

NUNAVUT HANSARD

UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)

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

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

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

Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)

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

George Hickett
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Hon. David Joanasi
(South Baffin)

Government House Leader; Minister of Community and Government Services

Joelie Kaernek
(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)

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

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

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

Solomon Malliki
(Aivilik)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister Responsible for Poverty Reduction; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Karen Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

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

Joanna Quassa
(Aggu)

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, November 5, 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: Good afternoon, everyone. (interpretation) (no interpretation).

(interpretation ends) Before I go to Item 2, I have a little announcements to make. I want to wish the premier a happy 40th birthday today.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Also to Mr. Lightstone's little boy, who just turned five today.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: I have a special one to make. On this day today back in 1977 I married my wife, Annie. It's our 47th anniversary today.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: I would like to thank her very much for keeping me at where I am today. Without her help, I would not be here sitting here with you. Keeping me in line, as always, and I'm thinking she's watching TV right now because I was telling her that I would be making this announcement on her behalf. Happy 47th anniversary to my wife, Annie Akoak. I love you very much.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Now I have the shakes. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 505 – 6(2): Sanikiluaq Hamlet and Government of Nunavut Office Building

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy birthday to those that are celebrating their birthdays today and happy anniversary Mr. Speaker, to you and your wife.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention the incredible efforts made by my department's capital project and Qikiqtaaluk regional infrastructure teams to advance the construction of the Sanikiluaq hamlet and Government of Nunavut office building.

Mr. Speaker, in 2019 my department began work on what has proved to be a timely assessment of the community of Sanikiluaq's need for new hamlet and Government of Nunavut offices. In early September 2020, a violent storm with rain and winds approaching 100 kilometres an hour damaged the hamlet offices beyond repair.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, in February 2022 we saw the completion of the design for a new hamlet office that included space for Nunavut government offices. Later that summer a construction contract was awarded with a completion schedule set for October 2024. Mr. Speaker, expediting construction of the project presented multiple challenges. However, I am pleased to share that the building is undergoing final commissioning and is expected to be handed over to the hamlet in mid-November.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased with the coordination and leadership my department has demonstrated in managing this project through to completion. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who worked so hard to complete this project.

I look forward, Mr. Speaker, to seeing the new Sanikiluaq hamlet and Government of Nunavut office building fully utilized by both territorial and local government programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 506 – 6(2): Creation of 25-Year Commemorative Vehicle Plates

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, 2024 marks 25th anniversary of the creation of Nunavut as a territory. In honour of this occasion we have worked diligently on return of our polar bear licence plate. Earlier this year we signed an agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories allowing us to create our own bear-shaped plate without infringing any trademark legalities. I would also like to thank the Hon. Caroline Wazonik, Minister of Infrastructure in the Northwest Territories cabinet, for agreeing to share this very special polar bear licence plate.

Mr. Speaker this plate will reflect some similarities we have with our northern neighbours while unmistakably being unique to Nunavut. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation has undertaken this project to create a new licence plate that reflects our history while also setting us apart as a unique place in the world.

Mr. Speaker, this project started in early 2024 and is expected to be completed by December 2024. We have kept the numbering theory that's currently in use so that if Nunavummiut wish, they can continue to use their current plates and allow to change it for this new licence plate.

Mr. Speaker, the polar bear licence plate is coming home. Happy anniversary to our fine territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 507 – 6(2): Kimmirut Power Outage Response

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the recent extended power outage in Kimmirut which affected all residents in Kimmirut and businesses over a challenging three-day period. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, a series of unrelated events prolonged the outage. By now all power has been restored to the community, and Qulliq Energy Corporation crews continue to monitor the situation and address system upgrades.

Mr. Speaker I'm extending my heartfelt thanks to the dedicated employees of Qulliq Energy Corporation, particularly the operations team. Their committed expertise and coordination efforts were instrumental in resolving the issues and restoring power as safely as possible.

I would also like to acknowledge the communications team's timely updates throughout the three days, to keep the community inform.

(interpretation ends) I would be remiss not to mention our partners at the Government of Nunavut, the hamlet of Kimmirut, and local organizations in the community. Your timely support for Kimmirut residents was essential in demonstrating the strength of collaboration and resource sharing during times of need. I would also like to recognize the patience and resiliency shown by residents of Kimmirut during this extended power outage. We recognize that this disruption caused significant inconvenience and uncertainty, and I acknowledge your frustrations on behalf of Qulliq Energy Corporation. The strength and unity demonstrated by the residents of Kimmirut remind us of the principle *kajuqtiinni*, working together for a common purpose. We sincerely appreciate the community's cooperation enabling our teams to work effectively and safely.

Qulliq Energy Corporation is committed to investigating the causes of this outage and implementing necessary improvements to reduce the likelihood of future incidents. Enhancing our infrastructure's reliability and response to emergencies is a priority. We are committed to continuous system improvements that ensure all Nunavummiut can depend on a safe, stable power supply.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I wish to reiterate my appreciation and gratitude to the dedicated employees for their dedication to providing reliable energy services, the Government of Nunavut, the hamlet of Kimmirut, local partners, and the residents' resiliency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 682 – 6(2): Appreciation of Husband Simon Quassa

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to wish happy birthday and anniversaries of our colleagues, and I also say good afternoon to the people of Nunavut.

I rise today to say that we cannot work alone. I would like to thank the people who have supported me and who have encouraged me and advised me on doing my work. My partner, Simon Quassa, is here and I would like to acknowledge his presence. I don't say thank you very often at times, so I would really like to show him my appreciation for his support and his encouragement, and also giving me advice. I thank him very much. And also supports me all ways. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: He's a well-known Toronto Maple Leafs fan. Member's Statement. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Member's Statement 683 – 6(2): Happy Anniversary to Speaker Akoak and Wife

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly today to wish my auntie Annie Akoak a happy wedding anniversary, as well as you, Mr. Speaker. Happy 47th wedding anniversary. And I thank my auntie greatly for always helping me, up to today and every day. I wish you both a beautiful day.

The sacrifices that we take, Mr. Speaker shows, and I'm pretty sure you make many sacrifices up to this day today. You are almost ending your third year term, so I wish you all the best.

We'll be home Saturday, Mr. Speaker, so I'm pretty sure you will find the time to enjoy with your wife, which is my auntie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 684 – 6(2): Jordan's Principle Funding and Increased Food Prices

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about Jordan's principle that is available in most of the communities. It is a very, very good benefit, including my constituents, and they are able to buy healthy foods. Please use it wisely as it is made available to Inuit of Nunavut to help them financially and focus mainly on children and school children. Please make sure that you buy healthy foods and to use Jordan's principle values.

And once Jordan's principle came into effect the prices of foods and items in the retail outlets have gone up, and I will be asking questions at the appropriate time.

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

Member's Statement 685 – 6(2): Happy Birthday to Grandson

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Indiscernible) my grandchild, two years old. Happy birthday. Have a great day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 686 – 6(2): Recognizing Thomas Levi and Rex Willie of Arctic Bay

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy birthday to those and happy anniversary. Today my fellow minister regarding the recognition in sports, two from Arctic Bay that have worked and worked tirelessly. Thomas Levi was recognized as a volunteer. He has started games up in Arctic Bay, Dene games, and they continue to play. And he has volunteered. I say thank you to Thomas. And we're happy that you were recognized for your volunteer work.

Also Rex Willie, in the Dene games they supervise and that they have to be Dene. But with the work that they've done, the Dene in the west have agreed to include Rex Willie. When they have the Arctic Winter Games in Alaska, he's the first Inuk recognized in this way as a coach. I want to honour him.

And this week they have games going on each week with lots of enthusiasm. I participated. I wanted to raise those two. Happy anniversary, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 687 – 6(2): Happy Birthdays and Happy Anniversaries

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to everyone here in the House with us today and almost good afternoon to those in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, as you stated, we have some special celebrations today and I would also like to share the same sentiment to wish our premier a happy 40th birthday. It's a wonderful milestone, to reach a new decade, and I wish you all the best in your 40th year.

One of my cousins, Mr. Speaker also shares a birthday today, and I would like to wish River Harvey (ph) a happy 21st birthday. Wishing you a wonderful year ahead, River, in all that you do.

I too would also like to share a happy fifth birthday to our colleague's son and our colleague's grandchild as well. And also to you, Mr. Speaker. Happy 47th anniversary to you and your wife Annie. Wishing you both a wonderful year of marriage. I hope too to one day reach that wonderful milestone, but it seems so far ahead yet. But I know in your years together you have many happy memories and I wish you many more to come.

One last thing, Mr. Speaker, is that I know our hearts have felt across our territory for our fellow Inuit in Nunavut, and sharing our sympathies and our condolences to the community of Saluit and those affected. Our hearts are with everyone just during this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Member's Statement 688 – 6(2): Appreciation of New Office Building in Sanikiluaq

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, happy 47th anniversary to you and your wife, Annie. That's a very, very long, good achievement over your years of marriage. Happy birthday as well to the premier, and happy birthday to Mr. Lightstone's son and grandson to Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to stand up today and commend the Government of Nunavut and also through the Community and Government Services Minister's Statement in regards to the Sanikiluaq office building nearing completion. I look forward to the visit from my colleague and also I extend my invitation to all my cabinet members and colleagues to come down and visit Sanikiluaq at your opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I think the new Sanikiluaq hamlet office was expedited very quickly. As we know, the capital planning process takes nearly seven years, and I want to thank all the members from the Fifth Legislative Assembly who expedited the process to construct and build a new hamlet office in Sanikiluaq, and also my current colleagues who have been supporting the resources to continue the construction of the new building. So I look forward to the new opening and I extend my invitation to my colleagues. Nakurmiik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

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

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to Return to Oral asked by Adam Lightstone, MLA for Iqaluit-Manirajak.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer I provided to MLA Lightstone on the Legal Services Board and Inuit court workers. The Legal Services Board, working with its three regional Legal Aid clinics, submitted funding requests to a tripartite working group on Indigenous court workers program of Justice Canada. The board and its clinic were successful in obtaining approximately \$195,800 to develop and deliver a comprehensive training for all Nunavut Inuit court workers. This in-person training is scheduled for the week of December 9, 2024 in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a Return to Oral Question asked by a colleague, Hon. George Hickes, MLA for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Oral Question 1000 – 6(2) asked on November 1, 2024 regarding residential building and occupancy permits.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to provide further information regarding building and occupancy permits, as asked by the member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk during Question Period November 1.

Mr. Speaker, the member requested information on the building and occupancy permits issued in fiscal years 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and to date in 2024-2025.

Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Chief Building Official has provided statistics with the following notes: First, statistics are tracked by calendar year; and second, the Office of the Chief Building Official started extracting this information from its database in support of Nunavut 3000 tracking, noting that the statistics gathered in 2022 includes all active building permits.

Thirdly, that buildings may have more than one dwelling; therefore, the number of total residential building permits and occupancy permits are provided in the format of total permits issued by unit, and total number of buildings.

Mr. Speaker, in 2022, the total building permits underway were issued were 214 units in total of 73 buildings, and total number of occupancy permits was 151 units in a total of 30 buildings.

Mr. Speaker, in 2023, the building permits issued was 176 units in a total of 28 buildings. And total number of occupancy permits was 119 units in a total of 21 buildings.

Finally, Mr. Speaker in 2024 from January 1 through September 30, the total building permits issued is 306 in a total of 76 buildings and total number of occupancy permits was 40 units in a total of 13 buildings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Question 660 – 6(2): Probations and Conditional Releases

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for his son's fifth birthday I wanted to do five returns to orals, but I'll only do two today.

Return to Oral Question asked by Adam Arreak Lightstone, MLA for Iqaluit-Manirajak.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer I provided to MLA Arreak Lightstone on issues with probation orders. There are currently 76 clients under supervision of Community Corrections in Iqaluit, 21 of whom have been convicted of sexual offences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before that, I want to first wish to an anniversary as to a great day. I hope your wife and you have a great 47th anniversary. You're a good role model for us. Thank you.

And also those that are celebrating birthdays with me.

And also, Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize two guests here, in the House. The soothing comfort from Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Simon Nutarak (ph). Welcome to the house. Mr. Nutarak. I have been grateful for him. He worked a lot for the QIA, Qikitani Inuit Association, in pushing for elders in the community. Thank you to Mr. Nutarak, the work that you've done.

And also to recognize Joanasie Akumalik (ph). He has been mayor. He has supported the community in Iqaluit. I would like to thank and welcome them to the House.

I wanted to recognize those two. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to your House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also I'm grateful for our elder in the House. His name is Simon Nutarak (ph). And also my partner, Simon Quassa, welcome to the House. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6, Oral Questions. Member for for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 1015 – 6(2) Enforcement of the Inuit Language Protection Act

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to your House, Simon. Simon is my cousin, and same with the person from Igloodik. Welcome.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Languages. When we obtained Nunavut and it has now been 25 years, under the language act, the people who work for the government, for example government wildlife officers or conservation officers, or those who work in hotels, in the act it states that workers, if an Inuk asks to be served in Inuktitut, according to the act, they have to be served in Inuktitut. And looking at the act, and the fact that Inuit are not served in their language who cannot speak English, like if they have, suddenly have to go to a hotel, the hotels and the conservation offices, are they breaking? Can the Minister of Languages tell us if these workers who do not serve in Inuktitut are breaking the law? And why aren't they being asked to do that? Is the service to Inuktitut adequate, looking at the act? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Languages, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for are bringing the issue. Mr. Speaker, as the Government of Nunavut we're working towards reaching the article 23 as to the best as we can, as a government, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the member's questions, whether conservation officers or hamlets and the places he mentioned, whether they are breaking the law for employment, Mr. Speaker, there are processes we use as a government, to hire employment, whether they are Inuit or non-Inuit.

We do have also obligations for Government of Nunavut departments, agencies and public sectors to obligate the language laws, whether they provide signages that is provided in all official languages in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was talking about the language act and article 23 in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. I did not ask about that, I asked about the act. Are the workers breaking the law? Are they breaking the language act? Because we have Nunavut, and I can speak Inuktitut. I'm not trying to bring down English speakers, but looking at the people that we represent, can the minister respond to me if the workers are not or are they breaking the act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Languages, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our Government of Nunavut has been reviewing the language law, and following the first statutory review of Nunavut language laws, the Government of Nunavut received recommendations from the Standing Committee on Legislation this year, on March 24, and we are very thankful for the detailed review of the 14 recommendations.

