



**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 Hicket**  
(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*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Friday, November 1, 2024**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaernerck, 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 09:00*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Tony Akoak): (no interpretation)

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): To those watching on TV, good morning. Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Hon Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 497 – 6(2): Gjoa Haven Food Safe Packaging**

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I dedicate this Minister's Statement to you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a new initiative undertaken by our department's Business Development Division, in partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, through the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership and the Country Food Distribution Program. This summer, we successfully provided food-safe packaging solutions to the local harvesting community in Gjoa Haven.

Through the program, we launched a pilot project in Gjoa Haven, distributing 3,000 food-safe bags and 300 bulk bags to 100 hunters and trappers. This initiative is aimed to enhance the safety and handling of country food, reducing contamination risks and improving overall food security.

Prior to this project residents relied on non-food-safe materials, posing significant cleanliness and safety risk. Our investment has made a tangible difference. The community has reported positive experience citing reduced spoilage, and improved confidence in food safety.

As one hunter noted, "I'm so grateful for the food safe packaging. It made a huge difference in how we handle and store our food, especially when we're out hunting or sharing with family and friends."

The Hunters and Trappers Association echoed this sentiment, sharing the stories of reduced meat waste and improved handling practices. One Beluga hunter stated that he used the bags to store *maktaaq*, which otherwise would have contaminated the blubber. Fishermen also used them for bagging fish during fall and winter, and are happy for being provided the bags.

The project demonstrates our commitment and dedication for safeguarding the quality and integrity of our country food, while promoting food safety and environmental health. By addressing accessible and affordable through collaborations and resource provisions, food safe packaging can become a sustainable solution.

We will continue to support and expand this initiative, ensuring its long term success and alignment with the territorial goals. By investing in food-safe packaging, we are investing in the health, safety and prosperity of Nunavut's communities for generations to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** On behalf of Gjoa Haven, thank you, Mr. David Akeeagok. Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Minister's Statement 498 – 6(2): Representative for Children and Youth (Nakashuk)**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the recommendations made to the Department of Family Services and the Representative For Child and Youth 2023-2024 Annual Report that was tabled on October 28, 2024. My department tried to work collaboratively with the Office of the Representative For Children and Youth to ensure that concerns and recommendations are addressed. Many of the recommendations highlighted in the representative's report are either currently being worked on or included in the Family Wellness Ilagiitsiarniq Strategic Action Plan 2022-2028.

Also recently tabled in this House, Family Services has worked diligently to make necessary improvements in the service and the program delivery. It is important to acknowledge the hard work and dramatic changes implemented by the department in the last 18 months, and I will say in 18 months since the OAG report, the Department of Family Services has put together the strategic plan.



Please join me in commending our staff for their commitment to children and youth and families. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 499 – 6(2): Fall Flu and COVID-19 Vaccines (Main)**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Good morning, my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut know how to prepare for the upcoming winter. We put on our winter clothes, we get them ready, our mittens, our *kamiiks*, and we make sure our skidoos and sleds are in good condition for the coming cold months. However, our clothing, our gear, whether they are ready or not, a bad respiratory infection could sideline your winter plans.

Fortunately getting you updated COVID-19 vaccine and flu shot protects against the viruses that can make us extremely sick. The vaccines help keep us out of the hospital and make us less likely to be medevacked out for urgent care. Now is the time to get ready for the upcoming winter. Hopefully we'll get our flu shots and COVID-19 vaccines before we start seeing increase in respiratory infections in Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, this is safe and recommended to receive both the flu and COVID vaccine during the same time. More vaccines in arms means a lower risk of widespread infections in our communities. This safeguards individuals and families, including our beloved elders, children and infants and those with chronic health conditions.

Mr. Speaker, today we'll be given an opportunity in the legislature to get our vaccinations against COVID-19 and influenza, after our sitting this morning at noon hour. Our public health team will be in the lobby to administer the COVID-19 and flu vaccines. I invite all the MLAs and ministers to participate.

Mr. Speaker, vaccines are safe, they are tested, and they actually work. I urge Nunavummiut this morning, let us protect ourselves and care for our communities by getting your updated COVID-19 and flu vaccines as soon as you can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Minister's Statement 500 – 6(2): Recognition of Practical Nurse Program Graduates (Nakashuk)**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me a second time. This morning I'll be talking about June 10. The Kivalliq camps of Nunavut Arctic College hosted a graduation ceremony for four graduates from the college's first cohort of practical nurse program. I am pleased to recognize the graduating students: Jo-Elle Airut, Karyna Kolola, Allysha Tologanak, and Claire Tookanachiak.

I'm also pleased to announce that all four of these students passed the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination and can now be licensed as Registered Practical Nurses.

Mr. Speaker, it is worthwhile to note that all four students began their learning journey at the Arctic College in the Pre-Health Program before moving on to the Practical Nurse Program. And to provide further support to our learners, the college is now an approved testing site for the national exam.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I thank the Nunavut Implementation Panel for providing the necessary funding to enable Nunavut Arctic College to deliver the practical nurse program. This academically challenging two-year program includes theoretical, clinical, and practical learning. Nunavut Arctic College is proud to be a part of the network of learning environments, creating a pool of registered practical nurses to support Nunavut's health care systems and communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Gross.

### **Minister's Statement 501 – 6(2): Transforming Human Resource Operations Through Technology (Gross)**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker, and good morning to everyone here with us, and Nunavummiut, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'm excited to announce an upcoming milestone in our journey to enhance and modernize human resource programs and service delivery. In February 2025, the initial phase of migrating the existing core human resources system to a state-of-the-art Oracle Fusion Cloud enterprise resource planning (ERP) platform will be launched.

Mr. Speaker, this transition will bring two pivotal changes to resource operations within the Department of Human Resources and across Government of Nunavut departments and allegation agencies.

First of all, core human resource activities like recruitment and onboarding will be streamlined; and secondly, a centralized learning management system will be introduced for online training and professional development. The new system will significantly

improve the quality, quantity and timelines for information available about our workforce, supporting proactive human resource planning and data-driven decision making.

Mr. Speaker, by implementing this new integrated Enterprise Resource Planning system technology in our workplace, we can reduce administrative burdens such as time-consuming manual paper-based processes. This new system aims to give all employees more time to focus on value-added, engaging work, while positively impacting service delivery to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

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

#### **Member's Statement 669 – 6(2): Successful Fall Caribou Hunts**

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning fellow members, Baker Lake.

I have some good news to share. September, October Baker Lake had a massive caribou herd come near town. It was good. A lot of people got fresh meat. Elders and the disabled were given fat caribou. It was good to see. And some too caught their very first caribou. Hopefully they will keep having successful hunts.

And some cache caribou, carrying the tradition on, will keep the mice and weasels out of the cache. They like to eat the cache under the rocks, the mice and the weasels. We worry about them and the wolverine and grizzly. Not the minister but the actual wolverine. They remove rocks from on top of the cache and they raid the cache of caribou. So they were taught properly how to cache the caribou meat. We're grateful. Hopefully each year we have more successful hunting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 670 – 6(2): Reminder To Be Safe During Fall Hunting**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, fellow members, and my constituents. Mr. Speaker, a reminder to hunters the dangers of thin and forming ice. We wish everybody safe hunting.

For the hunters out there when we have a search on, it takes a lot from the community, and sometimes the searches take a long time and the search and rescue volunteers put in lots of hours. Sometimes they aren't successful in finding people that are lost, so inform where you're going and if you say you're going there, make sure you're going to that area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Member's Statement. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. David Akeegok.

