

**NUNAVUT HANSARD**

**UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024**

**IQALUIT, NUNAVUT**

Hansard is not a verbatim transcript of the debates of the House. It is a transcript *in extenso*. In the case of repetition or for a number of other reasons, such as more specific identification, it is acceptable to make changes so that anyone reading Hansard will get the meaning of what was said. Those who edit Hansard have an obligation to make a sentence more readable since there is a difference between the spoken and the written word. *Debates*, September 20, 1983, p. 27299.

Beauchesne's 6th edition, citation 55

***Corrections:***

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PLEASE RETURN ANY CORRECTIONS TO THE CLERK OR DEPUTY CLERK**

**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*

**Craig Simailak**  
(Baker Lake)

**Officers**

Clerk

John Quirke

Clerk Assistant  
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk  
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms  
John Topic

Hansard Production  
Uqausirmit Uqausirmit Inc.

**Box 1200**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0**

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

**Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)**

## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1
Ministers' Statements.....	1
Members' Statements.....	4
Returns to Oral Questions .....	8
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	10
Oral Questions.....	12
Tabling of Documents .....	35
Notices of Motions .....	36
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	36
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	90
Orders of the Day .....	91

**A.**

**Daily References**

Monday, November 4, 2024..... 1

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

503 – 6(2) Support for Renewable Energy Projects (Main) ..... 1

504 – 6(2): Kimmirut Power Outage Response (Joanasie)..... 3

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

675 – 6(2): Lack of Resources for Elders in Amittuq (Kaernek)..... 4

676 – 6(2): Demolition of Old Health Centre in Baker Lake (Simailak)..... 4

677 – 6(2): The Passing of Murray Sinclair (Brewster)..... 5

678 – 6(2): Weekend Ping-Pong Tournament Participants from Arctic Bay  
(Akeegok D)..... 5

679 – 6(2): Appreciation of Kimmirut Residents during Power Outage  
(Joanasie) ..... 6

680 – 6(2): Diabetes Awareness Month (Akeegok P)..... 7

681 – 6(2): The Retirement of Bessie Omilgoetok (Gross) ..... 8

**D.**

**Returns to Oral Questions**

953 – 6(2): Protection of Inuit Art and Artists (Qavvik)..... 8

915 – 6(2): Boil Water Advisories (Main) ..... 9

**E.**

**Oral Questions**

1003 – 6(2): Follow-Up on Elder Van for Igloodik (Quassa) ..... 12

1004 – 6(2): Kugluktuk Power Plant (Anavilok)..... 13

1005 – 6(2): Nunavut Bureau of Statistics (Brewster)..... 14

1006 – 6(2): Reduced Social Services in the Kitikmeot (Quqqiaq)..... 17

1007 – 6(2): Employment for Nursing Graduates (Sammurtok) ..... 18

1008 – 6(2): Update of Violent Incident Database (Malliki) ..... 20

1009 – 6(2): Elders / Senior Strategy Action Plan (Hickes) ..... 22

1010 – 6(2): Emergency Update of Violent Incident Database (Savikataaq) ..... 24

1011 – 6(2): Search and Rescue Operations (Simailak)..... 25

1012 – 6(2): 911 (Lightstone) ..... 28

1013 – 6(2): Support for Elders (Kaermerk)..... 29

1014 – 6(2): Fiscal Situation (Brewster)..... 31

**F.**

**Tabling of Documents**

316 – 6(2): Nunavut Law Foundation 2022 Annual Report (Akeeagok D)..... 35

317 – 6(2): Early Learning and Child Care Strategic Action Plan for  
Inclusion and Equity 2023-2024 Annual Report (Gross)..... 35

318 – 6(2): Department of Education 2022-2023 Annual Report (Gross)..... 35

319 – 6(2): 2024-2033 Early Learning and Child Care Quality Framework  
Action Plan (Gross)..... 35



**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, November 4, 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, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker's Statement**

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anavilok, for prayer. Those watching on TV, on the radio, welcome. Those listening, welcome. And all of Nunavummiut. Please feel welcome. Hon. Government House leader, Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good day, colleagues, and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker I wish to advise members that the Hon. Margaret Nakasuk will absent from the House for the remainder of the fall sitting, due to medical reasons. Mr. Speaker, and in her absence Minister David Akeeagok will be Acting Minister for Family Services and I will be Acting Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 503 – 6(2) Support for Renewable Energy Projects**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, members. (interpretation ends) Before I start my statement, just a very quick thank you, *Qujannamiik* to all the residents from Kimmirut as well as all the hard-working staff all around.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I'm excited to share developments in several collaborative projects highlighting the corporation's commitment to investing in sustainable energy production in Nunavut. In December 2023 the Qulliq Energy Corporation strengthened its renewable energy team by hiring additional staff and underlining our commitment to expanding the delivery of our renewable energy programs. Last month we reached a significant milestone by signing a memorandum of understanding with Nukkik Corporation. This partnership sets the foundation for advancing the development of clean energy projects like the Kivalliq Hydro Fibre Link. It represents a collaborative approach that benefits our economy and the well-being of our communities.

Under Qulliq Energy Corporation's Independent Power Producer Program, Inuit organizations and municipalities can own and operate community-scale installations that support their communities' energy needs. Since Qulliq Energy Corporation began implementing the program in 2022, the corporation has been working with proponents of two large-scale projects, one in Naujaat and one in Sanikiluaq.

In September Kivalliq Alternative Energy announced the launch of the Ikayuut solar energy project in Naujaat. Qulliq Energy Corporation is negotiating an energy purchase agreement to support this project. Meanwhile, the Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation continues to advance the Sanikiluaq wind energy projects towards construction, with the completion of an access road this past summer.

Qulliq Energy Corporation also takes great pride in supporting commercial and institutional power producer projects that pioneer localized, smaller-scale approaches to renewable energy generation. Since the program's launch we have four approved community and institutional power producer clients, and ten more within the application review process.

Additionally the net metering program currently has approved 15 residential and 15 municipal customers; 22 power generation systems have been installed in 13 communities across Nunavut. This program supports environmental stewardship by encouraging individual and community efforts to produce clean electricity, and receiving credits for surplus energy sent to QEC's grids.

Mr. Speaker, these initiatives demonstrate our dedication to meeting the energy needs of our territory, while aligning with our government's commitment to sustainability and community empowerment. Qulliq Energy continues to explore other renewable energy opportunities, such as hydro-electricity and geothermal potential. I look forward to sharing further updates as we continue toward a cleaner, more sustainable energy future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*



**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister for Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

**Minister's Statement 504 – 6(2): Kimmirut Power Outage Response**

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to the importance of emergency preparedness and the response to the recent power outage in Kimmirut. On Thursday, Mr. Speaker, October 31, 2024, the power supply in Kimmirut failed. While Qulliq Energy Corporation investigated the cause of the outage, local leaders took immediate measures to ensure residents had access to a warming centre at the Qaqqalik school.

(interpretation ends) Given the nature of the outage and the uncertainty of the timeline for restoration of services, my department adopted a stepped approach, which began with an immediate assessment of existing resources available in the community to help manage the impacts of the outage in the short term. Our immediate measures include engaging the municipality, activation of backup power sources on Government of Nunavut facilities, and initiating an assessment of risks to critical infrastructure in the community.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 1, my department escalated its response by providing interim power and restoring heat to the municipal water treatment plant to ensure water was available at the warming centre and for fire protection purposes.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, I declared a territorial state of emergency for Kimmirut, to allow my department to advance emergency measures to supplement local capacity and to protect people and property in Kimmirut. My department engaged local representatives, Government of Nunavut departments, and federal agencies to advance a plan that included:

- Securing commercial air crafts to transport repair crews and equipment;
- Facilitating discussions between local and territorial agencies to identify risks and service needs;
- Identification of vulnerable individuals requiring special care during the outage;
- Prioritization of freight to ensure medicine, dry goods, and food for the warming centre were not delayed;
- Deployment of emergency generators and equipment to protect Government of Nunavut and local housing assets;
- Working with local contractors and authorities having jurisdiction to ensure safe activation and deactivation of backup power systems;
- Engaging with Public Safety Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard to address mid- to long-term power generation needs in the community.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this emergency in Kimmirut highlights the importance of emergency preparedness in our homes and our communities, and underscores the need for resilient critical infrastructure in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the power has been restored to Kimmirut. My department will continue to work with our partners at Qulliq Energy Corporation to enhance our capacity to respond to these incidents effectively, and to keep Nunavummiut safe. I would like to acknowledge the people of Kimmirut and the numerous agencies and corporate partners who supported the response to the power outage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Item 3, Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

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

#### **Member's Statement 675 – 6(2): Lack of Resources for Elders in Amittuq**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Amittummiut, Nunavummiut, welcome. Today I rise for the elders especially in Sanirajak and Igloolik that I represent to this House. When we started our first session in Cambridge Bay and we planned to work under Katujjiluta and working together, and the issue of elder care, elder housing was a priority when we met. We all recall the work we wanted to do as a priority.

So today I rise. In Hall Beach there is no facility for elder services. We need services in our community. The elders must feel that they are being neglected. In terms of capital projects we are low on the list, and I hear our elders, I hear and I grew up with elders. I am concerned. We have to respect elders. I rise today to honour our elders. We have a large territory and we have to be concerned for our elders in Amittuq and that is who I stand up for, plus our youth to be in a safe environment. Our elders, if they weren't around, we wouldn't be in this House and I speak the truth, for they started the work where I too feel. During Question Period I will ask Minister responsible for Elders questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Member's Statement 676 – 6(2): Demolition of Old Health Centre in Baker Lake**

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Constituents of Baker Lake-mmiut, thank you.

Baker Lake, our old health centre, the yellow one that's been abandoned due to its age, it is going to be demolished. I would like to warn Baker Lake to be Baker Lake-mmiut, they are going to L. Hayers (ph) Work will be working on the project, heavy equipment loaders. It will be a busy spot, to be aware. And thank our hamlet and the councillors and the currently councillors who for long time requested that the old hospital be demolished. I thank the Minister of Community and Government Services working with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Member's Statement. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

**Member's Statement 677 – 6(2): The Passing of Murray Sinclair**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon, everyone. Shortly before lunch I learned that the Hon. Murray Sinclair has passed away today, and I would just like to pay tribute to a man who through decades of work has impacted all Indigenous people and Canadians across the country.

His traditional name, his Ojibway name was Mizanay Gheezhik, which means "The One Who Speaks Pictures in the Sky."

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sinclair's work as the Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission helped many, many Indigenous people, including Inuit, to tell the stories of their experiences in residential schools, to create knowledge not just for Canadians, but importantly for family members, because what we know is that many survivors of residential school did not start to speak about their experience until the Truth and Reconciliation Commission began. His legacy truly is about those children who I imagine laid in bed peering up at the sky and wishing for better things for themselves.

Through that work, Mr. Speaker, many Canadians are on the path to reconciliation, as are many families who have been torn apart by the impacts of residential schools. I know that there will be tributes flowing in over the coming days, and I just wanted to acknowledge the impact that the Hon. Murray Sinclair had on Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 678 – 6(2): Weekend Ping-Pong Tournament  
Participants from Arctic Bay**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Sinclair and his family.

Mr. Speaker, at the weekend we had some tournaments happening here in Iqaluit. There was a ping-pong tournaments and I would also like to thank Trudy Qaunaq, representing women, and she came in third. There was a boy and a girl who also got medals and Keegan Phillip Quammaniq was the first among the men, and came in third during those tournaments.

Their coach, Cody Hughes Mr. Joanasie recognized. And this year he also won the coach of the year in 2024. I would like to very proudly recognize these individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 679 – 6(2): Appreciation of Kimmirut Residents during Power Outage**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take off my Minister's hat and make a statement as a regular member.

I would like to thank the people of Kimmirut, Maliktoo Lyta, the major of Kimmirut and the SAO, Martha Ikkidluak; also the hamlet council, and every individual who works for the hamlet. They worked very hard during trying times when they had no power for a number of days.

I would also like to thank Mr. Flynn for the use of the school and also all his staff, who made sure that everybody had a safe place to go.

And the crew from the nurse, and all the staff that work there; the housing association, Cole Chapman and his employees; Mr. Akavak from the Inuit association, Rosie Akavak, who was a tremendous help during that time. Also the managers at the Northern store and the Co-op, and also the pilots, the cargo handlers and Ken Borek, who came in and worked the best they can during that time.

Mr. Speaker, I would first of all, most of all like to thank Jawlie Mingeriak from Cape Dorset, Qulliq Energy Corporation, and the electrician and other tradespeople who helped restore the power in the community.

I would like to thank my colleagues and other people of Nunavut who gave their full support to the people of Kimmirut. The power has been restored, but Mr. Speaker, I would first of all like to thank the people of Kimmirut who were very patient, and I

would like to recognize them for their strength. And I thank all the people of Kimmirut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Member statement. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

### **Member's Statement 680 – (6(2): Diabetes Awareness Month**

**Hon. P.J. Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague, who did a tremendous job during the power outage in Kimmirut. And Mr. Sinclair, I send my condolences to his family.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on November 1, as we are all aware, is the start of Diabetes Awareness Month. I had the opportunity to meet with Molly Hayward, who have been living with Type 1 Diabetes for six years, really to learn more about the disease during that meeting.

Type 1 Diabetes is an auto-immune disease, where the body attacks the cells in the pancreas for responsible for making insulin. Once those cells are gone, you cannot survive without external sources of insulin. Type 1 diabetics must take insulin through injections several times a day.

Molly will be in Ottawa this week, with a breakthrough T1D Kids For a Cure lobby day, Mr. Speaker. She will join 16 other youth living with Type 1 Diabetes to support from the federal politicians on a pre-budget submission seeking 15 million from the Government of Canada for the investments and research for the cures.

Mr. Speaker, the advocacy is also seeking support for the development of mental health supports. I would like to recognize people living with diabetes are at higher risk for mental health complications, whether it's anxiety, depression, eating disorders, or diabetes distress, a mental health condition that is specific to diabetes and the negative feelings of guilt and feeling overwhelmed that could come with the burden of the disease management.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the incredible leadership that Molly has demonstrated, and really a true champion and a strong voice not only for Nunavummiut but for Canada, and I really wish them well while they are in Ottawa during their campaign. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 681 – 6(2): The Retirement of Bessie Omilgoetok**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to those here in the House with us today and those in Cambridge Bay. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to share my sentiment about Mr. Sinclair and condolences to his whole family, and those who were affected, and thank him for his work and contributions to bringing Indigenous advocacy and our rights to where we stand today, Mr. Speaker.

But Mr. Speaker, on the subject of elders and honouring them, I would like to pay a special tribute to an elder who is also a loved one of mine. Her name is Bessie Omilgoetok. She has just turned 85 on Friday, and the week prior she had just retired at her ripe old age as an Elder in Residence from the Pitquhirnikkut Ilihautiniq, the Kitikmeot Heritage Society in Cambridge Bay, where she served as an Elder in Residence since I believe 2010. She has been contributing her knowledge, her wisdom, her advocacy for her people through the work that she does, her oral history, and as a chair of the organization.

She served in many capacities for our community, but I know she had a hard decision to make to go into retirement mode, and I know it's going to be an adjustment for her, but I know she will be busy, as she always is, and she's busy still to this day sewing and creating garments and passing things on to her loved ones through her creations.

But I wish her all the best as she goes into this fine young new chapter of her life, and wish her all the best. Her daughter Eva works with us here as an interpreter, and I know we've shared a lot together as former employees, and I just can't thank her enough for the work that she contributed to and the work that will still continue through what she shared. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions****Question 953 – 6(2): Protection of Inuit Art and Artists**

**Hon. Daniel Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Minister of Culture and Heritage to supplement a response I provided on Tuesday, October 29, 2024 from the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa.

