

NUNAVUT HANSARD

UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)

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

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

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

Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)

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

George Hicketts
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Hon. David Joanasi
(South Baffin)

Government House Leader; Minister of Community and Government Services

Joelie Kaernek
(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)

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

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

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

Solomon Malliki
(Aivilik)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

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

Karen Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

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

Joanna Quassa
(Aggu)

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

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(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, November 6, 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: Good morning, everyone. (no interpretation)

Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 508 – 6(2): Recent Advancements in Healthcare

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Thank you and good morning to my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I am excited to share some health care improvements made over the past few months. These updates are helping us deliver better care in our communities and making sure we have the right tools and services in place to meet Nunavummiut's needs.

(interpretation ends) A new computerized tomography, CT scanner was installed in Qikiqtani General Hospital in July and put into use in August. This new scanner produces superior image quality and has decreased scan times, providing Nunavut patients with better quality imaging right here in territory. Pediatric head scans now take less than one second, meaning sedation and medical travel to the south are rarely required, and a heart scan can be captured in a heartbeat, literally.

Having a high quality and fast CT scanner not only enhances our diagnostic capabilities in the territory but also ensures that patients receive timely, accurate results, leading to quicker treatment and better health outcomes.

Using technology has also led to improvements in the endoscopy program and decreased wait times for patients. In collaboration with EHealth, the Meditech wait list system was made easier to use for endoscopy triage and booking.

In addition, the endoscopy equipment was upgraded, and in July, we piloted scheduling endoscopies on Saturdays which has resulted in a 39 percent wait list reduction to date. We are continuing to schedule the procedure on Saturdays to decrease the wait list even further.

In addition to equipment and systems, investing in staffing is another key factor in making improvements. A clinical pharmacist role was recently created and filled to support the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions by providing dedicated services to front line health staff. This role includes direct patient care at the Kivalliq health centre and serves as a resource for all community health centres in both regions.

Nurses are continually advancing their education to deepen their knowledge and provide specialized care. Two recent examples are training by Registered Nurse Natania Campbell in wound ostomy and continence care focuses on preventing complications, promoting healing, and educating patients on self care. And registered nurse Susie Pierce's enhanced lactation support and education has led to an increase in breastfeeding rates, benefitting mothers and babies in the Qikiqtaaluk region.

Health continues to seek ways to improve health care for Nunavummiut by enhancing equipment, technology, staffing, and providing specializing training. (interpretation ends)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeegok.

Minister's Statement 509 – 6(2): Restorative Justice Week

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, November 17 to 23 is National Restorative Justice Week. The purpose of the week is to increase awareness of the ideas and practice of restorative justice in Canada. Restorative justice is an alternative approach to the court system for dealings with crimes. It focuses on healing, the harm done to individuals and the communities and restoring relationships. It does this by holding offenders accountable, meeting the needs of victims, and addressing the root cause of the crime. Restorative justice principles and practices aligns with Inuit societal values and traditional Inuit concepts of justice. They also reflect the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to action to implement realistic alternatives to criminal justice systems and to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in custody.

National Restorative Justice Week is an ideal time to also recognize restorative justice efforts and initiatives across Nunavut. Supervised by the Community Justice Division the restorative justice diversion program is an excellent example of collaborating amongst

justice partners, community justice outreach workers, and community justice committees runs the programs in all 25 communities.

The program receives referrals from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Public Prosecution Service Canada. Eligible matters are then diverted from the usual court process to a Community Justice Committee, which is represented by all ages, with special regards for youth and elders. The committee brings together victims, offenders, and other affected persons and uses a wholistic healing-centred approach to ensure that crime is addressed in a culturally appropriate and relevant manner, by integrating Inuit Qaujimagatqangit.

I encourage Nunavummiut to contact their local community justice outreach workers and community justice committees to learn more about restorative justice practices, including how to get involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 510 – 6(2): Inuit Executive Career Development Program

Hon. Pamela Gross (interpretation): Good morning. (interpretation ends) Good day to everybody here in the House with us and across our territory.

Mr. Speaker, given that tomorrow is International Inuit Day, I rise today to share the success of the Government of Nunavut's Inuit Executive Career Development Program.