But we do encourage all organizations to be compliant with the law, and that is our obligation within the Government of Nunavut that we are using the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and *Official Languages Act* that we enforce as the Government of Nunavut.

As the Minister of Languages I am responsible for whether we enforce and abide by all laws within the language, Mr. Speaker, but in terms of this member's question, it's unclear to me whether him questioning on them breaking the law, I'm unclear in terms of that area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the language act and it was created when we got Nunavut. It's quite thick. So after the hearing that we had last year with the language commissioner, I believe we all remembered that the Commissioner For Languages explained, if I remember correctly, the people who serve people have to follow the language act, and they can get a bonus if they use the language.

I would like to ask the Minister and using the examples that I used, hotel workers or airport workers, like when we try to pick up parcels. And the Minister didn't respond to my question. So what about your office of languages? What can your office do to encourage more people to use the language?

It's really regretful that our language, we've had Nunavut for 25 years. I believe it needs to be utilized more, here, because many people watch. Many of our constituents watch. So can the minister explain further about the act? Can the minister do more encouragement to the language commissioner to do more to promote and preserve the language? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Languages, Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question from my colleague. Mr. Speaker, within the departments in our government and agencies, and also the private sector we do provide funding sources to have those departments, agencies, and the public sector to obligate providing the language -- I'm lost words there. We do provide fundings to provide, my apologies Mr. Speaker. I'm lost for words, but we, as a government, we're looking at the language act review and I do not anticipate bringing forward a bill, as you know, but we're aiming for the winter sitting to have that language act review bill to be introduced, and that will have more intel whether, how we can direct the Government of Nunavut in terms of obligating the Government of Nunavut through language protection. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1016 – 6(2) Accessing Health Information

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon, everyone. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues will know, I strongly support the collection, analysis, and use of health data to promote and inform public health and wellness initiatives. I'm also acutely aware that the process to collect, analyze, and use health information must be done responsibly and be respectful of every individual's personal health information.

The Department of Health has recently carried out public consultations on its health-specific privacy legislation, as well as offering an online survey on the issue. Can the Minister provide an update on how many people attended the community consultations, how many survey responses were received, and what key issues were raised on the issue of health privacy legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Some questions there. Hon. Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague. (interpretation ends) As the member noted, this is an important topic for the

Department of Health and we're very excited about the ongoing consultations towards health-specific privacy legislation.

So in terms of the ongoing consultations through our consultant, we have had community consultations held in Arviat, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Kugluktuk. As well we've visited Qikiqtarjuaq. Unfortunately the consultation in Whale Cove had to be delayed, due to the lack of hotel accommodations. And Cambridge Bay, unfortunately, we didn't get to visit due to weather. And so we've had 138 responses to date, in terms of the online survey, and we've also reached out to a number of stakeholder groups. Some have followed up, some have not. Currently we're planning to have this consultation process completed soon, fall 2024, so it's currently wrapping up stage right now. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's Information and Privacy Commissioner has had to deal with a number of cases where health staff have accessed medical records of individuals without any authorization or justifiable reason to do so. This type of incident raises doubts in people's minds about how well the department protects their personal health information. Can the Minister outline some of steps that his department has taken to improve the way it protects people's privacy and ensure that those who violate the privacy are held to account for their actions. 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 for the question. The scenario or the incidents that have occurred in terms of the access of personal health information are extremely concerning for the department. We fully recognize that the information that we hold does not belong to us; we are just the keepers of it. It belongs to the individuals who it pertains to.

In terms of the issue of access of personal health information, electronic health records, we have instituted, or we have put in place an auditing tool which keeps track of which specific individual has access to specific records, which allows us to understand, you know, for example, an individual's doctor or health care provider, they should be the one accessing their health information and it should not be somebody who's not involved in their circle of care.

That's following a recommendation that came from the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and we take these situations very seriously and are looking for other ways to make improvements. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy that some of the recommendations of the privacy commissioner have been implemented so far. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the department's health-specific privacy consultations are just wrapping up; however, the need for such legislation has been addressed on numerous occasions over the years in this Assembly and previous Assemblies, and during appearances of Nunavut's information and privacy commissioners before committees of the Assembly. It has been a priority in several years' worth of departmental business plans.

I'm confident that a great deal of work has already been completed; will the Minister be bringing forward a bill to establish health privacy legislation before the end of our term? And if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I understand there is a long, unfortunately long history of this work being flagged as a requirement. It's something that the Department of Health and the government should have in place, and I think that explains why we're so excited to be seeing the consultations happen, seeing that valuable input from Nunavummiut and stakeholders so we can move the ball forward down the field, so to speak. We will be submitting a new legislative proposal informed by the consultations, soon, and our current timeline in terms of the legislative development is to introduce legislation in 2025-2026. That's the current timeline that we have targeted. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1017 – 6(2) Kivalliq Megaprojects

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the Minister is aware, I have been a strong supporter for the proposed Kivalliq Intercommunity Road Project. This is a project that has significant strategic implications for the communities of the region. Earlier this year the Minister's department announced that it would be holding a series of public consultation meetings during January and February in the five impacted communities, including Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker, it is now November. Can the Minister indicate when he will be tabling the report from these consultations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank all those that attended the community consultations, and those are very valuable pieces of information that were collected. I don't have a firm timeline as to when that document will be, the document what we heard will be, but we have been circulating that to our participating organizations right now and once we get further feedback, then that will be more the appropriate time of putting it out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Hopefully you'll be able to table it sooner rather than later, once you hear back from all the proponents and whatnot that are involved.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall when I last raised this issue during the spring sitting, I noted that one of his departments' recent updates on the Kivalliq intercommunity road project indicated that the "initial route corridor" was determined by considering a number of factors, including the Nunavut Planning Commission's recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan.

It has now been almost 18 months since the proposed plan was submitted. Can the minister provide a clear update today on what position his department has taken regarding the impact of the proposed Land Use Plan on the proposed intercommunity road project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the scope that we have for the intercommunity road will include the look into what the Draft Land Use Plan has, its current stage, and this is the reason why we're doing the study, is so we can have good information to make the determination of whether to build the road, intercommunity roads. And this is a right process, in terms of looking at all various documents, including the Draft Land Use Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that I do not always agree with our current Member of Parliament's position on a number of issues, including the need to support our mining industry here in Nunavut. However, I do want to go on record to express my appreciation for her advocacy in the House of Commons for the proposed Kivalliq hydro fibre link project.

Mr. Speaker, the department of Economic Development is clearly responsible for the Government of Nunavut's role in respect to the Kivalliq intercommunity road project and the Grays Bay Road and Port Project. However, when I last asked questions about the

Government of Nunavut's role in respect to the Kivalliq hydro fibre link project, I was told that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs had taken over the file. Can the Minister clearly explain why his department does not have that responsibility for this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Kivalliq hydro fibre is an Inuit-led project, and they're the ones that are holding the pen. Our government, whether it's through the premier, myself as Minister of Economic Development and Minister, sorry, cabinet, those, we've been very supportive of that organization, to the Kivalliq Inuit associations on their work and effort, and Minister Main. So that work is being done by a separate entity other than the government. But we've been very supportive and very (no interpretation).

And we try to make sure (interpretation ends) if it's the premier, he's talking to the prime minister. If it's myself, I'm talking to my transport minister, and Minister Main with his Qulliq Energy Corporation, all those we continue to talk to them. And in fact we signed, Minister Main signed a memorandum of understanding with the proponent during the Kivalliq trade show to show how much support we are giving to that project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1018 – 6(2): Liquor Regulation, Reporting and Retailing

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy anniversary, happy birthday, happy birthday to my son as well and Mr. Simailak's grandson. I just want to thank you, Mr. Speaker for starting off the day with some light-heartedness.

Mr. Speaker my questions today are for the Minister of the Nunavut Liquor Commission. I have consistently raised my concerns in the Assembly regarding the impact that alcohol abuse has on public safety. Mr. Speaker, the need to crack down on abuse of alcohol import permits is a priority that I've also raised many times. The unchecked importation of large volumes of high-alcohol-content spirits has contributed significantly to the problem of bootlegging in Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the situation, a year ago in November 2023, the government responded to these concerning by introducing changes to limit amount and frequency of spirits that individuals can import into the territory.

I would like to ask if the Minister will be able to provide an update today to the extent to what these changes have been successful in reducing the unchecked flow of hard alcohol into the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are hoping that by introducing lower limits in being able to bring in alcohol will have a positive impact on that, Mr. Speaker. We are currently analyzing what kind of impact that will have. Are people ordering more times now, instead of monthly or bi-weekly. We're just analyzing those, Mr. Speaker. But there is a correlation there somewhere, and I'm sure that over the next little while we will be able to figure that out, Mr. Speaker. That was the idea behind reducing the amount of liquor that an individual could purchase at any given time. But we have to get through that information, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the previous permitting system that the Department of Finance and the Liquor Commission had utilized, there was an information sharing agreement between the Department of Finance, the Liquor Commission and the RCMP, whereas the Government of Nunavut would share information with regards to irregular permit purchases.

In light of the changes to the import permit process, is this information-sharing continuing with regards to irregular import purchases, and more importantly, whether or not this practice of information-sharing is also being conducted with community orders, which do not require import permits? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are working with those agencies that have to deal with alcohol and its use or abuse in our municipalities, and we're continuing to work with the different departments and listening, I believe, to the municipalities that have to deal with these issues. I cannot at this time say exactly what is being exchanged and how that, how fruitful that it. But Mr. Speaker, we are continuing to have communications with those agencies in order to deal with the ongoing issues around the alcohol and its abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister will recall, the Department of Finance requested in excess of \$11 million in supplementary appropriation funding during the spring sitting of 2022 for the purchase of land and warehouse for use by the Nunavut Liquor Commission. Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the Liquor

Commission is actively considering the relocation of the Iqaluit beer and wine store to a location that's not as close to residential neighbourhoods as is the present operation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this move would serve to enhance public safety in the community and I want to ensure the minister that he has my full support on this endeavour. However, I would like to ask can the Minister provide an update today on the status of this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I don't have anything new to report in terms of the work around the Liquor Commission trying to find a new location, in order to improve the point of sale location here in Iqaluit. We understand how much disturbance there is, no matter where you put this location and we are currently still seeking that out. I'll be more than happy to share with my colleagues if there's any further information pertaining to working towards creating a new outlet for alcohol sales in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1019 – 6(2): Power Infrastructure

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and I'm expressing my sympathy to the residents of Kimmirut for what they have been going through in recent days, and to express my appreciation for the front-line staff who have been on the ground in the community.

Mr. Speaker, the situation in Kimmirut is a cause of concern for all communities. As the Minister will appreciate, a week-long total power outage in the middle of minus 35 degree winter for a community the size of Igloolik would be an emergency and a disaster that could require evacuation.

(interpretation ends) Can the Minister confirm that the Qulliq Energy Corporation's emergency plans for Igloolik and Nunavut's 24 other communities are current and up to date. (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. Thank you, member, for the question. We know people are concerned. We would like to assure there are emergencies that occur. Looking at Kimmirut, the Qulliq Energy Corporation, the Nunavut

government, Community and Government Services, the Department of Health, the various departments and the hamlet work together in the emergency situation and the time of the emergency situation.

For your question, for all the communities, the emergency planning for the communities have to be updated. I cannot currently provide you that information, but we can inquire and return to the member with an answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In emergency situation, we best need to have emergency plans, and that the community should be prepared. And I will wait to hear from the Minister for the communities especially related to Igloolik.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, I asked him questions last week about the need to replace Igloolik's power plant, which has been in operation for almost half a century. At that time he could not tell me how much of a shortfall the Qulliq Energy Corporation currently faces with respect to replacing the power plant.

Mr. Speaker the Qulliq Energy Corporation's corporate plan indicates that 40 percent of the territory's power plants are currently operating beyond their intended life span. Can the Minister provide a clear answer today as to how much it would cost to ensure that every Nunavut community has a power plant that is operating within its intended life span? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member. For this issue we lack resources and capital infrastructure for power generation for those that are beyond our premier's territory, you know, the older properties, it's not too good when they reach that age. It's the age and it costs more to maintain, for example the floors. Cement breaks apart and it breaks the foundation or the cooling system.

(interpretation ends) Following the heat and the vibration within the power plants, we can encounter serious structural issues, and there's numerous concerns we have around aging infrastructure, the first being, of course, safety of our employees; our customers, the reliability of the power that we provide.

I don't have a price tag, Mr. Speaker, in terms of how much it would cost, but its precisely that type of figure that we are compiling so that we can lobby our federal partners for the next version of the Arctic Energy Fund. We know the Arctic Energy Fund, \$233 million, 175 of which is federal, it's not enough to replace all our power plants that are currently beyond their life span. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): (no interpretation) as we age we get smarter. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I will again point out to the minister that power plants are not a luxury, like a swimming pool. Mr. Speaker, the minister's answers to me last week suggested that the federal government is not receptive to providing any more funding for the replacement of our power plants, and I agree with the minister that proven diesel technology will be required for years to come in our Arctic conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize and understand that the cost burden of building new power plants cannot be placed on our small consumer base. Can the Minister clearly explain whether or not the government could simply decide to provide the necessary capital funding directly to the Qulliq Energy Corporation through the capital estimates process, similar to how we recently approved direct funding of the corporate LED street light project? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. I think I'm close to referring that question to the Minister of Finance. My understanding is that it would be possible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation to receive a cash injection from government coffers, whether it would be capital funds. We have a very important relationship with Department of Finance in terms of ability to access debt financing and, you know. So in terms of that scenario, it would be possible.