**Member's Statement 671 – 6(2): Halloween Funnies**

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as it is Friday, I have a couple little things that I want to cover in this House. Yesterday one of my constituents, Jeffrey Qaunuq (ph) gained a lot of cousins yesterday by pulling the chase the ace, and he gained a lot of cousins. Everyone knows him now. I'm really proud of him getting that winnings.

Also yesterday my granddaughter dressed like me in school, and she went on a competition and some people recognized him. Even the teachers said you're even important, go up and talk to the class. She did a very good job, and she won the funniest costume award.

>> *Laughter*

So this just confirms that I am not scary, but I am a funny man. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Member's Statement. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 672 – 6(2): Encouraging More Women to Run in the Next General Election**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 27, 2025, we'll have an election for members of the Legislative Assembly. I push for more women to put their names in. In the election in 2021 there were six ladies representing in

the House. This proves the importance of women in the electoral system in 1999 and before. I would like to see more representation by women for women in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, six ladies represent 27 percent of the members in the House. I encourage more, as our lives are affected. We have to seek solutions for communities, and the work of creating laws and the work required for Nunavummiut and for families to bring forward concerns by women.

There are many mothers that receive assistance, and you can be part of the process, and that encourages the work of women. Many women are finishing school or through Arctic College. Keep pushing. You have room in this House.

And those with disabilities, those too can represent and support people. Women workers in the workforce, in the Inuit associations, in the schools, in the businesses, I encourage you, to push to be elected in this House. I wish to conclude my statements, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk:** Thank you, fellow members. I want to be heard and I encourage women to push issues, concerns and the things that you value in this House. Your voice is important. So are your concerns. We want to hear your voice. Mr. Speaker, I encourage women, especially in this House. We need to see more women in this House and our children to see us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 673 – 6(2): Happy Birthday to Granddaughter**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I've been looking for my nephew for years. Just about as long as I've been chasing the ace, and I found him yesterday. I'm so happy, Mr. Speaker. I didn't know I had so many relatives in Grise Fiord.

Mr. Speaker, what I did gain ten years ago was a wonderful granddaughter. Our *Bibinnaaq*, Paris, (ph) turned ten today. I just want her to have the most wonderful day. And I know she's expecting a birthday present. I'll bring it home when I go home. Have a good day, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 674 – 6(2): Toronto Maple Leafs vs. Winnipeg Jets**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I do hope we have a good day, and that's why I'm taking a few minutes to talk about hockey. In particular, Mr. Speaker, your Toronto Maple Leafs, who had an encounter with the Winnipeg Jets on October 28. The Jets were flying high, they were doing well. They were cruising. Eight consecutive victories. (interpretation) No. But when Toronto came to town, they were flying high, but the goals, Nylander packed already, and another John, Tavares, had a hat trick.

Mr. Speaker, I know you're a wise man and that you support Toronto. I wanted to recognize the Toronto Maple Leafs and also the Winnipeg Jets this morning. Let's have a good day. Thank you.

>>*Laughter*

**Speaker:** Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

**Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

**Oral Question – 946 – 6(2): Caribou Management in the Kitikmeot**

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide additional information on an answer I provided during Question Period on Monday, October 28, 2024. The member for Kugluktuk requested me to confirm how many charges, if any, have been laid by my department within the last 12 months in respect of contraventions of harvesting regulations concerning either the Blue Nose East caribou herd or the Dolphin-Union caribou herd.

Mr. Speaker, no charges have been laid in the last 12 months concerning the Blue Nose East and Dolphin-Union caribou herds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Gross.

**Oral Question – 925 – 6(2): Status of Collective Bargaining**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to an oral question asked by Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster, MLA for Iqaluit-Sinaa, on October 24, 2024, Question Number 925 – 6(2).

The member for Iqaluit-Sinaa inquired about whether the unions have raised any concerns regarding the implementation of the new Nunavut-Wide Hiring Policy, the new Remote Hiring Policy, and the new Telework Policy and the extent to which matters covered by the policies will be subject to negotiations as part of the current round of collective bargaining.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the Nunavut Employees Union, collective bargaining is currently taking place and is in the very early stages of negotiations. To ensure that a fair outcome for all parties, these negotiations are confidential and outcomes are only made public after both parties have reached and ratified an agreement. As such, I cannot disclose any details of discussions between the negotiating parties.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Human Resources values its union relationships. When not engaged in collective bargaining, senior officials meet regularly to discuss areas of mutual concern and interest, including any new programs or policies that the Government of Nunavut is bringing forward that might impact their members. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakasuk.

#### **Oral Question – 968 – 6(2): Chesterfield Inlet Group Home**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer I provided to MLA Alex Sammurtok on the repairs required for a facility in Chesterfield Inlet.

The Government of Nunavut contracted a third-party engineering firm to assess and the repairs required for Naja Isabelle facility. An initial investigations showed areas of softness in the roof. Upon removal of the roof -- some of the information here are a bit in depth. Some of the beams had to be looked into further. As the structural integrity of the roof system is currently compromised, structural repairs must be completed prior to occupying the facility.

Once the department receives the estimate and scope of the work needed to perform the next repairs, we will be in a better position to know how long it will take and how it will impact the current request for proposals. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Qavvik.

#### **Oral Question – 973 – 6(2): Kitikmeot Inuit Association 2024 Annual General Meeting**

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Minister of Culture and Heritage to supplement a response I provided on October 30 to the member for Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, firstly, I want to thank the member for Netsilik for tabling the Kitikmeot Inuit Association's Annual General Meeting Resolutions. I would also like to thank the member for Kugluktuk for highlighting how well portions of Resolution #18.24 align with my department's grants and contributions programming. I have now had an opportunity to review that resolution and am proud of the important issue being raised by youth delegations in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the first portion of that resolution highlights "the need to establish youth committees where they don't exist."

Our government maintains a \$375,000 Elders and Youth Committee Grant Program. This is structured as \$15,000 per community, and is currently undersubscribed.

The second portion of that resolution highlights "the need to have youth centres that have safe and adequate surveys to deliver programs in all communities."

Mr. Speaker, we maintain a \$600,000 Elders and Youth Facilities Contribution Program. This funding can help keep facilities open, plan new facilities, or stack with other funding sources to support construction and renovations.

These are community-led application-based programs, and we welcome engagements from organizations such as Inuit associations, non-profits, and municipal organizations across our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the member also highlighted a recent public service announcement from my department seeking more applicants for these programs. The applications for the second callout will be reviewed and processed as they are received. I thank the member for that, and I encourage interested to reach out to my officials.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, I am happy to inform the member for Kugluktuk that I have written to Kitikmeot Inuit Association Vice President of Social and Cultural, who seconded the resolution.

Together, Mr. Speaker, we are continuing to build the collaboration needed to ensure this funding works to best meet the need of the youth in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6, Oral Questions.



Before we start, I just want members to be mindful of our translators or the interpreters this morning, as the speech might be a little fast this morning with all the sugar you took last night.

>> *Laughter*

Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Oral Question 991 – 6(2): Mental Illness Concerns**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to people of Amittuq and Nunavummiut and all my colleagues here.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health, and it regards people who have mental difficulties.

Mr. Speaker, over the last few years, I have observed what seems to be a steady increase in the number of young adults who are suffering from severe mental illnesses such as schizophrenia. The parents of these young people in my constituency, we see these young people who have nowhere to go, and we feel a lot of compassion towards them. And especially the parents and family members, when they see things like that happening. Even the whole community gets affected, impacted, Mr. Speaker.