Mr. Speaker, Minister Akeagok and I share our colleague's commitment to Tunnganarniq and the needs of Nunavut artists. This led to the creation of a shared 2024-

2025 business plan priority between the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and my department to clarify and align support for the arts.

Mr. Speaker, this year our government published clear regulations, applying the mandates of the different departments, the establishment of departments and responsibility for acts and regulations. Under those regulations there are two mandates most relevant to art sales and artist resale rights:

# responsibilities for cultural industries; and # responsibility for national and international trade regulations.

Mr. Speaker, both of those roles are assigned to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. The Department of Culture and Heritage is not lead on the arts file, and unlike the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, has no dedicated arts staff.

Mr. Speaker, our departments continue to collaborate to support artists, and are committed to working with Nunavummiut artists, the federal government, and organizations that support artists' rights.

Minister Akeegok provided a further update in his statement on Thursday, October 31, 2024.

Mr. Speaker, through our grants and contributions programs, my department can support in-territory cultural workshops, including those focused on preserving and safeguarding the unique heritage and expression. I strongly encourage interested community organizations to apply to our established grants and contributions programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Health, Minister Main.

### **Question 915 – 6(2): Boil Water Advisories**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to supplement an answer I gave during oral question period on October 24, 2024. The member for Aivilik requested an update on how many boil-water advisories have been issued in Nunavut in 2024, and how many are still in effect.

For 2024 we have had 12 boil-water advisories. Sanikiluaq is not included, as it is on a long-term do-not-consume order. They are:

- One, Baker Lake, October, still active;
- One, Igloodik, July, still active;
- One, Arctic Bay, August, still active;

- One, Coral Harbour, October, still active;
- One, Rankin Inlet;
- One, Kimmirut;
- One in Arviat;
- Two in Pond Inlet;
- One in Baker Lake;
- One in Whale Cove; and
- One in Cambridge Bay.

The Sanikiluaq do-not-consume order has been in place since 2016.

For the boil-water advisories the timeline is often dependent on weather. Both Arctic Bay and Igloolik have high turbidity, and are not expected to go down until the water lake freezes. Baker Lake has high turbidity and will go down depending on weather. Coral Harbour is due to operational issues. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for recognizing me. I am very happy to see that we have so many visitors today. First of all I would like to recognize people from my constituency, Anne Crawford and Letia Obed.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize some very special guests we have here in this gallery. Today we have members of the 2024 and the 2025 parliamentary intern program here joining us here today, and I would like to welcome, and I apologize if I don't say their names properly:

- Anjana Balachandran, who is from Nepean, Ontario;
- Quinlan Cho, who is from Toronto, Ontario;
- Abinash Kaur Dhaliwal, who is from Abbotsford, BC;
- Noah Fon, who is from, Montreal, Quebec;
- Christina Koikaran, who is from Montreal, Quebec;
- Jessie Lafontaine, who is from Kelowna, BC;
- Justin Langan, who is from Swan River, Manitoba;
- Michelle Lewis, who is from Toronto, Ontario;
- Maya Mohammed, who is from Fort McMurray, Alberta;
- Justin Myers, who is from Barrie, Ontario;
- and Emily Wheaton, who is from Moncton, New Brunswick.



Mr. Speaker, the Parliamentary Interns Program is non-partisan initiative run by the House of Commons, offering young professionals and recent grads the opportunity to learn hands-on experience in Parliament. For ten months, interns worked directly with a Member of Parliament, assisting either with research, with speech writing, or contributing to parliamentary activities. They also participate in legislative study tours in Quebec, Brussels, the United Kingdom, the United States, and right here in beautiful Nunavut.

It is my pleasure to welcome them all to our beautiful territory and to your House, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague already recognized a great friend of mine, so I would like to recognize her as well, Anne Crawford, who has been very nice to me since the day I met to her up to this day today, Mr. Speaker. So I would like for her to be welcome in the House, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize my friend Letia Obed to the House. It's always nice to see her here. And as well to recognize Anne Crawford, who has been an excellent friend and confidante over the years.

I would just like to say, Mr. Speaker, I admire Anne for everything that she does to help out the little people in Nunavut. And I don't just mean little like me, I mean all the people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral questions. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

**Item 6: Oral Questions****Question 1003 – 6(2): Follow-Up on Elder Van for Igloolik**

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the premier and Minister responsible for Seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on the government's commitment as stated on page 35 of the Elders and Seniors Strategy to provide a wheelchair-accessible elders van in every community of Nunavut.

We are currently debating the government's capital estimates for 2025-2026, and it is not clear to me whether any capital funds are being allocated for the next round of elder van purchases, so that they can be included on next year's sea lift. Can the premier provide further detail on where the funding for the purchase of the next set of elder vans will come from? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleague for that question. As I had noted, the mechanism that was used to secure the five vans for the elder vans was through a grants and contribution payment directive, the Directive 801, to secure that.

To the member's question, the pilot will guide that next work moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I have already indicated, Igloolik would very much benefit from an elders van to ensure that our elders have safe transportation when travelling around the community. When the promise of elder vans was first made, it seems that municipalities and other organizations may have been caught a bit by surprise. Can the premier tell us when the next call-out will be for communities to express their interest in receiving an elders van? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague for pushing hard on behalf of the elders from day one until today, and she has always wanted to be involved.

These first vehicles are just the beginning, and we are learning from it and I still cannot say when we will announce the next delivery or next order for elder vans. We're going to learn from the first batch. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the policy respecting the purchase operation, storage, and insuring of elders vans may need some work. However, as the government has already committed close to \$1 million for Northern Future Skills Development to purchase five elder vans for five communities, there must be a basic set of criteria that had to be met. Can the premier clearly indicate what specific criteria will be used to select the next communities to receive elders vans. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am grateful, along with my colleague, for the other question she had about the same matter. Like I stated, we will have to see how the first batch goes, and we will try and keep everyone informed. After we learn from the five first communities, we know that all the other communities want the same thing and we will start off with the first five and learn from it and then we will be able to describe the process as to how we get them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 1004 – 6(2): Kugluktuk Power Plant**

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I feel for the people of Kimmirut. It has been a difficult time for the community. Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of Kugluktuk's new power plant. When I raised this issue earlier this year during the Legislative Assembly's winter sitting, the minister confirmed that the Qulliq Energy Corporation had "received approval to enter into contract negotiations with Kitikmeot Corporation to enable this project to progress."

When I raised this issue at the beginning of our current fall sitting, the minister indicated that Qulliq Energy Corporation was still in discussions with the corporation. Can the minister provide a clear timeline today for when these discussions are expected to be completed. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague for asking questions about that. I know Kugluktuk has been expecting a new power plant for quite a while now, and looking at the progress, our discussions are progressing. It's not like we're trying to be slow; we know the process has been slow, but it is progressing and we've signed a memorandum of understanding with them. We've been following that and holding discussions.

In 2024, the agreement will continue and on to the new year, or before we reach the new year, we hope to see an agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): (no interpretation)

Mr. Speaker, when I asked the minister to commit to providing a copy of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's final contract with the Kitikmeot Corporation to my office and the municipal council of Kugluktuk, the minister stated that he would have to "put in a request before he would be able to answer that question."

Mr. Speaker, this information will be important so that the community is aware of what contractual requirements are in place concerning such matters as Inuit labour requirements on the project. Can the minister clearly explain who has the authority to provide this information to my office and the municipal council of Kugluktuk. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To respond to the question, I'll take it as noted and I'll return this matter to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 1005 – 6(2): Nunavut Bureau of Statistics**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Premier, Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Speaker, almost exactly one year ago my colleague from Iqaluit-Tasiluk asked about the staffing status at the Nunavut Statistics Bureau. For many years the Bureau of Statistics was located in the community of Pangnirtung and there were a number of staff working in that office. Last year, the premier indicated that he had moved the office and its positions to Iqaluit.

In November of 2023 only one position in the office was filled. Mr. Speaker can the premier provide an update on the current status of staffing at Nunavut's Bureau of Statistics. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to be able to note that we have hired the director for that very important work. Right now there are two of the six positions filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's really concerning to me that there's still over a 50 percent vacancy rate there.

Mr. Speaker, much of the statistical information on the government's website is very out of date. Even looking for something as basic as population data reveals contradictory information, as there are several documents published on the government's website.

We all know that funding allocations are often based on per-capital formulas, and having reliable and well-analyzed data, especially disaggregated data, can support efforts to access dedicated funding for programs aimed at marginalized funds, and those sectors of our population that are experiencing inequalities or specific challenges.

As my colleagues will be aware, Mr. Speaker, I have a keen interest in health data and the importance of disseminating clear, up-to-date information, so that the public, the residents of Nunavut can make clear and informed decisions about their health and activities that may impact their health status.

Can the premier describe what specific efforts are currently underway to ensure that detailed, accurate and up-to-date Nunavut statistics are made publicly available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

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

Mr. Speaker, I think we all agree and recognize the importance of having the relevant and accurate information, and as such, I have been working extremely hard to fill the

position. And as I had noted, I am very pleased to be able to mention that we have since hired the director and are now moving towards filling the remainder of the team.

As such we are really looking at some of the very exciting work that we are currently undertaking, including the website, but also getting up to date with statutory reports in terms of reporting work that we've done to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That response sort of speaks partially to my final question. Mr. Speaker, this past April the Representative for Children and Youth appeared before a committee of this Assembly, and one of the issues discussed was the lack of up-to-date and reliable statistics relating to Nunavut residents and the government services being provided to them.

The government's response, the Standing Committee's report recommendation respecting requests for information and data, noted the time commitment required by departmental staff to fulfil the increasingly detailed and expansive requests for data.

Mr. Speaker, government staff, especially in the Departments of Education, Health, Family Services and Justice need to focus on providing services.

Nunavut's Bureau of Statistics needs to focus on providing data. Will the premier commit to reporting back to this House on his efforts to ensure that Nunavut's Bureau of Statistics is staffed, active, and producing relevant and current data for the benefit of Nunavummiut as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

**Hon. P.J. Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I want to thank my colleague for that question and I very much look forward to doing exactly that. Mr. Speaker, just most recently, our new director along with our sister government in the NWT had the opportunity to meet right in Yellowknife to learn from their structures and their resources. We were very fortunate to have Stats Canada there as well to look at areas where we could make significant improvements.

I very much look forward to updating the House in terms of the work that is already happening, but also the work that will be forthcoming as we start looking at strategic data collections, whether it's health care, whether it's housing, among other areas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 1006 – 6(2): Reduced Social Services in the Kitikmeot**

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

Mr. Speaker, on October 29 the Department of Family Services announced a reduction in services from the Homelessness Initiative Program in the Kitikmeot region. Mr. Speaker, the issue of homelessness is a very concerning one, especially considering the cold, dark, winter months ahead.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain how many staff are employed to provide homelessness relief services in the Kitikmeot and whether these staff have been moved to fill other positions within the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Member of Family Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker please bear with me; I'm trying to catch up on my acting role. The number of positions that my colleague just mentioned, I don't have the exact numbers, but I want to assure the member that none of those positions are being moved. They are working to fill those vacancies. The Department of Family Services is taking great strides into trying to get their recruitment done at all levels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was also recently announced that residents of Gjoa Haven would be experiencing a reduction in Social Services due to staff shortages, and that emergency services would be provided remotely from the community of Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Social Services workers who put in long hours to ensure that Nunavummiut have access to the necessary services. Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe what factors are leading to these staff shortages, and how the department works to ensure that those staff who end up doing double duty don't burn out from extra work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I share that concern that my colleague has in terms of staff burnout, and the Department of Family Services is trying to make sure that there are staff in these positions and is trying to avoid remote work as much as possible, as services are needed in every of our communities. That's something that the Family Services department is trying to do, is ensure that there are

warm bodies in those positions. That way the work that is being tasked by us will be delivered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the work that front-line Social Services workers do to help and support some of our most vulnerable Nunavut residents. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to hear the minister for Nunavut Arctic College announced the recent graduate from the Registered Practical Nurse Program. It is always very good to hear when our own Nunavut residents qualify in these much-needed professions.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update on how the Department of Family Services works with the college to recruit, train, and hire more Nunavummiut to work in the social work profession. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week my colleague Minister Nakashuk made a minister's statement that 11 social workers have graduated with the first and second cohorts, and they are all Inuit. She further announced that the third cohort was going to have 11 more Inuit in that program, so very exciting programs that she has embarked as Minister of Family Services, along with Minister of Arctic College and both are through her initiatives that these social workers are now being trained and educated and hired in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 1007 – 6(2): Employment for Nursing Graduates**

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, on November 1 the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College announced the four recent graduates of the college's practical nursing program. I extend my wholehearted congratulations to Nunavut's newest registered practical nurses.

Can the minister provide an update on what steps his department takes to ensure that employment opportunities are available to Nunavut trained registered practical nurses as soon as they receive their licences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question. It is incredible to see the graduates from that program and it's a really exciting step for Nunavut to have this licensed practical nursing program.

Department of Health has set up a safe and systematic process to support successful integration of nursing graduates into the health care workforce and also preserve the quality of health care services. We offer a mentorship through the graduate nursing residents program to Nunavut Arctic College nursing graduates, and the goal of this mentorship program is to enable new graduates to consolidate their skills and knowledge, acquire practical experience, and increase their competence. Following successful completion of the mentorship graduates can apply and interview for nursing competitions. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it would be a wonderful opportunity to have these registered practical nurses working in the community of Rankin Inlet. Having home-grown Nunavut health workers on staff would not only reduce the reliance on contract nurses, but it would entrench representation of Inuit in our workforce. The Minister for Nunavut Arctic College addressed the role of the Nunavut Implementation Panel in the funding to design and deliver the college's practical nursing program. Can the minister describe how his department works with Nunavut Arctic College to prepare nursing candidates for potential positions within the Nunavut health care system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member again for a chance to speak on this important topic. So in terms of the graduate nursing residents program, we have a working group that meets every year to plan out the placements for the graduates from Nunavut Arctic College's Registered Nurse program as well as ensuring employment opportunities are in place for the licensed practical nurse graduates. And so we also that same group also assigns summer employment positions for current Nunavut Arctic College nursing students.

This is important work. We understand how it can be difficult for students to go from schooling into the workforce. Department of Health is committed to working closely with Arctic College to identify barriers and help the students, or the potential employees, get over those barriers. One of the barriers we are facing, in terms of the graduate nursing residency program, has been difficulty in obtaining staff housing. But we are committed to finding solutions, and we'll keep working with the Qulliq Energy. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regards to the practical nurses that graduated in Rankin Inlet, I don't think that they have got an issue with housing. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that Nunavut's new registered practical nurses are all more than willing to start working in the new profession. They all have completed the technical, clinical, and practical requirements for their role. When will the minister be notifying the four new Inuit registered practical nurses that they will be hired to work in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question my fellow member. (interpretation ends) In terms of those licensed practical nursing graduates we are respecting their ability to chart their own path. Of course, if it was up to the Department of Health, we would take all the graduates and make sure they're employed within our facilities, but there are other opportunities for nursing grads beyond Department of Health. For example, there can be employment opportunities in the private sector. There can be employment opportunities within the Department of Justice, and so on. So we are connected with the students, the graduates. We have made information available to them. So we'll continue to support the graduates and of course advocate for them to become employees of the Department of Health.

A very sincere congratulations to all the students, and I look forward to seeing more graduates of that same program in the future. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 1008 – 6(2): Update of Violent Incident Database**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues will know, I have expressed deep concern regarding incidents of bullying and violence in our schools. Can the minister provide an update on implementation utilized for her department violent incident database. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. With the Department of Education we have worked to go into the member's community earlier this year to work specifically with the school and the staff and the

students and had counselling sessions and provided support to the students and the school community there.