But my understanding is that we also are heavily reliant on federal funds for infrastructure, and where we have the Arctic Energy Fund that has been effective, it has helped us to replace power plants, replace gen sets, so we have pretty much reached the end of that pool of funding. It's almost all allocated out now. So we've started lobbying for the next round of that funding. Arctic Energy Funds 2.0 would help us reduce the cost not just to our customers, but also to Nunavut government capital Department of Finance, so we can support new power infrastructure in Nunavut. And we're going to continue making that case to our federal partners in Ottawa. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1020 – 6(2): Consumer Affairs and Protection

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. As the Minister is aware, his department contains the government's Consumer Affairs Division, which is

responsible for providing "consumer protection service, laundry and business licensing to residents across Nunavut."

Mr. Speaker, Jordan's principle funding under the Inuit Child First Initiative is intended to help families purchase essentials, items like food and baby formulas. I am sure that I am not the only member of the Legislative Assembly who has heard concerns that major retailers operating in Nunavut have been increasing their prices to take advantage of introducing of this funding.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we know the facts and not rely on rumours. Can the Minister confirm how many complaints his department of Consumer Affairs Division has received about this issue and can he indicate what authority his department has to regulate the price of food and other products that are sold in the store? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his question. My department, the consumer affairs unit is through our department as a whole, we are dedicated to transparent and accountable administration of our *Consumer Protection Act*, which is there and committed to increasing protection for consumers.

Regarding his question about complaints received through that office, as of now I have, according to my notes, consumer affairs has not received any complaints with respect to northern retail prices to date. I would encourage if any Nunavummiut would like to lodge a complaint, you can contact and get some guidance from our consumer affairs around what are the acts and regulations in place to investigate. You can contact them through e-mail at consumerprotection@gov.nu.ca. There's also a 1-800 number, toll-free, 1-866-233-8139. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for the minister. Perhaps the consumer protection issues are pushed and that the government can inform us in this area. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, his department is responsible for administering the *Consumer Protection Act*. My colleague from Iqaluit-Sinaa has recently raised important questions concerning competition in the airline sector and the upcoming internal review of the federal Nutrition North Canada program.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize and understand that it is not realistic for the government to try to set the price of everything that we buy. However, it is important that for-profit, private companies not be allowed to abuse their power to take advantage of vulnerable populations. Can the Minister indicate if his department is open to working with federal Competition Bureau and the Department of Northern Affairs to the closely examine how

the major retailers in Nunavut set their price for food and other essential goods? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I agree with the member around how we don't want our retailers to use predatory pricing or using tactics that are hurting our Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, regarding for example the Nutrition North Canada subsidy, according to my notes, there's an agreement through Crown-Indigenous relations and Northern Affairs Canada as well as the program, registered northern retailers for what's eligible for those discounts, but the Nunavut *Consumer Protection Act* and regulations do not extend to include enforcements of the terms and condition of that agreement.

But we will continue to play a part around what my member asks, around how when they relate to consumer affairs and making sure that there's protections in place for our Nunavummiut in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the government recently announced that major departmental reorganizations will be taking place at the beginning of upcoming 2025-2026 fiscal year. This reorganization will impact the Department of Community and Government Services. Can the Minister indicate what change are planned for the structure of the Consumer Affairs Division, and can he confirm if any of the division positions that are currently located in Kivalliq region will be located to different communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding his question, I would stand to be corrected, but I believe that the consumer affairs unit will be within the community services department as of April 1.

As for whether there will be changes in the structure, and/or the positions contained within that unit, that I think will be up to the department and the minister responsible to proceed on that path. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1021 – 6(2): Performance of Electrical Snowmobiles

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to question the Minister of Environment. The Minister's Statement from May 3, 2024. I'm sure he remembers what he said, but just in case he doesn't, "Mr. Speaker, I encourage my department this winter to purchase an electric vehicle to test in Nunavut." The Minister's Statement informed members and Nunavummiut that the department purchase electric snowmobile. This is about electric snowmobile. And it was purchased, and the officers found the electric snowmobile functional, practical, and efficient for the purpose of short-haul distance.

The minister's statement goes on to say if they don't test it, if we don't explore the possibilities and test it, we won't know for sure how functional and practical an electric snowmobile is.

My first question is what was the total landed cost for this electric snowmobile? Thank you. It was purchased for Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, member for that question. The total cost approximately costed \$27,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when anyone buys a snowmobile, they always say my tank can go this far and this can't go as far and we always talk about how far it goes.

During the testing of this snowmobile by the environment officials, I'm not sure if the Minister would have this, but how far can they go on a single charge pulling a sled or not pulling a sled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you member, for the question. Mr. Speaker the Department of Environment staff will test a machine with qamutiik, how much load a machine can haul with the battery. To my knowledge the range stated as approximately 100 kilometres on a full charge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is good information for Nunavummiut for anyone that may be thinking about buying a snowmobile, because it

would be a pretty good cost, \$27,000 to buy a snowmobile. So it's nice the Department of Environment is testing it out.

During their testing and limited use, because I know it was bought later, can the minister recall of anything broke or any defects in a way what could be built better on this snowmobile as it was not a regular snowmobile brand that Nunavummiut generally buy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I recall one of my staff did the testing, and for some reason they had a parking break on and that area broke. To my knowledge that's the only issue we had. It was a human error. And we will do more testing and I'm sure it's possible we will provide more information about the electric skidoo snowmobile. There are other vehicles we would like to further seek to test in the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1022 – 6(2): Marine Infrastructure

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and they concern the subject of marine infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, the information published by the government concerning Chesterfield Inlet's infrastructure plan indicates that:

"The current dock is dangerous and the people have fallen trying to get down to the water and the current floating dock is damaged and needs replacing. We are in need of a larger docking system that will allow boats to dock, even at low tide. At this point the dock is on the ground as the low tide, so boats cannot dock."

Mr. Speaker, during the last fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly the House approved \$500,000 in funding for community marine infrastructure for the current 2024-2025 fiscal year. Can the Minister indicate how much of this funding has been spent to date on improvements to Chesterfield Inlet's marine infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm trying to find the information and I can't see very well. In terms of the expenditures for

the year, I can't find the information right now, but we always try to make sure the money is used for that purpose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In October 2019 the Government of Nunavut issued a request for proposal for a comprehensive marine infrastructure scoping study. That was over five years go. Have these studies been completed? When will the final report for this work be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I go back to want first question. For 2024-2025 Chesterfield Inlet received 300,000 of the 500,000 marine infrastructure project. For the scoping document, we're in the final draft that we're reviewing right now, and once that is done, I'll be prepared to present that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is responsible for administering the government's community transportation initiative program, which provides funding to municipalities for access roads and projects and small scale marine infrastructure. The 2020-2021 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in March 2023, and it indicated that Chesterfield Inlet received \$150,000 in funding for the access road project. Can the minister confirm when the 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 annual reports will be ready to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm planning to table by winter sitting a couple of the reports that are outstanding under this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1023 – 6(2): Federal School Food Program

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

(interpretation ends) First of all, I would like to congratulate you and your wife on your 47th anniversary, and people with birthdays also.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, in April 2024, Canada's prime minister announced the launch of national school meal programs to provide students with healthy meals and snacks at school.

Newfoundland and Labrador was the first to sign on, and a couple weeks ago Manitoba signed on to receive over \$17 million over the next three years.

Can the Minister tell this House whether she will be working to sign Nunavut up for the National School Food Program? If not, why not? (interpretation ends) 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 that great question. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I too share the sentiment to the federal government for their support through the Inuit Child First initiatives and supporting our communities at home. As we are able to also support our students at the school level, I thank our Department of Health for the funding that they do give to the department through going through food program funding.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'm thankful that we have a collaborative working group with the Department of Health and the Department of Family Services, as well as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and we are developing a comprehensive and effective school food program.

There has been a third party which has the opportunity and is creating a business case, which we hope to, or are planning to have security of this funding go forward for this coming fall. So we're going to be putting that proposal forward and hopefully we'll be successful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's schools currently receive over \$1 million in community wellness funding from the Department of Health for school meal programs. Kugluktuk schools received just over \$70,000 to provide school meals, which greatly benefits our students, especially those facing food insecurity at home. Can the Minister describe how her department works with health to determine the amount of community wellness funding allocated to each school? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. So it's done locally through the hamlets, and under that community wellness

program, the Department of Health does give the money to go through multi-year agreements for each hamlet and they're done at the local level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in 2023, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, ITK, proposed a Inuit Nunangat new school program. They calculated that one meal per day in all Nunavut schools through the 2024 school year would cost \$11.7 million, and that's not counting the estimates for cooks, administrators, and other costs. Can the minister provide an update on what discussions she has had with the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, or the Nunavut Tunngavik on the issue of school meal programs in Nunavut. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. Following a conversation with the president Aluki Kotierk last year, our staff at the working level has been in discussions and collaborate to create the partnership, and are working on the business case proposal together, so at that level the school food program, money is being sought to with all parties that are involved in the working group. So we look forward to that business case going forward and looking forward to hopefully hearing the positive news in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1024 – 6(2): Legal Services Board in the Kitikmeot Region

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Justice, and they concern the issue of the Legal Services Board in the Kitikmeot region.

Mr. Speaker, as you are all were aware, in March 2022, a fire destroyed the Government of Nunavut leased office building in Gjoa Haven. The building housed a number of essential services, including the Legal Services Board headquarters. Mr. Speaker, when I last raised this issue during our winter sitting, the minister confirmed that the Legal Services Board headquarters had acquired a new office space in Gjoa Haven. Mr. Speaker, this is wonderful news.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify how many positions are currently filled and how many positions are vacant at the Legal Services Board headquarters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, excellent question there. Currently we have a court worker working in the Gjoa Haven office, and we have a number of positions. I understand that two are under job request actions, and five are being reviewed as we speak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, the Legislative Assembly approved over 16.5 million in funding for the Legal Services Board as part of the Department of Justice's 2024-2025 main estimates. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2023 the Minister tabled the Annual Report of the Legal Services Board for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate why the board has not submitted any annual reports for the past three fiscal years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have been working really hard with the Legal Services Board as they have been going through some capacity within the organization, and we will continue to work and keep advising them of the outstanding reports. I don't have an actual update whether those reports are done, but I will. Once they are done I will table them into this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Legal Services Board's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "continue to improve service to our clients, including access to justice and public legal education as to ensure high quality legal services."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify what specific actions has the Legal Services Board undertaken to provide public legal knowledge and education of the law in the Kitikmeot region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Legal Services Board does a lot of work on the legal aspects within our territory, and I commend the work that they do. Earlier today I did a Return to Oral about one of the programs, and that's the Inuit court workers, and that's for across the territory that there will be in-house training beginning this December. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1025 – 6(2): Figure Skaters at the Arctic Winter Games

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like my to direct my question today to the Minister of Community and Government Services on the topic of figure skaters participating in Arctic Winter Games competitions. Mr. Speaker, currently the age range for figure skaters participating in Arctic Winter Games is age 12 to 17. In comparison, hockey is 12 through 19.

Mr. Speaker it has come to my attention that Arctic Winter Games representatives are proposing reducing the age range for figure skaters to 12 to 14. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that the AWG is recommending reducing the age range for eligible figure skaters for competition? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his question. I do know that figure skating is quite a unique sport at the Arctic Winter Games, and there are some very limited numbers that come through to compete at different age levels. This is an area that I know my officials at Sports and Recreation work with Arctic Winter Games international committee, around changing age groups and/or categories. So it's a topic that I know has been discussed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, the whole territory is abuzz when Arctic Winter Games are looming here, and everyone gets very excited. Mr. Speaker, our coaches work very hard to prepare our athletes to compete for Arctic Winter Game competitions.

Mr. Speaker, as a recreational club with fewer resources and fewer hours of ice time, Nunavut skaters tend to be older when they reach the skill level required to qualify for Arctic Winter Game competitions. Mr. Speaker, cutting the upper age limit to 14, as proposed, would significantly decrease the number of our skaters who would qualify and would even further reduce our skaters' chances of winning medals.

Mr. Speaker, there are concerns that reducing the age range of competitors will not promote growth of the sport in Nunavut, as athletes could consider choosing a different sport so they can participate in future Arctic Winter Game competitions. Has the Minister provided any correspondence to Arctic Winter Games organizers concerning this issue, or does he plan to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This gives me a chance to also note that Sports and Rec are different territorial sports organizations do try to make every opportunity for Nunavummiut to have that opportunity. Mr. Speaker, as per his question, I have not received or planned on writing about this, but if there's sufficient concern in working with my officials we'll see where we can take this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, participating in these international competitions are life changing and create lifelong memories for our athletes, and I encourage the minister to support our athletes.

Mr. Speaker, male figure skaters at one time were allowed to compete in Arctic Winter Game competitions as well, but at one time was removed. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister commit to lobbying for the reintroduction of male figure skaters competing in future Arctic Winter Games competitions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know the Arctic Winter Games in many sports organizations, including Team Nunavut and Sports and Rec, they do try to provide inclusivity around sports, and I know, I agree completely, sports are a

very life-changing endeavour when you participate at a high skill level such as Arctic Winter Games. I know, I recall my colleague MLA Lightstone had tabled a petition around this matter, and this is an area we would continue to work with our Arctic Winter Games International Committee, for example, and other jurisdictions, other contingencies that might want to ensure if they have enough competitors that we will be able to provide that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1026 – 6(2): Inuit Games at the Olympics

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr., Speaker, for recognizing me again. I would like to question the Minister of Community and Government Services. I will like to continue along the line of sports, but I would like to go a bit bigger. Arctic Winter Games is huge, but I believe we can go bigger, especially around Inuit sports, Inuit games. Has the Community and Government Services looked at perhaps introducing Inuit sports at the Olympic level? Have there be any discussions? I would love to see One Foot High Kick, Two Foot High Kick cut, Knuckle Hop, or Airplane and whatnot all our Inuit games. Has the Government of Nunavut looked at somehow introducing Inuit sports at the Olympic level? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very good question. And I do note, and having gone to these Arctic Winter Games when Arctic sports competitors as a very highly prestigious and high profile events and there's hundreds of people in the gym but you can hear a pin drop, for like One Foot High Kick, for example. It's something all the people around the world look at to say "Wow, that's something else."