In September 2021 the Department of Human Resources launched a new capacity building initiative to support and enhance Inuit employment in senior Government of Nunavut leadership positions. Over three years, Nunavut Inuit employees from the Government of Nunavut and other organizations pursued a graduate certificate or graduate diploma in leadership and management from Athabasca University, while currently working in their jobs.

In alignment with Inuit Societal Values, wraparound supports, such as study tours, expert mentors, Inuktitut language training, and elder advisors became critical features of this customized professional development program.

Mr. Speaker, in June 2024 my department hosted a graduate ceremony in Iqaluit to formally recognize the success of 11 program graduates, seven from the Government of Nunavut, one from the Government of Canada, and one from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Inuit Executive Development Program graduates who put in long hours of study while maintaining their commitment to their work. These graduates include:

- Adeline Salomonie, Associate Field Unit Superintendent, Parks Canada;
- Andrea Sateana, Acting Director of Kivalliq Health Centre Department of Health;
- Barbara Tartak, Manager, Community Operations, Department of Community and Government Services;
- Gloria Uluqsi, Project Director, Qikiqtani Inuit Association;
- Juanie Pudluk, Chief Executive Officer of NCC;
- Margaret Jones-Autut, Manager, Support Services, Department of Health,
- Naya Reynders, Manager of Policy and Planning, Department of Family Services,
- Tracy Kyak, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs;
- Jo-Anne Murphy, Director of Human Resources, Department of Health;
- Lucy Wilson, Manager, Business Planning and Support, Department of Justice;
- Sandra Kownak, Associate Deputy Minister, Wellness Department of Family Services.

>> *Applause*

Some of these graduates join us here in the House today and I look forward to formally raising them and celebrating their latest accomplishments with all members at the appropriate time. Quana, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 511 – 6(2): Employee Training Initiative and Apprenticeship Program

Hon. John Main: I rise again today to recognize a critical role that our employees play in Qulliq Energy Corporation's success. Our workforce is Qulliq Energy Corporation's backbone. Essential services to Nunavummiut are delivered thanks to their hard work, dedication, and expertise.

Qulliq Energy Corporation is fully committed to supporting our employees through continued efforts and career development and training.

Qulliq Energy Corporation is focused on developing a strong skilled workforce through training programs and apprenticeships. We want to ensure our staff has the tools and knowledge to excel and advance in their careers. In line with the Government of Nunavut Inuit employment plan, we actively support Inuit employment through these initiatives. By growing a local trade workforce that builds long-term organizational knowledge, we can use less imported labour and create meaningful career opportunities for Nunavummiut.

Qulliq Energy Corporation supports career growth for Inuit employees, provides career advancement opportunities, and follows up with them to ensure they meet their goals. As of March 31, 2024, 95 percent of our Inuit employees had been in career planning, surpassing our four-year commitment to reach at least 90 percent. This planning program enhances Inuit employment and aligns with Qulliq Energy Corporation's Inuit employment plan.

For anyone looking at a career path, I encourage you to consider Qulliq Energy Corporation as a place to grow, learn, and build a rewarding future. Whether you are a student, a tradesperson, or eager to contribute to your community, Qulliq Energy Corporation offers opportunities that align with your professional goals while making a real difference in the lives of Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to sincerely thank all Qulliq Energy Corporation employees. Your dedication and hard work are essential to our corporation's success, and together we are creating a brighter, more sustainable future for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 689 – 6(2): Offloading Dock in Cape Dorset

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note this year's largest sea lift in the history of Kinngait and looking very busy for 2025-2026 and that local Inuit attaining jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the new sea lift safety ramp improvement for Kinngait started in the year 2019. QBDC managed the project and Advisian completed the study.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the new ramp started in May 2024 and was completed by mid-September 2024, last month, a month and a half ago. Contractors were Pilitak Enterprises Limited, and they completed the project in a very timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the project, the community hamlet wanted to have a safer place for boat owners and to have a more organized ramp for sea lift, and Mr. Speaker, last sea lift in the month of October 2024 went faster offloading both high and low tide, and I thank those who worked on the project.

The mayor of Kinngait also would like to thank Transport Canada's Ocean Protection for providing funding Qikitalliq Business Development Corporation, and the Nunavut government involvement for this project to proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): (no interpretation) Mr. David Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 690 – 6(2): Recognizing Ann Akeeagok of Grise Fiord

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Grise Fiord residents rarely come here, but we have one here in the House and I would like to recognize and thank the individual who works for the Family Services and has been justice of the peace for a long time in Grise Fiord, a very active individual and always there to help. It's always great to see your employers dedicated and go beyond their call of duty, being here.