In terms of the violent incident database, we're still working to collect that information, and I hope that I can have something to report by our next session. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It has been three years I have been asking these questions. Up to today it's our last year for being elected MLA for this Sixth Assembly. Mr. Speaker, when a government department collects information on issues that impact its staff and residents that are receiving service from those staff, it is important that the data can be used to inform the development of policies and programs. Can the minister describe what change, if any, has been made in response to this information collected regarding violent incidents in Nunavut schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question.

Our use of the database and collecting information has been a top priority for the department, and also the Nunavut Teachers Association, and we have incidents that have been reported and filed at the school level.

As of October 2022 an online reporting system has been available and we're working in collaboration with the Nunavut Teachers Association under the Safe Schools Antiviolence Committee.

As of last year in September, we also have been working to roll out this information within the principals report that will help us get the statistics.

The last thing, Mr. Speaker, is that we encourage the use and promote the use of the online reporting system for us to allow more tracking of the data and we have some regions using the database more effectively and others that weren't. We want to make sure that they're all using the database so that we can get accurate information and data. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for the response. It would be good that students or staff in school due to violence in schools. There are a number of students that (no interpretation)

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, an article in the media last summer noted that the department's violence tracking system was being underutilized. There was even a suggestion that these type of incidents are so frequent that violent behaviour is becoming normalized in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, there are too many situations where the failure to address real, very real concerns is being considered as, I quote, normal. We should be working harder to correct these situations, not accept them.

Will the Minister commit to working more closely with Nunavut Teachers Association to implement the violence tracking system to explore more ways to increase the safety of our staff and students in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for his advocacy on bullying and the work that is around this area using the database. We do work closely with Nunavut Teachers Association, but I will encourage the department to continue with the work that they do and keep us up to date with that information. If anything does progress with the database before the next session, I'll be sure to share. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 1009 – 6(2): Elders / Senior Strategy Action Plan**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions again to the Minister responsible for Seniors. Mr. Speaker, Wednesday of last week during the back-and-forth dialogue with the minister and I, the minister stated, and I'll quote from the record:

"At this point in time we just passed it a few weeks ago and as the action items and business planning and the items that are identified start rolling out, I will be sure to share with the members."

Mr. Speaker, this is still in relation to the elders and seniors strategy that was tabled almost 35 weeks ago. Mr. Speaker, in what format will we in the House and members of the public be updated on progress? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you for the member. Regarding elders, we have made statements in keeping people informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister also provided a couple of examples last week of some actions being looked at to implement the strategy, such as increasing family visits and expanding home care. Mr. Speaker, if we had access to the government action plan, or as the minister has called it, an internal implementation plan we could follow along and see how other initiatives get attention. Will the minister commit to completing and tabling an action plan for the Elders and Seniors Strategy before the end of the calendar year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and again I want to thank my colleague for that question. As I had noted, the actions that are laid out in the strategy are very clear and those are what is guiding our work regarding the strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not trying to be argumentative here, but as members of the Legislative Assembly and the public, how are we supposed to follow along on progress with different initiatives and priorities with the implementation of the Elders and Seniors Strategy?

Mr. Speaker, we have been very clear in this House on a number of different strategies that to make a strategy implementation work it needs an action plan. We don't even know what other priorities or program is considering to assist in implementation of this strategy.

I will ask one final time, Mr. Speaker: Will the minister commit to creating and tabling an action plan associated with the Elders and Seniors Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I want to thank my colleague for that question. As I had just indicated, the action items are already in the strategy in terms

of what items we are hoping to do, and I am very committed to making sure that we provide updates to the house as every progress is being made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 1010 – 6(2): Emergency Update of Violent Incident Database**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon to the people of Arviat. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the minister of Arctic airports. Mr. Speaker, we have heard about the power outage lately in Kimmirut, and I'm not sure if airport lighting was the issue, or not, but I would like to revisit airport lighting and backup generators.

Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware back last I believe January, Arviat had a big, long blizzard, and there was power out in many, I think it was 44 houses had no power for approximately a week. The gas station. But the one I'm going to ask the minister about the airport. At that time I had questioned the minister what are his plans for a backup generator for Arviat airport.

I'll ask the minister: Are there any plans to put a backup generator at the Arviat airport? It's not just for lights. You also have the airport communicator. The pilots have to be able to get current weather conditions and speak to the CARS operator. What are the plans for a backup generator for Arviat airport? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Mr. Speaker, the Kimmirut airport lighting was being able to be turned on because we are building a new airport terminal, and every new airport terminal will have a backup generator for any future airports that are being built. And for Arviat, yes, we will take that into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, taking something into consideration is quite different from making a commitment to actually carry the work out and do the necessary purchase.

Mr. Speaker, we see a lot of commercials on TV this time of the year for portable generators that automatically light up that people could buy and install in their house. When the power goes off, the generator goes on. It's a common practice. Same with all the schools in Nunavut. I believe most schools at least one school in each community has a backup generator.

Mr. Speaker one of the oldest schools in Arviat does have a backup generator and it was built many, many years ago.

I would like to ask the minister again: What is his commitment into installing a backup generator in Arviat, which is sometime second, sometimes third, biggest community in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our department are planning for the current airport that is there is that we are purchasing a portable generator that can be installed for our ATVs, and that includes Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when you give an inch you just keep asking for more, so first he was going to look into it, now it's in the plan. So will it be purchased and installed before, I don't know, before summer? What's the timeline to purchase and install the backup generator for Arctic airports in Arviat? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want this to continue, but what I will commit is that it will be appearing on the Economic Development and Transportation capital plans very shortly in this House, and I'll have officials, and my officials are the ones that do the purchasing on these equipment. So I'll say please stay tuned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 1011 – 6(2): Search and Rescue Operations**

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, and it's regarding emergency management services, search and rescue operations to be exact. It's regarding some of the policies that they have in place.

Mr. Speaker, this past summer in the month of August, actually August, 19 a search-and-rescue operation began for an overdue hunter. Search and rescue operations began, were

performed 24 hours a day, seven, eight days, to be exact, actually. Luckily on the eighth day the hunter was found alive and well.

It's regarding the policies that I want to touch up on. Just two days prior to the missing hunter being found, the hunter's ATV Honda and tent were found by aerial searchers; however, on the last day that he was found, on the day he was found was going to be the last day for aerial support, aircraft and helicopters, support from the emergency management services. I'm wondering currently what policy is being followed with regards to how long Community and Government Services will provide support with search and rescue operations in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague for bringing this topic up once again. I want to thank all the first responders in our search and rescue crews at the local level that take a big leap when searches are coordinated.

Mr. Speaker, my department's emergency management we do have a policy in place and does specify around the level of support that are provided to the local level, and as and when needed we do also engage our federal counterparts for aerial support and other resources that can be made available.

Mr. Speaker, I had done a minister's statement regarding search and rescue that we'll be bringing in all the agencies, including community members from every community that are involved with search and rescue. I have stated before we are reviewing our policies around this and are looking at making enhancements and improvements to the policy, because it has been a number of years since it was first established. So things have changed and as a result we are wanting to make improvements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, but I didn't get a response to exactly I didn't get an answer to my question, because I did ask currently what policy is being followed by Emergency Management Services, Community and Government Services with respect to how long search and rescue operations will be provided support.

I'll ask again and hopefully the minister will respond. How long, how many days or weeks is Community and Government Services going to provide support to search and rescue operators in Nunavut? Currently what's the length, what's being followed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again I thank the member for that. It is a case by case. We look at it case by case basis and also, given the fact that ground search and rescues are treated differently, for example when there's a marine search, as was the case in Kimmirut recently, where the coast guard was involved. It does differ depending on the scenarios and the circumstances.

But I will commit to bringing full details to my colleague on those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister. I'm glad the department is looking at amending the policies and updating them to meet the current needs. I am also glad, or I am hopeful that they will continue with a case-by-case scenario with regards to what kind of support they will be providing to searchers, because this search I was talking about was in the month of August and it was only eight days long, thankfully, but the support was going to ask eight days long. It's warm out. Conditions were favourable. It wasn't cold yet. To me that's kind of scary. It is scary that the support was going to dry up after only eight days.

I'm just wondering, when will this convention with the search and rescue operators happen, and will all search and rescue operators from every community be invited, along with an elder? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to note that our emergency management, they do heavily engage with the local searchers, and they are informed by them on next steps on when they make their decisions, Mr. Speaker. They do try to make them the best decision with the information that they have on hand.

Mr. Speaker, the search and rescue roundtable I had mentioned, they are planning to be proceeding middle of this month, and we do anticipate and are inviting every community to the table. There's going to be others involved around search and rescue. We want to ensure that there are adequate resources and training. The coordination part I think is a big thing, where we're trying to have everyone on the same page, but also given that there are sensitivities. I'm trying to be mindful of that and also for search and rescue, when there's debriefs and what to do after the fact, when there's an unsuccessful search, for example, it does heavily weigh on those front-line people, especially those involved so we want to ensure that there's supports there for them, for those cases. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 1012 – 6(2): 911**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, who has the responsibility for both emergency management and telecommunications.

Mr. Speaker, if you live in Yellowknife or Inuvik, Whitehorse or Old Crow, and you need an ambulance, you call 911. If you live in Halifax or Edmonton and the police, you call 911. If you live in LA, New York, or Ottawa, you need fire department, you call 911.

However, Mr. Speaker, if you live in Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, Baker Lake or Gjoa Haven, you don't have that easy-to-remember option as there's up to four different numbers to call to reach different types of emergency services.

My first question to the Minister is very simple, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask why do we not have 911 services in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the question on this. It's something that I guess, just to put it plainly, it hasn't been established to date. I do, as the member mentioned, our sister territories, Yukon and NWT, introduced this service to their residents, and we are monitoring and also looking at this. If it's to be brought to Nunavut, what would be the resources necessary and all the factors that would have to be in place in order to provide that service to the whole of territory. We would be hoping to look at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister raising the matter of legislation, as that leads me into my next question.

Mr. Speaker, Iqaluit city council discussed the issue in its last term, and undertook to work with the Government of Nunavut and Northwestel on this specific issue. As the minister is quite well aware, our sister territory Northwest Territories had passed legislation on the 911 service in 2019. So I would like to ask: Can the minister indicate when he expects to introduce similar legislation into our Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say we're not quite there yet. I don't have a specific plan on bringing that forward, but I do, as mentioned, establishing such a

service as the 911 call centre would need staff, but also our I guess in all official languages, 24-7, and as I understand it this is, they charge back this service to the customers or account holders.

Advancing this may require regulation, so there are I understand preliminary discussions with other departments, and specifically for here in this city on consolidating our 24 call centres for fire, search and rescue, emergency, ambulance, those types of services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Canada Revenue and Telecommunications Commission, who regulates telecommunication carriers who support the 911 services, has actually given direction to all telecoms providers to upgrade the necessary infrastructure to provide for next-gen 911 voice and text messaging services.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, it was announced in June of this year that Northwestel is in the process of being sold to an Indigenous-owned consortium called 60 North Unity.

Mr. Speaker I anticipate that the minister's department will be making a submission at the appropriate time to the federal regulators, and I would like to ask, will the minister commit to ensuring that any submission made by the Government of Nunavut includes the issue of ensuring that new telecommunications provider works with the Government of Nunavut to introduce 911 service, including talk and text features? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'll work with my officials on my colleague's suggestion and see if we can work that and to make a submission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions, member for Amittuq.

### **Question 1013 – 6(2): Support for Elders**

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, during my member's statement I said I was going to ask a question to the Minister responsible for Elders. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start off with it's been three years that have passed since we passed the Katujjiluta mandate. Why has it taken so long, like the topic that we met about, that we talked about, why is the planning taking so long? That's what I would

like to ask for my first question to the Minister is why is it taking so long for this to be established. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister responsible for Seniors, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

**Hon. P.J. Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague for heavily advocating for the elders. Mr. Speaker, this was supposed to be based on coming from the elders. I'm very glad that my member's constituents, we have been using their knowledge. We had to do that first, since the mandate got started. And as a government we said we were going to review all the support for the elders to see where it needs improvement, and then we had to verify what we've been collecting with the elders. And the elders gave us a submission and I was able to table it here.

We've been working on it since April, and I know we all want things to work faster, but this is how far we've gone to today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not criticizing anything. It's just taking so long. It has been more than three years that have passed since the mandate was approved, and they haven't come up with a plan for the elders yet.

Like the minister stated, things will be coming out through Minister's statements. Will the minister be able to give us a daily update on how this is going for the remainder of this sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Seniors, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

**Hon. P.J. Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will keep the House informed as to our progression. Even if we're not sitting, I will keep them updated and as things come out that have to do with elders. I believe he was talking about statements, but I will keep everybody informed, like the way we should. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, when the elders say something, they actually do it, or it actually happens. I know what the elders tell us is always true. Like I stated earlier, Mr. Speaker, with my constituents, we don't have any elder homes, homes that are specially made for elders. And according to our mandate the elders are supposed to be a priority, and housing, although we did something with housing with Nunavut 3000.

What I would like to say now is, as the minister was able to get five vehicles for elders in the communities, can the minister make Sanirajak a priority, because we don't even have elder homes to get the vans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you again to my colleague. The Minister of Housing has indicated here and I've had discussions with him about the elder homes. We've always discussed that up to now to see what else we can do, but we haven't outlined any plan yet, but I can agree that I can commit to talking to my fellow minister for housing, because as we work on Nunavut 3000 it has affected everybody includes homes for elders. So I agree to talk to my fellow ministers about this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 1014 – 6(2): Fiscal Situation**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me for a second time today. My questions are for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker the calendar has turned another page and it's now early November. In about three months from now we will be back in this House to consider the minister's final budget address before the dissolution of the current Legislative Assembly.

We are now over halfway through the current 2024-2025 fiscal year, and although the minister did not avail himself of the opportunity to deliver a formal mid-year fiscal update to this House at the beginning of the current fall sitting, I want to give him a platform today to provide updated information to members of the Legislative Assembly and the listening public.

Mr. Speaker, when the minister presented his 2024 budget in February much this year his fiscal forecast at that time was that the government would have an operational deficit of approximately \$21 million. I'm curious today to learn if the minister's crystal ball was cloudy earlier.

Can the minister provide an update today on the government's current fiscal position, and can he indicate if he expects that we will finish the year in a surplus or a deficit position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for asking that question. This past winter, up until spring, I announced our

expenditures for the coming year, and during that statement I reported that our finances will have a deficit. It would be a bigger deficit, but it won't be as bad, because like I said, right now we're still using the budget. And as to, I can't make any predictions as to whether there will be a surplus or a deficit.

During our sitting here, the capital, we have just started talking about the capital expenditures for next year, and it's too early to tell whether we'll have a deficit or a surplus yet. Right now it's pretty close to what was predicted at the budget time.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for that response. It's always important for us to keep track of how we're looking forward.

Mr. Speaker, in October 2023 the minister published a mid-year report document for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and I encourage him to do the same for the current 2024-2025 fiscal year as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, over the course of the current fall sitting we have had some tough discussions about the immense gap between our territory's infrastructure needs and our territory's actual fiscal resources. As and I have pointed out, the government's own figures indicate that we are short hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars to address such urgent needs as new power plants, new solid waste facilities, and new drinking water infrastructure.

I recognize that the minister's room to manoeuvre is limited, and I understand that the competing demands can seem limitless. Can the minister indicate if he expects his final budget before the election to make any strategic changes in how we prioritize our spending? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate the line of questioning I'm receiving today, Mr. Speaker. And my colleague is right on. The more you start to build, and the more we start building infrastructure, we start to see how much infrastructure we lack in our territory, Mr. Speaker.

