establishing a funding mechanism that will focus on providing safe drinking water to all Canadians from coast to coast to coast? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Hello? I was waiting for the light to turn on, Mr. Speaker. Trick or treat.

Mr. Speaker, it's a good opportunity for me to advance that, and I commend the member for identifying that just water infrastructure alone, that's over \$600 million, let alone there's many other competing priorities that our government, not only my department but many others are trying to advance on our capital needs. Mr. Speaker, my department continues to advance the work on working with our federal partners on what works best for our population, our unique circumstances in the country.

Mr. Speaker I've had exchanges with our federal counterparts around our not only water infrastructure needs but also the required flexibility and the limited resources and capacity we might have to tap into now but also trying to build on that. So we'll continue on that path and I look forward to bringing updates on if there's new federal programs for funding that we can access, to ensure that our communities are benefitting from them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 980 – 6(2): Elders Strategy Action Plan

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Seniors again today.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the minister if the action plan associated with the Elders and Seniors Strategy, tabled over eight months ago, if the action plan was going to be tabled during this current sitting.

Mr. Speaker, in the response that I got from the minister, it stated that we are proud of the strategy and in recent weeks we've been working on an implementation plan and the components. That is currently where we are.

Mr. Speaker, while reviewing the transcripts from earlier this week, I was surprised to read a response from the minister to a similar question posed from my colleague from Baker Lake, in which the minister responded with the following:

"Mr. Speaker, I had indicated in that discussion we first had that the commitments and the stabling of the strategy that was done in the spring but also just most recently, we passed the implementation strategy that tackles specifically the action items that are identified in the strategy."

Mr. Speaker, those two responses are totally different and contradictory to each other. Can I ask the minister which one of those responses is the correct one? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Seniors, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking that question again. As I indicated just the other day, there are two different discussions I think we are having. The tabled document was a strategy that I had tabled in the spring, and the reference that I did to my member colleague was the implement station plan, which is typically usually internal to governments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, anytime there's a strategy we need, in most cases, especially for complex strategies, we need an action plan associated with it. Family Services has provided one recently. We look at the Suicide Prevention Strategy that was just tabled yesterday has outcomes and measurements and guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, even in my comment yesterday; I'm not going to bother looking at it, wasting our time, but I spoke to the difference between an implementation plan and an action plan in one of my questions. The minister didn't correct me then.

So I will ask again: When will that action plan be tabled? And will it be tabled before the end of this sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Seniors, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank my colleague for his question. The strategy does identify the exact actions we are hoping to achieve within the strategy, and it is through that that has guided our internal processes to prepare the implementation plan, which identify how we hope to work within the departments to be able to action those items. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't want to belabour the point but action plans are a necessary component of achieving results. How are we or Nunavummiut expected to follow along with progress on the different commitments that were made under the strategy? We don't know timelines, we. Don't know short term, medium term, long term, which departments are responsible for what, whether there's crossover responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, I can't stress enough how important an action plan is to make sure that the strategy commitments are fulfilled. We recently saw that with Family Services, where they worked very hard to make sure that we got an action plan very shortly after the strategy was tabled, or the response to the Office of the Auditor General's report.

I will ask once again: When can we expect the action plan to be tabled in this House?
Thank you.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Seniors, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I really appreciate my colleague's passion to this very important issue. It could go back to, I wish previous governments had brought forward a strategy as well so we could start really looking at the improvements that we wanted. Just within the short time we formed we did bring together elders to identify key areas, and within that the action items were identified.

I had already committed to my colleague that I will provide updates as we start rolling out the implementation of the action items that have been identified within the strategy, and I will continue to inform my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 981 – 6(2): Public Housing Construction

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): (No interpretation).

(interpretation ends) My questions today are for the minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation. I want to add there was good compliments about the Nunavut 3000 and the help with the new housing.

I want to get more detail today on the status of the new public housing units that are under way in Kugluktuk. As the minister will recall, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced in January of this year that 12 new units begin construction this fall in Kugluktuk. Can the minister confirm if these are duplexes, triplexes or four-plexes. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted yesterday, or a couple of days ago, during one of my responses on the status of all housing units that are being built in Kugluktuk, there's a 12-plex being built in that community and we anticipate completion of it in the fall of 2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): (No interpretation)

(interpretation ends) Earlier this week the minister stated earlier in the House that this project is now at 9 percent completion and is expected to be finished by the fall of 2026. Can the minister indicate if additional new units will be allocated for Kugluktuk to begin construction during the fall of 2025. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the only other units that are being worked on in Kugluktuk, Mr. Speaker, are the modular units that are being put in to staff the workers in that community. There are two units there that are 50 percent complete. But as of right now, those are the units that I outlined in my earlier response are the units that are being worked on in that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): (No interpretation) it is important that the Nunavut 3000 plan provide employment apprenticeship and training for Inuit. Can the minister confirm what the required Inuit labour component is for the current Kugluktuk project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The current requirement is that there be a minimum of 30 percent Inuit hired. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 982 – 6(2): Capital Procurement Practices

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Arviammiut. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, MY questions are going to be Minister of Community and Government Services and it pertains to procurement.

Mr. Speaker, earlier when I was questioning the premier about the five vans that were purchased, which is a capital purchase, the response was that it was not capital; it was a grant that we did when we reallocated from within the department. And since the Minister of Community and Government Services is in charge of procurement, I'll ask the minister: What process is used to buy capital equipment from O&M, operations and maintenance budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I missed a day or two from the sitting and I was trying to get caught up a bit on what the proceedings were the past couple days. I understand there was a question on the procurement of those elder vans.

The process around how we go forward with our budgets, whether capital or operations and maintenance, of course we go through the cycles each year, bring it to the legislature, and I might have to get some clarification whether or not for financial budgets to be transferred from capital to operations and maintenance or vice versa. I believe you would have to go through Finance, through the Financial Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we're just not quite communicating correctly. I think the minister stated that if you wanted to take operations and maintenance money and buy capital equipment, you have to go through the Financial Management Board. I think that's the gist of what I got. What I wanted to know is what is the actual process.

I'll take a real-life example, not the vans. Let's say Community and Government Services has lots of money in their operations and maintenance, and one of their programs that buys capital equipment -- could be the gravel crushing is overspent almost every year, I think, more hamlets try access it than the money that is there. Can the Community and

Government Services take their excess operations and maintenance budget to buy a hamlet a capital equipment, just like what was done with the elder vans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I need to better understand where the member is coming from. But in terms of we do, department by department, on occasion if there's a budgets line item in one division or a branch, we want to move between for some other purpose we go through a process to do that, and Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to use those processes to address our needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll go back to my original question that was not answered by the minister. I did ask what is the process that is used? For example, the elder vans that were bought from operations and maintenance budgets are capital expenditures. They're capital. There's an asset there. You can see them. There are five vans that were purchased, and EIA had no capital funds. They had zero capital funds when we did the budget. I want to know the process that is used to take your O&M, operations and maintenance budget, to buy capital equipment. What's the process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe in this case the mechanism used to provide funding for the elder vans was a grant and contribution payment directive for this, intergovernmental affairs. With that route of taking what budget they had not used and used it for that purpose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 983 – 6(2): Solid Waste Management (Quassa)

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Nunavut. We've been out of our community for a long time. I would like to ask questions to the same minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they concern the important issue of solid waste management. As the minister will recall, his department has issued a number of requests for proposals in recent years to develop a Nunavut-wide regional solid waste management plan, and a business case for solid waste facility upgrades.