As for the question around whether or not we've looked at bringing it to the Olympics, I believe that would entail trying to have, I guess, working with Olympic international committees that would welcome this. So I don't know how far it has gone to date, but I'll take his comment as something to consider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. 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 Languages, Mr. Qavvik.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 320 – 6(2): Minister of Languages’ 2022-2023 Annual Report**

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: My apologies, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Minister of Languages’ 2022-2023 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Tabled Document 321 – 6(2): Interim Financial Report (Unaudited) March 31, 2024**Tabled Document 322 – 6(2): Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Board 2023-2024 Annual Report****Tabled Document 323 – 6(2): Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission 2023-2024 Annual Report**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m pleased to table three reports, Mr.

Speaker: The Government of Nunavut Interim Financial Report, Non-Consolidated Financial Statements, Unaudited, March 31, 2024; the 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Board; and the 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 324 – 6(2): Nunavut Western Canada Lottery Annual Report from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Nunavut Western Canada Lottery Annual Report from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Honourable Minister of Health. Minister Main.

Tabled Document 325 – 6(2): Review of the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Health COVID-19 Pandemic Response**Tabled Document 326 – 6(2): Minister of Health’s 2023 Public Health Act Annual Report**

Tabled Document 327 – 6(2): 2023-2024 Annual Report on the Operation of the Medical Care Plan**Tabled Document 328 – 6(2): Minister of Health’s 2023-2024 Tobacco and Smoking Act Annual Report**

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table four reports today: A review of the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Health COVID-19 Pandemic Response; the Minister of Health’s 2023 Public Health Act Annual Report; the 2023-2024 Annual Report on the Operation of the Medical Care Plan; and the Minister of Health’s 2023-2024 Tobacco and Smoking Act Annual Report. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 329 – 6(2): Legal Services Board of Nunavut 2021-2022 Annual Report

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Legal Services Board of Nunavut 2021-2022 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 330 – 6(2): Nunavut Ethics Officer’s Annual Report 2023-2024

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m pleased to table the Nunavut Ethics Officer’s Annual Report for the fiscal year 2023-2024. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motions. I recognize the member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 14: Notices of Motions**Motion 42 – 6(2): Extended Adjournment**

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that Thursday, November 7, 2024 I will move the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by Hon. Member for South Baffin, that pursuant to provision of rule 3 that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until Thursday, February 20, 2025.

At the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 15, Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. I recognize member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 62 – An Act to Amend the Integrity Act – Notice

Bill 63 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Notice

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, November 7, 2024 I will move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 62, *An Act to Amend the Integrity Act*, and Bill 63, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, be read for the first time. And at the appropriate time I will seek consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 16, Motions. I recognize member for Aivilik. Mr. Malliki.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 42 – 6(2): Motion for Extended Adjournment

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by Hon. Member for South Baffin, that pursuant to the provision of rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until Thursday, February 20, 2025.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 62 – An Act to Amend the Integrity Act – First Reading

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to waive the notice period so Bill 62 may be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A member is seeking consent to allow for the first reading of the bill. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement. Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the members for the waiver.

Mr. Speaker, I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 62, *An Act to Amend the Integrity Act* be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Bill 63 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – First Reading

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to waive the notice period so that Bill 63 may be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A member is seeking consent to allow for the first reading of the bill. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is an agreement. Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 63, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act* be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 62 – An Act to Amend the Integrity Act – Second Reading

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to waive the notice period so that Bill 62 may be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking consent to allow for the second reading of the bill. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is an agreement. Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 62, An Act to Amend the Integrity Act be read for the second time. This Bill amends the Integrity Act to provide for the internet publication of certain disclosure statements and to enhance disclosure related to blind trusts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill? To the principle of the bill?

Some Members (interpretation): Question.

Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried and the bill is immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to waive the notice period so that Bill 63 may be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A member is seeking consent to allow for the second reading of the bill. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is an agreement. Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

Bill 63 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Second Reading

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South that Bill 63, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, be read for the second time.

This Bill amends the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act* to provide for returns of contributions in certain circumstances, and to address the situation of members who reach the age of 71 years while in office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

Some Members (interpretation): Question.

Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried and the bill is immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 61, 62, 63 and 65, with Mr. Savikataaq in the chair.

In accordance with authority provided to me by motion 37 – 6(2), the Committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

>>*House recessed at 15:31 and Committee resumed at 16:04*

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

Chairman (Mr. Sativataaq): Good afternoon. I will like to call our Committee of the Whole meeting in order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 61, 62, 63, 65. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the review of Bill 61, Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2025-2026 and the supporting documents for Department of Community and Government Services followed by Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Justice, and Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are we in agreement to first deal with Bill 61?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay. I would like to ask Minister Joanasié. Do you have any officials you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do, if the committee allows for it thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Mr. Joanasié, for the record, please introduce your officials.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With me today are Deputy Minister Kyle Seeley as well as assistant Deputy Minister Mandy Hickey.

Hon. P.J. Akeegok: Thank you. Today we will start off with Community and Government Services, local government services 76,625,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Members go to J5. Infrastructure. Please give members a few minutes. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good day to the minister and officials. I have spoken with the Minister on many occasions about the arena in Coral Harbour that wasn't up to code. Can the minister elaborate on that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na*. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, member, for bringing that up. From what I recall, you may have to refresh my memory a bit more on it, but I think there was some deficiencies with code compliance within the building, and we would work with the hamlet and municipal staff in order to get the work required, electrical, and

under the municipal support program funding, funding was approved to address the issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you minister. Is the building up to code now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies for the delay there. The hamlet has communicated with Sports and Recreation Division that required electrical work has been completed and the last outstanding item to be done is to replace the arena doors and but the hamlet does anticipate the arena will be open and ready for use this fall, 2024-2025. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Chairman. Is the Department of Community and Government Services providing the door to the arena? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have provided funding support to address the issues at the arena to date and I believe that's the case, that the funding will be requested from the hamlet to cover the door replacement. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the funding that was provided to the hamlet sufficient? Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe the hamlet had requested \$50,000 or to that tune, and this was in 2023-2024 fiscal year which 48,000 was approved. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Malliki: Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the minister and the department for helping the municipality of Coral Harbour. Are there any other arenas that are not in Code with the electrical building codes? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na*, Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am just recognizing these are municipal assets and not within our fleet of I guess buildings are maintained by us. We do work with municipal officials when they do encounter issues with code compliance, and to try to get back into code compliance. At this point I don't have that level of detail, which communities' arenas are either within or not within the code compliance. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Malliki: Qujannamiik. To my understanding the Department of Community and Government Services inspect the community buildings. I would like to get the minister's commitment to get back to me in writing with the arenas that are not in compliance. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na*. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chair and yes, my department's safety services does conduct inspections periodically on different types of assets, and so towards his question, I'll commit to bringing that forward so that the committee can be aware. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki: Qujannamiik, Iksivautaq. I would like to get MINISTER'S commitment to see if there's any other community facilities that are not in code, such as all or where public events happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: *Mut'na*. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and maybe I'll commit to that and just state that whenever there are issues with code compliance, typically we do our due diligence to ensure that they're not public-use spaces, they are not opened for that purpose when there are deficiencies in that regard. So I am sure municipal staff are also, we work with them to ensure that safety is a concern, and we would make sure that everybody adheres to what needs to get done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki: Qujannamiik, Iksivautaq. Qujannamiik, minister. In the community of Coral Harbour the school is in major renovations and the community activities that

happens in the community is at the gymnasium. The community hall is not adequate to host public events in the community of Coral Harbour. Is there a plan to make an expansion? Or is there a plan to make expansion into the community hall? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe there has not been any business cases or planning towards that as of now. Again, we do rely on the municipal integrated community sustainability plans and the information within those when we're proceeding with our capital plans and in support of municipal assets and whether it's upgrades or additions or new office buildings, so that's an ongoing process we're going through each year and to ensure that we are supporting municipal services within our budgets that we come forward with each year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Minister is aware that the hamlet's community hall burnt down and the people of Naujaat has worked with the Department of Community and Government Services. I would like an update on how is that work going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps you will allow him to respond on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The loss of the community hall in Naujaat was an insured loss of a municipal asset. The replacement of that hall, that asset is being managed by the municipality. They are the project managers for it. The municipality does reach out to us from time to time for any supports but it is wholly managed by the municipality at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Community and Government Services, when they support the smaller hamlets, it would be good if we could get more help in Naujaat because the community centre was very useful and it was daily used by youth. So I encourage the government department of services to continue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I believe that was just a general statement. Mr. Hickes is next.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple questions here. November 2020, the federal Department of Transport announced it would be providing almost \$65 million in funding under the Oceans Protection Plan for a number of projects. Mr. Chairman, one of those projects was a new warehouse facility to organize and store cargo containers here in Iqaluit. The department's draft 2025-2026 capital estimates indicate the department expects to request just under \$2-and-a-half million in the 2026-2027 fiscal year towards the construction of this facility.

My question, Mr. Chairman, is why is this capital project not being managed by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's regarding since Community and Government Services manages the sea lift contract for delivering of goods. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on. I would like to talk about the Municipal Green Infrastructure Program and the department's 2024-2025 cost of capital estimates. There was \$1 million in funding under the Municipal Green Infrastructure Program. How has this funding been spent to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2024-2025 we had five communities submit applications for funding, three of which were awarded. Arctic Bay, hamlet of Arctic Bay energy efficient upgrades, as well as Naujaat and Pond Inlet garage energy-efficient improvements. So there have been upgrades or improvements to their assets to fund energy efficiency in those three communities.

If I can break it down, Arctic Bay received \$453,900; Naujaat 190,000; and Pond Inlet 284,587. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the department's Municipal Green Fund Infrastructure Fund policy sunsetted on March 31, 2024, so earlier this year. The department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates do not include any funding for the

Municipal Green Infrastructure Program. Will the program be renewed for future years or has it been cancelled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Maybe if you allow my deputy to respond, Mr. Chair. Thanks.

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

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The program, right now the policy has sunsetted. We are currently reviewing it and doing review of the multiple years that it's been offered. The funding on that program I believe was tied to carbon tax. I think that's where the funding originated from.

Before continuing with that program we will need figuring out where the cash flow will come from and I guess just the efficacy of the program and the uptake from the municipalities since it started. Right now we don't have a request in to extend the program beyond what's proposed here today. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the deputy minister for that response. In the earlier response it was mentioned five communities had applied for funding under this program, of which three were awarded. How much budget shortfall was identified or were those other two proponents not at a stage ready for approval, even if there was an available budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: So the two other communities that requested funding, Kugaaruk was \$525,500 and Pangnirtung, \$480,000 so the total ask was at \$1,908,487 but the approved three communities I mentioned was \$928,487. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It sounds like there is a fair bit of demand for this program, when the request is almost double what the available budget is. I hope that the minister is successful in putting forward a business case to continue this funding in some capacity to help municipalities and hamlets build, to be able to make their buildings a little more energy efficient.

I think at the end of the day that's a very common goal amongst all of us, and when we look at new construction, it's said to be considered, but then oftentimes we hear it is too expensive to be more energy efficient. I understand there's a cost associated with it, but there's also a cost associated with continuing to use high demand infrastructure for power and heat.

I do hope that there is some recognition that the demand is there for this program, and I look further to seeing further communication from the department on that. I'll leave it as a comment, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* That was a comment so I'll go to the next person on the list. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For verification we're on infrastructure? Yes, thank you. Good afternoon, minister and officials. I'm glad you are here again. I want to ask a couple of questions regarding Baker Lake. Two winters ago we had a hurricane-force winds pretty much demolish the community's snow fence in the hamlet of Baker Lake and the residents of Baker Lake have been wanting a new snow fence, or the one we have renovated. Is that in Community and Government Services' scope, to help with rebuilding our snow fence? And if not what can we do about it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Through the Municipal Capital Block Funding Program municipalities do have the option to spend in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the municipality has already earmarked that money for another project they might be strapped. Is there something else that can be done to help the snow fencing rebuild in Baker Lake from Community and Government Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you. There are a few proposal-based programs that might be eligibility for snow fencing. I'll work with my officials around what federal funding pots might allow for that.

If the municipality submits something we'll look at it and consider where we can take it, if the federal pots of funds. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I believe the hamlet of Baker Lake already did reach out to Community and Government Services, but I am hopeful that your officials will contact the hamlet of Baker Lake tomorrow and start the process, please, so that we can catch, we need to catch the sea lift season for 2025. We can get started on it. Can I have that commitment, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My deputy has committed to doing that on the department's behalf. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* If you fix the snow fence there might be less snow, cost money to remove. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, that's exactly why we need a new snow fence, help alleviate some of the O&M costs costs that Community and Government Services spends.

Moving on to my next subject, still regarding Baker Lake, with the two recent massive power outages in Baker Lake, the Petroleum Products Division, the gas station was affected and it has happened a few times over the last three years where constituents and even the businesses could not go and get gas or even fuel trucks could not deliver home heating fuel, because they could not get the diesel from the fuel tanks. Has the department looked at perhaps purchasing a generator, a small backup generator so that the pumps can keep operating at the PPD gas station in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Petroleum Products Division is looking at that for all gas stations to ensure that fuel continues to flow. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, and for the inevitable question: When can we expect to see something like a backup generator for gas stations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you. The assessment will go forward but and then we will also look at I guess a roll out going forward, we don't have a specific timeline yet, as to which community will get a generator on this date. So I look forward to bringing details on that once those are available. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the community of Baker Lake has already put in a request via e-mail, I propose Baker Lake can be a pilot project location for this generator. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and we'll look at Baker Lake and other communities that may have been experiencing issues with their petroleum products services in this regard, and prioritize based on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. Next subject I wanted to touch on was surplus building demolition and remedial work that's happening across Nunavut. Once again thank you for taking care of the old yellow hospice building in Baker Lake. The demolition has begun. What other communities are you looking at surplus buildings or demolishing? Is it in quite a few communities? If so, which ones? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chair and I appreciate the member's interest on this. For 2024-2025 and 2025-2026, we're looking at Naujaat, Baker Lake, Arviat, Cambridge Bay, and Igloolik. There are assets there that we are demolishing and remediating, making sure it's done in a safe way. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. Just for clarification, is that the old yellow hospice you're referring to for Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that's correct. Thank you.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* I have no more names on my list for infrastructure. I just have one, I guess. Minister, you talked about it for Naujaat, demolition, a bit. I believe it's the old CGS shop which part of it was built in the early '60s. Am I correct, Minister Joanasie?