Ann Akeeagok is here, I would like to appreciate her and thank her for dealing with very heavy work in courts and in social issues. And she's dedicated to helping the residents of Grise Fiord residents and Nunavummiut. And while I have this opportunity I wanted to recognize her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 691 – 6(2): Acknowledging Efforts in Whale Cove After Store Fire

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whale Cove residents I would like to thank. I rise, Mr. Speaker, after the fire in the month of August of the only, lone Co-op store was on fire that evening. I would like to recognize volunteers who provided help. The following firefighters for your hard work in your work to extinguish

the fire. The hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq, Qulliq Energy Corporation, and the Canadian Rangers, thank you for your diligence.

There were many other responsibilities after the fire to ensure food safety of the community. This help was sped up. The Co-op committee worked hard. Terry Adoon (ph), thank you. And Kivalliq Inuit Association, Nunavut Tunngavik, Calm Air and individuals who took goods from Rankin to Whale Cove. And government officials, in particular Community and Government Services, thank you.

The names who helped out, I'll mention a few, George Okalik, Rob Enuapik, Paul Qiyuk, Jenny Qiyuk, Mayor Oliver Shipton, SAO Brian Fleming, Joefrey Okalik, Daniel Panika Junir, Joshua Ussak, Simon Enuapik Sr., Jean Nipisa.

I forgotten a few because there were so many people volunteering. In the community of Rankin, also who provided food, and I thank you sincerely. The community hall is now used as a local store, and the following year a new store will be built.

Again, thank you for not forgetting (indiscernible). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 692 – 6(2): Upcoming Remembrance Day

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning to everyone, especially those in Cambridge Bay. I want to wish everyone a wonderful day today.

Mr. Speaker, as Remembrance Day is approaching, I just want to say a special thank you to all of our veterans who have served and that are serving our country. Thank you for your service and your dedication to Canada and to the world that we want peace in. Thank you for bringing your time to the front lines and the work that you do.

I know that there are many people who are still working to serve every day for our country in countries around the world and here in Canada, and we appreciate everyone's service. My step-father, Robin Fletcher, served his whole career in the Armed Forces. I just want to say thank you to him for his sacrifices, to his kids, my mom. And to the families that lost loved ones, we think of you and hope that you find piece knowing that your family served, and we hope that there are no battles at action where people pass away, but thank you to all of them for their service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. 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. (interpretation): Good morning to my colleagues.

(Interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize some very important people in my life that are here joining us today. Mr. Speaker, you were just an amazing role model yesterday, with many years of anniversaries that you did.

I am very proud to have my wife here, who I've been with for many, many years as well, who has been the core of who I am today, and is one of the strongest people that I know. So I'm really happy to recognize (indiscernible) Akeeagok into your House.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation): I would like for you to welcome her.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) And my mother, my mom, (interpretation) she is here and I would like to welcome her. I'm always grateful to you for giving much support to us as children and raise children also to a very positive future. And I would also like to recognize her for also being here.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, just a few more names. I really want to recognize, I'd like to recognize my aunt, who is no stranger to this House. I really appreciate her incredible strength and her leadership she's always shown, Pat Angnakak.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) I would like to recognize her. (interpretation ends) these are all incredible strong women I am recognizing today. I'm very fortunate to have them in my life. But to have Becky Mike, who I have mentioned many times, but just the incredible leader that she is and she continues to be.

>> *Applause*

She keeps me in line as my constituency assistant.

And then just to recognize Tracy Kyak as well, who is a constituent, but very proud of her to be part of the Inuit Executive Career Development Program. You are breaking the ceiling and I can't be any prouder in terms of the next wave that is going to come after you, as well. You're an amazing leader that I have had the utter pleasure of working with. I just wanted to recognize you as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize a special visitor we have in the gallery. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mark McCullough (ph) is my department's chief of procurement and logistics. After 19 years with the department, Mr. McCullough has recently announced that he will be leaving the Government of Nunavut, as well the territory, to pursue other opportunities. In addition to establishing our open, fair, and transparent public procurement system, Mark is also our quote-unquote chief trouble shooter.