For example, one of the smallest communities we have in Nunavut suffered a multi-day power outage. We are very fortunate that this hadn't happened in the middle of winter in the middle of a snow storm, Mr. Speaker, and I knock on wood that it doesn't happen in the middle of winter in the middle of a snow storm, Mr. Speaker. Be that as it may, it brought out other few resources we do have and struggle to keep a small community with as many lights on as we can on a rotational basis. Imagine if that happened here, or that happens here.

Mr. Speaker, we have a huge shortage of infrastructure in our territory. Power plants are one. We hear constant discussions around this room, Mr. Speaker, and out there, that we need more classrooms and we need more health centres. We need more, we need more, we need more.

Mr. Speaker, this past year I introduced a deficit budget, and that was to start improving some of the infrastructure shortfalls we have. It comes nowhere near where we need to be, Mr. Speaker. And our government on its last year, I believe, we will continue to try to do what we can with the resources that we have.

We are very fortunate that previous governments were able to bring an accumulated surplus over the years, and that enabled us to do some more spending in the last two budgets, Mr. Speaker. Our Department of Finance is looking at ways to try to see where and how we could get more funding in order to get new infrastructure in our communities, and to try and make the existing ones last long, just as long if not longer than their life cycle, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the member for that fulsome response. These are exactly the reasons why it's so important that we have leadership that will not take no for an answer, and will demand action as quickly as possible to address our many needs.

I'm just going to switch gears a little bit, Mr. Speaker, and I may annoy some people with this question; however, I'm going to go ahead anyway because I stand by my words.

Mr. Speaker, nobody likes paying taxes, but we know and accept that they are necessary to fund our critical public programs and services. We have had discussions in this House in recent weeks and months about the high cost of living in Nunavut and the frustration that our constituents feel when faced with what can be described as monopolistic practices.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize and understand that all finance ministers face a difficult balancing act whether it comes to setting corporate tax rates. You go too high and you risk driving away businesses that create employment and economic activity; you go too low, and you risk losing revenues that you need to meet public needs.

Mr. Speaker, our current territorial corporate income tax rate for large enterprises is 12 percent, which is a little, just a little above the national average. Given the monopoly position that a number of large entities enjoy in Nunavut, I believe that they can and should contribute more.

Can the minister tell us today if tax increases for large enterprises are on the table or off the table for the next territorial budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, taxing is one area that is a very fine line between receiving taxes and people paying taxes, and large corporations and companies and homeowners and the private sector of going bankrupt, Mr. Speaker. At the end of the day, the tax rates are where they are, and I believe that I myself, I don't see us looking at increasing the tax rate for any rates across the territory at this time. I don't believe that now is the time to go and do that, Mr. Speaker.

The community of Nunavut, the population is very small, Mr. Speaker, in terms of when you take a look at the big picture, and I don't think charging more taxes is going to help Nunavummiut. Increasing more taxes is not going to help anybody, I believe, at this time, Mr. Speaker. The fuel prices are up everywhere across the country. Food prices are up. People, even the wealthiest in our territory are struggling to try to maintain their livelihood. Prices of snowmobiles and everything else that you need to supplement your income. The prices aren't going down anytime soon. So that is not in our window at this time, Mr. Speaker.

In light of that, if I could add, Mr. Speaker what we're taking a look at is, I wrote a letter to my federal counterpart to request an increase in our borrowing limit, not that we will be going there, but to have that in our fingertips so that if there comes a time we need to increase our debt cap to get some of the much needed infrastructure for this territory, that it's there. Not necessarily it will be used by this government or the next government, but I think we need to put ourselves strategically so that if there is something we need and we need it today, that the work is there and ready for it to be purchased, if it's power plants and so on and so forth.

So trying to get ahead of the curve, Mr. Speaker, I've taken the time to request an increase to our debt cap. It's currently sitting at \$750 million and I've written a request to bump it up to \$1.05 billion, is what we are proposing.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this is not to say we'll go there, but it's to say that we have to be prepared in cases of emergency and trying to forward think that we should have some of these items ready for use if we should need them.

Getting back to my colleague's question in terms of increasing the tax rate for Nunavummiut, Mr. Speaker, that's something that we have had few minor discussions around it, but it's not one that I believe that -- I don't want to bring to the table at this time and we will continue to seek other ways to try to find funding and income, Mr. Speaker. I think there is money out there and we will all do better to try to sharpen our pencil to try and get some of the much-needed infrastructure, Mr. Speaker.



Every time you take a look somewhere we're having some new issues in trying to get more schools, more health centres, more power plants, Mr. Speaker. It's a struggle that we'll continue to try to deal with. I'll leave it at that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

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

#### **Tabled Document 316 – 6(2): Nunavut Law Foundation 2022 Annual Report**

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Nunavut Law Foundation Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 2022. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

#### **Tabled Document 317 – 6(2): Early Learning and Child Care Strategic Action Plan for Inclusion and Equity 2023-2024 Annual Report**

#### **Tabled Document 318 – 6(2): Department of Education 2022-2023 Annual Report**

#### **Tabled Document 319 – 6(2): 2024-2033 Early Learning and Child Care Quality Framework Action Plan**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table three reports, the Early Learning and Child Care Strategic Action Plan For Inclusion and Equity 2023-2024 Annual Report; the Department of Education 2022-2023 Annual Report; and the 2024-2033 Early Learning Child Care Quality Framework Action Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Item 14: Notices of Motions

#### **Motion 41 – 6(2): Removal of Premier of Nunavut and as Member of Executive Council**

**Mr. Malliki:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 I ask the regular member chair will move of the following:

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Amittuq, that the member for Iqaluit-Manirajak be removed as the Premier and as Member of Executive Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 14, Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motion For First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole in Bills of Other Matters: Bills 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 61 and 65, with Mr. Savikataaq in the chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 37 – 6(2), the committee will stay in session until the committee reports itself out. Before we proceed with the committee we will take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 15:27 and Committee resumed at 15:57*

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

**Chairman (Mr. Savikataaq):** Good afternoon I would like to reconvene our Committee of the Whole. I was looking at Health. Today we have in the Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58 and 61. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 61, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2025-2026*, and supporting documents for Department of Health, following by Department of Community and Government Services. If time permits, we will proceed to review the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Mut'na*. Are we in agreed to first deal with Bill 61?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

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

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

**Some Members:** We agree.

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

For the record, Minister Main, please reintroduce your officials. Minister Main.

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

**Chairman:** *Mut'na*. We left off with the Department of Health under a directorate, and we will continue with the last person that was in line asking questions, which is Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. (interpretation) Good afternoon, minister, and your staff. I believe I asked questions. I don't remember exactly. First of all, Mr. Chair, here in March 2024, NTI board approved to modernize elder centres in Arviat, Kugluktuk, and Igloolik, and it cost \$5 million to the three areas for budgeting. Now then, with Health and NTI, where are they now in modernizing the three mentioned communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main, I know you talked about the Arviat, but if you can give an update on the Igloolik one too, Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the elders centre in Igloolik and Gjoa Haven are the two that were going through assessment and building condition assessment, as we endeavour to work in this area not using NTI funds. This was planned beforehand. The funding cited have not been approved yet and we are expecting that coming through from NTI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for clarifying that, that the funds have not been approved yet. On the Fifth Assembly when we met at first, you probably remember, we were regular MLAs then, and when the committee reviewed the Health department's estimated budget, you did provide support that all the communities in Nunavut have elders place, with you mentioning that, and in support of government, how you may be able to plan. If I can remember correctly, you insisted to

have this realized and urged the health department to have an elders place in every community.

In my community of Amittuq and Igloolik, as I mentioned earlier, under Member's comments, that Sanirajak and Hall Beach don't have an elders place that elders may use. Igloolik has one facility, however. With the three centres, in Iqaluit, in Keewatin, and Kitikmeot, the three regions.

Have you first looked into the issue of every community first, in view of the three regions? What is your position today? Have you thought to put it in assessment or planning? As we know we have Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay that on the Fifth Assembly you mentioned that you were in support of that. Now you are a minister. How and where in the government planning and the expenditures they want to pursue? I am curious to that effect, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In our Fifth Assembly we were both regular MLAs. I regret that he had to sit beside me. I'm sure he got tired of hearing me out.

Mr. Chairman, when you're a minister you're aside duties, the workloads. There is a mandate and also appointed by the premier to Minister of Health. I was never told that I'm going to have free control over the department, and what you want to see. There are established programs.

(interpretation ends) In our mandate it clearly stated the need to advance the facilities in Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay, and I've done that as minister. Looking at these capital estimates, we're seeking funds for Cambridge Bay to complete the design, Iqaluit to enter into the design. So these are moving forward.

Looking at the seniors strategy, it does spell out the need for a long-term plan to build more elder care facilities and spaces in communities. And so I can't speak for future governments, but I would see that as a logical next step in terms of which community is next, once Iqaluit's long-term care facility is completed. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Mut'na*. Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck:** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too have been, for my constituents the long-term facilities are required in Nunavut. I wonder if I asked the minister, the houses, regular public housing. As you stated, I wonder, for Igloolik, you had said it hadn't been approved, how, if it is not approved, if the 5 million is not approved and doesn't proceed, what is the alternate plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Igloolik facility it's providing a very important service to Nunavut residents. It's a very high Inuit employment rate at that facility and a lot to be proud of. And so we are wanting to see that facility continue to succeed.

In the situation where the funding was not approved, we would continue to seek resources from other sources to support the capital needs of that facility. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernek**: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the new projects, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the \$5 million, but he can't speak for future governments; can you clarify? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Main, if you can clarify about the 5 million from NTI? I think there's a miscommunication here. I believe that the funding was given to the Department of Health, but if you can just clarify for Mr. Kaernek about the \$5 million earmarked for Igloolik long term care. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So the funding has been approved on NTI's side. It is yet to be approved on executive council's side, so we're working towards a contribution agreement which will spell out the specifics around what the funding is to be used for.

You know, I must say we're very excited to work with Nunavut Tunngavik, and we're also making attempts to bring federal partners closer to the bilateral relationship with Nunavut Tunngavik. We see a lot of potential in a tripartite table, specifically on elder care and/or health infrastructure. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Kaernek** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that. I thank the minister for that. (interpretation ends) Moving on to my other question, Mr. Chair, with the Nunavut Recovery Centre Project and the total cost currently projected at \$83,791,000 are any specific factors anticipated to impact the final cost of this project, Mr. Chair? Thank you.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Current information indicates the facility is on track in terms of the timelines. So we would hope that there would be no issues. There is always a potential for overruns, but at this point in time there's not any that we are aware of (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernek:** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is important, and we need to see these facilities. Also, Mr. Chairman, I have felt pain thinking about for those that struggle mentally and the numbers are increasing to update. Is there a number which communities will have their health centres improved? Where are you going to be? Not just Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay? Are you planning other communities like the Hall Beach health centre? It's too small. Have you explored that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think the types of things that the member is asking about would be included through some of our small capital projects, things like modification to existing health centres, and/or addition, or bringing online additional programming space in Nunavut. One of the exciting things about mental health programming and increasing our reach to Nunavummiut is that it can be quite simple in terms of infrastructure. You know, looking at our Atii Angutiit (ph) program, using a garage type facility, separate from the health centre, can enable some very meaningful and positive mental-health programming at the community level. And it's the same for counselling activities or work done by our paraprofessionals. It doesn't have to be in the health centre. And so we have been adding additional programming space as it becomes available across Nunavut.

In terms of Sanirajak in particular, I don't have any detailed information in front of me, other than the repairs to the health centre that have been put forward. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kaernek:** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no substantiation sheet for the work. I know you mentioned minor capital. When not just a word of mouth that Hall Beach will be placed first, and the life cycle budget process when looking at minor capital, which communities get prioritized based on population. And when I say that, Mr. Chairman, that perhaps you can look at ways for Hall Beach. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When we are looking in the health centres, in terms of rankings, you know, we're trying to base it on the data in front of us in terms of the facility's condition, population of the community. If you'll allow, around the mental health piece, my deputy is able to provide a bit more background on the infrastructure needs or the capital needs of mental health programming. It's expanding across Nunavut. Some of it is capital heavy and some of it is not too infrastructure heavy. *Mut'na.*

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

**Ms. Hunt** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) thank you to the member for the question. From a capital perspective, we know that as our health centres and facilities are aging, population is growing, and our health staff are growing across the territory, finding unique and creative ways to use existing spaces, renovating spaces, but also looking to increase supports to on-the-land programs and enhancing those, increasing our paraprofessionals programs and the supports in the communities for cultural programs that are based on traditional teachings and activities, and making sure that we have dedicated space in the health centres that are for counselling purposes, and the use of virtual care or virtual tools to be able to access counselling.

The help lines that are also available in the community as well as some of the work on integrated youth services, so that concept about building and expanding programs and services across the territory where they are front facing, where folks can come and see individuals in person and then being able to couple that with virtual programs as well as supports. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Minister and welcome to your officials.

When we were just elected, at that time all members signed a petition asking for long-term care facilities in the Nunavut communities. When my colleague was asking questions in regards to long term care facilities, we also have to look at the smaller communities. They are part of Nunavut.

I have brought this up repeatedly during our term, because there's no jobs available in our smaller communities and we would like to create more employment opportunities.

What I'm trying to say is that if we should build a long-term care facility, it will be a very big economic booster. There's also the young people who are more than willing to work. And I want the minister to hear that. I would like to know what your position is on that, Mr. Minister. Thank you.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I hear your comments and I know exactly where you're coming from. And in my opening comments there are a lot of questions, and we are lacking the services that are required. We have been looking for funds, not only from the government, but also from the federal government and we have accessed some of those funds. I'm very pleased that Nunavut Tunngavik was able to give us some funds to be used for that type of programming.

One of the priorities that we mentioned is that we would like to build more long-term facilities in the communities, and we are going to be working with Nunavut Tunngavik on this program. It is a slow process, but it's a step forward. There's Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay where we're going to be building those facilities and we haven't identified any other communities where we will build at this time, after this programming is done.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the government make a statement so that the small communities will have those long term care facilities built?

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Following this program, we had indicated that we're going to be building long term care facilities. (interpretation ends) So looking at our prioritization for health centre replacements, I would envision a similar listing for elders facilities that lists out different specific statistics and a prioritization ranking. But we're a ways off from developing that list, but the work has started. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister indicated that they're starting the planning process. Can you identify when we will be seeing this document? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I believe, I mean a lot of this is internal. The target date for the work is 2025, but in terms of the member's specific question is around when there would be a list and when it would be released publicly. I can't speak to that. My information I have isn't that detailed. But



having the strategy released is a first step, and having an implementation or a joint planning exercise that brings us together with Nunavut Tunngavik and possibly our federal partners is one of the next major milestones for Health's piece of this strategy on long term care. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even though I didn't get a response to my question, I would like to make an addendum. With the Nunavut communities, if a community has the facility that is already up and available, is it possible to build it into a long term care facility in the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The work that we are involved in would see an assessment in terms of the need for beds across the territory, in terms of looking at the work that was done back in 2015 and then updating those numbers.

In terms of retrofitting existing facilities into long term care facilities, that would be quite tricky, difficult, given the standards around those types of facilities.

There's a spectrum between long term care and then all the way into, if you think about elders who live in their own houses, and then all the way to elders who are in a level 4 or 5 long term care facility, where they need 24-7 support, there's different levels or different types of supports that we can provide.

If we look at the lower level of elders facilities, elders homes, those would be ones that the model or the type of facility that would be most feasible to see a retrofit type of setup. I hope that's clear. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the minister indicated that the government wants to partner in with other organizations to open up those long term facilities, and we would more than welcome other entities to work with the government, because there is a great need for those types of facilities.

I forget what my question was going to be. Our elders need proper care at home, not outside of Nunavut. It should be in the community where they were brought up, where they grew up, and to be cared for in their home community.