Can the minister confirm whether -- the Minister has indicated that his department has started a mental health surveillance system. I know it's a Friday, but I have no choice but to bring this up.

Can the minister confirm the rate of serious mental illness? What has the minister seen if we look at all of Nunavut? Does the Department of Health know that serious mental health is rising across Nunavut communities? That will be my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to my colleague for bringing the topic that needs to be brought up. It gets really heavy when people have mental health issues or illnesses. It affects the whole family. It affects the whole household and their friends. The whole community gets impacted. The member is right in saying that.

It seems to be we have seen that the numbers are increasing. There are different kinds of mental health illnesses that our health centres are seeing, and what is being seen in the

schools and other offices. People with mental health illnesses is increasing. And I think the problem is all across Canada, if I'm correct.

But there is help available. I know it seems impossible, and we have to try and apply the help to each individual, and they have to be treated individually and the course of treatment has to be individually done to each person. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary. Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, seeing this problem, it's apparent in Iqaluit. It's probably apparent everywhere. So I try bring this up on behalf of my two constituents because it really affects their lives and we don't know where they can turn, especially when they don't want help.

During Question Period, the member for Aggu brought this up about people with mental illnesses.

The minister told us that there would be an act coming up in 2025, but, Mr. Speaker, right now parents are desperate to get help for their children, for their adult children. Sometimes they can be extremely destructive when they are in a manic phase and they can't control themselves. Sometimes they end up destroying property. It's unfortunate, but it happens.

How can people like that get more help from mental health nurses in the Keewatin? There have been cases where mental health nurses turn them away, and sometimes the police are unable to provide assistance. And as MLAs, when we are told about the problem, we have no choice but to see how we can go and help the people. When the health centres don't want to help them and the police don't want to help them, where else can they turn to?

The minister said that there is help available. What about in the communities? What other help is available in the communities? Can you create other help that can be made available in the communities by mental health people and RCMP? Where else can they turn to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague for bringing up or talking about this. It's very understandable when the member describes it, the families have to go through this really hard time. It's a very hard issue when there seems to be no help available.

Although treatment is available, it's all voluntary. There are ways to get them help, but when the person does not want help, that stops the process. Part of the problem is the present act, and we will be updating the act in the new year. It should be easier for the

people in the communities to develop ways to help them. Right now we have to follow the current act and the communities' nurses and the RCMP. We work with both of them and the Department of Family Services.

We tried to have this umbrella service available for them, and if there's any dangerous situation, then we have ways to get the family away from a dangerous situation. But that extra help will only be available after the new act is implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** I ask members, these topics that are so very, very important that we have to bring up, I ask that you be very mindful of their colleagues and shorten your preamble, questions, and answers. Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies for that. Mr. Speaker, this upcoming year is probably a big thing looking at Inuit families that are impacted.

Mr. Speaker, on the 5th Assembly when this was passed, the *Mental Health Act* in 2021, which we passed and with full support from us, looking at the future I saw the act being very positive and for the benefit of our constituents and Nunavummiut. This would put forth what is concrete and to have Inuit play a role in healing and so forth, for those who are going through mental illness.

Perhaps the minister can present here in the Assembly on recruiting Inuit counselling for Inuit counselling practices and use Inuit-specific practices for mental health after I assume when this act goes in effect in 2025. Can the minister clearly describe what steps are being taken to ensure that his department will be prepared to provide Inuit counsellors and implement Inuit approaches to mental health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We fully support this endeavour, how we may increase Inuit counsellors under mental health, and it's great to see that there are some increases taking place, Mr. Speaker. There are (interpretation ends) 107 front-line staff working across Nunavut in terms of the mental health file, and in terms of the member's communities, we have a paraprofessional working in Sanirajak. We have another position in Igloolik, which is currently vacant.

Mr. Speaker, the incredible work that's being done by our mental health paraprofessionals across Nunavut, most of whom are Inuit. It's where we need to go. We know that as a system, as a department, we need to focus less on the clinical side of mental health. We also need to build up the paraprofessional and the peer support side, and that's what we've been doing, right across Nunavut. And we plan to increase these positions as time moves

on. That's our desire. That's where we want to go. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 992 – 6(2): Responses to Resolutions**

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the premier. Mr. Speaker, as the premier will recall, I recently had the opportunity and the honour to formally table in this House the resolutions that were passed by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association at its 2024 annual general meeting.

Mr. Speaker, I again acknowledge and pay tribute to the association's leadership and the good work of our community representatives from Taloyoak and Kugaaruk. Mr. Speaker, a number of the resolutions impact the work of the Government of Nunavut, and I believe it is very important that the association have a clear understanding of what the government's positions are in respect to each one.

Mr. Speaker, can the premier describe the process by which the government develops its responses to resolutions passed at the annual general meetings of Nunavut Tunngavik and the three regional Inuit associations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank my colleague for a very good question. I couldn't agree more. We put a lot of trust in the three associations, and when resolutions are passed, all the departments review the resolutions and look at where we may collaborate and have a working relationship. And we now have the resolutions and are now looking at how and where we can start working together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the premier will also recall, my colleague representing the constituents of Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet recently had the opportunity and the honour to formally table in this House the resolutions that were passed by Kivalliq mayors at their recent meeting. Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities is one of our territory's most important forums to bring together decision-makers and leaders.

Mr. Speaker, can the premier describe the process by which the government develops its responses to resolutions passed at the annual general meetings of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and regional mayors' meetings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I again thank my colleague. I agree with him with respect to NAM that it's an important venue for mayors. They serve and represent their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am always pleased to be invited to the association meeting and was recently invited to their upcoming annual general meeting, along with the ministers the following week.

We always look at the resolutions seriously with our staff along with their staff, where we are and look at where we can go from there. Hopefully after the meeting we'll have more understanding with NAM next week and I hope, if a resolution is passed, we will be working with them diligently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the premier will recall, he recently announced that a major departmental reorganization will take place at the beginning of the upcoming 2025-2026 fiscal year. Mr. Speaker, the current Department of Community and Government Services and the current Department of Economic Development and Transportation will be directly impacted.

Mr. Speaker, can the premier confirm which department will have primary responsibility for coordinating the government's responses to resolutions that are passed by our partners in the governance phase, and will he ensure to commit that the government's responses to resolutions passed during the current calendar year are tabled in the House at the upcoming winter sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleague. I anticipated last week, as I said when we were invited, what reorganization we can have with our departments and we wanted to have open discussion. Next week we want to get into the details and what changes we anticipate and anything that they take seriously that we will work with them together, along with Minister Joanasie, and discuss the changes involved, the most important being the need to work collaboratively, cooperatively. And it does as well entail how we have our working relationship after our discussions we will discuss with what we discuss in the past to date, review of any resolutions, we will look at what if any we may take to this House.

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

**Oral Question 993 – 6(2): Income Assistance Services**

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Family Services. Mr. Speaker, in September the government announced that the income assistance office in Cambridge Bay was closed due to staff shortage. The situation also occurs frequently in the Kivalliq region and negatively impacts income assistance clients. Can the minister provide an update on what steps her department is taking to address the staff shortage in the Income Assistance Division. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you for this question. With regards to our staff, occasionally we fall short due to perhaps travel or medical, or any situation that the offices cannot be open all the time, which is rare, however.