As the minister is aware, Igloolik has been grouped into bundle 3 for the purpose of his department's capital planning. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of

developing a Nunavut-wide regional solid waste management plan and a business case for solid waste facility upgrades? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, my department has been working with the federal government to spend money in this area, to efficiently use capital funding to support our municipalities regarding and managing their solid waste sites.

Mr. Speaker, there's a scope of work. There are amendments to scope of work with the federal funding source that we've been able to amend that has allowed our department to do site-specific upgrades and which encompasses site management, reducing the risk of leeching, due to offsite runoff, and prolonging the useful life to the existing sites, to applying different waste diversion methods. Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to work with the municipalities on what suits them best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplement, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, Igloolik's integrated community sustainability plan has identified the need for a new incinerator and a new recycling facility to help manage solid waste. Can the minister indicate what funding is available from his department to support such projects? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again I thank the member for that question talking about capital needs in municipalities. Many of our communities have a long-standing list of items that they would like to see most of forward.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to try to address capital. We do have capital block funding for municipalities. I know it won't address the integrated sustainability plans that communities submit for review, but I do note that we'll continue to work with our federal partners. Again, there's drinking water infrastructure needs, solid waste needs. And there are many more. We'll continue to try to tap into as many pots of funds as we can on this.

I do note that the solid waste bundles that my department had identified, we have 13 communities, and we have approximately 146 million earmarked for solid waste at this time. But again since the solid waste funds were first established, and the scope of work at the time, things have changed since then, so we are continuing to try to adjust and adapt accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Seconds and final supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Igloolik's dump contains numerous waste oil drums, vehicle batteries, and other materials and substances that may be harmful to human life or human health, both. I recognize and understand that the government does not have unlimited resources to clean up all solid waste facilities in the immediate future. Can the minister describe how his department works with the Department of Environment to minimize the risk to human health from hazardous materials and substance in Nunavut dumps. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is an area my department, alongside the Department of Environment, will proceed to ensuring that there's developing the solid waste management strategy, because, yes, you are right. My colleague is right in that we do want to ensure that our landfills and what are contained in them are disposed of in the safest manner.

Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of work to go into this, to ensure that there's minimal impacts to our environment and the surrounding area.

Mr. Speaker, we will also considering the operational and capital aspects associated with the upgrading or improving our solid waste sites going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 984 – 6(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Power Issues

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned during my member statement I would have questions for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. It's regarding recent power outages in Baker Lake.

Once again last night there was multiple power outages in Baker Lake, affecting as many as 150 houses at point. By around 11 p.m. or so the power corporation staff on the ground were able to get about 60 or 70 of those houses back up with power. Kudos to the gentlemen on the ground. Great job, guys.

Mr. Speaker, I was wondering; what was the reason for the massive power outage that affected Baker Lake last night? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to my colleague for the question. Yes, I agree, our workers are quite able, and I second his thank you to them, to the staff of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in terms of the recent outage in Baker Lake, it was caused by extreme weather. Basically we have situations where extreme weather exceeds the design capacity of our system. In the recent example in Baker Lake, it was not around the issues at the power plant itself; the generating systems were operating fine, it was the transmission system. We are planning some additional upgrades. We've identified some areas with problems where there's line slap that occurs in high winds, and we are planning to make upgrades to prevent that and also looking for longer-term solutions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister Nakashuk for the response. And I'm glad; it sounds like the corporation has identified the reasons for the latest power outages and that it's being planned on so that it hopefully doesn't happen again.

I wonder if the minister can provide a bit more detail as to how they're going to work out the plan. Are they going to be working with maybe the hamlet of Baker Lake to see where there's major snowfall issues or if there's areas of the community that might have higher winds than some other areas in the community? Which I know it does happen, having lived there almost all my life. And if the corporation will be in contact with the hamlet regularly to update them on the plan for solving Baker Lake's power issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It's exactly along the lines of what the member has asked. There are certain areas of the community where there are higher winds, and we have identified a few of the problem areas, so as a short-term measure we're installing what are called phase spacers, and those go in between the power lines and prevent them from slapping together.

In terms of the fundamental root of the problem, it's around, in some cases we have power poles that are placed too far apart and that causes the line slap, and it also causes extra wear on the poles and can reduce their life span. So it's not something that we want to see happening. It's affecting reliability for our customers, which is a concern for us.

So the longer-term solution that we're looking at is along the lines of mid-span poles to be installed.

If the member feels that it would be appropriate for us to share some of this information with the municipality, I can certainly do so. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, again. I do request that you continue communicating with the hamlet of Baker Lake. I do know the president and the vice president have been in contact with the mayor of Baker Lake during the last two major power outages, so I would like to encourage the corporation to continue that.

For my last question, Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering, is the corporation looking at perhaps a maintenance plan not only for Baker Lake, but for all our communities in Nunavut? We do hate to see in the news when there's major power outages affecting so many homes, especially homeowners or businesses that might end up having freeze-ups, because the furnace or boiler is off.

I'm wondering, are there proactive measures being looked at right across the territory so that it's more preventative than reactive measures? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Qulliq Energy Corporation has an existing, I think the request that the member is making in terms of being more proactive, we are continually, that is part of our normal operating procedures. In the summertime, throughout the summer months it can be very busy for our crews, as they are doing work that can't necessarily or shouldn't necessarily be done during the winter, so things like resagging lines because they can loosen over time, or there are parts that can loosen, replacing power poles that might be at risk of breaking.

So we do want to get ahead of the problem, and I appreciate the member's questioning on this. We also participated in a recent desktop exercise which was simulating a complete power outage in a community and involved multiple agencies beyond Qulliq Energy Corporation alone.

It's exactly what the member is saying, we want to get ahead of the problem so we're not continually reacting and reacting, and we are committed to the reliability part of our jobs.

A big thank you again to all our dedicated staff across the territory. In Baker Lake's example, a big thank you to the municipality for being such a good partner, as well as to Peter's Expediting Limited for pitching in during the major outage that we had on October 1 and 2. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 985 – 6(2): Illegal Online Alcohol Sales (Malliki)

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Justice and they may concern the issue of illegal online alcohol sales.

Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that illegal alcohol sales are being marketed to Nunavummiut through online social media platforms. My understanding is that these illegal alcohol sales are being sent up to the territory by mailing.

Mr. Speaker, the department's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2024-2025 fiscal year, to "work in partnership with Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other stakeholders to reduce the importance of alcohol and drugs into Nunavut."