We signed the petition because we wanted to see one made available. The Nunavut government or the federal government or Nunavut Tunngavik, look at the existing facilities and as the minister indicated that would be for able elders. If we could look at the facilities that could utilize those types of buildings. Thank you.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time we have not made any requests and for your information we got \$25 million for the Rankin Inlet facility and that was the largest that we have accessed from the federal government. I was very pleased that they were able to give us that funding.

So we have a good working relationship with the federal government, and those services are much needed in our communities. I'm very glad that we seem to be getting better at working with the federal government, and we're not doing it alone. We are working together with the Nunavut Tunngavik and the federal government. That's our plan, to have a tripartite agreement together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I urge the minister to look at the smaller communities when they are planning to build those long term care facilities. We're not asking for a lot. There are some communities that have a larger population of elders, and some that have less. And I'm talking about the able-bodied elders. And also to keep lobbying the federal government for access to funds. That's my last comment.

**Chairman**: Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
(interpretation ends) I really appreciate the member's passion and interest in this issue. I just wanted to add that there are a number of different pieces that support aging in place. Some of them are infrastructure; for example, purpose-built housing for elders is proven to allow them to stay in their residence longer than if they are built staying in a house that's not a unit that is purpose-built for elders. It's not to say that Nunavut Housing Corporation has to do the Department of Health's job; I'm pointing out these two things support each other. The shortage of elder-specific housing is something we're dealing with. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Following the list of names on my list, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster**: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and welcome back, Minister Main, and your officials. I would like to follow up on a question that was posed on Thursday, October 31 by the Member from Iqaluit-Tasiluk about CT scanners and whether or not the mobile CT scanner that was mentioned could also do dental scans.

I was surprised and happy to hear that the mobile scanner that was purchased to basically paid for itself in 15 days, especially given the cost of having technicians to run those scanners and to interpret the results.

Minister Main, you mentioned that the issue of dental wait lists and backlogs is one that's a priority, in terms of reducing the wait list. I know that we know that oral health affects our overall health, and that physicians and nurses do take a look into people's mouths during checkups to look for things, indicators of various ailments like diabetes, cardiovascular disease, you know, even joint replacements and all sorts of things, and that our dental health is so important to our overall physical well-being.

The response was that mobile CT scanner does not do dental CT scans, that that's a specialized piece of equipment, and I wonder if there's an opportunity to further reduce wait times and to ensure the health of Nunavummiut by considering purchasing a mobile dental CT scanner and whether or not that's something that the Department of Health is aiming towards. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My deputy is more prepared than I am in terms of visits to the dentist and if you'll allow, thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Ms. Hunt.

**Ms. Hunt** (interpretation): Thank, you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and thank you to the member for the question. The current mobile scanner is brain only. It's not appropriate for dental scans. Also, dental scans or in areas of dentistry is not part of the health care complement of services. It's a NIHB-covered, or private-covered service. So those would be areas that would need to be considered. The technology around dental scans would be a different piece of technology than that mobile scanner and something that I would have to go away and look into, in terms of a response to what that technology is and whether it's something that would be appropriate for the health ecosystem. *Qujannamiik*.

**Chairman**: *Mut'na*. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster**: Thank you for that response. Some practitioners think that dentistry should no longer be siloed, and that dentistry should be brought into the primary health care fold or field. I am hearing that there was so much of a cost savings with that mobile CT scan.

From my knowledge, we do send a lot of people out, whether it's children who require dental surgery, or other people who require dental CT scans, the cost of sending people down, and of housing, you know, putting them up and feeding them and everything, is so high.

Given that that one mobile CT scanner did pay for itself so quickly, I think that this is something that is really important for the department to move forward in looking at. As well, as I said earlier, bringing dental care into that primary health care fold. So I appreciate that the minister's deputy seems to have made that commitment, and I would just like reassurance that the minister agrees with that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** *Mut'na*. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair (interpretation ends), and I appreciate the member's interest in this area. She makes a very valid point that dental health is closely linked to other health outcomes, and it's very concerning when we see things like backlogs in oral surgery, wait lists for children, nonetheless.

So around the question of what further dental infrastructure equipment could help bolster our in-territory capacity, I can commit to furthering those discussions with dentists in the territory, as well as folks who work on the oral surgery service, here in Qikiqtani General Hospital. I'm trying not to use acronyms. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** *Mut'na*. I have no more names on my list. Department of Health, directorate total capital expenditures \$35,041,000. Agreed? Just in case someone thought I was wrong, so \$35,041,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree we have concluded Health?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Minister Main, if you have brief closing comments.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to thank the members for their detailed consideration, and also the Standing Committee on social wellness.

I think all of these conversations, whether it's mental health or whether it's elder care or whether it's health centres, it's so important, and we appreciate all the support from members and all the advocacy, in terms of trying to do more for Nunavummiut. And the

people beside me and off screen, thanks very much to them as well. (interpretation ends)  
Thank you.

**Chairman:** *Mut'na.* Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can let the officials go, and we will take a 10-minute break and come back with Community and Government Services.

>>*Committee in recess 16:40 to 16:55*

**Chairman** (Mr. Hickes): Thank you. I would like to call the committee to order. I would like to ask Mr. Joanasi: Do you have officials who you would like to appear before the committee, Minister?

**Hon. David Joanasi:** Good morning. If the committee will allow, yes, please.

**Chairman:** We'll soon find out. Does the committee agree to let minister's officials appear with him?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in. Thank you. For the record, Minister, if you could introduce your officials, and proceed with your opening comments, please.

**Hon. David Joanasi:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, colleagues. I am here today appearing before you with Deputy Minister Kyle Seeley and Mandy Hickey, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services.

It is my pleasure to join you today to review the Department of Community and Government Services capital estimates for 2025/26 as part of the proposed five-year capital plan covering the 2026/2030 period.

Mr. Chairman, for the 2025/26 fiscal year, the Department of Community and Government Services is proposing a capital appropriation of \$102,229,000. The projects and initiatives identified within this proposal fall into two broad areas, they are: Investing in Community Infrastructure, and Enhancing Service Capacity, Investing in Community Infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, as communities grow and regulations change, so do the demands on our existing, aging infrastructure. As part of my department's 2025/26 capital estimates my department is proposing the following investments into community infrastructure:

\$18,805,000 toward ten projects that will improve drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities in eight communities.

\$12,270,000 toward projects managed by the Department of Community of Government Services that will replace or improve municipal assets like Fire Halls, maintenance garages, Truck Fill Safety Platforms, Solid Waste Management, and fire trucks.

\$38,500,000 toward capital contribution programs that provide funding directly to municipalities to initiate and manage capital improvements to municipal assets.

Combined, these initiatives represent a total proposed capital investment of \$69,575,000 toward ensuring critical assets in communities have the capacity to accommodate development.

Mr. Chairman and members, access to safe drinking water is a fundamental of community life. Critical infrastructure such as water treatment and distribution systems and wastewater management facilities are built to meet the capacity needs of communities and the regulations in place at the time of their construction.

In 2025-2026 the Department of Community and Government Services proposes a focus of capital funding on the assets that are the foundation of the programs and services provided to Nunavummiut by municipalities and our territorial government.

My department's proposed 2025-26 capital appropriation includes a total of \$18,805,000 toward improvements to water and wastewater treatment and transmission infrastructure in Nunavut's communities. These improvements are required to mitigate risks to community water security, and to ensure the critical infrastructure that services homes, businesses, and public assets in Nunavut communities have the capacity to maintain services and accommodate expansion and growth under the Katujjiluta mandate.

These critical infrastructure projects in 6 communities constitutes 18.39% of my department's 2025-26 proposed capital appropriation and include:

- Finalize design and begin construction of a modern Water Treatment Plant to replace the current pump house in Arctic Bay.
- Start construction of a new Wastewater Treatment Facility in Kinngait.
- Construction work to complete upgrades to the water intake in Kugluktuk.
- Finalize design and begin construction of a new water treatment plant in Pond Inlet.
- Finalize design and begin construction of a mechanical wastewater treatment plant in Rankin Inlet.
- Design and construction work to replace water and sewer mains in Rankin Inlet to ensure the local system can manage flow rates and
- Additional demands due to development.

- Continued construction of a replacement of Nuvuk Sewage Lift Station in Rankin Inlet. Continued construction and renewal of local water and wastewater piping systems in Rankin Inlet.
- Finalize the design and begin construction of a new water treatment plant in Rankin Inlet that will produce safe drinking water for the community and with sufficient capacity to meet volume and flow rate demands of new development.
- Continue design and begin construction work on new/upgraded lagoon to treat wastewater in Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Chairman, in addition to water and wastewater projects my department's 2025-26 capital appropriation proposes an additional \$12,270,000 capital investment into municipal infrastructure in the following areas:

- Construction work to upgrade the Kinngait Maintenance Garage
- Construction work for new Igloolik Maintenance Garage
- Construction work for new Fire Halls in Arviat and Whale Cove
- Design and Construction of new Truck fill Safety Platforms for Cambridge Bay
- Water Treatment Plant and Intake Pump House.

(Critical Asset Upgrades-Kitikmeot)

Replacement and/or upgrade to the solid waste sites in Arviat, Clyde River, Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay.

Replacement and/or upgrade to the solid waste sites in Gjoa Haven, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet and Taloyoak.

Replacement of community fire trucks in Sanirajak and Taloyoak as they reach the end of their life cycle.

Mr. Chairman, beyond these projects managed on behalf of municipalities by the Department, Community and Government Services is committed to building capacity within local governments.

In 2025/26 Community and Government Services is proposing \$38,500,00, a total of 37.66% of my department's 2025/26 proposed capital appropriation, for investment into programs and projects managed by municipalities in the following areas:

\$7,000,000 toward the Municipal Parking Garage program for the fourth year of this program that provides municipalities with a guided model to plan, design and construct their own parking garages.

\$5,500,000 toward the Mobile Equipment Funding program which provides ongoing annual block funding to non-tax-based municipalities toward the management of their Municipal Mobile Equipment Program.

\$9,000,000 toward the City of Iqaluit to support infrastructure.

Improvements in water, wastewater, roads, and general operations.

\$4,000,000 toward the Granular Crushing Equipment Program to ensure each municipality has access to crushing equipment to produce granular supply to support new capital projects and operational improvements in Nunavut communities.

\$3,000,000 towards a program to ensure that municipal projects, essential to the delivery of local government services, proceed through the planning and design stages without delay.

\$10,000,000 towards a new program which includes a Lifecycle and Emergencies Fund to proactively address repairs to municipal facilities to prevent service interruption and to ensure that the department has resources to respond to critical asset failures.

#### Enhancing Service Capacity

Mr. Chairman, in addition to the support provided to municipalities, the Department of Community and Government Services provides a variety of services to other Government of Nunavut department's and, ultimately,

Nunavummiut. As part of my department's 2025/26 capital estimates, my department is proposing investments to ensure the department can maintain and enhance service delivery to departments, communities, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, combined, these initiatives represent a total proposed capital investment of \$32,654,000, a total of 31.94% of my department's 2025/26 proposed capital appropriation. This funding is to ensure the Department of Community and Government Services can maintain service delivery to Nunavummiut, communities and client departments.

Mr. Chairman, in 2025/26 my department is proposing the following capital investments to support ongoing enhancements to service delivery.

\$7,000,000 in 2025/26 toward lifecycle replacements and equipment upgrades in the Local area Network and Data Centres information



Technology and systems provide the framework that supports the work of the Government of Nunavut and services to Nunavummiut.

\$4,000,000 toward the Tenant Improvement Fund.

\$10,500,000 in 2025-26 toward Small Capital Projects managed by the department or municipalities in the following five areas;

Building and Equipment Upgrades - a total of \$2,100,000 toward upgrades and repairs to Community and Government Services facilities to ensure ongoing operation and regulatory compliance.

Fleet Vehicles - a total of \$500,000 to purchase new or replacement vehicles used by staff to conduct maintenance checks, deliver programs, site visits and address emergency Situations.

PPD Small Capital - a total of \$1,000,000 toward fuel storage and distribution upgrades managed by the Petroleum Products Division.

Municipal Capital Block Funding – a total of \$6,150,000 allocated to non-tax-based municipalities toward small capital projects planned and managed by the municipalities. This funding is designated for municipalities however, it is identified within the department's overall proposed small capital budget.

Municipal Studies - a total of \$750,000 to conduct the necessary studies mandated by public health and environmental regulators, and to initiate studies to improve water and wastewater program delivery.

\$2,100,000 toward demolition and remediation of surplus buildings.

\$1,500,000 toward planning Government of Nunavut Capital Projects recognizing that the development of capital projects requires detailed research and long-term planning.

Mr. Chairman, establishing a fibre optic link between Nunavut and southern Canada is critical component in accommodating the long-term Telecommunications needs of government, businesses and Nunavummiut.

In 2025-26 my department is proposing \$7,554,000 in 2025-26 toward advancing the Kivalliq-Baffin Connector fibre proposal.

This proposal, which has received conditional approval from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission and aims to

Establish fibre infrastructure between northern Quebec and four Nunavut communities.

My department is currently preparing a comprehensive Statement of Work package for the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, which will outline key dates and schedules, logical network diagrams, network descriptions, service designs, project sites, equipment details, specific costing, and project milestones.

Subject to approvals, in 2025/26, my department plans to focus on progressing the marine route survey and advancing a Request for Proposals for the cable system design, engineering, and manufacturing.

While the Kivalliq-Baffin Connector fibre proposal is progressing through final reviews and approvals, the Katittuq Nunavut Fibre project has been removed from both the Government of Nunavut's capital estimates and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

Mr. Chairman, projects identified with the Department of Community and Government Services capital estimates for 2025/26 demonstrate our commitment to meeting the critical infrastructure needs of Nunavut's communities. These projects also demonstrate our ongoing commitment to enhancing the Government of Nunavut's core infrastructure to support service delivery to departments and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to present the Projects proposed within the Department of Community and Government Services 2025/26 Capital Estimates. It will be my pleasure to take any questions from the committee. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the chair of the Standing Committee have opening comments to provide? Mr. Savikataaq, please proceed.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Chair. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services.

The department's proposed capital budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year is \$102.229 million. This represents a 34.9% decrease from the department's approved 2024-2025 capital estimates.

Ministerial Mandate Letters were tabled in the Legislative Assembly at its sitting of November 8, 2022. The Minister of Community and Government Services' Mandate Letter indicated that one of the department's priorities has been to "work closely with the

Departments of Economic Development and Transportation, Human Resources and Finance to develop options, a work plan and a timeline for the realignment of Economic Development and Transportation and Community and Government Services.”

On May 30, 2024, the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Human Resources issued Request for Proposals 2024-42: Organizational Design Phase 2 Community and Government Services, Economic Development and Transportation and Executive And Intergovernmental Affairs. The Request for Proposals closed on June 28, 2024. The contract to perform the work was awarded on July 11, 2024.

The Request for Proposals indicated that “the objective of the reorganization initiative is to realign the functions of Community and Government Services and Economic Development and Transportation into two new distinct departments. Cabinet has directed that the implementation deadline for this project shall be April 1, 2025.”

On October 10, 2024, the government announced that the names of the two new departments will be the “Department of Community Services” and the “Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut.” The extent to which this reorganization will impact the government’s 2025-2026 capital estimates is not entirely clear.

The department’s proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates includes \$10.0 million in funding for a new “Sustainable Service Delivery Program.” Information provided to the standing committee indicates that its annual budget for the 2026-2027 and subsequent fiscal years will be \$5.0 million.

Information provided to the standing committee indicates that the department is “proposing to include in the 2025-2026 capital estimates a Lifecycle and Emergencies Fund to proactively address repairs to municipal facilities to reduce the number of emergencies. The intention is to split this fund in half between lifecycle [upgrades] and emergencies.” The standing committee encourages the Minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on the department’s expenditures under this new program.