However, our staff inform other offices who may provide support. The one in Pangnirtung, and here in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay are the offices that can decide to provide support with more digital work being a reality today, and more in tune what needs to take place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one issue regarding the income assistance office that has been brought to my attention is that a number of supervisors and managers are not well-informed about Inuit culture, family structure, or even life-style practices. I have also heard that long-term staff do not feel well supported by newly hired managers who come from outside of Nunavut. Can the minister describe what kind of cultural orientation is provided to new income assistance staff. How does she ensure that the supervisors and managers take the training and apply it to their work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for a very good question. The new staff members we hire that often discuss and talk about they take also orientation. All of our income assistance staff are Inuit, and we ask them to work diligently with no concerns, and we have many of these income assistance staff who have been there for a very long time. Most staff are Inuit. If there are concerns you can go to the higher level for questions, or to the regional office. But we don't want anyone in the situation.

Here in Iqaluit we have a coordinator who works in cultural orientation and occasionally we have casual income assistance. It's only when they are able to take on their work are they able to take on the assistance program.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a great shame when income assistance workers who understand Inuit culture and can speak Inuktitut are so unsupported that they feel pressured to resign. In many cases income assistance staff who fly to communities to temporarily fill positions that have become vacant are unable to properly communicate with their clients. Those income assistance clients whose first language is Inuktitut do not receive the service to which they are entitled.

Can the minister tell this House how her department works to ensure that income assistance clients, especially in communities outside of the regional centres, can receive services from staff who are familiar with Inuit language and culture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for your question.

(Interpretation ends) It's unfortunate for any government employee to feel unsafe or unwelcome within their office, and most importantly I do recognize that income assistance workers, the majority of them are Inuit. Most, all of them are Inuit. It is unfortunate if any employee is feeling unwelcome. As I have stated, they can report to their senior officials or the office here in Iqaluit itself. There are processes for any government employee if they feel unsafe. They can report to the human resource office as well. But we are as a department continuing to ensure that our staff are trained and know the process of reporting if there's any issues. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Oral Question 994 – 6(2): Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of serving as the mayor of Naujaat. One of the responsibilities that I had was representing the community at the meeting of the Hudson Bay Roundtable. These important meetings brought together government stakeholders from the region and were an excellent forum in which to address issues of mutual

concern to Nunavut and Manitoba. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic seriously impacted the work of the forum.

As the minister will recall, my colleagues representing the constituencies of Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet recently tabled the resolutions that were passed by Kivalliq mayors at their recent meeting. One of the resolutions calls for the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable to resume meetings on a basis. Can the minister indicate how his department has responded to this formal resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for tabling the resolutions. My office was not provided the resolutions in the years past, but nonetheless, they have been passed along to our officials and we'll be reviewing those and responding accordingly.

I do note that there has been a high level of interest around the Hudson Bay Roundtables and the working relationship around there and those involved at that table. So we'll note that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Malliki (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we met and it was open for government officials and leaders and leadership from Manitoba as well, regarding concerns mostly related to health (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there has been a recent change in the Manitoba provincial government. As the minister is aware, one of our regional top priorities interjurisdictional cooperation in proposed Kivalliq hydro fibre link. Can the minister indicate if this initiative will be discussed at further meetings of the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Hudson Bay roundtable, as I understand it, was a forum where mayors and others in the Kivalliq and Manitoba, they shared interests and discussed challenges or issues and priorities that they shared. I have no doubt that the Kivalliq hydro fibre link is a high profile initiative that, it's an Inuit-led project and will no doubt be discussed in trying to advance that forward. My department continues to engage with Nukkik corporation to ensure that we're on the same page, and we're making sure that we're working together and sharing resources on for the benefit of the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker (interpretation):** When you are answering your questions, Mr. Joanasié, there's a lot of static around your table. Second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.



**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) A resolution passed by Kivalliq mayors at their recent meeting concerned the use of a deep seaport at Churchill. This community is also located on medical transit centre for Nunavummiut. Would the minister support holding the next meeting of Hudson Bay Roundtable in Churchill? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I take that as a suggestion for my department to consider, and working with other parties that might want to pool together resources for this important forum to continue, I will look at that and I'll keep my colleagues informed if there are any plans to go forward with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 995 – 6(2): Grants and Contributions Policy (Lightstone)**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Finance, and they concern the issue of how the Government of Nunavut approaches grants and contributions to non-profit organizations and other entities.

As the minister will be aware, the Nunavut Association of Non-Profit Organizations recently released a pre-budget open letter to the Government of Nunavut on this subject. Mr. Speaker, the open letter is already in the public domain and I pay tribute to the Association of Non-Profits' board of directors and employees for their hard work and advocacy on behalf of Nunavut organizations which do a world of good for our communities.

My question for the minister. My first question for the minister is: Can you update the House on when the association of non-profits can expect a formal response from the government, and will he commit to sharing it with members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the open letter and our department, along with many other departments that work in grants and contributions, are going over it. Mr. Speaker there are some recommendations, a lot of recommendations in that document. Mr. Speaker, our deputy, there's a working group within the ministry that is working on some of those recommendations, and I'm anticipating that it will be forwarded to the cabinet level in the next couple of weeks, Mr. Speaker.

If there's anything out of that that comes out that would be of interest to my colleagues, I would be more than happy to share it with them at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response and I'm glad to hear that the government has actually tasked the Deputy Ministers' Committee with working on addressing many of these recommendations that were put forward.

Mr. Speaker, one of those specific requests contained in the association's recent open letter is that the government formally respond to recommendations made in 2023 position paper, "Cash Flow Challenges", related to non-profit organizations' grants and contributions. Mr. Speaker, the non-profit associations' most recent annual report indicates that this study "addresses the timing of payments delivered by federal and territorial governments and the harmful impacts that inefficient funding practices have on non-profit organizations that rely on them. The nonprofit association is currently working with ministers to discuss next steps to address the 12 recommendations on this issue."

As the minister will recall, he was questioned on this exactly one year ago on November 1, 2023 by the member representing Iqaluit-Tasiluk. I would like to ask, can the minister provide a clear update today on what specific actions the Government of Nunavut has taken to address the non-profit associations' recommendations on this specific area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, although Finance is the department that takes a look at the overall picture of grants and contribution, we don't report on the performance of grants and contributions. In terms of the issues surrounding some of the concerns that have been brought up, we are working with the department within government that have grants and contributions and how they administer them and within those contributions, Mr. Chairman, and that work continues, Mr. Chairman. If there's something that would be helpful or is of interest, I would be more than happy to share it once we've all gone through all those issues and find ways to resolve them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is well aware, the Financial Administration Manual guides the government in all aspects of its work, and Directive 801 concerns the management of grants and contributions. Unfortunately, this directive has not been updated since March 2011.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Finance's current business plan indicates one of the priorities has been to update the Government of Nunavut's approach to grants and contributions through this Directive 801, and the business plan also indicates that the department has "completed its internal review of this directive."

I would like to ask, can the minister indicate what major changes to this directive are being actively considered, and can you provide a timetable for when this section of the manual will be updated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that level of detail on me on that, but when I do I would be more than happy to share it with my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Oral Question 996 – 6(2): Elders' Advisors in Legislature**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this morning my questions are for the Minister of Culture and Heritage. It's regarding elder advisors.

Mr. Speaker, during the spring sitting the minister announced that there would be an elder advisor sitting during the spring sitting and was going based off of, let's see here:

"The Government of Nunavut has publicly announced our interest in the inclusion of our elders during sittings at our Legislative Assembly."

Mr. Speaker, in light of this original idea to commence the inclusion of our elders during our initial caucus gathering at Cambridge Bay, we all attended to this event in Cambridge Bay in 2021 and we spoke to the need for the inclusion of "our beloved elders within the operations of the government representing Nunavut."