>> *Laughter*

His work has been critical in the management of every critical incident in recent memory, including the 2015 Pangnirtung power plant emergency; transporting replacement of service vehicles to Baker Lake when they lost their fleet in a 2019 garage fire; the COVID-19 response -- we know how all that played out -- and addressing the Iqaluit water emergency by securing bottled water for the community. And lastly, just last weekend, Mark played a pivotal role in the Kimmirut power emergency response.

Colleagues, join me in welcoming Mark into the House, and thank him for the service that he has done for Nunavummiut.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition Of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and it is such a pleasure to rise today to recognize some wonderful people who I thank for being here and for the work that they've done.

Mr. Speaker, to further my Minister's Statement, I would like to recognize and welcome some of our Inuit Executive Career Development Program graduates. Gloria Uluqsi, Project Director, Blue Economy, Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

>> *Applause*

Naya Reynders, Manager of Policy and Planning, Department of Family Services.

>> *Applause*

Lucy Wilson, Manager, Business Planning and Support, Department of Justice.

>> *Applause*

Tracy Kyak, Director, Intergovernmental Relations Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

>> *Applause*

And Mr. Speaker, I also wants to recognize some of our staff who supported their journey, and they include Christie Cronan (ph), former deputy minister of Department of Human Resources.

>> *Applause*

Stephanie Bernard (ph), Inuit Training Initiative Manager, Public Service Training.

>> *Applause*

Alex Michaud, former Inuit training initiative manager, public service training.

>> *Applause*

Also Peter Kinchapunska (ph), Director of Policy, Acting Assistant Deputy Manager Strategic Operations.

>> *Applause*

I also have a pleasure to say a special tribute to say for all the hard work for our Department of Education side and recognize our deputy Minister Rebecca Hainnu to our House.

>> *Applause*

It wouldn't be possible to get the Department of Education's work down without the partners that we have, and I would also like to recognize Pat Angnakak, executive director of the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities.

>> *Applause*

As well as Anne Akkearok (ph) who is the secretary, and also a DEA member for Grise Fiord. Thank you for all of your hard work and the hours that you've put into the district education authority over the years. Quana, Anne.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I would also like to recognize Pat Angnakak, who was one of the members of the Legislative Assembly. And it was (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, although a friend of mine has already been introduced in this House, a pool shark and a very hard-working gentleman, I've played many games of pool with Mr. McCullough. Enjoyable.

Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce him again because of all the work that Mr. McCullough did over the years. I had the pleasure of working with him during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. McCullough was not mentioned a lot during the pandemic. We heard a lot about the Dr. Pattersons and everything else, but Mr. McCullough's work had everything to do with how the pandemic was controlled very well during COVID-19 here in Nunavut. The work that Mr. McCullough did in terms of the protocol used and the whole quarantine work that was done, Mr. Speaker, was one that was followed by many governments across this country.

I just want to thank Mr. McCullough for his dedication to the Government of Nunavut and the superb work that he did for us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everyone. I would like to begin by welcoming our former members to the House. Ms. Angnakak and Ms. Mike, to me your leadership is something that I have looked up to for years, and always strive to consider in my own leadership. I'm so happy to see you both here.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of naming my constituent again in the House, which is mark McCullough. We've heard a lot about his dedication to his job and how hard he works for Nunavummiut in that capacity. Mr. Speaker, I remember once saying to Mr. McCullough, you're my favourite volunteer, when I was with (indiscernible) because he is an outstanding community volunteer, in addition to the incredible work that he does for his job. So welcome to the house, Mr. McCullough.

>> *Applause*

I would also like to recognize some of my friends. Tracy Kyak, nice to see you back in this building. Welcome back. Welcome to the House. Stephanie Bernard (ph), who's a very good friend and a supporter. Welcome to your house, Stephanie. Mandy Hickey is very dear to my heart because she is so heavily involved in speed skating and we know how much that means to me and my family. Welcome to the House, Ms. Hickey.