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that is the old Community and Government Services trade shop. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Community and Government Services infrastructure, total capital expenditures, \$11,050,000; agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Members go to J7, information management, information technology. Any questions? Community and government services, information management, information technology, total capital expenditures \$14,554,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Members go to J9. Petroleum Products Division. This is just an information item, but the minister is normally available to answer questions. Any questions on Petroleum Products Division? I'll start off.

I remember we were doing the exact same thing last year here, and in PPD I asked for Arviat if Arviat could be a pilot by selling bulk propane by Petroleum Products Division, and the Minister replied it could happen, and I asked how likely and the Minister replied, "very likely." Can I get an update? They are still not selling bulk propane in Arviat. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate you bringing this up again. We are still committed to exploring opportunities in the future for when the Petroleum Products Division has bolstered their staffing commitment to be able to exceed their current program and service requirements. We do want to go on that path of trying to expand our services to Nunavummiut.

As for the details about propane for Arviat in particular, I can't say where things will be going, but we're trying to get staffing in order to deliver programs and services. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Just for clarity, I'm a bit confused of why more staffing is needed. Is it harder to pick up a naphtha can as opposed to a propane can? Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, just in terms of if we're going to look at establishing a propane program, I suppose what would be the requirements having to

do that work, and at the same time I suppose, maybe if you'll have my deputy expand on it as well, if you allow. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Mr. Seeley, if you can explain and let me know. Just let all of us know if next year they will be selling propane out at PPD in Arviat. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm unable to commit to PPD selling bulk propane in Arviat next year. However, we will continue to investigate how bulk propane can be sold in communities where there's a demand for it and reporting back on our progress on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Just a last comment before I move on. Suggestions on how propane could be sold in PPD facilities like Arviat, you order it, comes in on the ship, you store it, someone pays money to buy a bottle, the attendant picks it up, charges the client, and gives it to him. So it's pretty simple. I will leave it as a comment.

More and more Nunavut communities are opting to use propane instead of naphtha, and I believe the government should evolve to give Nunavummiut what they need and what they want. It has been proven to be a safe product, so I'll go on.

Petroleum Products Division. Total capital expenditures. It's not debatable, also. No more questions? Okay.

Members, go back to J2. Community and Government Services, total capital expenditures \$102,229,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree we have concluded the Department of Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié, brief closing comments.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the members for their questions today and yesterday and I want to thank my officials for appearing before you, as well as the staff that have worked hard to prepare us for our appearance. We will continue to work on our priorities.

I thank you for this quick, expedient time we've spent on our budget today and noting that we have some guests, visitors, mayors that are holding their annual general meetings

here in Iqaluit. I hope to see some members at their reception this evening. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Witnesses may leave the witness table. We will take a five-minute break and come back with Economic Development and Transportation.

>>Committee recessed at 16:40 and resumed at 16:49

Chairman (Mr. Hickes): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. I would like to ask Minister Akeegok if you have officials that you would like to have appear before the committee. Minister?

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, yes.

Mr. Hickes: Does the committee agree to allow the minister's witnesses to appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please. Thank you. For the record, Economic Development and Transportation. We're on page K3. The amount being requested \$29,180,000. Minister Akeegok, please introduce your officials and proceed to your opening comments.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Chris tag GOON new on my right, Deputy Minister John Hawkins, on my left, transportation, corporate services, assistant deputy.

For the Department of Economic Development and Transportation 2025-2026, Mr. Chairman, the department is proposing \$29,930,000 in spending and our capital estimates for the upcoming fiscal year. Of this total 19.1 million is for airport projects, 5.6 million is for marine facilities, and 5.3 million is for minor capital and life cycle expenditures to keep the department's critical assets functioning.

Five of the six air terminal buildings we are constructing in Chesterfield Inlet, Naujaat, Whale Cove, Kugluktuk, Kimmirut will be completed this fiscal year. We are requesting 500,000 for each of these buildings to complete warrantee work or close out any deficiencies.

The sixth airport terminal building in Rankin Inlet will be ready for occupancy in June 2025 with the completion of phase 1 of the project and the initiative of phase 2. All six of these projects have been jointly funded by Transport Canada under the National Trade

Corridor Fund, which has provided approximately 97 million of the 160 million total of these facilities.

This plan includes two other important projects under the National Trade Corridor Fund, the Qikiqtarjuaq port project, and the mobile equipment shelters for seven communities' airports.

The Qikiqtarjuaq port is an investment in strategic economic infrastructure that will transform Nunavut's offshore fishery and allow our territory to realize a greater share of economic returns from this important resource. The project is in the design phase, which is expected to be completed near the end of 2025. The mobile equipment shelters are for the seven communities which currently don't have dedicated shelters for airport mobile equipment, Arviat, Pond Inlet, Grise Fiord, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Kugaaruk, and Kugluktuk.

Six of these buildings will also include space for commercial cargo activity and will be leased out to the private sector to improve the way cargo is handled in these communities.

The planning phase for the airport mobile equipment shelters have been completed. The engineering and the design for a request for proposal closed in October, and the contract should be awarded in the coming weeks.

Runways are the most critical component of our transportation infrastructure, and we have a number of rehabilitative projects under way. We are requesting 3.8 million over two years as a contribution to Pangnirtung airport runway. These funding will augment 5.4 million we received from Transport Canada's Airport Capital Assistance Program.

We are asking for 3.5 million over two years for the Kugluktuk airport runway to augment the 6.8 million we have received from the same program. We are asking for 120,000 to complete the design for the replacement of Pangnirtung's airport fence, and we are asking for 1.5 million to initiate a design process for repaving of the Rankin Inlet runway. These funds will help us design estimates needed to submit projects considered under the Federal Airports Capital Assistance Program.

Due to the magnitude of the estimate costs, we anticipate that the significant Nunavut contribution will be required to complement the potential federal contribution.

Mr. Chair the department has a range of items under the other projects including 187,000 for life cycle payment for Iqaluit airport under the terms of the project agreement, and the Government of Nunavut has a continuing obligation for these throughout the 30-year term.

Mr. Chairman, maintaining our community airports requires that we have reliable mobile equipment and efficient and safe airport facilities. We do through two projects: First, the transportation equipment and facilities project is for heavy equipment typically costing more than \$250,000, and for facilities maintenance and repair and upgrades. The second project is minor capital, is for expenditures typically for less than \$250,000, and is used for mobile equipment and facilities projects.

Mr. Chair my department is also responsible for marine infrastructure in our community. This plan includes 500,000 to make minor improvements in life cycle repairs to docks, boats, boat launches, and breakwaters across Nunavut under the Community Marine Infrastructure Budget. These fundings is made available to communities under the contribution agreements, and I allow for them to work on priorities they have identified.

In addition to our transportation infrastructure, the Department of Economic Development branch owns ranges of access that require periodic life cycle maintenance work. These are principally regional or community visitor centres but also includes assets owned by the Fisheries and Sealing Division.

Mr. Chair, this plan includes improvements, investment in our critical air and marine infrastructure. We are rehabilitating existing assets, replacing others, and where they demonstrate need, upgrading or expanding our capacity. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. 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 Economic Development and Transportation.

The department's proposed capital budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year is \$29.93 million. This represents a decrease of 31.7 percent 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 Economic Development and Transportation's mandate letter indicated that one of the department's priorities has been to work closely with the Department of Community and Government Services, Human Resources and Finance to develop options, a work plan, and a timeline for the realignment of the Economic Development and Transportation in the Community and Government Services.

On May 30, 2024 the Government of Nunavut's Department of Human Resources issued Request For Proposal 2024-42, Organizational Design Phase 2. Community and

Government Services, Economic Development and Transportation and the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. The request for proposal closed on June 28, 2024. The contract to perform the work was awarded on July 11, 2024. The request for proposal indicated that the objectives 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 the implementation deadline for this project shall be April 1, Inuusivut Anirnaqtut Action Plan 1, 2025.

On October 1, 2024, the government announced that the names of the two new departments will be 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. In recent years a number of important transportation infrastructure projects have received funding under the federal national Trade Corridor Fund, including renovations and expansions of the Rankin Inlet airport terminal building and the construction of a new airport terminal building in the communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Kimmirut, Kugluktuk, Naujaat, and Whale Cove.

On August 9, 2021 the federal minister of transportation announced 30 million in funding for a project to construct a new shelter to house heavy equipment essentials for air operations, and to store cargo in the communities of Arviat, Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, Pond Inlet, and Grise Fiord. The announcement indicated that the project involved construction of seven shelters to be leased to private sector carriers and operators in these communities.

The department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates include 7.534 million in funding for this project. Members look forward to further clarification on the proposed leasing agreements. Information provided to the Standing Committee indicate Grise Fiord has been removed from the scope of the project. On October 18, 2019, the Government of Nunavut issued a request for proposal for a comprehensive marine infrastructure scoping study. Funding for this work was provided through the federal Oceans Protection Plan. Information published by the government indicates that Worley Canada Services was the successful proponent. Members continue to look forward to the results of this study being tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

On August 4, 2021, the federal Minister of Transport announced 40 million in funding towards the construction of a new deep water port in Qikiqtarjuaq. The department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates include 5.070 million in funding for this project. Information provided to the Standing Committee indicates that the class estimates have not been completed. Early projection indicates a project funding shortfall. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is working with the Department of Community and Government Services and the design consultant to identify and quantify the funding gaps or feasibility reduction of scope. Members are concerned that the cost of the project may significantly exceed initial estimates.

On August 13, 2019 the federal Minister of Transport announced funding under the National Trade Corridor Fund for a number of projects, including the study and design of an intercommunity all-season road in the Kivalliq and installation of passenger boarding ramps at seven airports. During its recent 2024 winter sitting the Legislative Assembly approved 1.060 million in capital carryovers funding for the Kivalliq trade corridor study. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this important initiative, as well as the government's role in supporting the Grays Bay Road and Port Project.

The spring of 2017 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to Parliament included a chapter titled "Civil Aviation Infrastructure in the North." One of the Auditor General's recommendations was that the federal Department of Transport should "lead the development of a long-term strategy for northern airport infrastructure. The strategy should clearly outline the role that Transport Canada will play in addressing the infrastructure needs of remote northern airports.

The federal government's response to this recommendation was that Transport Canada will work with the territorial government and other federal government departments and stakeholders to identify shared priorities for northern transportation infrastructure, including but not limited to northern airports. Members continue to encourage the Minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly concerning its work with transport Canada in this area.

On March 10, 2023, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation tabled the Nunavut Airports 20-Year Capital Needs Assessment Update: 2020-2040. The 2018-2021 business plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation indicated that one of its ongoing priorities was to "...complete planning work for remediation and removal of decommissioned airport terminal buildings" in a number of communities. Recognizing that there may be a lack of jurisdictional clarity with respect to responsibility for certain facilities, Members continue to encourage the Minister to publicly clarify the department's schedule for the decommissioning of the buildings that have not yet been remediated and removed.

The department's Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy was revised in February of 2023 and "sunsets" on March 31, 2027. Schedule A of the policy details departmental support for "access roads and community marine infrastructure," while Schedule B details departmental support for "community marine infrastructure capital projects". Schedule B was formerly referred to as "small craft harbour contributions". The 2020-2021 annual report on the administration of the program was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 7, 2023. The 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and the 2023-2024 annual reports have not yet been tabled. Members look forward to the ongoing and timely tabling of departmental annual reports on the administration of this important program.

The department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates also include funding for Economic Development Facilities Lifecycle improvements. Members look forward to ongoing updates on work undertaken through this funding. Members encourage the department to consider expanding the scope of the funding to include improvements to facilities owned by the Nunavut Development Corporation and its subsidiaries.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman (Mr. Malliki): Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Not seeing none, we will now proceed to page by page review of the capital expenditures starting on page K3.

Economic Development and Transportation branch, total capital expenditure, \$29,180,000. Questions? Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister's opening comments, I can't agree more. The mobile equipment shelters are for seven communities which currently do not have dedicated shelter for airport mobile equipment, Arviat, Pond Inlet, Grise Fiord, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Kugaaruk, and Kugluktuk. Six of these buildings will also include space for commercial cargo activities and will be leased out to the private sector to improve the way cargo is handled in those communities.

I am going to refer to the Standing Committee's economic development opening comments. On August 9, 2021 the federal Minister of Transport announced 30 million in funding for a project to construct new shelters to house heavy equipment essential for air operations and to store cargo in the communities of Arviat, Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, Pond Inlet, and Grise Fiord. The announcement indicated that the project involves the construction of seven shelters to be leased to private sectors. The project involved the construction...

The announcement indicated that the project involved the construction of seven shelters to be leased to private sector carriers on operators in these communities. The department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates include 7.534 million in funding for this project. Members look forward to further clarification on proposed leasing agreements. Information provided to the Standing Committee indicates that Grise Fiord has been removed from the scope of the project."

Mr. Chairman, a little while back, during our Standing Committee meetings, I spoke about having freezers in all Nunavut communities. My question is, Mr. Chairman: With these new cargo space that are going to be built and for the equipment shelters, my question is will there be any freezers in both communities of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk for the purpose of shipping out country food that needs to be frozen all the time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Qujannamiik. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, for the cargo side what we're playing to do is lease it like a base. And so if folks that carry cargo need freezers, they would be the ones to install the freezers in those cargo space, because when we are planning to lease them, all those details would be part of that. So whether we would put freezers in there or not is yet to be determined, but there should be adequate space to include freezers. Because it's the airlines that will be delivering the cargo and what type of cargo they will have, they will need to have facilities or equipment that's going to meet the needs of theirs. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman (Mr. Savikataaq): Mat'na. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My constituent communities of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak, Kugaaruk always have a lot of good country food when it comes to hunting in the spring and summertime. In summertime I'll be referring to the muck tack. They always ship country food to the communities of Taloyoak, and this is a known fact that when muck tack are brought to the airport in Kugaaruk to be shipped to Taloyoak, they do not have freezers and a lot of times there will be bins of muck tack that are being left at the airport. And it just happened this year and last year, a lot of that muck tack was spoiled. And it's too bad that it happened.