I just quoted the minister from May 23, 2024. I'm wondering Mr. Speaker how was the elder selected to take part during this past spring sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the very good question. For our 6th Legislative Mandate, we have prioritized the Aging With Dignity in Nunavut for the elders.

To the member's question, the elder advisor that was in the House during the spring sitting was identified through the Department of Culture and Heritage and it was a pilot project and we did not continue further on, including an elder in the House. We will seek further input from all full caucus for the winter sitting, whether everyone agrees to have an elder in the assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. I'm glad it's going to be brought up again in the winter sitting. Why wasn't it brought up during this fall sitting, for it to be addressed at full caucus? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to first take note that this is your Assembly and we would have to consult with your office on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, for this fall sitting the logistics around having an elder is costly. Whether we want to bring an elder from Kitikmeot or Kivalliq, for example, it will cost hotel and accommodations, and also whether an escort would be included. Those are cost-effective and those need to be further evaluated, whether we can have an elder in the House, of course, through Mr. Speaker's approval to bring an elder to the house. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't get a response to my actual question, why it wasn't addressed at full caucus during this fall sitting.

But for my last question, going based off of the Minister's response, we all know travelling in Nunavut is quite costly. We all know that if an elder or an escort is needed, that is additional cost. We all know that a hotel and meals are costly as well. We all know that. I am kind of at a loss here. We all know that those are added costs.

But this government introduced an elder advisor in the spring sitting, so they must have known going into it that those added costs could be brought forward later on by other members, if we want an elder advisor from our region.

Mr. Speaker, my last question is if there's going to be another elder advisor in future sittings will there be a callout across Nunavut for interested elders that may want to take part as an advisor during future sittings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. That's a very good suggestion, whether we bring in an elder again. Again, Mr. Speaker, it was a pilot project with the thought from the Department of Culture and Heritage, but we do want to respect Mr. Speaker's space and his role to bring in an elder to the Assembly. As a full caucus we will need to discuss on that area for the -- my apologies. It is costly and it's going to require analysis to bring in another elder from outside the Assembly, but I do recognize that an elder from Kivalliq or Kitikmeot would be a good suggestion, and we can bring that forward. I'll take the question to further evaluation with my officials and my colleagues and through you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Oral Question 997 – 6(2): RCMP Detachments' Administrative Staff**

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, people of Nunavut, and my colleagues here. I rise today, this morning to ask questions to the Minister of Justice. We all know at that that all the communities have RCMP detachments. Can the minister tell us how many detachments have Inuit administrators or secretaries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know I have the number somewhere, but I didn't find it right away. When I find it, I will be able to tell the House. I know that some detachments have Inuit staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to the Minister. Yes, we are aware that there are some Inuit constables, but I'm asking about the office people who can answer the phone, or be able to assess people who cannot speak English or who cannot speak English well. I'm asking if they have administrative or reception staff, and if some communities only have non-Inuktitut-speaking detachments, how many are there. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Justice, Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker yes some detachments have staff that can speak Inuktitut and they work as receptionists or call-centre operators and they can speak Inuktitut. As to how many there are and which community they are

located, it's among my many documents here. And when I find it I'll be able to report it to the house. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Quassa:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister. The detachments that do not have Inuktitut speaking staff, have there been any consideration to staff them with Inuktitut-speaking office people? Because people rely on the RCMP for help and a problem occurs when there's nobody that can speak Inuktitut and they have to go through a third party to talk to them. The RCMP detachments in all of the communities need to have Inuktitut staff. Have there been any thought put into that matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have been planning towards that, and whenever we ask for funding, that is included in our requests. It would be better if all of the communities could have the Inuktitut staff and the RCMP were adding staff that can speak Inuktitut in the RCMP detachments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Oral Question 998 – 6(2): Issues with Elders Vans**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Arviat. (interpretation ends) I would like to question the premier again on the elder vans. I wasn't getting any answers and I thought I'm not going to get any answers, but yesterday I had a casual conversation with the Minister Joanase as I and I asked who owns these five elder vans and the response I got was quite surprising. He said, "Ask the premier." And so I asked the minister of procurement again: "You don't know who owns these elder vans?" And I got the response, "You'll have to ask the premier."

So Mr. Speaker, I'll ask the premier. Who owns the five elder vans that are in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, Coral Harbour, Pangnirtung and Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The successful applicant for the 2024 initiative that I had announced was Northern Future Skills Development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assume that they are the owners of the van, then? I see you're nodding, okay. Through the questioning I've been asking it seems like they were bought through a contribution taking O&M funding and buying capital equipment through a contribution agreement.

Normally when there's a contribution agreement, there is a signed document saying we gave you this money; therefore we want you to do this. If there is a signed contribution agreement that these vans will be operational and the elders will be able to use them November 1, December 1, January 1. ,can we get a timeline? What was stated in the contribution agreement about these vans being used by elders, and when? Thank you.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I would like to thank my colleague for that question. As noted yesterday by my colleague, the mechanism that was used no fund the elder vans was in fact a Grant and Contributions Payments Directive, and as such, as the proponent that was successful of winning, being selected was Northern Future Skills Development. It is noted that they are, as indicated when we did the announcement, that they are open to have the operations up and running hopefully in the new year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I hope it's the new year in January and not April 1 new year, but that's questionable.

Will the government be doing another contribution agreement for operating these vans, like in terms of payment to store it? Payment to pay the driver? Payment to put gas in it? Payment to insure it and liability costs? Have all these been worked out with the successful company? Or is the successful company going to have to do all the operations and maintenance and all the costs to run these vans on their own? Or will the government be doing another contribution agreement to get these vans operational? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank my colleague for that question. The proponent will be responsible for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 999 – 6(2): Motor Vehicles Division**

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today for are the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. I want to revisit the issue of the Motor Vehicles Division. Mr. Speaker, a number of my colleagues have raised concerns about delays related to issuing drivers' licences and general identification cards. As the minister is aware, his department's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities has been to "review the effectiveness of motor vehicles information system in advance of the contracts expiration date in November 2024."

Mr. Speaker, today is the first day of the month. Can the minister indicate what decisions his department has made concerning the current motor vehicles information system contract? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker for the motor vehicles and the issues of the driver's licence and general identification has improved significantly over the year, and it is through the work of the motor vehicles information system and also the delivery of helping, of getting help from the government liaison officers and they're able to directly bring those applications into the system that allows for speedier returns.

So if there's anybody that is having an issue in the wait time, I encourage them to visit our staff and get an update on their applications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the government announced that a major departmental reorganization will take place at the beginning of the upcoming 2025-2026 fiscal year. This reorganization will impact the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

Can the minister indicate what changes are planned for the structure of the motor vehicles division, and can he assure me that none of the division's current positions in Kitikmeot be relocated to a different community?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the recently announced departmental reorganization is doing that, is making more easier for Nunavummiut. We will be launching the Service Nunavut, which includes motor vehicles and our government liaison officers are working together. No positions will be affected as part of the reorganization, it will be realigning to different departments.

I want to assure that for the motor vehicles, we had done our reorg two years ago, and are being implemented, two years ago, we have started to fill those positions. For Gjoa Haven, there are currently three that are under regional positions for motor vehicles, and those three will continue to stay in Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, he is legally required under section 328.1 of the *Traffic Safety Act* to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly. These reports contain important information that are of interest to all members of the Legislative Assembly and the driving public.