Can the minister clearly explain what work his department is undertaking to address these important issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for raising this very important issue that we need to continue to combat. One of the tools we are trying to use is the Canada Post has sorting facilities in Edmonton, Winnipeg, and Montreal that all the mail lands into Nunavut, and to try and combat the alcohol and illegal drugs entering the territory through mail. That work, I'm working with my federal counterparts, which just last month at the federal-territorial meetings of justice and public safety, the two ministers pledged to look into this and to see if we can get that operational. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister for clarifying that. The Canada Post, as the minister just mentioned, that the sorting centres, Ottawa, Montreal, that the issue of drugs and alcohol, the dangers that it poses in Nunavut, and by way of Facebook people can order. It's very easy and convenient. You just easily order them online. It puts many people in situations when alcohol and drugs are being abused. The businesses that advertise through Facebook of these products, would the minister know where these are coming from? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Where the sales come from I don't have the exact information, but if that is the case, people should be calling the RCMP or Crime Stoppers. Thank you. Inform them and if they have that information,

things can be put a stop to. As he said, everything is easier to access now by way of social media.

I would like to caution every Nunavummiut of these dangerous products. If you're going to use alcohol and drugs, look at what are the dangers. And if there are regulations not to use these, that people abide by the regulations, because these are available with almost daily flights, everywhere. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have lost many loved ones. Many individuals in Nunavut have lost their loved ones with the dangers that are very visible. Perhaps your department would or do you know every places where orders are being made, and perhaps notify the post office and have you talk to airlines to be made aware of such an order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are all impacted as Nunavummiut and it's a hard area to be in, and very unfortunate to see what we don't want to see. The RCMP diligently work hard when they are informed what order is coming in, when they are informed privately. They do take action and they welcome the public to give them information who may be bootlegging and so forth. When they have that information, the RCMP are able to take action. So with that is where we focus our work. And the RCMP, when they confiscate drugs and alcohol, they do that in every community, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 986 – 6(2): Alcohol Education and Awareness

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister Responsible For Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission. Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement today, I talked about significant harm that is caused by the abuse of alcohol and drugs. The current business plan of the Department of Finance indicates that one of the ongoing priorities has been to undertake a review of territorial liquor act. Can the minister indicate what major changes to the law are being actively considered, and can he confirm that he plans to introduce a bill into the House before the current Legislative Assembly dissolves next year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the *Liquor Act* is currently under review and the department is currently looking at introducing it, but unfortunately there's so much work involved in the act, and we just don't have the personnel to complete the work. It's an act that will most likely have to wait until the next government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Chesterfield Inlet is one of a number of communities in Nunavut that has established alcohol education committees. I pay tribute to the hard work for the committee members across Nunavut. Can the minister describe what new supports his department is planning to provide to alcohol education committees in Chesterfield Inlet and other communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree alcohol is a very important issue, and we are working with alcohol education committees across Nunavut. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, are only 12 communities in Nunavut, and Chesterfield Inlet is one of them.

Earlier this spring there was a workshop held for, and all the committee members and in fact all the hamlets were invited, and unfortunately only eight participants attended, and Chesterfield Inlet was one of them. We continue to work with them to see what kind of programs the committees could put out.

Mr. Speaker, one of the programs we are doing is we are making available \$30,000 for each committee to talk and work with the municipalities in alcohol education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday of last week the government issued a request for proposal for a new Alcohol Harm Reduction Awareness Campaign. The request for proposal indicates that the government has decided to adopt the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction's new guidance on alcohol and health. These replace the low risk alcohol drinking guidelines that were previously in place.

Mr. Speaker, the request for proposal indicates that the Department of Health will be undertaking a new alcohol harm reduction awareness campaign. However, the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission has been responsible for Let's be Aware, Ujjiqsuqta public information campaign. Can the minister clarify which department of the

government has the main responsibility for alcohol education and awareness? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The *Alcohol and Cannabis Act* is the responsibility of the Department of Finance, but we do work closely with other departments that are affected by alcohol and drug use and abuse in our territory, Mr. Speaker, so I'll leave it at that, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 987 – 6(2): Follow-Up to Visit to Kugaaruk

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

Mr. Speaker I want to begin again thanking the premier to his recent visit to Kugaaruk. Mr. Speaker, this was an excellent opportunity for the municipal leaders in Quqqiaq to raise issues of concern directly with the government.

Mr. Speaker, the minister recently wrote correspondence to Mayor Apsaktaun and paid tribute to his leadership and that of his colleagues on the municipal council. Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that was addressed is the ongoing work to provide funding to the municipality, under the department's municipal capital block fund, to support the development of a new six-bay grass project. Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, my letter to the mayor and I believe my colleague has a copy of that letter, I understand that our department is still waiting for hamlet officials to respond with the necessary signatures on their integrated community sustainability plans for the capital block funding to be released. That's as far as I understand it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under the issue that was identified relates to the use of office space in the community. Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update today on the status of this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I appreciate the member for pressing on the office space needs from his constituencies. Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, there's a lease agreement with the hamlet for the space currently being used, and there's alternatives being advanced around repurposing the surplus assets which my department immediately has actioned, and so we're trying to see if there's other assets in the community that we can utilize. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that was raised during the premier's visit was the urgent need for new housing for the community. Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced earlier this year that eight new units will be constructed in Kugaaruk this fall.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Community and Government Services has certain responsibilities related to housing development under the *Planning Act*. Mr. Speaker can the minister indicate how his department is working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Municipality of Kugaaruk to ensure that the community's new housing units proceed on schedule. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my department continues to work and it's an ongoing process where municipalities do have lots that they would like to have developed for housing, new housing units. Mr. Speaker, my department does work closely with Nunavut Housing Corporation on this matter because when they're planning forward each year on an each-year basis, they have to know which communities they will be building in.

We are also trying to ensure that there's granular material for municipalities to have available for these new housing or other infrastructure that we're trying to build in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Oral Question 988 – 6(2): Search and Rescue

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services. Mr. Speaker, I have raised the issue of search and rescue many times in this House, because it's so important.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that Sanirajak is in a central location, if we look at the Keewatin and Baffin and Kitikmeot. As we know, the air strip was improved, but it was not increased and earlier this week I tabled a copy of a formal motion that was passed on this by the municipal council of Sanirajak, and I thank them for that.

Will the minister commit to responding directly to the municipal council by e-mail and share a copy of his important response about search and rescue with me? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that question about search and rescue in Nunavut. We always want to support those organizations. We have policies about search and rescues; however, because it involves capital items, I believe the member has been requesting for an office for ground search and rescue to be based in Sanirajak, and the correspondence from the hamlets are always reviewed by my department. In our capital plan at this present time we have not made any requests for offices for search and rescue purposes. We haven't set that up. However, it is mostly under the responsibility of the federal government, and whenever we can, we always tell them that we don't get enough money for capital projects, because there are so much need and in so many communities. There are many requests that we get from the communities, and we will always express that to our colleague ministers in the federal government. Anything we initiate goes through the House here, and that's why we ask for funding every year from the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Mr. Speaker, during our last sitting of the House, the minister made a statement concerning the upcoming meeting of what he described as "a new ground search and rescue fund for Nunavut." Mr. Speaker I strongly support this initiative to bring the search and rescue volunteers and experts together.