I would highly recommend that the Minister to assure that there are freezers when it comes to the construction of these cargo spaces, for both of my constituent communities; and not only that, my constituent community of Taloyoak always send country food to Kugaaruk as well. It's during the spring and summer seasons that will affect both communities. It isn't too bad whether it comes to the winter season when it's freezing. When it's cold, it's okay. So I highly recommend that the Minister assure me when it comes to the construction of these cargo spaces, if he can do it from his department can he make recommendations to Canadian North to assure that there are freezers in these both communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* I know the Minister did state it would be the commercial renter to be responsible for putting freezers if they want, but Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I share my colleague's concern, too. In Arctic Bay it is exactly like that, too, where they want to send muck tack to their families, but because there's no freezer space, they have to wait for a Facebook post to say cargo plane is coming; bring your muck tack now. That's not acceptable. It's something that Canadian North should be looking to. And with this cargo space/equipment shelter, Canadian North should be in a position to be able to purchase the freezers. That's the intent, to put it in good cargo space to allow for when cargo is

being received or being sent, that those factors are taken into consideration. So I share my colleague's concern.

I definitely will commit to working with Canadian North and ways of doing it, because currently Canadian North does not have the space to put freezers in the current airport terminals, a majority of our airport terminals. That wasn't thought of at the design stage, which is why we're trying to assist for cargo space for private airlines to lease from our facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last one, just for clarification. Your department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates include 7.534 million in funding for the construction of mobile equipment shelters. On July 31, 2024 the department issued Request For Proposal 2024-57, architectural and engineering services for seven mobile equipment shelters and warehouses in Arviat, Gjoa Haven, Grise Fiord, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Pond Inlet, and Taloyoak. The request for proposals closed on September 13, 2024.

Your department's substantiation sheet for this project indicates that in March 2024 the Legislative Assembly approved an increase to the GN contribution from 10 million to 17.6 million, and eliminated Grise Fiord from this project's current scope.

The question is, Mr. Chairman, what accounts for the increase in the GN's contribution to this project? That's my last question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I want to confirm that the request for proposal closed in late October and that our staff will be looking at the evaluation and hopefully will be awarding soon.

Auto also want to make clarification that when the RFP was issued that Grise Fiord was included in there and so it's for the seven shelters.

We received a letter from Grise Fiord indicating that they do have equipment shelters sufficient, which is why we have taken -- we have not included them in this, but they are already in as part of the request for proposal which I hope will be awarded soon. So I just wanted to make that clarification. And also in terms of the increase, are you referring to the budget itself? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Mr. Quqqiaq, if you can clarify for the Minister, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I was. Thank you.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. When we're doing the planning of these seven, inflation wasn't taken into factor, so that's why. For the design phase the increase is as a result of the inflation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* (interpretation) Following my list of names, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Minister and your officials, please welcome to our meeting. In your opening comments you stated that there were going to be putting new concrete in Rankin Inlet. Are you including all the -- is the government making plans to put concrete on all runways in all communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit are the ones that have concrete runways. And we will have to be redoing the runway in Rankin Inlet. We're not looking at paving all the other Nunavut communities. And if we're going to be doing that, it's going to be quite expensive, and should there be money made available, either from the federal government, we could look at paving the runway in the communities. We're only looking at the two communities at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And again, in the Minister's opening comments, in Pangnirtung and we've been asking for an air terminal for Naujaat for many, many years, and we had also indicated that we would like a new runway and to lengthen the runway. We've been asking repeatedly to have that done. Have you asked the federal government if we can access funds to redo our runway? Thank you. Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is for the Pangnirtung airport runway, and they have been funding by the airport capital assistance program. And because we're a little short, we're asking for further funds from the Legislative Assembly. In regards to the lengthening of Naujaat runway for 2018-2019, we were looking at the runway to see if we can lengthen, and it's going to cost approximately a little over \$10 million.

As I indicated earlier, the Airport Capital Assistance Program also does not include lengthening the runway. If we're going to lengthen any runways then it will have to come from the Nunavut government. Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to include Naujaat, and we would like to see the runway extended. And when I was coming here they had almost completed the runway, so I'm urging the Minister to work with the federal government to access more funds.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): I hear you, my colleague. There's quite a lot of work that we have to do in our communities, and of course we have to do a study prior to doing anything. The colleague has brought this up repeatedly, and that's the only way we can get anything done in our communities. We're not going to see it in 2025-2026. But he's asking us to consider this for future date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. On another subject, my two communities have required a dock facilities. They were asked which style of facilities that they wanted. What's the planning process of the two projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): For all communities there was a request for funding all communities to review the options, and asked each community where the location would be. We are in the process of concluding the work for all communities that require facilities. We have presented design options for them to choose and from the federal government the funding proposals will come from this work and that will improve the options from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Naujaat gets traffic from various locations from the Baffin region, from Kivalliq. It would really be a great place to have a harbour for the boats for loading. It's very inconvenient for boaters from out of town. We encourage them to come to Naujaat. And I push once again for Naujaat and Coral require dock facilities in the planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Just a comment. (interpretation ends) Before I go on to the next on the list, Minister, you stated that federal funding for airport improvements can't be used to extend the runway. What if you laid a little bit a gravel down and then improved that? Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I think our federal partners would catch on to that very quickly, because they do know the length of our airports. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* (interpretation ends) Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Minister and to your officials. My colleague here from Aivilik beat me to the punch here. Great minds think alike. I want to discuss the Baker Lake airport and runway extension as well, the reason being we've just had a rash of jets not being able to land in Rankin Inlet because of weather runway conditions, freezing rain. I'm wondering, has the department looked at doing another study on a new airport or new runway with jet capability in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. Not for a while that we have looked into for paved runways to any communities, but it's one that I think with discussions with Arctic security with our federal partners and Canada being pressured to have NATO funding to be up to 2 percent, we are asking our federal partners in defence in those types of angles is that we do need more jet capabilities within our territories, and if our military does need to expand, and if they're going to expand in the Arctic, they need to make sure it's strategic and to our community and we've been promoting multi-use because we do have it here in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet are the two that were built by the military. They're the only two paved runways. So that's the angle that I've been trying to advocate, along with the premier and my colleagues, to try and get our critical infrastructure through various angles and that's one that we're having quite good discussions through Arctic security and sovereignty. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe Baker Lake would be the ideal place for a backup landing site for jet capability, just because of the distances between here and Rankin and Yellowknife and Winnipeg to Rankin Inlet. It makes for a very long day, especially for elders and mothers with their babies and escorts and whatnot. So a shorter location to get to would be ideal.

Would the Minister commit to entering the idea of having Baker Lake as the next site for jet capabilities landing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair I'll take that into consideration and look. There's a lot of through, and hopefully with the approval of this budget, there's studies that we've been able to do and we prioritize on some of these. So I'll take my colleague's comments and take that into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. Earlier in your response you mentioned it's been a while since a study was done in Baker Lake. When will the next study be done for Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I think the last I highlighted in order for it to extend that there's going to have to be a hill blasted, in terms of with the, how the planes come in and go. So it might be a little while for the extension side would be warranted. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, if you can please elaborate? How short is the Baker Lake runway for jet capabilities? How much would it need to be extended? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At least 800 feet. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chair. 800 feet isn't awfully long. Has the department looked at extending it into the lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's problematic when we have to go into a lake. It's one of, with our Arctic climate it's very difficult to build what we can build now and then if we get into the lake then that has its own new challenges, and I don't know if we have any expertise on that. Thank you for the suggestion, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. I believe it has been a while since you flew into Baker Lake, so you must have forgotten that the runway actually starts partially into the lake. I think it could be done extending it on both ends. Would the Minister commit to looking into that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I think the discussions that we're having, I committed to having a look in terms of the Arctic sovereignty side, and also for that potentially if it's going to be in Baker so I'll definitely take that into factor, because what we are trying to advocate is through the Arctic sovereignty and security, is that we do need capabilities, and there's something that those types of dialogue is very healthy, and for having dialogues here in the House. I really thank the member for raising these very important to your community and to our territory and to our country. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next one will be regarding minor capital it's going to some various Nunavut communities. If you can please elaborate on what kind of capital and to which communities they are going to. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Mr. Chairman, if I could ask my assistant deputy minister to elaborate on the question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): *Mut'na*, as soon as the jet finishes flying over. Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So with the life cycle renovations, their plans for the coming year are Qikiqtarjuaq electrical retrofit and airfield lighting; Pangnirtung, same retrofit on the airfield lighting; Resolute, we have an air terminal building and fuel tank replacement; Cambridge Bay, a generator fuel tank replacement plan; Gjoa Haven, an air terminal building, and fuel tank replacement.

We have a couple other fuel tank replacements, one in Coral Harbour, one in, two parking garages, and then a study, a needs assessment for the overlays, runway overlays in Igloolik and Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think my last line of questioning will be around the Baker Lake airport. We've had a few power outages in Baker Lake, as I have mentioned a few times now here in this Assembly, during this fall sitting. If I remember correctly, in the past we've had to use constituents with skidoos to actually help light the runway. I don't know if that would be allowed nowadays, but could we have some discussions around backup generators in some areas of the communities I'm wondering does the Baker Lake have a backup generator in case the power goes out at the airport. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, Baker Lake does have a backup generator. It's one that it wouldn't power the whole airport terminal, but would also do the lighting, and that's designed that way as part of the emergency backup generator for Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Minister, for the assurance that there is backup generator at the Baker Lake. Is the power output of the generator sufficient to meet the needs still of the Baker Lake airport? I think there was lighting work done not too long ago so I want to make sure the generator will be able to light enough runway lights so our planes can land. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Following my names, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Ministers and your officials, in your opening comments or statements here, where is Sanirajak when it comes to planning and designing and when it comes to airports? When it comes to the mobile equipment? Not to mention the -- put it this way: Where is Sanirajak when it comes to planning stages under the capital projects? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chairman, the last few years Sanirajak has received and we worked on their resurfacing of their airstrip and the

electronics of it, so that has significantly improved the airstrip. So work has been done in Sanirajak in the last few years on this, and that has taken place. There's no planning for any replacement like the airport terminal yet, so far. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and that's disappointing to hear that the Sanirajak airport terminal is not in planning stages of why has not taken place. As the Minister has stated, yes, our runway has been rehabilitated from the federal funding, and this was done in our Fifth Assembly. And so how is it that transportation division at least looking into having a central location, as the Minister has stated that Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay were developed by military bases, not to mention Sanirajak was also developed by DEW line. And we have a very capable runway and there needs to be another whole lot of infrastructure put into it.

But why is that department not looking into this when it comes to Arctic sovereignty and security? And the minister has stated when it comes to NATO, there's the 2 percent. How will Sanirajak be recognized when it comes to Arctic sovereignty and security, as we are naturally located in the central Nunavut?

So would the Minister be in agreement with me when it comes to security, sovereignty and emergency services that Sanirajak is capable of getting a jet service? And besides jet services would the Minister give me an assurance that it will be put into planning stages when it comes to our sovereignty and security? And that's my two cents. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when I talked about the paved runways the only two paved runways have been built by the military. There are other airports and airstrips that have been built by the military. I just wanted to clarify myself about that.

When it comes to Arctic security and sovereignty, we are having discussions with our federal partners, and our premier is working really hard to try and ensure that Nunavut gets what it needs for multi-purpose and we've been trying to advocate for a number of things like search and rescue is another one that we really need capabilities and we communicate that with our federal partners. I think our premier has been working very hard and very strategically to try and ensure that the federal government is made aware that we need these and we need them in a lot of communities. Sanirajak, Baker Lake, those are what, and Cambridge Bay or places like that, and we communicate that.

The final decision will be made either by what's call NORAD, I don't know the acronym, North America air defence or something, or by our defence, our Canadian military but it's

one that we are taking every avenue to try and promote that we do need this as part of Arctic sovereignty and security. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was talking about Sanirajak, not Nunavut-wide, but I'm actually talking about Sanirajak and I would like to have the minister's assurance that it is capable of getting jet service, and when it comes to emergency services will the Minister agree with me that it will be put into planning stages so that it can be recognized?

And with the line of questioning I'm doing, Mr. Chair there are no capital projects that are going towards Sanirajak and some partial of it is, as the assistant deputy minister mentioned, the Igloolik runway lighting. And so can the Minister agree with me that it will be a priority when it comes to transportation, sovereignty, security? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, for jet capabilities the current new jets that are in, they need paving, and that's something that we haven't been able to build ourselves, and which is why we're leaning towards Arctic sovereignty and security to do these things. Whether it's Sanirajak is in there, that's one thing that we need to do. I do know that Sanirajak's air strip, when it was built by the military and the jets of the day were able to land there. And so I hope that technology will change further for jets to be able to go into gravel, back to gravel, but it's something that's not a priority for the airplanes that are being built. But I cannot stress enough that we are communicating to our federal partners that investments are needed in Nunavut. And any investment will be very welcome to this. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have not heard any assurance, but I prefer to have it on the books for the record. Mr. Chair, will the Minister put into priority? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was talking about Sanirajak, not Nunavut wide, but I'm actually talking about Sanirajak. I would like to have an assurance that it is capable of getting jet service, and when it comes to emergency services, will the Minister agree with me that will be put into planning stages so that it can be recognized. With the line of questioning I'm doing, Mr. Chair, there is no capital projects that is going towards Sanirajak and some partial of it is Assistant Deputy Minister mentioned Igloolik run way lighting. And so can the Minister agree with me that it will be a priority when it comes to transportation, sovereignty, security. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman for jet capabilities the current new jets that are in require needs paving and when that's something that we haven't been able to build ourselves and which is why we're leaning towards Arctic sovereignty and security to do these things, whether it's Sanirajak is in there, that's one thing that we need to do. I do know that Sanirajak's airstrip, it was built by the military and the jets of the day were able to land there. So I hope that technology will change further for jets to be able to go into gravel, back to gravel, but it's something that's not a priority for the airplanes that are being built. But I cannot stress enough that we are communicating to our federal partners that investments are needed in Nunavut, and any investment will be very welcome to this. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have not heard any assurance, but I prefer to have it on the books. For the record, Mr. Chair, will the Minister put into priority. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chair, as I said, there's all different functions. We're looking at that and trying to advocate with our federal partners. In the end, it's going to be the decision of the federal partners. It's something that all of my colleagues are working really hard to try and get these critical important transportation infrastructures upgraded. (interpretation) And that's how it's going to have to be for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Chair. (interpretation) What can the people of Sanirajak and the hamlet to make it more apparent make Sanirajak more apparent. Like you stated, there's no pavement there, and I'm trying to agree with you that when you talk with the Federal Department of Defence about Arctic sovereignty and devolution, can you make Sanirajak one of the priorities. Like you stated, there's no money for paving airstrips. Now the federal Department of Defence can probably have the funds to do that kind of work. And what else can the people of Sanirajak do to get what they need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): We do try to advocate on behalf of Sanirajak. We do talk about it, because it was built by the Department of Defence, and they are

aware of the site and it's near a dew line site. When we talk to the Department of Defence, that's that we tell them.