As the minister will recall, he tabled a 2020 report in the House on November 8, 2022, almost two years ago. Can the minister indicate when the 2021-2022 annual report will be ready for tabling in the legislative Assembly? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the question. The 2021 and 2022 reports are almost finalized. We had issues with the input data. That is what is causing the delay, but we should be, I should be tabling it once I get those two reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 1000 – 6(2): Residential Building and Occupancy Permits**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services today. Mr. Speaker, my first question is how many residential building permits were issued in the fiscal years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and up to today? 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 his question. I'll have to look at the fine details of his question and get back to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is how many residential occupancy permits were issued in the same fiscal years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Again, Mr. Speaker, I will have to get back to the member on this. And I know there is just around our building officials conducting their business and making sure that they're on top of those permits to ensure that our houses and our buildings are being occupied once they are complete construction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the minister's response, if he can he also provide how many of those building permits and occupancy permits were issued to Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do note that as well as I know my colleague MLA for Iqaluit-Sinaa was asking around residential buildings that don't permits, so I think I will prepared on that front. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members, you did really well today. Oral questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

**Oral Question 1001 – 6(2): Judiciary Appointments**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For a second there I thought you were going to skip over me.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Justice today and they pertain to judiciary appointments in Nunavut. Members and the minister will recall that I asked a number of questions concerning important appointments earlier this week, and so, Mr. Speaker my first question today is, aside from the chief justice position, how many current vacancies are there, including Justice of the Peace positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the judge there is one vacancy, as one of the judges have stated that they are retiring, so there's going to be two.

For the justices of the peace, there are a number of communities, and I don't have the exact numbers of how many are vacant under the justice of the peace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that we just got a heads-up that another judge is retiring. We knew for quite some time that the former chief justice was nearing retirement age, and it seems that there was not sufficient planning to fill that really important vacancy. I hope that the planning is -- I was going to say more better, but more sufficiently underway for this, the other position that's about to become vacant along with that, the other current position.

Mr. Speaker, I know that there are two levels related to appointing judges and justices of the peace. There's a judicial advisory committee that gets together to consider judicial appointments; that is a federal-level kind of advisory process, and then there's the territorial process for justices of the peace through the Justices of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee.

For my next question, I would like to know what the process is from application to appointment in both of those areas, and the reason I would like to know is because I'm just trying to get a handle on why it's taking so long to fill the current vacancies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I share your concern. For the judges' appointments,, those are federally appointed positions, and I have no control over how they do their selection. They do have advisory boards and they do have selections and it goes to the Minister of Justice for the final say and approval. That's the process that takes place for the federal side, and it's no different for the appointment of the chief justice. We do have an acting chief justice. We do have a senior judge, and that's Ms. Cooper that is currently our Acting Chief Justice. So we do have that.

And for the Justice of the Peace, that's a territorial one, and what we do is we do have a justice of the peace appointments and remuneration committee that consists of four members. There are judges and JPs that are in that appointment, and they go through that process in selecting justices of the peace. I'm glad to say that we recently appointed Allison Crowe as the Justice of the Peace for Iqaluit, and that went through that process.

That one I'm able to, if it's delay or if it's too long, I'm able to be held accountable to that, but the other one is for the federal one is beyond our control, but something that I always relay to my colleague, the need to ensure that we do have sufficient judges. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I fully understand and know that there are certain things that are, quote-unquote, beyond the control of members of cabinet who represent Nunavummiut at those very important opportunities to ensure that the federal government is following through on ensuring that we are able to run a territory as smoothly as possible, and one that isn't full of creativity, because of the fact that we are facing situations which may lead to a difficulty in achieving justice.

My final question I guess today will be about whether or not there is a backlog that has been created because of the absence of these really important positions being filled. We know that justices of the peace, I'm not sure whether or not there's a big vacancy there, so I look forward to hearing that, as the minister has committed. But what we know is that justices of the peace are integral to the implementation of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, and we know that those who are charged with offences have *Charter* rights to a fair and speedy trial, to be tried within a reasonable time.

If we have vacancies, how does that impact the delivery of justice in Nunavut, including how long it might take somebody to go to trial and to have their case heard and closed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do find it in my notes that there are 31 justices of the peace serving the territory and those are very critical in

the delivery of our programs and our justice system. It's critical that we do have those. Also we have about approximately... they play a critical role, I just want to stress, and we do put out a public call when there are vacancies or throughout the territory. We could have more justices of the peace through to every community, because that's one that it's delivered that are being delivered for these communities that really need that justice to help with any of them. There are a lot of programs that they go through, and we'll continue to train them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 1002 – 6(2): Elders Advisors in the Legislature**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for recognizing me a second time. Mr. Speaker, I just to continue on where my colleague Mr. Simailak was questioning about the elders. One of the questions he was asked is how was this elder selected, and how has the Minister responsible for Culture and Heritage selected. Can the minister be more specific? Was it selected on the elder's age? Where the elder lived? Because the elder was available at the time? Can the minister elaborate exactly how the elder was picked during the spring sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker the elder was selected by the Department of Culture and Heritage. Mr. Phillip lives in Iqaluit, and that was the selection made due to cost analysis that we had no clue whether or how much it would cost, but that's the selection of our elder advisor during the spring sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it appears that the elder was, and no disrespect to the elder who was here, no disrespect to Lew Phillips. The elder was selected because of cost. So an elder from outside of Iqaluit was not even considered, due to cost. It seems like Culture and Heritage is, we will select you if it's cheap for an elder.

In the exchanges that were happening again Minister of Culture and Heritage stated that they would have to consult the speaker to have an elder here. I ask the minister: Was the speaker asked, consulted or asked for permission before the elder was hired to sit here during the sittings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to further elaborate that Mr. Phillip is a member of the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajiit. Mr. Speaker, yes, the

Department of Culture and Heritage was in contact with the Speaker's office. And I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second, just a minute. On this particular occasion my office was told by the Premier's Office. There was no real consultation with my office. Second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Mr. Speaker, while I did have another question on the matter, a more pressing issue has come up. The Minister of Culture and Heritage just misled the House as saying that Culture and Heritage did consult with the speaker. With the Minister of Culture and Heritage apologize to the House for misleading the House in the statement that he just stated?

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** There is a point of order. What is your point of order, Mr. Kusugak?

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Speaker, my point of order is this: On many occasions this side of the House speaks with the Clerk of the Assembly in the absence of the Speaker's Office, and it has been normally assumed that that's speaking with the Speaker's Office. Mr. Speaker, I believe that there was no misleading of the House, at least one that was not purposely done, if that's how it's trying to be perceived. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. My apologies. As just stated by my clerk, it was mentioned through the clerk's office. Point taken. Thank you.

Oral questions. Time allotted for Question Period is now over. Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committee on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister responsible for Workers' Safety Compensation Commission, Ms. Gross.

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

**Document 314 – 6(2) – Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal's 2023 Annual Report**

**Document 315 – 6(2) – Workers' Safety and Compensation Commissioner's Annual Report for the year ending December 31**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to table two reports, the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal's 2023 Annual Report and the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commissioner's Annual Report for the year ending December 31.

**Speaker:** Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motion. Item 15, Notice 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 of the Whole we will take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 10:55 and Committee resumed at 11:22*

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

**Chairman (Mr. Malliki):** I would like to call this committee meeting in order. In the Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 51, Bill 53, Bill 54, and Bill 61. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of Bill 61, the 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** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement to deal with first Bill 61?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Minister, I would like to ask Minister Main do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, yes.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them in.