Can the minister assure me that his department will facilitate the participation of a search and rescue organization from all communities, including Sanirajak and Igloodik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to add my response to the first question. The hamlet of Sanirajak made a motion, and I can agree to meeting with them about the matter, or we can correspond by e-mail.

In response to your second question, we have already agreed to be involved in that, and we would want all the communities to be represented at this forum. People who are

generally responsible for search and rescues are all invited, because they do real heavy work, and we feel for them sometimes when they are going through searches. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for agreeing to my first question (interpretation ends) During this sitting of the House, the premier of Nunavut made a statement about Arctic sovereignty and security, Mr. Speaker. An ongoing priority has been to lobby the federal government, as the minister has stated, that they have to continue lobbying the federal government to have a station, or more military in the search and rescue aspect of in Nunavut and the other northern territories, Mr. Speaker.

Can the minister responsible for emergency management describe how his department is working with the national authorities to advance this goal, as the minister often says you have to continue lobbying and continue working with our federal counterparts how this initiative will be approached.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister give me assurance of advocating for Nunavummiut that the community of Sanirajak will be at least not mentioned but be prioritized? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I commend the member for time and again bringing this forward and pressing for facilities in his community.

Mr. Speaker, there have been a lot of discussion around Arctic sovereignty, and/or how do we bolster our presence as a nation in the territory of Nunavut, whether it's through different infrastructure projects. Emergency management is also on the radar. As I understand there's some excitement around multi-purpose facilities. That has been announced at the federal level and what that might mean. There's certain points of location within Nunavut that are strategic in nature, that not only benefit Canada as a whole but the community and our territory at large. We will continue to have those discussions and advocate for Nunavut to have the most positive impact out of those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 989 – 6(2): Update on the Staff Housing Policy Review

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

Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday I had asked the minister, quoting from the *Blues*, as "I would like to get an update on the staff housing review."

The response I got from the minister was:

"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 staff housing and where we can make improvements to staff housing."

Mr. Speaker, yesterday my colleague from Aggu asked a very similar question: "Can the minister indicate what major exchanges to the policy are being actively considered?"

The response my colleague got was:

"In terms of the staff housing policy, right now we have a very limited stock, so we're working to ensure that more houses for staff housing are built."

Mr. Speaker, when I look at the staff housing policy, it is a document that encompasses a number of thematic areas that concern many of our Government of Nunavut staff, and it's 50 pages long, Mr. Speaker. As mentioned by my colleague from Aggu yesterday, the current staff housing policy was last updated in April 2019, and this current government was committed to doing a full review three years, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to take an opposite position than my colleague from Iqaluit-Manirajak, and state that I not satisfied with the responses that I'm getting from the minister. I would like to ask today again: When can we expect the staff housing review to be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 the staff housing policy.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Human Resources is in the process of updating the Government of Nunavut Staff Housing Policy, which impacts their recruitment and retention of our staff, Mr. Speaker. We are undergoing the housing policy, to review it and ensure that the allocation of staff housing allocation is transparent and consistent and consensus-based, and that it also reflects Inuit societal values.

We are looking to address some major components to the Staff Housing Policy, and we are looking to have this staff housing policy review completed by the spring of 2025. And we're currently putting out an RFP to review the full scope and the staff housing situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The way that sounds to me is that there has been very little if anything done for the last two-and-a-half years.

Mr. Speaker, also in a response that I got on Tuesday, the minister stated:

"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."

Can the minister inform me today what some of those barriers are, and what further strategies and recommendations are anticipated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. So yes, the department has implemented some of the measures to some of the barriers that are there, but staff housing is complex and it does take into account the housing markets. But we have been overcoming some of the issues within the department and have allocated 73 staff housing units to Nunavut employees that are on the wait list. We have also allocated up-to-date allocation to competition ratios, and to reduce vacant units wherever possible.

We are in a position now to be ready to post, to prevent units from remaining vacant, which has been happening during recruitment competitions. We are also increasing the efficiency in the staff housing committee activities, including E-voting to expedite allocations where possible. So we've changed online, which is helpful. We're also working on the Nunavut-wide hiring policy and remote hiring policy to implement and reduce further demand on housing units. So those are some of the barriers that have been there and that we're working on to support staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the allocation process of the policy is just one very small component of the staff housing policy, and I really encourage the

minister to get that RFP out very, very soon to make sure that this work gets done. There's been little to no action on this for three years now.

Mr. Speaker my next question is one of the focuses is retiring Government of Nunavut employees. Does the minister know how many staff with over 20 years of experience or more that could be considering retirement, what is that number? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. The direct number of staff that are going to be retiring is an area that we have asked the departments to look into and get back to us with, and they have started to look department by department to see where the retirees are and when they plan to come forward.

We're just looking to get those numbers. Once I do have them, Mr. Speaker, I'll be sure to provide our colleague with those numbers that come forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 990 – 6(2): Update on the Review of Decentralization

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister. When we got elected and when we started our winter sitting, I did ask questions concerning non-decentralized communities review and where that review or assessment is at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleague for his august effort for the benefit of the smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, I did mention that I will have a review, and I am pleased to say that the review has been completed and I hope that the review will be tabled during this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the premier. When will this be tabled in the House? And with regard to the non-decentralized communities, allocations will be made?

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again I thank my colleague. Just a refresher. We haven't mentioned what action plans we may have and we asked that question in our review, so there won't be a resolution to that effect, but after the review is tabled, I am hopeful that while we are in this Legislative Assembly, we will provide what actions we may want.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the smaller communities normally neglected in Nunavut compared to the charger centres, and we have seen on social media and in government announcements that many communities cannot obtain any jobs. And the need to have more jobs available in smaller communities. And since the '90s, when jobs were being decentralized, how have the smaller communities been considered?

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleague for his effort and for the benefit of the smaller communities. I totally agree with him. We have worked hard since we came here and we began reviewing, and we are considering ways how the jobs, whether they be in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, or Cambridge Bay, can also be sent to the smaller communities. Nunavut-wide network is something we have also looked at, and not just through reporting, but actions.

This is taking place, which I'm very pleased with, and I have included that in my Community Visions, in particular Inuit who are there for training and individuals who don't want to move from the communities. For that reason we've worked hard, very hard to ensure this moves forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions period is now over. Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Return to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. I recognize the member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 51, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*, Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Technical Standards and Safety Act*; Bill 56, *Write-Off of Assets and Debt Act, 2023-2024*, Bill 58, *An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Tax Act*, and Bill 65, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, have been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bills are ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: These bills will be placed in *Orders of the Day* for Monday, November 4. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Item 15, Notices of Motion For First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters, bills 53, 54, 55 and 61, with Mr. Malliki in the chair.

Before we proceed with the committee we will take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:28 and Committee resumed at 15:52*

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

Chairman (Mr. Malliki): I would like to call this committee in order. In the Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 53, 54, 55, and 61. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we wish to continue with the review of Bill 61, *Appropriation (Capital) Act 2025-2026* and the supporting documents for the Department of Health, followed by the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 61?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 61 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2025-2026 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would like to ask Minister Main if he has officials he would like to appear before the committee. Minister Main.