As to making this a priority it's one of the priorities. It's one of the communities that is mentioned when we talk to them. There are things that need to be corrected a little bit. The federal government is always looking for cheaper ways of doing things.

We do bring up Sanirajak, and we tell them if you just fix it up a little bit, you'll be able to use it for the Department of Defence. That's what we have been telling the federal government.

And I thank my colleague for bringing this up here. But if we try to speak with one voice, the member can write to me and the premier and express the importance of this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's because I really want them to see it and realize it. It would benefit not just Sanirajak; it would benefit the Baffin, Kitikmeot and the Keewatin.

There never used to be a flight from Sanirajak to Naujaat, or Sanirajak to Kugaaruk, Sanirajak to Arctic Bay. Those routes may become a reality, because it's right in the middle. It's just a general comment.

And looking at this, the Rankin Inlet improvements, the money that you want to spend, there has been using money for many years now, and in your documents it was put up in 1993. Can you investigate further. I know pavement is expensive to bring up. How can I say this? Do you understand?

I would really Sanirajak to be looked at. It's potential. I can write if I have to. Can the Minister write to the federal government, can you include my letter in your submission.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Yes. That raises me up a little bit. This is mentioned a number of times. The Iqaluit airport, it's very big and it needs improvements, and it states here that it's a P3 project, and its improvement and operation looking at it.

The Sanirajak airport terminal building, it's one of the oldest ones. Has it been put into a plan for replacement somewhere in the capital plan. Is it somewhere in the capital plan. That's what I would like to know next. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the member that Sanirajak airport terminal building is one of the older ones, but it has been taken care of very well up to now, and I applaud them. So we're planning the next community that would get that.

We followed the 20-year needs assessment plan, and that's what we tried to do. If there's anything broken, we can request money for minor capital and transportation equipment facilities fund to make improvements when we need to. So that's what our staff does when they need to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Yes, Sanirajak is very good at maintaining their assets. What about the air terminal in Igloolik; Sanirajak air terminal isn't one of the top priorities. What about Igloolik, are they in the plans, are you looking at doing something about their terminal in Igloolik.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Yes, it's newer than the one in Hall Beach, but it's a need to make some minor work on it. We are also looking at a ramp for wheelchairs, and we just recently installed it. Thank you, and completed. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, and also it is more convenient for the passengers coming in and out. And it's also a growing community. I wanted to make that statement. My question now is is it possible to extend the runway, or if the lighting is also in the plans. Thank you.

Chairman: Are you talking about Igloolik or Sanirajak.

Mr. Kaernek: Igloolik.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): As the federal minister indicated, if we are going to be working on that through minor capital and also work on the lighting. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you also going to be extending the runway. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not for 2025-2026. We haven't made any plans to extend the runway in any community, including Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) make a statement when it comes to capital projects, that the Anitumiut is to be prioritized when it comes to these capital projects. It would be certainly nice to see some new capital projects happening to Sanirajak and Igloolik. And so when it comes to these capital projects, these communities, the community I represent is pretty much mainly forgotten all the time, and its come to a point where my blood is pretty much boiling to my head. And so that's why I would like to make a statement that can the Minister finally agree with me that it will be a priority when it comes to capital projects. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na*. It went from a statement to a question, so Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, like I said, we take these airport and invest as much as we can. Sanirajak just recently, through the life of our government received, nine million, six million, something in that magnitude to resurface their strip and lights. We do this to every airstrip. We try and do that to every airstrip every 15 years.

So Sanirajak has a brand new surfaced airstrip. I want to say that every community is important, and every community is prioritized in trying to make sure that from the transportation side, I applaud my staff for making sure that airplanes can land in every of our communities and they do a lot of work. And through planning like this and budgets like this, we get a lot of things done. So I just want to assure my colleagues that every community is a priority. We don't have money to do everything, but we do it strategically, and that allows us to do it. So I'm very proud of what we do, and how we plan and ask for money like today, so that planes can land safely in every of our communities, and they can do that right now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* I guess it depends on the weather. Just before I go to the next person on my list, just while we're talking about paving runways, on your opening comments you're requesting 1.5 million to initiate the design process for repaving the Rankin Inlet runway. Just for the benefit of our viewing audience, what's going to be the total cost of that project. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At the moment that's where we're asking for for this. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Just more clarification then, is repaving a runway the same as paving a runway. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My ADM says no. It is more expensive, in terms of resurfacing versus paving, and that's what we are finding through that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* So you're asking for 1.5 million to initiate design process to repaving the runway, but you don't know what it's going to cost. Just for clarity, it could cost 50 million. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. Yes, this is why we're asking to do it, so we'll know how much it will be. It could be in the neighbourhood of 60 to 90 million. That's what this fund is going to leave us, and that will allow us to go to Transport Canada with a proposal to help develop this through our Airport Capital Assistance Program that Transport Canada has. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Next person on my list, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm hoping the minister has some more accurate numbers for my line of questioning.

I would like to go back to the Opening Comments. At the bottom of page 1 and top of page 2 where it talks about the Qikiqtarjuaq Port Project. In the substantiation information that was last updated in January, almost 11 months ago, it states: "To date cross-estimates have not been completed. Early projections indicate a project funding shortfall." I would like to get an update of the class estimates that have not been completed 10 plus months ago. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, could I ask my Assistant Deputy Minister Hawkins to respond to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So the scope of that work through consultation with the industry and the potential users of the port has expanded the scope of the port, in order for it to be actually efficient and useable and beneficial to the fishing industry, to the point that they would use it as its intended to be used, the price has gone up quite extensively.

We have the planning study almost done. The estimates are being refined, but they are in the neighbourhood of 240 to 315ish kind of million dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Just before I go to Mr. Hickes, he was kind of muffled. Did you say 240 to 315 million? Okay, thank you, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for getting that clarification. So the original project was estimated to be \$53 million, and now we're talking basically from 200 to potentially \$300 million dollars more than the original estimated cost. Has the federal government indicated that they're still willing to contribute up to 75 percent of this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not yet on the 200 to 300 million. The one that they are contributing 75 percent is what we are currently doing right now. Those discussions will need to be made with Transport Canada. Once we have it finalized, we're planning on paying a visit to Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to think of where to go with this, Mr. Chairman. When we look at the substantiation sheet again where it talks about a \$40 million dollar (indiscernible) floor coming from the Natural Trades Corridor Fund and 13.3 million coming from the Government of Nunavut's coffers, when I look at prior years expenditures it's got a total cost of \$28 million of which \$7 million is vote 2, and third party recovery is at 21 million. How much has been expended on this project to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Mr. Chairman, could you give us a few more ... the information is near. Just we'll get that very shortly. So the total expenditure to date is \$4,495,000, and that's calculating to the end of the year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the earlier response, the Minister might have been the Assistant Deputy Minister stated that the original scope under this project that they're looking at adding to it for the increase and are going to go back to the federal government to see if there's available funds. Does that mean there's going to be two phases to this project, that this is now going to be phase 1, and are the cost estimates still at \$53 million with the same scope of work that's outlined in the substantiation sheets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chair, that 4 million that I mentioned is there, but I believe it's now 2 million. There's so many numbers there. If I can clarify probably through a letter, if need be, exactly to answer the member's question. This is becoming into two phases, because of the shared amount through the design is that if we're going to be looking at 240 million to 300, it's a different level with the National Trades Corridor Fund that's under this scope. The 53 million that we're planning on doing would be and one of the things that we're having discussions we will be discussions with Transport Canada is how do we go forward on this one. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Hickes: I would like to get a response from the question on the scope of work. Also the Minister just mentioned if I read between the lines properly, the Minister just stated that this project may not go forward, just to get clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chairman, our plan is to get this forward, and we're still working on it, but definitely more funds will be needed, which is why we need to have discussions with our federal partners. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'm confusing the Minister when I speak to the \$53 million project that's before us right now, has the scope of work changed on that. And from what I understand there's going to be a phase 2, with this additional work bringing the total project up to potentially up to 300 plus million dollars, is that a phase 2 that the phase 1 the \$53.3 million that's budgeted for right now, is that project going to be completed within those budget limits, or is there going to be a change in the scope of work to bring it within that limit. Or is the Minister saying that he's going to be coming

forward with a request for more money, more appropriations for the phase 1 of the project.

I know it's not called phase 1, phase 2, but just for simplicity with these discussions, as it was brought up that way, I think it's easier to reference it that way, if the Minister doesn't mind. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Mr. Chairman, if we just use the 53 million, it won't be built, which is why the scope needs to be changed and the amounts will change, which is one of the reasons that we need to go back to our federal partners to have those discussions in terms of how to move forward on this.

It's one that I think through the planning and design that we've been able to see the magnitude of it, and we'll go from there.

I hope I'm clear that through this planning and design phase that the scope needs to get much larger. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also in the substantiation documents that we received on page 3 of 4, under the 'Cost' it says, like the Minister said, projections do indicate a project funding short fall but it also states that the department is working with Community and Government Services and the design consultants to identify and quantify the funding gaps or feasible reduction of scope.

I know the Minister just said they've already identified the funding gap as something that they need to overcome through additional partnerships or agreements, but it also states that there's a feasible reduction of scope. What impact would that have on the phase 1 and potentially on the phase 2, if that reduction of scope is brought into play. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: I'll have my Deputy Minister to respond to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So the \$53 million scope is inadequate. The engineers and CGS and our department has worked together to try and find any kind of scope reduction that could bring it within budget or closer to budget and also be a (indiscernible) to the industry.

The estimates that we have, that I gave you, the 240 to 314, 315 those numbers are what the consultation with the industry have determined is required. We've looked at ways to reduce that scope, and really there isn't any.

There are also some of the construction materials that are available in the community are difficult to construct on and the actual sea bed is difficult to construct on.

So really there isn't a way to reduce the scope of it. We have to either go to the full scope of the project, or that project will basically stop where it is, I believe, at the end of design. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Hickers: If this project does disintegrate and no longer deemed feasible to move forward, is the cost to date still \$75-25 covered by the Trades Corridor Funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Mr. Chairman, yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickers: In the section on the same page 3 of 4, it talks about what we've been talking about, the general cost uncertainty potential construction delays. To me there's a greater risk that's listed in the next sentence, that the current project schedule exceeds the sunset date of Transport Canada National Trade Corridor Funding Agreement. It's saying that Transport Canada will need to review and improve the extent of the agreement. Has that work been initiated, or is that in conjunction with the request for additional funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: My train of thought just... it's in conjunction with. So the design phase fits within that scope. If we're going to the construction then we're going to need to have discussions with our federal partners on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess where I would like to just I guess caution the Minister on keeping the members up-to-date on the progress of this. We're already within four or five months of the end of the fiscal year.

I can anticipate there will be a capital carryover request coming for this project, and I think we're going to need some firmer information, or at least I will, to consider that when it comes forward.

I'll leave that as a comment, but I would like to appreciate the Minister's position on my comment. Thank you.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I can't agree more. This House needs to know what we're spending on projects, and this is one that we flagging that we require extra more money, or even new agreements. But I will remain committed to providing this House updated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Just for clarification, for this project that's potentially going to be more than \$300 million, how many months a year would it be operational. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to have to get back to you on that. That's part of the planning. It's in that document that we're working on, but I don't have it right in front of me at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* So it could potentially be a \$300 million project that operates three months a year. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. Where it's located, it's more than three months where it's situated, and it's on the Baffin bay water, so I can assure you that it will be more than three months of the year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* The reason I ask that is there's lots of requests here from lots of members, to the extend the runway, so they can maybe get bigger airplanes to get cheaper cargo rates or more passengers in, and airports operate year round. Every airport operates year round. Some get planes every single day.

I just want to put it into perspective that you can't spend money on airports, but you can spend maybe possibly \$300 million on a port that operates maybe five months of the year. So I just want to get your perspective or position on that. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we are losing economic dollars by not having our fish land in Nunavut. If we go right across the water to Greenland, that's their main economic driver, and we're missing out on the economic driver when it comes to not having capabilities of having fisheries land in Nunavut.

It's not about whether airports are 365 days open or a port. Those are two different mindsets, and something that I really want to see when we are diversifying our economy.

From my perspective, that port will have a lot of returns if we investment in that, because you can see how Newfoundland has benefitted from the sea. You see what Greenland has.

It's one sector that has huge potential for Nunavut, so I don't think it's fair to put what the airport is versus that because those are, from my perspective, two separate discussions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* (interpretation) Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman, for recognizing me. We are looking at a very expensive project here for the port. Can we get an actual price of the port. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): 240 to 320 million. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: 240 to 315 million. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: I was one percent off. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you. Minister, is this approved by the government or the federal government?

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): We have 53 million, 40 million from the federal government, 13 million from the Nunavut government. To date we are spending 4 million.

We know the 53 million will be inadequate, so we need to approach the federal government regarding this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's a port here that cannot be used for fisheries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. Yes. The fisheries, the turbot either offload in Nuuk or Greenland would be a shorter trip than coming here, and Qikiqtarjuaq

has the best location around the east coast along OA and OB fishing zones. So that was the thought that we were looking at for this port. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: It's not transportation, but it is related to the port project. I know that the adjacency quota is government, and through QIA is trying to get more fisheries quota then. If the government or QIA was successful and got more quota, would that quota be just for the private companies, for QIA, or for all of Nunavut, since it's in Nunavut waters. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way the quota system works for turbot and/or shrimp, for that matter, is that the licenses do go to a private entities, and they would be able to harvest whatever quota they do have.