For the record, Minister Main, please introduce your officials and (interpretation) you can proceed, Minister.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me today Deputy Minister Megan Hunt and Acting Executive Director of Corporate Services, René Tanga.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify an issue raised yesterday. The mobile CT scanner that is in use at Qikiqtani General Hospital does not do dental scans. Dental scans would be done using a separate specialized piece of equipment. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We stopped yesterday, and we'll proceed with Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, all, Minister, and to your officials.

First off I would like to start off with Minister's opening comments. On page 4 the minister mentioned, near the bottom there:

"Baker Lake is the next community health centre that Health has approved for planning."

If I can get further clarification from the minister on exactly what he means by that. Does that mean it's going to the next step after pre-planning or is it going to go to financial management board? What does it by Health has approved for planning" Baker Lake's new health centre? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Baker Lake health centre is currently in the pre-planning stage, and so that's what the remarks reference. We approved it to proceed forward into pre-planning, and we're looking forward to putting forward requests in the coming years that would see that project advance. We know it is long overdue for the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman**: *Qujannamiik*. Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the pre-planning begun? I know it was allotted for this current fiscal year. Has it begun, and if so, is it completed? Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

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



(interpretation ends) my understanding is that the planning activities are underway within this current fiscal year. They are ongoing. I don't have an updated timeline for when that would be completed. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister, for the response. Currently the Baker Lake health centre replacement is in line for the next health centre capital project; however, the project does not appear in the department's five-year capital plan. When will Baker Lake's health centre project start? Will it be within the next five years? Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. It is a project that we would like to see advance as quickly as possible. The next opportunity for us to have it enter into the capital plan would be the next fiscal year.

We know that the health centre in Baker Lake is too small. We know it is impacting the residents and the staff. We also have work underway around detailed design for the Martha Talirug centre. It is being referred to as the MTC building. We currently have detailed design ongoing, and it's expected to be completed by January 2025 for that building, which would allow us to deliver more services in Baker Lake while we're working on the plans of a new health centre. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you again, Minister. Some departments including Health and Family Services provide detailed information on proposed minor capital expenditures over the next five years, not just for the upcoming fiscal year that is being voted on.

Given the minister's assurances that the Baker Lake replacement health centre project is next in line, why is it not included in the department's five-year capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The key issue is around access to resources. We are one of many GN departments, and we do put forward proposals for projects to advance, but we know that there are other capital needs within the government. So that is the root cause. It's around access to resources.

We are trying to move the project forward as fast as we can. (interpretation ends) Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister mentioned design phase for the Martha Talirug Centre renovations, MTC, is in the books that they are referring to. Can I have assurances that after the renovations of the MTC building is done, or designed and done, that it will not further delay Baker Lake's new health centre? Can I have that assurance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): *Qujannamiik*. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) it's not the department's intention to delay any new infrastructure that's due to the community. I would like to ask acting director of corporate services, René Tanga, to provide more information regarding the Martha Talirug project, if you'll allow. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*. Mr. Tanga.

**Mr. Tanga:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the member for the question. The project is ongoing and it's expected to be completed in January 2025. That will not delay the project if we are planning to have the renovation of the health care centre. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*. Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, his accent kind of threw me off. I had a bit of trouble understanding what he said. I think he said the renovations to the Martha Talirug centre is to begin 2025 and it will not delay the Baker Lake's new health centre. Did I hear correctly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*. Mr. Tanga, please repeat your answers.

**Mr. Tanga:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the design will be completed in January 2025 and that will not delay the renovation of the health centre. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik*. Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you again for re-saying your response. Now, the official just said that the design for the renovation of MTC is 2025, but he also said it would not delay the renovation of the health centre. Renovation and replacement

are two different things here. Can I get clarification, verification that Baker Lake is still going to get a new health centre replacement project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Tanga.

**Mr. Tanga:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, you're right, that is (indiscernible) the health care centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you Mr. Chairman, thank you. For the pre-planning and planning of new Baker Lake health centre the replacement project, who will be involved in the planning of it? Would it be local Baker Lake nurses? Would it be the hamlet of Baker Lake, maybe, perhaps, because of wind and snow issues? Municipal services. Who will be involved in the layout and design of Baker Lake's new health centre? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik,* Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So in terms of the development of the new health centre, I think the consultation activities that the member is asking about would be included in the detailed design process, and so when we look at Qikiqtarjuaq, that process is ongoing. The contractor assigned to do the detailed design consults with the community as part of the development. You know, it could include consulting with the hamlet, consulting with the public, existing health staff. We absolutely want to incorporate things like wind directions and snow buildup, because we know that it's the local knowledge and Inuit knowledge that helps us to set things up for success. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. I believe in Nunavut there are some health centres that have apartments above the health centre itself. Is that still being contemplated to be done in new health centres? And if so, is that being contemplated for Baker Lake's new health centre? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik.* Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's something that is being contemplated. I think the big concern, in terms of including staff housing as part of health centre projects has been around budget control and looking for ways to see projects built at the lowest possible cost. For a number of new health centre replacements there have been no housing units attached, but I think the big argument in

favour of attaching, or having housing as part of health centres is around working conditions, safety, as well as employee retention. And so we have heard directly from our staff that units attached to health centres are supportive factors, so we are taking a very close look at whether we shouldn't go back to having staff housing in the health centres. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you again, Minister. Moving along, regarding long-term care facilities in Nunavut elder care facilities and whatnot, Baker Lake did have one at the Martha Taliruq centre.

I'm wondering what is the Department of Health planning after Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay long-term care facilities are done with respect to other types of other long-term care facilities? Or perhaps, the minister mentioned before in this House, residential-type elder care facilities. Is the Department of Health planning anything more after the region facilities are done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik.* Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think right now we're focused on Cambridge, getting Rankin Inlet up and operating, getting Cambridge Bay moved into the construction phase. It's currently in design; Iqaluit, moving that project along. But we do recognize that there's a strong interest in more facilities along the lines of what the member is asking. And we see a strong alignment with our partners at Nunavut Tunngavik on this desire. We do have an elders working group. That is not focused just on long term care, specifically, but looking at the elders and seniors strategy and developing a shared implementation plan, or shared plan between ourselves and our partners at Nunavut Tunngavik as to the coming years and what we can work on together, and that could be related to infrastructure; it could be related to services. It really is a shared. We see a lot of alignment with Nunavut Tunngavik. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Minister. So it sounds like there's no real plan right now; understandable. There are three big projects you guys are trying to get done. It would be great if planning begins now, especially if we're going to have smaller facilities, hopefully in other communities, smaller communities, satellite or non-decentralized communities I should say. When can we expect to see something beginning, or discussions and whatnot, and would the regular members be invited to perhaps take part in discussions for after Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet long term facilities are done? Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik.* Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of what that process would look like and what the planning would look like, I thank the member for raising this.

We don't have a defined process, or we don't have a defined plan, in terms of here's the list of facilities we would like to see built. But we would make efforts to include regular MLAs in our consultations.

There's also been interest from some municipalities in this area, the member knows, and so it would be looking at communities that have a desire and a drive to see these types of facilities established.

We want to support communities right across the territory, and we went to look for ways, creative ways to get projects built and operated.

So we don't have a defined timeline for establishing that plan, but we're also focussing on the services side, in terms of home care and supports for families that could help elders age in place, stay in their home communities for longer currently. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you again, Minister. So regarding Nunavut Tunngavik, are they just consulting, or being part of discussions, or are they putting up any assets or cash or what have you to get more of our infrastructure built in Nunavut.