The department’s proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates include \$1.5 million in funding for planning studies. Members continue to encourage the Minister to begin the practice of tabling, on an annual basis, detailed information concerning the status of ongoing and completed planning studies. Members also encourage the Minister to begin the practice of tabling, on an annual basis, detailed information concerning the status of Integrated Community Sustainability Plans.

On March 28, 2018, the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut announced the signing of a bilateral agreement under the federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. The announcement indicated that Nunavut will receive up to \$566,761,621 over the ten-year period of 2018-2028.

The Agreement's end date is March 31, 2028. On June 15, 2023, the Chairperson of the Council of the Federation sent correspondence to the Prime Minister of Canada concerning the replacement of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

The letter indicated that the position of Provincial and territorial Premiers is that the federal government should provide "block Infrastructure transfers."

On August 19, 2019, the federal Minister of Rural Economic Development announced That the Government of Canada would be "... investing over \$151.0 million in this project Under the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan."

During its winter 2024 sitting, the Legislative Assembly approved a \$32.685 million capital carryover for the Katittuq Nunavut Fibre Project. The department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates do not include any funding for the Katittuq Nunavut Fibre Project.

On July 4, 2024, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission Issued Telecom Decision CRTC 2024-149. The decision indicated, in part, that the Government of Nunavut "... filed an application in response to Call 3 requesting \$271,937,242 from the Broadband Fund to build undersea fibre transport infrastructure to Nunavut, enabling the delivery of the universal service objective to the communities of Iqaluit, Kinngait, Coral Harbour, and Kimmirut via fibre ... the Commission approves The Government of Nunavut's funding application for up to \$271,937,242 to build a 1,300-kilometre fibre connection to four remote Inuit communities in Nunavut, including one official language minority community ... the funding is awarded to the Government of Nunavut with the condition that the applicant provides evidence of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's support."

The department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates include \$7.554 million in funding for the new Kivalliq Baffin Connector Fibre Project. The extent to which the Government of Nunavut will be able to reallocate the previously-approved federal funding under the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan is unclear, as is the status of discussions with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

It is also unclear if Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's approval is required for any other federal infrastructure funding for which the Government of Nunavut has applied.

On May 29, 2023, the Minister of Community and Government Services tabled the Government of Nunavut Drinking Water Strategic Framework in the Legislative Assembly. Members remain concerned about the frequency of boil water advisories and

other water quality situations in a number of communities. The department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates include funding for a number of water-related capital projects in a number of communities.

The department has issued a number of Requests for Proposals in recent years for Solid waste management feasibility studies for a number of communities. On March 29, 2022, the department issued Request for Proposals 2022-18-1: Business Case for Solid Waste Facility Upgrades. The Request for Proposals closed on April 26, 2022. A contract to perform this work was awarded to Dillon Consulting on August 4, 2022. The Request for Proposals concerned the 13 communities that are included in Solid Waste Bundles 1 to 3.

Recent departmental business plans have indicated that its Community Infrastructure Division "continues to support stakeholders in the development of a solid waste strategy ... [however], further progress on this project is delayed due to capacity restraints held by partner stakeholders." Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this work.

The department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates include funding for a number of programs, including the Granular Crushing Equipment Funding Program, Municipal Parking Garage Program, Municipal Mobile Equipment Program and Fire Trucks Replacement Program.

Members continue to encourage the Minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on the department's expenditures and initiatives under these programs.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Are there any general comments to the opening comments? Seeing none, please turn to page J3, your Capital Budget binder, Community Government Services, Local Government Services are requesting \$76,625,000. Questions. Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. My first question will be which communities in Nunavut require new municipal offices, community offices and arenas. And that's my first question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): *Mut'na*. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Hold on a second. Thank you and my apologies for the delay. We use the municipal Integrated Community Sustainability Plans identified in each

communities where they rank their priorities on which hamlet offices. I think Pangnirtung and Rankin Inlet are one of the higher priorities that we're looking at.

But my colleague asked a few different asset types at the municipal level. Those are detailed in each integrated sustainability ICSPs. My apologies for using the acronym there. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of today, which municipalities have not submitted updated Integrated Community Sustainability Plans to your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll see if I can find my notes here. I think I will have to get back to my colleague on that with the details, if you'll allow me, give me a bit of time to collect that information. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like that detailed information, not just to me, but as well as to my colleagues. I'll move on, Mr. Chairman.

The substantiation sheet indicates the projects to "enter the design phase." In the 2027-2028 fiscal year are new community arenas in Clyde River, Kugaaruk, and Naujaat. And Mr. Chairman, I'll refer to Kugaaruk. The question is, Mr. Chairman, can the design phase be earlier as indicated for the 2027-2028 fiscal year, a year or two years earlier than indicated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do have that process of once the planning is completed, to move to the next stage, into design. We have introduced a program for funding for that purpose as well. There's a design fund for local government and municipal type assets that we are trying to build or move forward with in our capital planning process.

So we'll look at what are projects that have completed all their planning and ready to move forward. We'll consider Kugaaruk as well and all the other communities together. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I asked the question about the community arenas is the community of Kugaaruk has been talking about it now, and for many great reasons. The Tuugaalik Cup is getting much larger and greater, and it includes communities of Igloolik, Naujaat and all the Kitikmeot communities. I think they really need a new upgrade for Kugaaruk, and a bigger arena for many great reasons. The community is rapidly growing nice. It's growing really fast.

I'll move on, Mr. Chairman. Your department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates include \$3 million for the Planning and Design Funding.

Local government priorities program. The department substantiation sheet for this program identifies three parking garages in Cambridge Bay, Clyde River and Kugaaruk as being "projects previously approved for the planning phase that could be expedited through design phase through its initiatives."

The question is, Mr. Chairman, has this list been finalized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just going back to the Integrated Community Sustainability Plans while I have the microphone, the deadline for submission from municipalities was just last week, so we are tabulating and making sure we have everyone's that had a right to submit.

As for the question for the local government priorities, the parking garages and what we have before you are of course subject to approval. If we do gain that this week, we will proceed with that list and it will identify Kugaaruk, Cambridge Bay and Clyde River, and that's for 2025-2026 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'll be moving on to the critical assets upgrades. Your department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates included 2.469 million in funding for a project to respond to "an order received by the Municipality of Cambridge Bay from the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission to increase the safety of the truck fill operations at the water treatment plant."

The substantiation sheet for the project also indicates that "It is understood that additional orders have been given to other water treatment plants in Gjoa Haven and Kugaaruk that also need to be addressed."

The question is, Mr. Chairman, has Kugaaruk been addressed and noted and when will the community see an upgrade to see a safety of the *Truck Fill Operations Act*, the water treatment plant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and through this budget in 2025-2026, that would include design of additional truck fill station platforms for Kugaaruk and Gjoa Haven, and it is an order from the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission that we are responding to and making sure these are safe for the municipal staff to perform their duties. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on. And for my colleagues' information, page 46. Your department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates include a 1.74 million in funding to replace fire trucks in the communities of Sanirajak and Taloyoak, and the substantiation sheet for this project indicates that: "An incremental increase of 100,000 has been factored in annually over the five-year plan."

Mr. Chairman the question is what accounts for the increased cost of the fire trucks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As with many capital projects, this is what we've been monitoring and have seen from the markets as the incremental cost. Things are going higher and higher, so that's to account for that as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be just a note to say thank you to the government and the CGS department in regards to the waste water treatment in Taloyoak, to the new sewage lagoon. It was just recently just completed. The first dump of the sewage truck was just few weeks ago, so I just wanted to thank the department. It allowed a lot of employment for the community of Taloyoak. The employees, the ones who work at the new upgrade for the wastewater, were very happy to work in the community, and it meant employment. So just a statement to say thank you to the department. I'll leave the other detailed questions for my colleagues. If I do have any other questions, I will definitely have more questions later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a comment, so I'll go to the next person on my list, Mr. Malliki.



**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and your officials. Welcome to our meeting. (interpretation ends) I have a question regarding Naujaat's sewage lagoon. That was a request for proposal that last year. Can you elaborate on that, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. My notes say that the design and all functional reviews are at 99 percent complete for the Naujaat Waste Water Treatment Lagoon and Wetland Project.

The design is to be further reviewed based on the expected design recommendations from a lagoon liner study, conducted for waste water treatment sewage lagoons.

There was an archeological assessment that, I believe it had been done around the selected construction site with the final report expected this fall, 2024.

Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2025, and anticipated completion is for fall 2026. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the minister. This has been a project that has been going on for some time, and we would like to see it completed.

I have a question for the Coral Harbour, for the water. My question is, well, one of my questions is if they are following the federal government policies. Is Coral Harbour included in fixing up this problem?

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

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Health have identified the problem areas they have, and to see if we can do some additional work on that water supply.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister elaborate so that the people in my riding will know what's happening, or if there has to be some final touches done.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): I would like to refer this to my deputy minister, if it's okay, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Seeley**: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The water treatment infrastructure in Coral Harbour is owned and operated by the Municipality of Coral Harbour.

The Department of Health, Public Health did place some orders that needed to be followed to restore the water treatment plant to produce safe drinking water at the hamlet in cooperation with the department has been following those orders, and completing them.

There are a few remaining measures that need to be resolved regarding specifically the type of chlorination that's used, and those matters are being resolved between the hamlet and their contractor right now, as I understand it.

The Department of Health will remove those orders when all of the standards are met, and the operation of the water treatment plant is fully compliant. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the minister and his deputy. We like to make sure that we have safe drinking water.

Moving on to another subject, (interpretation ends), August 12, 2021 the federal department of Crown Indigenous Relation Northern Affairs announced that 517.8 million is available for shovel-ready infrastructure project for Inuit communities. This funding will help close this infrastructure gap by 2030. To what extent is the Government of Nunavut working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami to identify specific projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié**: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My officials advise that we've shared our infrastructure projects that we have, and we're prioritizing with the relevant parties and seeing what will happen out of it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to seeing that.

(interpretation ends) On May 30, 2024, the Government of Nunavut Department of Human Resources issued Request for Proposal 2024-42 organization to sign Phase 2 Community and Government Services Economic Development and Transportation and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. That Request for Proposal closed on June 28, 2024. The contract to perform the work was awarded on July 11.

The Request for Proposal indicated that: "The objective of the reorganizational chart for initiative is to realign the functions of the Community and Government Services and Economic Development and Transportation into new, distinct department." Has the directive that the implementation deadline for this project shall be April 1, 2025, how will this impact the capital estimates for your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié**: Thank you. Great question. What we have before you under this local government branch, that will be within the new Department of Community Services, if my colleagues follow. This represents, there are 22 projects that are included in the local government branch worth \$76 million in 2025-2026 that I guess I as Minister for the other department would not be in charge of by April 1, 2025, if that makes sense. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this change, is that going to delay any of the projects that you're going to be working on as a department?

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

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you. We have factored that in, and the possibilities of delays which we don't want to see. We're trying to accelerate the projects before the proposal goes through.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Can the minister assure me that these projects won't be delayed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié**: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do want to avoid any delays on all of our projects. I will just note that those projects will still be managed through the new Department of Infrastructure, but it will fall within community services department, if that makes sense, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (No interpretation) During the winter 2024 sitting, the Legislative Assembly approved 32,685,000 capital carryover for the Katittuk Nunavut ICIP undersea fibre optic cable project. As of today what is the status of the project? (interpretation) And I would like to know the cost amount for this. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Mat'na. I know the minister commented on his opening comments, but if you can elaborate more on the question and the issues involved. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie**: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Maybe if I may start off by having Assistant Deputy Minister Hickey elaborate, but we essentially cancelled the Katittuq fibre project, and that has triggered a few different things on that front.

But also members, of course you'll note that there's a Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission funding announcement or a different project that we are now proceeding with in our current budget ask for 2025-2026, but if you'll allow the Assistant Deputy Minister Hickey. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Ms. Hickey.

**Ms. Hickey**: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank the member for the question. So a couple of things actually happened; carryovers were actually improved before the Canadian Radio-television Commission approved the KBC, or the Kivalliq Baffin Connector Project, so we still had to go forward with that carryover to be approved in the House.

What will happen to those funds is at the end of this fiscal year they will lapse and they will go back into the consolidated revenue fund.

We did go to the financial management board and have a portion of that money reallocated towards the KBC project, just to allow to us proceed with the statement of work activities that needed to be completed. But Like I said, the remaining of the budget will go back to the consolidated revenue fund at the end of this fiscal year. We will no longer carry that over. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On July 4, 2024, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission issued telecom decision CRTC 2024-149. The commission approved a Government of Nunavut

funding application up to \$271,939,242 to build 1,300 kilometres fibre connection to community of Iqaluit, Kinngait, Kimmirut, and Coral Harbour.

The commission indicated that "The fund is awarded to the Government of Nunavut with condition that application provide evidence of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated supports."

As of today has the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated provided written support for the project? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie**: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank you for that question. It's early on when we received the conditional approval. We have been engaging with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, but to date we have not received a letter of support or any evidence of support from them. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the Minister met with the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated board of directors on this matter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, we have held many meetings with the vice president, Paul Irngaut. There was a committee that was struck and they met two or three times a week, trying to make plans for the future. But right now we have not received a letter of support from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on this project. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the minister expect to get that letter of support from the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for the project? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we're always expecting that. We're always hoping the letter comes in today. Perhaps I should explain further. There was a motion that was passed at the Nunavut Tunngavik board meeting on

this matter, but there was a 'but'. They want to be part owners of the cable, and that's what they're requesting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) The response brings out another question in me. When Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is requesting a part of this, what sort of percentage ownership are they requesting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut Tunngavik has not indicated how much of a percentage ownership they want of the fibre project. We haven't heard that until now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What sort of percentage would the minister allow Nunavut Tunngavik? how much of a percentage ownership would he like Nunavut Tunngavik to have?

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

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't say that as to how much of a percentage ownership for NTI would be. We would have to consider that, and then it would have to be approved by the MLAs if we're going to go forward with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I express my support for this idea, because it involves one of my constituents, and I urge the minister to meet within Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated at a near time in the future. Thank you.

**Chairman:** That was a general statement. Next person to speak will be Mr. Hickey.

**Mr. Hickey:** Along the similar lines, I would like to go back to the opening comments in the minister's opening comments on page 7, the second-last paragraph where it talks about the Katittuq Fibre Project has been removed from both the Government of Nunavut's Capital Estimates and the Investment in Canada Infrastructure Program. My first question is how much of those funds have been expended to date. I know earlier this

year we carried over \$32-and-a-half million for that project that has now been cancelled or removed. How much money was spent on that to date? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** My apologies. Can you clarify? What's been spent on the Katittuq Fibre Project or? Okay, it's at 3,725,447. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Were any of those dollars transferred to any other projects on a temporary basis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure the minister has already had discussions with his colleague the finance minister on putting those funds back in the general revenue account. Are there any additional proposals coming forward to utilize those dollars? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I know, not at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One thing that has been mentioned regarding the Kivalliq Baffin Connector Fibre Proposal that it's not an active project right now, so there is a request for a little over \$7-and-a-half million in this cabinet's submission right now. That \$7-and-a-half million, what is expected to be accomplished with that money? And does this give the minister or the Government of Nunavut the opportunity to sit down and look at negotiating any partnership opportunities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** With an approved project I think that's where we would be in a position to move forward on those types of discussions, but at this point we're just

working with the proposal that has conditional approval at this point, and so we're at that stage. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the last almost three years fibre projects that have been brought forward including the Katittuq that has now been cancelled, topics have been raised in this House a number of times. One question that I was never able to get a clear definitive answer on is whether the government is seriously open to partnership opportunities to share risk.

There's also some benefits that I'm sure will come out of this any fibre project that comes into the territory. But to me when there's opportunities to share risk, and we've all seen so many projects coming in over budget that any opportunity to be able to share resources as well may actually bring this project to a conclusion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I think there have been, and I can feel that my colleagues have pressed on this before, and I know there's a lot of people that are wanting to see something happen on this.