When they are harvesting, they need to land it, and what we're trying to do is put a dock in where they can land it in Nunavut and help the economic opportunities and jobs that can be made for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* All right, Economic Development Transportation. Transportation total capital expenditures, \$29,180,000. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We'll take a 20 minute break before we go to the next branch.

>>Committee recessed at 18:30 and resumed at 18:59

Chairman (Savikataaq)

Chairman: Welcome everyone back. We'll resume our Committee of the Whole meetings here. Economic Development and Transportation. Minister is before us. We're on Economic Development Branch. Any questions. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening Minister and officials. Welcome back. Regarding Baker Lake, the Jessie Oonark Centre is owned by the Government of Nunavut through I believe the Business Credit Corporation or Development Corporation, one of those two, but I've never seen any renovations done to that building, to my memory. Is that being considered. If not, why not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, if I may ask you if I can have a new witness. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to get a new witness.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Agreed. Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the new witness in to the witness table. Minister Akeeagok, you can introduce your new official. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. On my left is Adam Fisher. He's the Associate Deputy Minister for Economic Development. Thank you. In regards to the question, the Nunavut Development Corporation owns the building, and they can do their own renovations. They don't need to go through our department for any renovation needs for that building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister, for the clarification. Moving along on the idea of, in short, I'm pretty sure it's developed for economic development. Is there any work being done on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: We're on capital. For the O&M side, we do have the in-shore fisheries, we've got a number of initiatives we're doing through the fisheries and sealing division. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* I was under the assumption that if there's any capital planning like buildings being considered, but Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's what I was going towards. We're discussing capital projects here, and I'm wondering if there's anything being done with regards to in shore fisheries. Baker Lake has numerous fish types that could be fished for fishing, fisheries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. For those types of initiatives, I have to ask the Nunavut corporation to start looking and see if they can develop that within the territory. I've mentioned that in their Board of Directors meetings, and I hope that that will start coming. If there are facilities towards commercial fisheries and that, it will be vested through the Nunavut Development Corporation, which we don't control their capital. That's gone through their corporation itself. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Before I go back to you, Mr. Simailak, just for clarification, then what's the difference between building fishery structures in Qikiqtarjuaq to the tune of \$300 million as opposed to building commercial fishing structures in Baker Lake. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the Qikiqtarjuaq Port, that is to land the fish that's coming from the sea, and you need those kind of infrastructure in order to have that type of fishery. The in shore fishery is much smaller, and that can be handled through our development corporations, and that's the two differences. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're now in November in the year 2024, and we still haven't had any in shore fisheries of projects or capital projects being put out there so that our fishers can start fishing for doing commercial fisheries, and it is quite disappointing, is there anything more the department or the Minister can do so that it's not relying just on Nunavut Development Corporation, because it appears there they are not meeting this request that you've made, Minister. Is there anything the department can do or the Minister will do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do have the fishing and sealing strategy that I tabled to this House that shows what our department is trying to do. I don't have that information in front of me, but I would be willing to share some more on that to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister's official are beside him. Do they have that with them, or in their laptops. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* I'm going to assume not, but Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: We don't have that. All we brought was our capital binder. The fisheries and sealing strategy is an electric document. I'll make sure that the member does get that, and that will show what our departments are trying to do in the in shore fishery. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To move along now, still with economic development, with the influx of cash or disposable income that's come to Baker Lake since 2008 when the mining boom began, there should have been more businesses opening up in Baker Lake, but there hasn't been. What more could the Department of Economic Development do to help spur or create new business opportunities in Baker Lake to help diversify the economy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister, you can answer that, but in terms of capital expenditures that could have been done. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: The department has different programs to entice businesses, such as our Strategic Investments Funds and other economic development opportunities that are out there. I continue to encourage our residents to get into the business, where there's business warranted, and which could lead to having capital being built by the businesses. For the department's capital expenditure, there hasn't been any plans. That's not within our scope to do with the capital plan that I'm here for. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman (interpretation): *Mut'na.* Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My constituencies, they are interested in economic development, but they don't know where to start with the in shore fisheries or meat processing, although we have very good wildlife near us. Has the department thought about opportunities to create jobs where there's no jobs in the smaller communities. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Simailak asked this question, but if the Minister would like to answer it, he can.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you. I can answer it in a two part manner. The first one, Nunavut Development Corporation has been directed to create programs for fisheries from the lakes, and through economic development we have funding available for business startups. We can help them make a business plan, or if they think that the whole community wants to get involved, we've created programs through that we've given to the hamlets that anybody can try and get access to. So we have programs like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister just said that all the communities, each community has an economic development officer in part of the answer, and he's directed the business development corporation. Has any work started, are they visiting the communities now to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Our staff in the regional offices do go and help on those matters. And for people who want to start businesses, and they go to the communities twice a year to promote our programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): According to my list, Ms. Quassa is next.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is similar to the previous question. Igloolik tried to get a fish plant, and even though they had a building, there was a lot of red tape that prevented them from going ahead. Have you looked at that business idea. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know about it right now, but I can direct my staff to look into the matter to see what we can do and as to who would do the work. Yes, I can get that reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you. We talk only about developing fisheries, but near Igloolik the ocean has animals that people eat, not just fish. Maybe the business can be slanted towards processing those, like shell. We have a lot of shell. Maybe if the community turns to starting a business like that, will they encounter more red tape. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If animals are going to be caught to be sold, it's a different matter. If they're going to be sold to white people or to the stores, then the federal government laws come into play. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, for example, they would have to go through that and other things that they have to follow. This is a big blockage to ideas like that.

That is set up for all of Canada, where they process animals for food. They have to make sure the animals are safe to eat.

It's less of a red tape than most, because in Nunavut if the animals that are going to be sold, then the laws are a little more lax, but then they would have to be inspected by the Health Department, for example. And as Nunavummiut to sell to other Nunavummiut, it's not so covered by laws. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for that clarification and information. We eat those shell fish, and we eat them because it's safe (interpretation ends).

The 2024-2025 capital estimates included \$750,000 in funding for its Economic Development Facilities Life Cycle Budget. What specific projects are being undertaken with this funding. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): It is our plan for 2025-2026 and the floor in Arviat needs fixing, and the Unikkaarvik Visiting Centre, the roof and siding, here in Iqaluit, has to be renovated. The windows, security in Pond Inlet and the Angmarlik Visitors Centre has to be painted in Pangnirtung, and the Arctic Coast Visitors Centre needs changes in Cambridge Bay. So that will take up the \$250,000.

Chairman: (No interpretation)

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Minister. You identified what life cycle renovations are being done in those communities (interpretation ends) And from this budget be used for repairs to buildings owned and/or leased by the Nunavut Development Corporation and its subsidiaries. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Nunavut Development Corporation can handle their own buildings and facilities and their subsidiaries. That's through legislation that allows for them to work on their existing buildings or new buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the Minister. And again, for the owners, if we need to get a retail outlet, is there some monies available through your department to be accessed by the private businesses.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Yes, we have different programs. For example, the economic development has a strategic investment program, or the Nunavut Business Development Corporation can also be utilized and take a loan out of there. And we also have

Atuqtuarvik that you can access money from, in order to develop the hourly (indiscernible) businesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I have no more names on my list. Grant summary, economic development total capital expenditures, \$750,000. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Members go to K2. N. Depart Summary, Economic Development and Transportation, total capital expenditures \$29,930,000. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree we have concluded with Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok, do you have any brief closing comments.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, very much for approving. I'm very pleased, and I'm also very proud that my staff are able to be here with me. It's going to have a positive effect on our communities. I really enjoyed being the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and I would really like to thank my staff. I would like to say a personal thank you to my staff, and I know that they will keep working very hard, even under a different Minister. I look forward to seeing those projects go ahead. It's only through your support and through working together that we can make them a reality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We'll take a five minute break and come back with the Department of Justice.

>>Committee recessed at 19:21 and resumed 19:28

Chairman (Simailak): Good morning. We are calling our Committee of the Whole back to order. We're going to capital project. Minister David Akeeagok, you can proceed with your opening comments. Minister David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appear before the Committee today to present the Department of Justice's 2025-2026 Capital Estimates. We are seeking approval of \$6,945,000 for the Department of Justice's capital expenditures for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Justice has four capital projects, which are the Courts and

Corrections Information System, the Kugluktuk Illavut Centre Renovation, Ongoing Life Cycle Funding for Repairs and Maintenance, and Minor Capital.

\$3.4 million is requested for the digital JaCin system which is the transformation of the Courts and Corrections information tracking system to modernize the processes and technology that track clients and support the administration of Justice. This project will update the client management computer systems and improve courts and corrections integration.

\$428,000 is requested to renovate the Kugluktuk Illavut Centre. This project faced delays due to Covid and unexpectedly high costs in the initial Request for Proposal response. In response, the Departments of Justice and Community and Government Services revised the scope of the project to focus first on addressing urgent mechanical and electrical upgrades.

Further renovations, including the creation of additional office space, will depend on funding availability after the first phase of the project is complete.

A successful RFP for the re-scoped project was awarded in April 2024 and work commenced in September 2024 after supplies arrived by sealift.

All eight Government of Nunavut-owned facilities operated by the Department of Justice, including Nunavut's correctional facilities and the Nunavut Justice Centre are aging, and investment is required to keep them in good condition.

To address the situation, we are requesting \$1 million for ongoing life cycle funding. This would include funding for necessary renovations to program and office space to accommodate our Programming and the incremental increase in staff over the years and a planned flooring replacement at the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility.

The Department of Justice is also seeking approval for \$2 million in the minor capital budget. Our minor capital items include:

- Funding to replace two aging vehicles. This includes \$125,000 for a modified prisoner transport van for the Court Services Division and \$85,000 for a truck for the Corrections Division. An additional \$100,000

Will be used for maintenance and repairs for all Justice's vehicles.

- Technology used to support court proceedings is aging and needs to be upgraded to improve efficiency and accessibility. These upgrades, costing at \$250,000, include updated digital recording equipment to assist in transcriptions, updated video conferencing equipment for

Remote participation, interactive displays for evidence presentation, and advanced interpretation equipment.

- The Corrections Division requests \$215,000 to install the Synergy telephone, tablet, and video visitation system at the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility. These tablets allow clients to better connect with friends and family to support their healing and rehabilitation. This system is currently being used with success at the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility.

- Also, for the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility, the Corrections Division is seeking funding to purchase a full-body scanner. This scanner would

Be similar to one currently used at the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility, and which is shared with the Iqaluit women's and

Young offender's facilities. The scanner would allow the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility to move away from having to perform strip searches of

Clients which are invasive and demeaning. The Corrections Division has observed that not having to regularly perform these invasive

Searches in its Iqaluit facilities has improved morale of both staff and clients and we believe it is important to provide that benefit to staff and clients in Rankin Inlet as well.

The estimated cost of the body scanner is \$400,000.

- The Corrections Division also requests \$550,000 for safety and technology upgrades at our Iqaluit correctional facilities. These upgrades include the integration of the control centre and security system of the minimum-security Aniguiliqtuq Unit at Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility with the rest of the facility, an upgrade to the control centre at the Women's facility, and the extension of the electronic safety alert system used at the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility to staff at the Aniguiliqtuq Unit, the Women's facility,

And the Youth facility.

- Lastly, \$325,000 is requested for Information Technology Systems and Infrastructure to make a bulk purchase of approximately 200 computer systems to replace aging staff computers, and to meet the costs of necessary fiber-optics connections to the leased buildings and computer network.

Mr. Chair, this concludes with my opening comments. I will now take any

Questions from Committee Members.

Thank you.

Qujannamiik.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Does the chair of the standing have any opening comments?

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Chair. Good evening. I am happy to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on social wellness concerning its review of the proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates of the Department of Justice.

And Mr. Chair, just before I go on, I realize that we haven't invited our witnesses to the table yet, however, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Christine Ellsworth and to welcome her to this House, Deputy Minister of justice.

>> *Applause*

Ms. Brewster: Mr. Chair, what a great role model and a great accomplishment for my friend to be in that position. Thank you, Chair. I am happy to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness concerning its review of the proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates of the Department of Justice. The department's proposed capital budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year is \$6.945 million. This represents an increase of 56.4% from its 2024-2025 capital budget. The primary reason for this increase is due to the department's new ongoing lifecycle funding.

Members note that the department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates includes \$428,000 dollars in capital funding for the phase one renovation of the Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre. During the review of the 2023-2024 capital estimates, Members encouraged the department to consider including solar panels and other alternative energy while planning the design of its facilities, including Kugluktuk's Ilavut Centre. During the Minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, Members asked for an update on the status of this work. Members also note that the department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates include \$3.467 million in capital funding for its Courts and Corrections Information Technology system. Member note that this multi-year project is intended to modernize the processes and technology that supports the administration of the courts and corrections departments. Members look forward to receiving ongoing updates on this important project.

Members note that the department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates includes \$1 million in capital funding for its new ongoing life cycle funding. Members also note that in this this ongoing life funding is intended to address repairs required to maintain the seven correctional facilities and the Nunavut Court of Justice building. Members look forward to receiving ongoing updates on the status of this work.

Members also note that the department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates also include funding for a number of minor capital projects.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates of the Department of Justice.

Thank you.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Do any members have any general comments. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (No interpretation) (interpretation ends) for our modified percent for a van. (interpretation) Part of what I

didn't hear correctly, it says 85,000 on the notes, and he said 65,000. Can you clarify that please.

Chairman: Okay, that's just for clarification on general comments. We'll get into the questions later. But if you can clarify that for Mr. Malliki, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. I regret if I said 65, it's 85,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman I like to move a motion to report progress at this time. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress, and this motion is non-debatable. In favour of the motion. Motion is carried, and I will rise to report progress.

>>*Committee adjourned and House resumed at 19:41*

Speaker: Item 20, report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

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

Speaker: Is there a seconder? Mr. Joanasie. 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 6:

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 Wednesday, November 6, at 10:00 a.m.
Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:43*