>> *Applause*

Ms. Brewster: I would also like to recognize my former colleague, Pat (ph) Akeeagok, who has I think one of the hardest jobs in Nunavut. I know that the Minister at the time that the Office of Patient Relations was created said that, and I think that's really true. The work that you do is so important and so impactful, and it's so nice to see you here. Welcome to the House.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6, Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickey.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 1027 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut Staff Waiting for Public Housing

Mr. Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my first question today to the Minister of Housing. Does the Minister know how many active public housing applications are currently on record from GN staff that are currently housed in staff housing? Mr. Speaker the reason I ask that, I know during the application process for public housing, adequately staff is very difficult to get assigned to units, so that's the reason I'm asking this question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in terms of who the applicants are and where they are currently employed to get into public housing units, I don't have that kind of breakdown, Mr. Speaker. We have thousands of people on the housing wait list. We don't have that kind of a breakdown, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 1028 – 6(2): Addressing Medical Travel Concerns

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And good morning to the people of Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health. My colleagues from the Kivalliq region have spoken a number of times about difficulties faced by medical travellers going through Rankin Inlet who get stuck due to mechanical issues with the airline or weather, or some other challenges.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate that the Minister has looked into the feasibility of a medical boarding home in Rankin Inlet, but that does not seem to be an option, not in the short term, at least. Can the Minister provide a bit more information on what other avenues have been considered to address the very real problem of Kivalliq travellers being stranded in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for that question. We have had discussions with the clients who get stranded with issues with the airplane or with weather and using Winnipeg as an example, some of the clients have ended up waiting for a few days. We are looking at short term plans, and I believe that's his question. Usually we put them in hotels when they're stranded, or going through and getting stuck due to weather.

We either house them at the bed and breakfast here in Iqaluit or the hotel, because we want to make sure that they are in a safe environment, especially the elders or people with children and pregnant women. We look at all the clients to make sure that they're safely housed.

There was an individual who got stuck in Coral Harbour this past week, and they were stranded there due to mechanical issues with the airplane. I believe there were ten passengers that got stranded in Coral Harbour and we had to look for accommodations for all those individuals. We did house them, which I'm very pleased to say. When we find any problems with the medical travel, we try to rectify the problem as soon as possible.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. I understand it's a very difficult job trying to find accommodations for all the travellers that are trying to get to a certain location.

Mr. Speaker, we really need to find solutions to the issue of medical travellers getting stranded in Rankin Inlet. Just earlier this week, at the start of this week, I learned that a flight from Rankin Inlet was cancelled due to freezing rain and Calm Air staff was handing out blankets. I don't know if that means they slept in the airport, but I was advised Calm Air agents were handing out blankets.

Another issue, it seems that the problem is not so much that there are no hotel rooms or (interpretation) (no interpretation), but the regional medical travel office is slow to respond to calls from stranded travellers. It seems that if the medical travel workers in the home communities had the authority to book hotels they could provide more immediate assistance to community members.

Can the Minister clarify whether any consideration has been given to expanding the role and responsibilities of local community medical travel coordinators so that they have the authority to book hotel rooms or change flights for stranded travellers instead of having to wait to go through the regional medical travel offices? 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. In terms of the regional office responding to calls or requests for assistance, there can be crunch times when it comes to the number of travellers. There's a delay that hits it can hit a dozen people at a time, and we don't necessarily have a dozen people sitting behind desks waiting to answer calls so everybody can get assistance at the same time. So there can be times when there is a lot of pressure on those regional offices.

You know, I want to hear or we want to hear, as a department, anytime there are issues with service, what we would consider a service failure. For example, if there's no response from the 24-7 medical travel on-call number, that would be extremely concerning, and not acceptable.

So looking at the Office of Patient Relations, their ability to provide some recourse when there's a service issue.

The member's question is an excellent one. It's something we are looking at very closely right now, in terms of can we take some of the work away from, or not away, but lighten the burden on the regional office, by giving some bigger or greater abilities to assist clients to staff at the local level. That's something that we're working through right now.

There's a few hoops that we have to jump through, but we do recognize that if we have capacity at the local level, we should be utilizing that. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Minister. The Office of Patient Relations is helpful, but it's reactive. It's after, and the people need assistance immediately, which is why I'm bringing it up now.