I do know from the mining sector, Nunavut Tunngavik themselves got over \$86 million from Agnico Eagle between 2017 and 2022, and Kivalliq Inuit Association, between the royalties and fees they have charged Agnico they have got over \$100 million between 2017 and 2022. So there is a lot of money in our Inuit orgs. So I'm looking for clarification with Nunavut Tunngavik taking part in these decisions. Are they just advisors, or saying it would be nice to have this there in this community, that there in that community, like is it Inuit org, or are they actually putting up cash or some sort of other actual tangible assets of some sort. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik.* Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman (interpretation ends) You know, I have to be careful about how I respond, because I can't speak for Nunavut Tunngavik, but I can say for the Department of Health on so many different levels, not just long term care, we see them as such an amazing partner to work with. It's been to exciting, some of the work we've been able to do together, health needs.

They have put forward an offer of operating some capital funds, to the tune of \$15 million. It's yet to be approved formally through executive council. But the offer that they have put forward is exciting, and it's one that we are pursuing with them.

That being said, it needs to get formal approval first before we could speak about the details of that funding. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you again, Minister. I do understand that you have to be careful with what you say before things are finalized. We understand that.

Moving along, still staying on elder care facilities, I've had many discussions with the minister when he was MLA, as well as when he first became a member of the Legislative Assembly, and he did support the idea of elder care facilities across Nunavut. I'm wondering, does the minister still share that same thought, that we can have elder care facilities right across Nunavut; not institutional, but other types of elder care facilities of some sort? Does the minister still share that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik.* Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman (interpretation) I can say that I fully support the senior strategy that was released through Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, within which it states the Government of Nunavut is committed to expanding elder care facilities and services in Nunavut communities. That commitment in there is around developing a long term plan to build more elder care facilities and spaces in communities with future population of elders in mind.

I know the strategy has come up during this sitting. There's a number of other items within it, including a reference to replacing health centres at a rate of three new community health centres every four to five years, and that is something I mention because it would help elders to age in place if we had better health centre infrastructure at the community level. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Minister. There seems to be a strong relationship between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik with respect to what Department of Health is trying to do. Is the Minister and the Department of Health open to the idea of other partners, aside from Nunavut Tunngavik that would help out, maybe in putting up infrastructure in Nunavut. I can't think of any other partners

that could be out there, but I'm sure there's other partners aside from Inuit organizations, if the department opens the idea of other partners taking part. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik.* Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We are open to additional partners, and I think municipalities are a key group of organizations that we could be working with more closely when there's an alignment. It's not blanket right across Nunavut. Each municipality is unique, and where a municipality has an interest in developing a piece of infrastructure, for example, an elders home type facility, that's something we would want to support.

I have to point out that we lack a defined policy or defined window through which that type of partnership could be set up, but it is something that we want to keep working on to be more collaborative on these things, and including working with the Inuit orgs and the federal government. (Interpretation) thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you Minister. So just for clarification and verification, there are no barriers with other partners taking part in perhaps building infrastructure in our communities. I'm looking just for that verification, there are no barriers, and if there are, what types of the barrier would be where a partner could help (indiscernible) the infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik.* Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I think we don't want there to be barriers, but there are I think the lack of a defined policy around partnerships for community organization is a barrier. In terms of what is our role, what would be the partner's role, how do we -- you know, what is our part of the deal, what is the partner's part of the deal.

So when we look at the existing elder care infrastructure in Nunavut, it's all Government of Nunavut owned. The Rankin Inlet facility is going to be the first one that's operated at that level of care by an Inuit development corporation. So things are moving in the direction of perhaps more inclusion of partners, but we still have work to do. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. Is a policy currently being drafted so that there's something we can work with, or are we going case by case basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman (interpretation ends) We have a policy being drafted at this point in time, but we do have work that's being advanced, in terms of building the capacity of our long term care staff.

We recognize the need for more long term care support on the administrative side with Rankin Inlet coming online. Looking at Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit, we need a long term care division, and that's something that we are seeking to advance on the operations side of our budgeting process. It's through that greater capacity within the department that we would be able to advance policy initiatives like the one the member is asking about. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): thank you. Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Minister and staff. My first question, Mr. Chair, the Rankin and health centre is getting old. How has the building been looked at, as it is old. That's my first question, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Sanirajak health centre is an older facility. We know there's some issues with it. Current work on the facility is prioritizing repairs to the ramp, as well as work to ensure interior accessibility. So we're working on bringing that project forward for the coming fiscal year to be part of 2025-2026. That's something that would help the facility stay up to standards. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps we're very welcoming in Sanikiluaq. We have old buildings there. How about then with Igloodik, I know, but is the building sufficient in size or need rectification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Igloodik health centre is lower on the list in terms of the prioritization of health centre replacements. However, like every facility in Nunavut, it needs regular maintenance and upgrades of equipment et cetera itself, to keep it operating properly. I don't have it all in front of me right now, but in terms of the equipment replacements, vehicle replacements,



repairs to the facility is ongoing through this budget, or would be if it's approved. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister mentioned, the Hall Beach ramp is one of the priorities. What year are we looking at, what timeline. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have the project scheduled to be completed within the upcoming fiscal year, so 2025-2026, and we're working with our partners at Community and Government Services on this, along with an engineering consultant, in terms of defining the work needed. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Qujannamiik.* Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps this was asked previously, however, I would like to hear a little more on whether or not you see in Nunavut health centre was any recognition being made on things that need to be replaced because of emergencies or expansions, can you elaborate more.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you, Mr. Chairman (interpretation ends) In terms of the space limitations and the problems with our existing health centres, they are quite concerning to the department and our staff, and that's why we're so passionate about trying to advance projects faster.

In terms of urgent needs, we are looking at fuel system upgrades for the Igloolik health centre. There's a construction contract that's been awarded, in terms of replacing the fuel tank at that facility. It was identified as not being up to standards. We're expecting that to be complete October 2025. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The health centre in Igloolik is a little more modern. I believe it was built in '90s or '80s. How then, when you look at these buildings and the problems associated with the buildings and the new buildings in Sanikiluaq, Qikiqtarjuaq... could Hall Beach be on the priority list? I know you answered that, but for the benefit of my constituents. The space is just too small. You mentioned

2025 and 2026 is part of the plans. Could there be an expansion and not just have renovation? Could you look into that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Sanirajak Health Centre is currently ranked seventh, in terms of the priority ranking. It's about accessing resources towards those upgrades and renovations that we've been focused.

We've been pushing quite hard on our federal partners at Indigenous Services Canada, telling them, look, we can potentially reduce our medical travel reliance and our spend, if we can make investments in infrastructure, and encouraging discussions to date. But it's all a question of how much resource we can access and when, in terms of the member's question. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask more questions. I'm not done, but looking at the time, Chairman, I would like to report progress on the review of health department, or consideration of health department.

**Chairman**: (No interpretation) I have motion on the floor to report progress, and this motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Motion carried. I will now rise to report progress to speaker. Officials, you may leave the witness table.

**Speaker** (Hon. Tony Akoak): Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Malliki.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee on Bill 56 and move to report progress.

**Speaker**: Is there a seconder? Mr. Hickes. 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 4:

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 51
  - Bill 52
  - Bill 53
  - Bill 54
  - Bill 55
  - Bill 56
  - Bill 58
  - Bill 61
  - Bill 65
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** This House stands adjourned until Monday, November 4, at 1:30 p.m.  
Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 12:02*