Of course we did submit this proposal as a solely Government of Nunavut-owned and operated project or proposal, so if we're going to entertain or discuss co-ownership or co-partnership or partnership, I think that's still, we haven't got to an agreement with anyone yet but we are continuing to be open and willing to discuss those.

I'll mention, with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, we have agreed and committed to look at options, what types of model might work and if there's a co-ownership model that might be agreeable to all parties. So I think that work is yet to come, and we're not in a position to sign off on anything yet. I'll just leave it at that for now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the CRTC's, sorry, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, in the review of that, the dissenting opinion from Commissioner Anderson starts off with some of her points that stem from the former Qikiqtani Inuit Association president's motion at the NTI board on self-government that has muddied the waters from her perspective on how negotiations and how shared opportunities and government obligations to the Inuit organizations. Has that changed the way that Community and Government Services looks at partnering with Inuit organizations, or making joint submissions in projects, how has that impacted the day-to-day business operations of Community and Government Services. Thank you.



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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. What I'll start with to say with the ruling in the dissenting opinion, I think it's a new area that we're in that we're kind of put in a spot which we're trying to navigate ourselves, and trying to get everyone's input on how best can we proceed under the circumstances.

But it has been a different scenario. As mentioned before in your line of questioning, whether or not that means do Inuit organizations or Indigenous organizations have a veto over major infrastructure projects, I don't think that's for us to respond or to say, or it's something that has been kind of required of us.

Maybe I'll have my deputy try and touch on what are the day-to-day. He has been working heavily on the front lines with, or with the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in this case, and it touches on other infrastructure projects as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Minister. So the Kivalliq Baffin Connector initiative, that proposal submitted to the broadband fund was originally contemplated and composed 100 percent as a GN initiative and capital project funded with support through the broadband fund.

Because the GN was a sole sponsor of the application, the way that the program works is one of the conditions is that any third-party funding introduced to the proposal, should it move ahead, could have an undesirable effect of reducing the net federal investment from the broadband fund, in that the broadband fund contribution could be reduced to the same extent as the third-party investment.

That's just a condition within the program, and one of the many details that needs to be unraveled in order to bring forward any kind of co-ownership or co-operational model.

To the member's question about the potential for escalation, again, one of the many factors that would need to be identified if we could get past that first gatepost, managing the total investment how will escalation be managed among potential partners, another important to be considered.

The third piece to it is the sharing of the risk of the project as it moves forward, and management of the capital, the actual development of the capital asset.

The next piece to it is that we require statutory approval to enter into the operational model to operate an asset of this kind, and that's something that would be contemplated by the Assembly.

So with a couple of those factors to be considered, we've shared these with NTI and the regional Inuit organizations that these are some of the factors that we contemplate, in order to move forward into any kind of partnership discussion.

As the Minister identified, we have agreed to complete a review of potential commercialization and operational models to see what might make sense for multiple partners to operate an asset of this kind.

To the last question about the change in perspective in dealing with the federal programs and the day-to-day, this provision for the conditional approval that was provided by the Commission, to my knowledge is a condition that has been unique for the programs we've applied on to date, but it is one that we're managing.

So we continue to meet very regularly with NTI to discuss potential paths forward. And subject to approval of this capital project, I think that they will have something a little more substantive to move forward at that table and to bring back to the Assembly for respective approvals on operational or capital asset construction. I hope that answers the question. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. One of the other points that Commissioner Anderson raised in her dissenting opinion was that she had felt that the duty to consult criteria hadn't been met. I would like to get the minister's position on where he feels maybe that broke down, or maybe he has his own dissenting opinion on that perspective. I would like to get the minister's position on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you. Maybe just to start off with, we did approach many other organizations for support on this initiative and did get letters of support from regional Inuit organizations to support, hunters and trappers organizations and the municipalities, the four interested.

In terms of the duty to consult, I'll refer to, we do have a partnership table, the Nunavut Partnership Committee, and I think there are other avenues that we continue to engage in work with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. We will continue to talk and have meetings with the vice president, for example.

Again, I think this is where we can continue to see how we can work better within the organizations on this front. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, oftentimes there are opportunities, maybe not opportunities; maybe there are, maybe there aren't, but whenever we're looking at major infrastructure projects across the territory, sometimes we seem aligned with what Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and other times we see we're veering off or they're veering off. Sometimes there's agree to disagree, probably, the conditions that are met or raised.

One of the things that we had an opportunity just this past weekend, the vice president invited all MLAs to a luncheon at their headquarters here in Iqaluit, where we were given the opportunity to see some highlights of territory-wide initiatives that the region RAs are doing, NTI themselves are doing, three of the regional Inuit dev corps, some of the projects we're working on.

I did have one question there that I was quite surprised. There was a pretty good turnout. The majority of regular caucus was there. Unfortunately there was no cabinet, representatives from cabinet there, where I thought it was a really good opportunity to be able to see what's going on territory-wide on different initiatives. I know a lot of my colleagues got a lot of information out of it. There was a few things that we didn't even know was happening in their regions.

So whether we look at capital planning, the process we're going through right now, and I've been a part of it behind the curtain as well, when you look at what different projects are coming forward, what different initiatives or outcomes that we're looking at accomplishing, it was the first time I've participated in something like that, and I found it very informative to see what's going on territory-wide.

And I think it was a lost opportunity, in my opinion, that cabinet didn't have a member there, probably especially the minister that's in front of us right now that's in charge of infrastructure across the territory, to take a look at where partnerships could be available or different partnerships can maybe piggyback on others. I'm thinking heritage centre opportunities, things like that, where there may be infrastructure that the Government of Nunavut is looking at building, there's infrastructure that Nunavut Tunngavik is looking at building, or one of the regional Inuit associations. Or there may be opportunities to leverage each other's resources.

There's different pots of funding to different groups, such as government or Inuit organizations. I would just like to get first of all, why wasn't there anyone there from executive council, especially the minister in charge of infrastructure, and speak to some of the points that I just raised. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for that question. As I understand it, I think there has been a separate invitation for cabinet members that is being entertained at a later date. Personally, from my, I was quite preoccupied with ongoing events in Kimmirut, for example, over the weekend. I was preoccupied on that front, just to mention.

But we are looking at. And just to mention, I have had several discussions with not just vice president but another regional Inuit organizations, and I know they have the infrastructure housing advisory committee. There's been ideas bounced back and forth around how we can share more information between what we're doing and what they're doing. So I think that's an ongoing thing that will continue.

Just so that we don't reinvent the wheel or duplicating our resources, and I agree that there are certain pots of funding that Indigenous organizations can access where government's can't. We do want to maximize and leverage our efforts there. I will take that as.

I think our usual budget cycle, every year when we come to the Assembly, I think there are opportunities where Inuit organizations or others can have perhaps a plug-in at certain stages to see what they're doing, what they would like to see within our respective capital plans. So I would like to see that moving forward perhaps as something that we can gain more, how to. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's response, and I do appreciate there is a lot of ongoing pressure, I'm sure, on the minister over the last few days in Kimmirut, especially being MLA representing them as well. One thing caught my ear in that. If I understand correctly, the Nunavut Tunngavik incorporation's invitation was sent separately to executive council for a different date meeting? That the invitation to this past Saturday's event was not received by any members of executive council? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** No, I think we received the same invitation. However, I think through discussions with my cabinet colleagues, I think there was, and I we were also in the middle of our sitting, but I think the decision was to put off that meeting for another date. But we're keeping the door open. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And that is disappointing. It was a really good information session. I know there was a fair bit of focus on one specific project, but the

overall educational, just the information that we got there I found very valuable and a number of my colleagues did as well. I think it was a lost opportunity to bring us together and looking forward at different projects and different partnership opportunities. I am disappointed that there wasn't any cabinet members there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a comment.

**Chairman:** Thank you that was just a comment. Any more questions, Mr. Hickee? Mr. Hickee? Okay. Any more questions for the members on local government? Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Give me a second here, Mr. Chair. I was on the wrong page. First off I would like to discuss the Baker Lake water treatment plant. I've been going on and on about this for a few years now. Going back to 2021, the minister of the day stated they were going to be doing some repair work to the water treatment plant concerning water intake pipes and the work was done recently. Thank you to the Community and Government Services for following through.

But one of the plans was, going by the e-mail letter I received, was once the project intake pipes are installed, Community and Government Services was going to be studying if more filtration equipment will be needed or added after a years of study. It has been a year now, I believe, since the project has been completed. I'm wondering where the department is now with Baker Lake's water treatment plant; is there more work going to be done? Because we're still having numerous boil-water advisories.

The Minister of Health even mentioned it this morning that Baker Lake still has an ongoing boil-water advisory for a few weeks now, and it's due to high turbidity. To my understanding, the work that was going to be done was supposed to address the high turbidity issues. If I can get an update from the Minister on the Baker Lake treatment plant and what the next steps are for that, to deal with the issue of boil-water advisories for Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman (Mr. George Hickee):** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate the member for continuing to press on this matter. Of course we are trying to progress on our water infrastructure needs across the territory. We are looking at requesting 2025-2026, \$500,000 for planning studies and that would help us determine the best course of action to provide Baker Lake with reliable and clean drinking water. I'll leave it at that for now. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Minister. So you're going to be requesting some more money; is that going to address the issues of the high turbidity, and hopefully solve once and for all the boil water advisories for Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This would be the plan, and we will continue to come forward with addressing each community's needs and how we build. We are trying to address what are the ongoing challenges in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. If this is approved, when would the work be done? And when would you have an answer whether or not this will solve the high turbidity and boil-water advisory issues in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you maybe I'll allow my deputy to go into that detail. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Minister. So with the funding requested for 2025-2026, that will allow the department to complete planning studies to investigate what's leading to the boil-water advisories and water quality issues in Baker Lake. With that planning completed in 2025-2026, we would then expedite design work, and then move forward into construction.

Specifically to the member's question when will we know, we'll know when the project is completed and the water's being treated if we're not seeing any more boil-water advisories.

We are dealing with a bit of a moving target in Baker Lake because of the additional rigour of water-quality testing in recent years, in addition to changes in source water conditions in the community. It's a lot of precipitation in a community like Baker Lake with large rivers in the area does lead to additional turbidity. We do expect that that will subside in the coming days or weeks, when the lake does freeze up. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for the responses. Let me move on quickly for a second here. Regarding fire truck replacements, I'm looking for clarification and verification. With this move going on all over with green vehicles, electric, EV

electric vehicles, I do know in British Columbia they are using electric fire trucks now. I'm just looking for verification that that's not where Community and Government Services is heading. I would hate to see a fire truck trying to operate in the dead of winter. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. At this time we are not planning to introduce any electric vehicle fire trucks in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. If I can ask for clarification: Any electric vehicles? Or just fire trucks? You kind of said both, there, Minister. Can you confirm?

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you. Just fire trucks. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, same question but for vehicles now. You're not going electric at all, are you? Not just fire trucks but any types of vehicles. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Perhaps I will have my deputy respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Minister. We do not, that I'm aware of, have any plan to shift to electric vehicles within the Government of Nunavut's mobile fleet, although there may be opportunities to utilize electric vehicles indoors in a place like warehouse and forklifts and things like that. But there is no movement to move to electric right now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would hate to see what it does to our electrical grid, trying to charge a truck and a fleet of trucks and power our homes at the same time. Let me move on again.

We received some correspondence from the minister in the month of September with regards to arena upgrades in the territory. I believe there's at least seven of them being

considered or thought of. Can the minister please state which communities you're looking at doing upgrades to in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we do have planning upgrades in multiple communities, but the planning is to take place first before we proceed, so there's Arctic Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Gjoa Haven, Clyde River, Kimmirut, Kinngait, Kugaaruk, Nauyasat and Sanirajak. Again they are at different stages of planning there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just for clarification again and verification, these upgrades they're not replacements? And if some are considered replacement, which arenas are you looking to do that on? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We'll go through the planning if it makes sense to go on a different route and I think at this point it is towards upgrades in arenas. The planning would help us move forward in the best direction. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chair and to bring Baker Lake into this discussion, why was Baker Lake not part of this planning study? It's a very old arena in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you. I appreciate every community wants to be represented within our capital planning processes, but how it went, we looked at the Integrated Community Sustainability Plans and their prioritization for arenas, but also what the condition ratings of these arenas were to proceed with this list I had mentioned before. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So just again for clarification, you needed the hamlet of Baker Lake to include that in their sustainability plan? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.



**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, but also I provided that if it is in the sustainability plans and we could only proceed with X amount of communities, I think this could be a case where we've got to do that, and looked at the list of communities I shared earlier for now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. When will the next cohort of communities with arenas be looked at, doing studies for upgrades? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you. This list we have before you, recommended they have been planning for quite a while, and there are a number of us trying to proceed forward. I suppose we will have to see with the departmental changes that are coming. Perhaps it might be the new department of community services that would have to come forward with another communities that might fall into the queue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, again, Minister. I'll move on to my next subject.

We've had some discussions before, actually during a previous Committee of the Whole, regarding sewage treatment in Baker Lake. And I forget what they are called; remediation, your Petroleum Products Division remediation project, and the minister had mentioned that they were looking at kind of mirroring two projects together, working them together.

I had mentioned that the hamlet of Baker Lake wants the remediation site at a different location, and the sewage treatment should be done at a different time. Can I get an update on the sewage treatment for Baker Lake, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you. The planning phase has begun to development a business case on waste water solution for Baker Lake, for recommendation, and the planning phase is anticipated to be completed this fall, 2024. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. And Minister, what would be the next steps after that is completed? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you. There's presentation to be scheduled and planned with the municipal council to review the findings of the business case and seek a motion for approval to proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The next subject to discuss, parking garages. I had made the suggestion to streamline it and instead of over four years, hopefully cut it down to two years. What's going on now with the parking garages program? That's sorely needed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** I will get my deputy to respond on this. Thank you. Sorry for the delay.

**Chairman:** Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Minister. The parking garage program is something we're proposing to continue again into 2025-2026. The uptake from communities continues to be high. We have taken input from municipalities on streamlining and we have condensed the timing of the program, including opening up a standing offer agreements for planning and design services to municipalities so that they don't need to go through extensive procurement procedures one by one and duplicate that.

Because there have been multiple communities moving through planning and into design there are a lot of lessons learned, and I must say the municipalities have been quite open to sharing those laterally with their counterparts in other hamlets. And the program, we are requesting an appropriation again this year to move more of the programs into design. Members will see in the substantiation sheet that we do have some prepared to move forward into construction, so it is moving ahead, in addition to some of the projects being advanced, parking garages being advanced through the department itself. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Seeley for that. Next subject, the solid waste bundle one and two. It says Nunavut various. Is Baker Lake in there, and if so what's being worked on? And if it's not in there, why is it not in there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** My apologies. I'm just recognizing. Those bundles were submitted back in 2018 I believe it was, and under the small communities fund. But Baker Lake is not currently listed within those bundles. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister consider adding Baker Lake into one of those bundles? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. At this point we're not going to be looking at bundles but we're only doing one project at a time and prioritizing. So we're not looking at doing bundles anymore. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When will Community and Government Services be having a meeting to discuss that issue with the hamlet of Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We're open to meet with them any time around solid waste or local municipal infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last thing is just a quick statement to the department. The hamlet of Baker Lake received their granite crushing equipment this summer on the sea lift and as I mentioned during my member statement, the hospice is now being demolished. We certainly appreciate all the work that's been happening for Baker Lake behind the scenes as well and all the planning and whatnot, and I wish you guys continued success. Hopefully we'll get more programs like this up and running. That's just a statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you for the member's comments. And we do try to align our programs and capital budgets to address what we are hearing from municipalities. It's good to hear that in Baker Lake is benefitting from our spending. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Before I go to my next name I'll take a 15-minute break. Thank you.