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

Chairman: Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials in. For the record, Minister Main, please introduce your officials then proceed to your opening comments. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I'm pleased to present to you today the 2025-2026 capital estimates for the Department of Health.

I would like to introduce my officials. On my right the Deputy Minister of Health, Megan Hunt, and acting executive director of Corporate Services, René Tanga.

(interpretation ends) Health is requesting \$35 million for fiscal year 2025-2026 to go towards the following projects:

- Development of long-term care facilities in Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit;
- Constructing, Nunavut recovery centre in Iqaluit;
- Replacement of the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre;and
- Investments in ongoing life cycle projects and small capital procurements.

Mr. Chair, on a daily basis our health care system in Nunavut is impacted on multiple levels by our significant health infrastructure deficit. Many of our health centres have not kept up with ongoing health population growth. We have a serious lack of long term care capacity in territory. Our mental health infrastructure is struggling to keep up with the growing demands for care.

The impacts of these shortages are clear. The essential services that our residents need and want are less accessible because of this infrastructure deficit.

As a territory, we are forced to over-rely on medical travel because of the health infrastructure deficit. Our staff feel the impacts, too; Health recruitment and retention efforts are hampered by this same deficit.

I speak about the health infrastructure deficit today, because it's everywhere you look within our Nunavut health care system. And I'm not intending to focus on the negative today; after all, the Department of Health is building new infrastructure in territory, with multiple projects advancing thanks to the support of the Assembly. There is reason for some hope and optimism.

However, there is no denying that the existing health infrastructure deficit is a steep hill to climb and the impacts are a serious challenge we will continue to face in the years to come it as a territory.

Mr. Speaker, I'll move on to discuss the specific funding requests we are putting forward today. Health continues to make progress towards addressing the long-term care needs of Nunavummiut. The first new territorial 24-bed long term care facility in Rankin Inlet is now in the last phase of construction, with substantial completion scheduled for November 2024.

The design of the second territorial 24-bed long term facility in Cambridge Bay is ongoing, and expected to be completed in July 2025. Health is requesting \$1.5 million to complete the design.

Also \$4.6 million is required for the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the design phase of the planned long-term care facility in Iqaluit. Currently the site selection, as well as site investigation in preparation for the design development phase of the project is underway.

In partnership with the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Aqquariaq project continues through towards completion of its construction phase, and represents an innovative and tripartite approach towards health infrastructure.

Health is requesting \$15 million in the 2025-2026 fiscal year as part of Nunavut's contribution to the project to finish construction of the facility. The expected substantial completion date of the facility is December 2025.

The replacement of aging community health centre facilities continues to be a critical priority for Health. We are requesting \$1.5 million for the year two design costs for the replacement of the Qikiqtarjuaq community health centre.

Baker Lake is the next community health centre that Health has approved for planning. Health is requesting \$10 million for ongoing life cycle capital projects in maintenance of Health's fixed assets. This represents an increase of \$5 million from the 2024-2025 envelope. The proposed additional resources will be used to help address the increasing maintenance needs of aging health fixed assets across the territory. Also, \$2.5 million is requested for small capital items, such as medical equipment, vehicles, and other essential health care assets at the community level. This is an increase of \$1 million from the 2024-2025 budget amount.

In the face of a significant infrastructure deficit, Health is focused on developing capacity in Nunavut on multiple fronts. We are working to provide for the long-term care of elders across all levels of need in territory. We are working on the need for in-territory addictions and trauma treatment in a meaningful, Inuit-focused and collaborative manner. We also remain acutely aware that our 24 health centres and hospital, and the essential services that they afford are crucial in providing health care for Nunavummiut.

This capital plan provides for the reinvigoration of the departmental program of health centre replacements, as well as increased capacity to maintain aging health care facilities and strengthen ongoing building maintenance and life cycle management.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman and members, thank you for your time and I welcome questions and comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Chair. I am happy to providing opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates of the Department of Health.

Chair, the Department of Health's proposed budget for 2025-2026 includes two long-term care facility projects for Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay, as well as Aqqusariaq, the Nunavut recovery centre in Iqaluit, and the replacement of the Qikiqtarjuaq community health centre. The budget also includes funding for ongoing life cycle repairs and minor capital purchases to address ongoing maintenance, upgrades and emergency repair needs.

Chair, the Standing Committee is happy to note that the long term care facility in Rankin Inlet is in its final stages and a contractor has been engaged to operate the facility and offer the required services. Members look forward to the facility's official opening in 2025, which will provide more opportunity for Nunavut elders to receive the necessary levels of care in their home territory.

While the Standing Committee supports the government's initiatives to ensure that more long-term care beds are available in the territory, community-based residential elder care continues to be an important issue. Members continue to encourage the minister to work with his officials to identify infrastructure options, including assisted living accommodations, to enable elders remain active and supported in their home communities as they age.

It has also been noted on a number of occasions that many elders would benefit from enhanced infrastructure at the community level that would allow them to stay in their home communities for as long as possible. Given that the Nunavut-based long-term care facilities in the three regional centres will be operated by third-party contractors once they are opened, members urge the Department of Health to take the appropriate steps to ensure that culturally relevant care will be provided. Members support the government in its efforts to recruit, train and certify Nunavummiut to work as staff in government-built long-term care facilities.

The training and certification of Nunavut based caregivers should also be a key component to providing care and support to elders in their home communities, as well as in Nunavut-based care facilities.

Chair, the 2025-2026 funding request for the Nunavut recovery centre includes over \$15 million for the next phase of construction. Members were very happy to learn that health has been successful in accessing additional federal funding towards the project, in addition to the \$42 million previously committed to. Staff housing for Aqqusariaq, the Nunavut recovery centre, has been a concern and members note that the department has

reached an agreement with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to provide housing for staff of the facility.

The Standing Committee appreciates that the design of the facility will accommodate such key features as counselling and treatment rooms, residential areas, family areas, child-care space and areas to accommodate on-the-land activities. Members look forward to future updates on the operational model for the delivery of treatment and at the Aqquariaq Nunavut Recovery Centre.

Chair, there are a number of aging community health centres across Nunavut, that require replacement or extensive renovations.

The Standing Committee was happy to note that Health's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates include ongoing funding for the replacement of the health centre project for the community of Qikiqtarjuaq. Members have been given to understand that the community of Baker Lake is the next community identified for health centre planning, although it does not appear on the government's five-year capital plan.

The Standing Committee encourages the minister to work with his colleagues to identify surplus buildings and infrastructure that could be expanded, renovated, or upgraded to develop other services as mental health and addictions programming in communities outside of the regional centres.

Chair, the Department of Health's proposed capital estimates include two blocks of funding for ongoing life cycle and minor capital projects. Members appreciated receiving details on the various projects and item expenditure requests that have been identified under these line items to date. A number of projects, medical equipment requests, and other items have been included in these lists for some time. Members note that Health is proposing to increase both budget lines for 2025-2026, and anticipate that the additional funds will enhance the department's capacity for providing quality health care across the territory.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates of the Department of Health, and I am confident that individual members will have comments and questions as we proceed. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was disappointed to read in the paper about a week and a half ago that the long term care centre in Rankin Inlet, substantial completion isn't going to be completed until the end of next month. We all know that that doesn't mean elders are going to be able to move in right after that. It takes a while to get the building in place, the staffing in place, and all the equipment and

everything to make sure everything's going. I would be very surprised to see residents moving in there this calendar year.

Mr. Chairman, earlier this year I had asked the minister some very pointed questions on when that building was going to be ready for occupancy, and there was a commitment made that it would be this summer, this past summer, and I even at that point gave the minister many opportunities to be able to set expectations, because I know, as I know the minister knows, people are listening to these commitments that are made and relying on the timelines that are provided to us or that we're providing to them.

I was very disappointed that that timeline wasn't met, without any explanation, an update to the members or to the community itself. Maybe the two members for Rankin Inlet were notified; I'm not sure. But it's a territory-wide piece of infrastructure and there's people that were counting on the possibility of moving back to the territory in the time frame that was outlined by the minister.

I just want to encourage the minister going forward that when timelines are expressed and commitments are made that realistic expectations are established. It's better to under-commit and overperform in most cases.

So I just wanted to highlight that. I think the minister really needs to take consideration into the words and the commitments that he makes, especially going forward today. There's going to be a number of commitments that are going to be made going forward on future projects, and I encourage the minister to try and make sure that he's setting realistic expectations. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Are there any more general comments? I'm seeing none. We will now proceed to page-by-page review of the capital estimates starting on page 3, under capital budget. Health directory, total capital expenditure, \$35,041,000. Questions, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since 2011, health centre replacement projects have been completed in the communities of Arctic Bay, Naujaat, Taloyoak, Sanikiluaq, and Kinngait. Concerns have been raised with respect to security and vandalism at some health centres. Mr. Chairman, I just made a member statement about the fuel spill in Taloyoak just recently, and I'll go on to the detailed question.

In recent years a number of health centres have required replacements of their fuel tanks and systems or renovations following fuel spills. The question is, Mr. Chairman, how does the department assess and monitor the status of such health centre systems as heating, air handling, fuel supply, and emergency generators to ensure they are in good shape and repaired or replaced as necessary? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Before I move on to the minister I would like to remind members, if you have any questions, please get my attention. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's a very good question in terms of the fuel systems. There's a huge potential liability around fuel spills. You know, Taloyoak was unfortunately an example of that, where we had major costs incurred as a result of a fuel spill.

Our primary concern when things like that happen is the essential health care services. We can't have them interrupted. We need the health centres to be open and available to residents. So we are working on assessment of fuel spill mitigation measures for various health facilities. We have a project that is focused on the Kivalliq region that was identified as needing some attention. That project is anticipated to wrap up in fall 2025. There are also a number of ongoing projects not specific to the Kivalliq, with regards to backup generators.

It's the ongoing life cycle funding that allows us to get ahead of problems, and that's why we are so excited and appreciate active of the additional funds that we've been granted through the budgetary process through the department of finance and FMB that is in front every you today. Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to talk about my other constituent community of Kugaaruk. A little while ago I spoke about mental health in the community, so I'll go on to ask my detailed questions.

It's a known fact that the community of Kugaaruk is a growing community, and it's growing very rapidly and I spoke about mental health at the health centre. The health centre in Kugaaruk is very small, so I'll be asking my detailed questions in regards to Kugaaruk's health centre.

I'll go on, Mr. Chairman. Design modifications for new health centre projects may include the addition of safe rooms for mental health patients, isolation rooms, birthing centres, or palliative care beds. Additional space is also needed for specialized visits.

Now my question is, Mr. Chairman, what modifications to the design of Qikiqtarjuaq's new health centre are currently being considered in consultation with the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. George Hickee): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the member for the question. When it comes to health centre design, it's very much a case of meeting the needs of the community. We don't have a one-size-fits-all approach to health centres. Qikiqtarjuaq being a smaller community will have a health centre that is designed to meet the needs today and then into the future.

So maybe the best way to answer this is just to compare it to the current facility. So the new health centre as it's being designed will have more room for mental health programming. It will have space allocated for public health functions that is not currently available. There will also be space in the future health centre for the community health representative, which unfortunately doesn't exist at the moment. There will also be space in the facility for a medical travel clerk. So there will be a number of different betterments to the services available to the community through the piece of new infrastructure. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be referring to my constituent community of Kugaaruk again. This is a known fact. At this moment in time is Qikiqtarjuaq is a priority as of now. If I'm not mistaken, Baker Lake is second in line, if I'm not mistaken. And my question is, and I'll be referring to Kugaaruk, I would like to know which our communities are currently being considered for health centre replacement projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The member is correct, Qikiqtarjuaq and Baker Lake, so following Baker Lake our replacement plan would see a new health centre in Kugluktuk, we would see an expansion of the existing health centre in Arviat, and we would also see a new health centre in Kugaaruk. I could keep going, but the next one past that, at the end is the expansion of the Rankin Inlet regional health centre. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For clarification, I'll be asking this question: Have any community health centres been identified as needing urgent replacement or expansion work? For clarification, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think it depends on how you define urgent. In my opening comments I mentioned our

infrastructure deficit is hampering us on multiple levels, and so I think when you look at the communities that are currently at the top of the list in terms of the replacement plan, those should be, in my mind, considered urgent. Health has been making efforts to access the resources that we need and trying to look beyond just vote two resources from our GN funds but trying to identify alternative sources of funding that could help projects move faster. (interpretation ends) Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be referring to Taloyoak now, in regards to my member's statement of just a little while ago. I'll be referring to other Nunavut communities. This will be my last question, Mr. Chairman.

How does the Department of Health work with Community and Government Services to assess the condition of health sectors across Nunavut on an ongoing basis and monitor infrastructure issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That will be my last question.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Quqqiaq. Members please make my notice, if you want to get added to the list. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the replacement plan for health centres, there's regularly scheduled assessments of the health centres where we look at population, we look at the floor area, the age, facility condition index. And so these, the last assessments were completed in 2021 and so we would be looking to update those condition ratings fairly soon. In addition to that, in terms of the ongoing life cycle function, we work very closely with Community and Government Services on the ongoing upkeep and maintenance every our facilities. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Malliki): Next person on my list is Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My first question is when is the Rankin Inlet long term care facility going to be welcoming its first residents. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The first residents at the Rankin Inlet long term care facility will be welcome there in the winter of 2025. And we are hesitant to name a specific month, given the recent delays, which I should note have been not welcome. My officials have been quite frustrated, and so have I, in terms of the capital-related delays. But March is our target month for the first residents. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, and I do realize there were some challenges with the construction company that was originally tasked with building the facility. Was the bond amount sufficient? Or the minister mentioned some capital issues. Was funding one of them? Is the budget still on track to be accommodated? Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. (interpretation ends) We have had some additional costs on the project, roughly \$1.5 million is our estimated cost, but the additional costs have not been the reason for the delays. The primary reason for the delay has been the initial contractor's bankruptcy, as well as inefficiencies around coordinating the sub trades working on the project. Currently the contractor is completing the outstanding items, as well as deficiencies that were identified in our most recent inspection. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you. Just before I go on to my next question, I would like to take a moment to thank the minister. Last weekend when we were invite to do attend, although it's not anywhere near completion, they were closing it in for the next phase, is the Nunavut recovery centre project here in Iqaluit. Myself and a few of my colleagues accepted the invitation, and I think that's going to be a really amazing facility, from the Stantec staff that provided the tour, along with the contractor and the minister and staff himself.