*>>Committee recessed at 18:41 and resumed at 19:05*

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. The next name I have on my list is Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My question is, your department's draft 2025-2026 capital estimates includes \$10 million in funding for a new sustainable service delivery program. The substantiation sheet for this program indicates that your department "will issue a call letter to municipalities to request the submission of applications to complete life cycle upgrades to existing municipality-owned facilities."

When will the first call letter be issued? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you. I thank the member for the question. Subject to approval, once we have the approval in place, we can issue it at any time after that, but also we're looking at in anticipation of the new fiscal year, so perhaps it could be in January. But we're looking at timing around for sea lift and other factors. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And we will look forward to that call letter. What will be the maximum amount available per application? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess to put it in a way, we won't have a specific limit, but I guess we will have to have that. We'll work within the budget we're allocated, and so depending on what's coming forward, we're trying to address some of these municipal facilities to ensure that they don't get to a point where it becomes an

emergency or a disaster that we're facing. We're trying to be proactive and mitigate those. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Certainly sounds like we can make a wish list, if there's no maximum amount. When will your department's community grants and contribution policy be updated to reflect the creation of this new program? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you. Just to clarify, according to what we have before my colleagues, 2025-2026 we have 10 million earmarked, so that will be our limit for budgeting purposes. And then the next year, and the subsequent would be 5 million each year. So those are the limits we would be working with.

To the point around policy updating, that is anticipated to be completed before we do the callout. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that clarification. (interpretation ends) This is on granular crushing equipment. Your department's 2024-2025 capital estimates included 1 million in funding for the granular crushing equipment funding program. As of today how much of this budget has been spent? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** My apologies, Mr. Chairman, and members. For this fiscal year we have spent 5.7 million. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates include 4 million in funding for the granular crushing equipment funding program. Which communities are expected to receive new granular crushing equipment during the upcoming 2025-2026 fiscal year? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** I apologize. (interpretation ends) I will have to get back to the committee on that. We were listening to the wrong channel on the interpretation. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates include 2.1 million for the surplus buildings demolition remediation program. Your department's five-year capital plan indicates that a total of 5.1 million will be spent on this program between the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 fiscal years. However, your department's prior year's capital project substantiation sheet indicated that "there will be the need for an additional budget request for facilities such as the Iqaluit Nunavut Arctic College old residence. The Department of Community and Government Services believes the remediation cost of that facility are \$10 million to \$12 million."

Why does your department's five-year capital plan only include two fiscal years' worth of funding for this work? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair and great question. We are anticipating there may be other assets that we could add to this current list that we have before you. And also the Nunatta (ph) old residence will be treated separately, since it's such, a much bigger piece of asset at this time.

Let me go to the previous question about the granular equipment, which community is slated for 2025-2026, I believe was the question. That's going to be based on the applications we receive and they will be graded according to the criteria. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that information. (interpretation ends) Now I would like to ask a couple of questions on minor capital. Your department's proposed 2024-2025 capital estimates include 2.1 million in funding for municipal studies and projects. This was a new program within your department's small capital budget. What specific studies and projects are being undertaken during the current 2024-2025 fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): I apologize. (interpretation ends) Thank you for your patience. We do anticipate this is a new program and we are looking at such things as source water quantity and security studies, geotechnical investigations, granular, dam safety inspections or critical infrastructure assessments to support new municipal capital programs. So those types of studies would be assessed under this. If I may have the deputy expand on this. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to expand on the minister's point, the proposal of this new funding line is meant to allow us to react more quickly to what we see annually, and that is the need for studies to advance municipal infrastructure needs. So what we would use the funding for is something we would determine in the coming months, subject to approval here in the Assembly. Typically it's municipal critical infrastructure needs and how we could advance them, and some of the smaller projects, they may be a little outside of the scope of the municipalities' capacity to manage, but advancing these planning studies is exactly how we figure out what the scope of the project is going to be to see if the municipality could advance it through one of our proposal-based programs, or if it's something they would like the department to take on on their behalf. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it would be better if that had been started a long time ago. Perhaps the needed infrastructure would be more clearly outlined as to what actually needs to be done, which is critical. (interpretation ends) Your department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates include \$750,000 in funding for municipal studies and projects. How was the amount of the budget determined? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** *Qujannamiik*. We have been spending in this area, but using funds from within and what we are anticipating, based on the level of interest from municipalities, to look at these, that budget has been identified as of now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's capital estimates include funding for the new planning and design funding local government priorities program, and the planning studies program. Why does your department divide its funding for design planning and studies into three separate budgets? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Maybe if you have my deputy respond. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Seeley, please.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's a very good question, and thank you, I thank the member for asking it. The Local Government Design Fund was introduced a year ago because of the number of local government projects that didn't make it through to request design funding and they weren't advancing, leading to a deficit in municipal infrastructure in critical areas, in things like arenas, things like parking garages, things like hamlet offices.

The department initiated the Local Government Design Fund to ensure a dedicated stream of funding to advance critical municipal assets essential to the community life.

The second part of that rationale was the federal government has signalled a transition towards more proposal-based programs that require the territorial government to be shovel-ready; that is, design complete and ready to go to market with a very short construction window. So to make sure, we made the most of the funding opportunities through those proposal-based programs, that program, the Local Government Design Fund was introduced.

The overall planning studies funding, which has historically been used to manage planning studies across all client departments and all asset classes, that is our central funding line, if you will, and we'll continue to function in that way with new projects approved for planning moving through that process and into design on a prioritized basis.

The new project, in the member's previous line of questioning for planning studies, is to help the department be a little more agile in dealing with some of the municipal priorities that do come up. I think I described that a little bit in my previous response, about why it is we want to be ready to provide those supports to municipalities when called upon, and that new funding would definitely go a long way to help with that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Ms. Quassa.

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's 2024-2025 capital estimates included 3 million in funding under the municipal capital block funding policy. Your department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates indicate that the annual budget for this program is increasing by 105 percent to 6.15 million. How was the amount of this increase determined? (interpretation ends) That will be my final question. Thank you.



**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you. Apologies. We have been trying to react also around the cost pressures of municipalities and we try to address their municipal assets and keeping them updated, so in line with that we have tried to increase the block funding for municipal capital block funding on this. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name I have on my list, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Chair. I don't have much here, but it has been questioned by a few of my colleagues, both about the planning studies, and I want to ask about the planning studies for Kimmirut and Kinngait arena. I'm curious, what is the criteria used to pick when a planning study is done to replace an arena? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** If you'll allow my deputy to respond on this. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Go ahead, Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I heard the question correctly, it's what is the criteria to advance a planning study for an arena. In the case of arenas, the local government branch of the department proposes which projects would advance into the planning or through the planning envelope, in much the same way any other client department would advance which office or which of their program spaces would be prioritized. So in the case of arenas, it would be championed through the local government branch of CGS based on prioritization status of the existing arenas. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What year was the Kimmirut arena built? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll have to get back to the member on that. I don't have that detail. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What year was the Kinngait arena built? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and again I'll have to get back to the member on that. Those are, yes, to that level of detail I'll have to get back to the members. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems odd that you're planning to replace arenas and you don't know when they were built. Was it built five years ago, ten years ago, 15 years ago? There must be some idea when these arenas were built, if it's time due to replace them. The reason I'm asking is I'm almost certain that these arenas were built after Arviat. Arviat's arena was built, I believe, in 1981 and it's not even on the radar to do a study for design and builds. When will the minister get back to the House here on when these arenas were built? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the earliest opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, maybe if the minister can even reply as when the minister believes it was built, because one of them is his home riding community. Does the minister remember when they were built? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you to the member. I don't think it would be fair to ask the minister to speculate right now. Minister, I know another project description is it gives when the infrastructure was built in the list on replacements or renovation. Hopefully one of your colleagues beside you can dig up that information in a short period of time.

But I'll go back to Mr. Savikataaq for another question. Thank you.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On another topic that is related to Arviat, again, I'm pretty sure that the minister and his officials have been going back and forth with the community hall in Arviat, with the floor being uneven and for the members' benefit, the benefit of the members, the piles are pushing the foundation of the community hall up or down, and I'm just wondering if there's any plans to do a study to replace that or repair it, because if it's not repaired soon, it will be a total write-off as the difference between the lowest point of the floor and the highest point of the floor has now

come up to 18 inches. Is there any plans to help the hamlet of Arviat get their community hall floor fixed before it's a write-off? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you. Yes, I have heard a bit about that, and I know the officials have been working with the municipal workers as well on how to move forward. We'll look at that through the planning of municipal assets on where they're at, what needs to be done, and see what's available funding-wise to address those issues. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope this is taken urgently because I truly believe that if the issue is not addressed soon, the community hall will be structurally unsafe to repair. Eighteen inches is a lot between the highest point and the lowest point. That means it's pushing the beams, the roof rafters. Everything is being pushed to its max and it's wood. You can put pressure on wood up to a certain point and it snaps. It breaks. And I'm afraid that if something structurally major breaks that it might not be fixable. For sure it won't be useable. So can I just get assurance that the minister's department will work quicker and closer with the Arviat hamlet to rectify the problem, before Arviat loses its community hall. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you. I'll have the officials follow up with the hamlet officials on it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, over here. Good evening, Minister. It's a line of questioning from Mr. Savikataaq's, in regards to the arena.

When there's a planning stage that's happening and when it comes these local infrastructures, such as the community hall in Sanirajak, has that been looked at when it comes to the backup generator? How are these prioritized when it comes to providing an actual working generator? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As far as I know, at least one school in every community has a backup generator. And I'm also aware that the new air terminal buildings are equipped with a backup generator.

We're trying to make sure that these larger infrastructure pieces in the municipalities are not disrupted, in the cases of a power outage, for example, and making sure for that for example water treatment plants are operating and water continues to flow. So we're trying to make sure as many buildings are equipped with a backup generator.

Again, I think this is an area where we want to work with other departments in trying to address. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The school generator works fine. I was talking about the community hall generator, which is not working. So I'll ask again, I'll ask this question: Has the community or has the municipality contacted CGS that this needs to be a priority when it comes to the community centre? The minister mentioned the power outage status happening. So has the Municipality of Sanirajak contacted Community and Government Services to identify that generator is needed in the community? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman** (Mr. Savikataaq): Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I guess I will differentiate a little, too, around. So all health centres and schools, those are the ones that as a government we try to ensure that we have those backup generators on hand. When it's a municipal asset, that's I think where the municipality can get those in order.

My colleague mentioned that it's not running in Sanirajak, if I'm not mistaken, then you can request funding through our department and/or working with a contractor to make repairs to that backup generator. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the minister has stated earlier, when it comes to a requesting equipments, I believe I heard that it will be first come, first served. Will it be the same thing when it comes to grants and contributions, that the minister thought it will submit a proposal in order to get their new generator? Will it be the same structure with first come and first served? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** *Mut'na*. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. To clarify, I did not say anything about first come, first served. It is application-based, but there are criteria to what gets to funded

successful applicants in this case for municipalities, and we don't do first come, first served applications. Thank you, Mr. Chair. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kaernek:** Thank you Mr. Chair, and thank you for the clarification, Minister. Under the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, has the municipality been advised that this much-needed generator is in the planning stages? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** If I can have my Deputy respond on this. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, the generator repair is not in planning stages. Where it is a municipally owned asset, the municipality would take responsibility for initiating the repairs. Where additional funding is required to do that, the department has a variety of funding programs available to hamlets to access additional support, particularly for critical infrastructure like that.

As the minister mentioned, proposals are prioritized based on need and feasibility and criteria like that. So certainly critical assets and power restoration like backup generators would score very high under our programs.

We would encourage the municipality to apply, and our officials would be happy to reach out to the hamlet to see how we can work together. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Kaernek:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Mr. Seeley, for that clarification. As we know, the Nunavut Municipalities Association are in meeting, so I think I'm in luck for the first time.

Moving on to my next question, Mr. Chair. When it comes to these arenas, as the minister has said earlier, the Sanirajak arena is listed as number 9. So when it comes to the prioritization of how these arenas are, you know, is it based on, I'm sure it is based on building condition assessment. How can the Municipality of Sanirajak contact the Community and Government Services, in order to have it jumped up. Would the minister be in agreement with me? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, my department uses the Integrated Community Sustainability Plans that each municipality submits. Information contained in those helps to inform how we proceed with our capital planning and prioritization. So we'll continue to do that. We do also factor the building condition assessments and what state those assets are at. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the arena was pretty much closed the whole winter last year, due to boiler problems, sewage problems, and other problems such as lights. I would like to have this assessment be prioritized. That's a just statement.

Moving on to my other question, Mr. Chair. When it comes to these crushing equipments, on the substantiation sheet it says there that when it comes to – just bear with me – there are eight communities listed here indicated that crushing equipment, only eight municipalities indicated they had a crushing equipment operation and the under 16 municipalities do not have all the necessary equipment.

So as the minister has stated earlier, of these eight, where are these 16 municipalities; do you have the names of these communities? Who are these 16 municipalities? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Give me a second here. Thank you. We'll have to get back to the committee on that, but I'll maybe have my deputy describe how that program is rolled out. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll be expecting that I'm sure Sanirajak is listed as one of the 16, but the community is very, very capable of getting that equipment, I'm sure, and hopefully it will be considered as, you know, as a community. I will advise the municipality I believe I heard the minister stated that this was going to be a proposal basis. So just a statement there. I'll probably have, other members, give them a chance to have their say. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): That was just a statement so I'll go to the next person on my list. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There are a couple questions; depends on their answer. It's to do with the water reservoir in Chesterfield Inlet. As the minister might be aware, as I mentioned it the first year that I

got here, it's regarding that the, they fill it to a certain point, and there's a seepage in it, so they can't, they just need to fill it up to a certain point. Is there any plans for the water reservoir in Chesterfield Inlet to be looked at or repaired? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the member for that question. If I recall correctly, and I want to thank the member for inviting me to Igluligaarjuk early on this year, I think it was, where we got to see the community. Or if it was in December; I'm trying to remember. We got to see the community and had a meeting with the council.

If I recall, the community is looking at wanting to change their water sewers, but if I'm on the wrong track, maybe my colleague will point me and clarify.

According to my notes, in August 2024 the municipality, they had not contacted my department about changing their water source, and this would require regulatory approval for the water source through the Department of Health and the Nunavut Water Board.

To date there has been no request received, and so as a result I haven't reviewed anything through our capital funding in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Arena, reservoir, arena renovation. What type of renovation is in the plan for Chesterfield Inlet arena? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, this is in one of those planning stages which would inform the scope of work that would be required, so that's still not determined yet. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This will probably be a two-part question in regards to the arena. They have been requesting concrete flooring, and there was some funding carried over from the previous year. Will there be additional funding for the renovation? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Mr. Chair, maybe if you have my deputy respond to the question. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The renovations to Chesterfield Inlet arena is in the bundle with Arctic Bay and Gjoa Haven. The Class D estimates have been developed on the status of those arenas to figure out what next steps are to it see what the most viable plan is, to either renovate, replace, or what they would do with those arenas.

So as far as small capital projects like replacing the flooring with concrete, that is something that's contemplated within the renewal of any of the arenas.

The hamlet can also access some of the proposal-based programs that the department offers, if they do choose to replace the gravel floor with a concrete pad or turf. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. There's a motion on the floor which is non-debatable. Those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Motion is carried. Now we'll rise to report progress. Officials, you may leave the witness table.

*>>Committee adjourned and House resumed at 19:49*

**Speaker:** Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Savikataaq.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee has been considering Bill 61 and would like to report progress. And Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Is there a seconder? Ms. Gross. 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 5:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of 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 Tuesday, November 5, at 1:30 p.m.  
Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:51*