I'm really excited for that project. It's actually bigger than it appeared from the road to me. I was quite surprised at the footprint, and I think the location is going to be really welcoming to the guests. I just wanted to take a moment for taking the invitation, and I look forward to the next one with where it gets a little bit nearer completion and we can see the walls up and really visualize the infrastructure. So thank you for that. I'm going to stay on topic just for a second with Rankin Inlet. I do know that there were challenges with the original contractor, and it did make some delays. I also recall that there was a fuel spill that was on site. I can't remember if it was one of the Rankin Inlet members that mentioned it to me or something. Did that contribute to the delay as well, too? I am curious as to how there can be a fuel spill on a new piece of construction. Was it a fuel tank or was it human error that caused that spill? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman, (interpretation) for the kind words of the Aqqusariaq tour and it was encouraging so many people show up on a Saturday evening, including one young lady who might end up being an employee there some day.

In terms of the fuel spill at Rankin Inlet, in terms of the exact cause, I believe it was a combination of human error and some ongoing construction issues. It has been remediated. We worked with the authorities, in terms of Department of Environment, and it has been fixed, so to speak. We were quite terrified, to be honest, that this could be something that would further push back our completion date, but thankfully the fuel spill didn't turn out to be that serious, in terms of the timelines, which we are trying to stick to as best we can. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Hickers.

Mr. Hickers: Thank you. My colleague talked about the topic of fuel tanks and health centres a few minutes ago, and I'm sure the minister was listening when the Department of Education was up last night on the urgency or the seriousness that I think needs to be undertaken by all government departments for their infrastructure, to make sure fuel tanks are up to date and they are maintained properly.

Environmental spills are one of the worst things that can happen to a piece of infrastructure, especially with the way some buildings are built; there's not enough room to get under there to really mitigate a serious fuel spill. So I'll echo those comments again with the minister and his officials of Health.

I'll move on. The Assembly approved capital carry-over funding for ongoing work to upgrade the Qikiqtani General Hospital sterilization room and air handling unit a year ago. Departmental representatives indicated that bids responding to requests for tenders were coming back excessively high, which was delaying the completion. What are the current timelines for these projects. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the fuel system topic, I know the member did not as a question, but I want to clarify an earlier response. There is also projects ongoing for Qikiqtaaluk region, as well as Kitikmeot region. I mentioned the Kivalliq one, but it's right across Nunavut that are doing work.

In terms of the central sterilization room upgrade, I'm happy to report that the contract has been awarded this month, and we have expected completion by March 2025.

It's a very important project. When you talk about something like sterilization, it's absolutely essential to the safe operation of the facility. We're happy to see it moving forward. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Hickers.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, documentation provided by the department indicates that funds were transferred from the ongoing life cycle budget to renovate the Qikiqtani General Hospital's CT scanner room. Are CT scans currently available to patients in Nunavut? And if not, when is it anticipated that the services will resume in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) If it's okay with you, I would like my Deputy Minister to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Hunt, please proceed.

Ms. Hunt (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and thank you to the member for the question. I'm happy to report that the upgrades have been completed, and we are providing those services. It also gave us the opportunity to advance some important work in Nunavut, with the purchase, while that we had the down time, with the mobile CT scanner. So that was brought in during there time, and it gave us the opportunity to do extensive CT head scans in the territory.

It also had a really, really wonderful way of us being able to avert medical travel for different kinds of head trauma as well.

The other part that I think is important to that is that that diversion of medical travel actually paid for that mobile CT scanner in roughly 15 days. (interpretation) *Qujannamiik,* Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was having trouble with my ear piece at the very beginning of the response, so I understand that there was -- the Deputy Minister anticipated my next question. I was going to talk about the head mobile CT scanner. Is the new full CT scanner up and running? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt: Yes. *Qujannamiik.*

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you. Like I said, the Deputy Minister anticipated my next question. With the mobile CT scanner, especially since it's already paid off, is it going to continue to be utilized, or is it going to be sent to maybe other regional health centres to increase

the capacity or the ability for those health centres to be able to accommodate? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Ms. Hunt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and *Qujannamiik* to the member for the question. One of great things that we've done is put in an evaluation process into the mobile scanner. Our hopes are to understand the ability to leverage the technology in different areas of the territory.

Our Minister spoke earlier around the importance of improvements and expansions to help infrastructure. Although the footprint is quite small, given some of the infrastructure in other parts of the territory, there may need to be some considerations around our ability to implement that sooner than later.

We are definitely looking at options to keep the one here, but look at being able to purchase other ones that may go to other parts of the territory. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If they pay for themselves in two weeks, maybe every health centre should have one. I do digress.

It has come to my attention that I'm aware of an individual that had to go down south for a dental CT scan. Is that mobile CT scanner capable of doing dental CT scans? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's a really good question, and it is one that I'm not prepared to answer, but I can commit to asking about that particular issue.

The issue of dental wait lists and backlogs is one that is a priority, in terms of reducing the waitlist. I can ask for that information and provide it back, if that's acceptable. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman (interpretation): Okay, we'll be expecting that then. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would just like to touch on security. I know the security contract is O&M, but there are a number of health centres across the territory that do have closed-circuit TVs or intrusion alarms. I would like to get an indication of

how many health centres across the territory do have security infrastructure or security technology within their infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. (interpretation ends) We have quite the wealth of information on the operation side of the security contracts and staffing levels compiled, so we can report on all those statistics.

In terms of the facilities themselves, we don't have an up-to-date listing of which communities have security cameras and which communities don't. That is, again, something that we can compile and come back to the committee with, if that's acceptable. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Minister. Maybe that's a good thing maybe people don't know which health centres are not protected properly. I'll end there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Next person on my list is Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have too many questions here, but there are a couple of issues here related to Arviat. In early 2024 the Assembly approved carryover funding to carry out repairs in Arviat Health Centre. Have these renovations been completed to date, and if so, what was the total cost of the repairs? Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the Arviat Health Centre repairs, there has been some work done to upgrade the health centre entrance ramp, but I believe there's more work yet to come.

We are planning to publish a construction tender by January 2025 for the interior repairs, and we're looking at the reception area, modifying that, working on the flooring, and then painting in the facility. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: *Mut'na.* Will the work be done and no more carryovers from the carryover for the renovations that are planned that the minister just spoke about? Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At this point that depends on the results of the construction tendering process.

We are working with CGS in terms of the exterior ramp area, or the outside slope outside the health centre, in terms of assessing the current condition and looking at recommendations for further action.

So if there is further work needed in terms of modifying that entrance, we would want to request permission to carry forward any additional surplus, so that that work can be completed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. How about the work that the minister just described that is inside the health centre? Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That is part of the same project. The project is Arviat health centre repairs, but there's an interior component and an exterior component, and they wouldn't necessarily be all part of the same tender. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And having exchanges and having spoken with the minister on the ramp in Arviat, the minister stated there's been some work done on it, can the minister elaborate on it? Just because I came here, it appears to be the same as it has been for many years. Can the minister explain what work has been done? Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe the work that has been done has been around the ramp connecting the building to the embankment, or the retaining wall. And so there were some issues in terms of the grade of the ramp itself, the metal ramp when you walk into the facility.

CGS has been assisting us with this work. The facility maintainers are of course playing a role. But beyond the actual ramp itself, the gravel embankment leading up to the facility, that's where we're turning our focus next, in terms of what work is needed. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think there's never been too much of an issue from the ramp to the building. It's not that much of a grade. The gravel grade going in, and we had an exchange before, where legally it's not supposed to be over a five degree grade, and it's a lot more than that. I know it's not a simple solution, because you only have so much room to lessen the grade.

Does the minister have any ideas on the proposed method to fix the problem with the grade at the Arviat health centre? or is that part of the tendering process for someone else to figure out. Thank you.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik.* Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have some ideas, but they are not probably good, because I'm not a very good carpenter.

In all seriousness, the work with CGS is double-pronged. They are doing an assessment of the existing grade and entrance area, and then are going to provide some recommendations to us, in terms of next steps. It needs to be addressed in terms of safety as well as access for individuals who are mobility impaired, and so it's work that needs to get done. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. Just for the Minister's information, it's not a carpenter we need there, it's someone to fix the gravel.

There's another issue around the health centre in Arviat, this terms of vehicle parking. Has that been raised, that there's enough parking outside of the health centre there in Arviat? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's part of the assessment that's ongoing. We wouldn't be looking to fix the grade on the entryway, we would also be looking to provide a safe area where people can park their vehicles. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a totally different matter here. Back in March 2024, Nunavut Tunngavik board of directors approved funding to renovate long-term care facilities in Arviat, Gjoa Haven and Igloodik, in the amount of \$5 million

for each facility. What is the current status of those renovations, specifically Arviat?
Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We're currently still working with Nunavut Tunngavik, in terms of that funding. Of course we're extremely grateful for any contributions from any source we can get, given the health infrastructure deficit.

The current status of that work is it hasn't started. The next step for us is to work out a contribution agreement from Nunavut Tunngavik, and then bring that to executive council for consideration. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I also get an update on the renovation that was supposed to have been done there by the Department of Health or Housing, the government anyway.

I believe there was four or five hundred thousand dollars that was allotted to renovate, and this is from a few years ago, whether the renovations were done, and the budget was expended all. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That work was completed, and the work, the items that were needed to be completed and fixed up were dealt with, and we were very happy to see that completed for that facility. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$5 million that will be slotted to fix up the long term care in Arviat, has there been a condition reading done on the facility to determine exactly what needs to be done to it lately. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, it identified a number of major building components that will need investment in the coming years, and so that building condition assessment is being used in terms of helping to direct future activities at the elders home in Arviat. We are concerned, given the age of

the facility. We don't want to lose any existing in-territory capacity for elders homes or continuing care centres. We need every single facility that we have, and then more on top of that. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and I both know that the health centre in Arviat is too small for the size of the community that it is servicing, and I would just like to ask the minister if the size and what is available in the building is hindering what health services could be or should be provided to Arviammiut. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's hindering the services that could be provided. You know, a good example is specialty clinics, in terms of we do have opportunities where we can bring care providers into a community, as opposed to sending the patients out.

When you have a health centre that is too small, or the community has grown faster than the facility, you end up with congestion and crowding, and it does increase our reliance on things like medical travel, unfortunately.

We have been making efforts at educating our partners at Indigenous Services Canada on this. It's encouraging to see federal partners recognizing that health infrastructure is part of reducing expenditures on medical travel or reducing the growth of expenditures. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the minister for acknowledging that the health centre in Arviat is inadequate for servicing the community of Arviat currently.

I'm not sure if it could be expanded, due to the land availability around it. So what are the plans for either expansion or to build a whole new health centre that will fully be able to service Arviammiut? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the expanding the Arviat health centre, the options in terms of where we could

go and how we could add on, additional space that would be determining through the planning process, and unfortunately we haven't gotten there quite yet.

We would be looking at either expanding the existing building envelope, or looking for ways to move specific services or functions to an alternate location to help free up space in the health centre.

We are working on the extended hours health pilot project, which is using existing space for longer hours in a day to allow for more service to be provided from the same facility. It's not in Arviat, but that is a potential benefit of the extended hours approach. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I live close to the health centre in Arviat, and I can assure the Minister that even though Arviat health centre does not have extended hours, it is extended hours. We have the nurses, and I'm so thankful that they are there and willing to work long hours, put in overtime.

The health centre I believe in Arviat is being used, I don't know, maybe 16, 18 hours a day, because Arviat is so big now that they need to be seen and they can't fit everybody between 8:30 and 5:00.

So even though Arviat health centre might not have extended hours, it is providing extended hours service, and I'm thankful for that. So I don't think having extended hours is going to change the capacity of the building. Structurally it's just too small. It's inadequate. I don't go there very often, thankfully, because I'm healthy, but the few times I've been there, I don't think there has been much renovations done in there since it was built.

I've seen the flooring is gone in some areas, and it's bare wood which is visible, which is not very good for infection control. This is just a comment. I think something has to be done there for Arviammiut, in terms of we need adequate facilities to care for Arviammiut, so you don't have to get medevacked, so you don't have to send them as often down south.

There are a lot of services that could be provided for Arviat. Arviat is not going to getting smaller. It's only growing, population-wise. Serious consideration should be given to Arviat for... I don't have the solution.

I can't see expansion working very well, because the only area that the building can grow is to the south, and as the minister will know, that will make the grade coming into the building even more steep. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's it.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair (interpretation ends) I thank the member for raising this. Whether it's Arviat, whether it's Baker Lake, Kugluktuk or the list goes on. As the member points, out these are very real impacts on Nunavummiut, and I think that's where it really points us in the direction of how do we tackle this infrastructure deficit and how do we provide the infrastructure that Nunavummiut need.

Our staff feel the impacts as well, not just our patients. The staff who are working in overcrowded facilities are under more stress. They might be more likely to leave the Department of Health. So it's multi-pronged, in terms of the effects. And I thank the member for raising those important issues. *Mut'na*.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that we report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion carried. I will now rise to report progress. Sergeant-at-Arms, please excuse the officials.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

Speaker: Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Malliki.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Malliki: Mr. Speaker, the Committee has been considering Bill 61, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Is there a seconder? Mr. Sammurtok. 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 November 1:

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

>>*House adjourned at 16:56*