It's understandable; the regional office doesn't have a dozen workers waiting for phone calls. Even if you had a dozen, it may not be enough. Say for example this past Sunday, a jet from Winnipeg landed into Rankin. The ATR from the smaller community landed in Rankin, or Baker Lake. The ATR landed in Rankin. So there must have been 60 or 70 passengers, I'm guessing, that were stranded in Rankin, and a bunch of them couldn't get assistance immediately. Hence the blanket scenario that happened there from the Calm Air agents.

Mr. Speaker, I mean no offence to Rankin Inlet when I say that the weather in the community plays a big role in stranding medical travel clients. As a life-long resident of Baker Lake, I certainly appreciate the impact of adverse weather on our travel plans, not to mention our daily activities.

It has been suggested that routing flights through Churchill, Manitoba could avoid some of the problems that arise when travelling to Rankin Inlet. At the very least, there may be better accommodation options if flights get cancelled in Churchill due to weather or mechanical issues. I do believe Calm Air was testing this option a year or two ago, with Baker Lake and Arviat, but it stopped for some reason.

Has the Minister and his staff considered adjusting the routing options for medical travel clients again, travelling through the Kivalliq region, to avoid getting stranded in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): *Mut'na, Uqaqti*. I thank the member for the question. This is something that has been considered and has been raised previously, particularly I believe in terms of, if you look at the schedules for the Kivalliq region, the community's most impacted by end of the day kind of cancellations are Baker Lake and Arviat and there also some of the larger communities in the region. And so in terms of that volume and the problems that that creates, it has been looked at and it's something we're always open to considering.

But keeping in mind we don't have the ability to dictate routings to Calm Air beyond the ones that are the minimum service requirements that are set in our medical and duty travel contract.

So we can have a conversation with the airline in the region, we can make suggestions, make requests, but ultimately they are the operators of their business.

That's something also applies to makeup flights. We hear requests from MLAs or from medical travellers themselves for makeup flights. Based on the contract we have we can request makeup flights, but there is no set criteria that says, for example, if you have six medical travellers that are waylaid in a community, you have to put on a make-up flight. It's on an as-needed or individual basis that these cases are looked at. And we really do appreciate the hard work that staff at Calm Air do. They're a valued partner, but the foremost concern for us is always the well-being, the comfort of the medical travellers in Kivalliq and for the whole territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Member for Amittuq Mr. Kaernerck.

Question 1029 – 6(2): Sanirajak Power Plan Issues

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my constituents. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Qulliq Energy Corporation. Mr. Speaker, there were some emergencies in Kimmirut due to blackouts. Now in Sanirajak, too, the Minister explained one time that it's one of the oldest power stations, and I can say that it's older than I am, even though I'm not young anymore. Part of the community had a blackout, too, and the poles had been attached recently. The generators.

Has the Minister looked into making sure that the new power poles will not affect power generation, because I saw wires sparking, and it looked dangerous. So how else can the Qulliq Energy Corporation help the community in regards to the power station, and just to make sure that what happened doesn't happen again? Have made any contingency plans for Sanirajak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague for asking those questions. That power station in Sanirajak is one of the oldest power stations. It was constructed in 1974 and it's one of the oldest power stations listed. We talked about that yesterday, the need to build new power stations, and we don't have the budget for that right now. We have had to turn to the federal government for assistance.

When I was being questioned yesterday, I was asked why should we not get money from the federal government. The federal government can pay 75 percent for the cost and Nunavut government pays 25 percent, and if Nunavut government has to pay 100 percent of the cost, we will just be taking money away from health care, or housing, or building schools. But we have planned in case Sanirajak needs help on an emergency basis, if anything happens to the power lines, we do have contingency plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First Supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very important, too, because people get in danger when the power goes out, especially for the homeowners. It really affects the people. It's hard to trying to keep the light on.

The Minister said the federal government usually helps with 75 percent of the cost. Now, after saying that, can the Minister turn to the federal government and explain to them about the Sanirajak's power plant? Although the Minister said he would help in some way, but I would like to consider Sanirajak when you're making your next request to the federal government and make sure that the Sanirajak is one of the priorities. I know other communities have the same needs.

And to quote the Minister, it was built in 1974. Can you include Sanirajak in your submission and myself as the MLA, and also send a copy to the hamlet of Sanirajak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree that we will talk like that. There are many communities that need new power stations, and Sanirajak is one of the priorities. Now, with the power stations, whenever we build them, if it's brand new then we have a plan to use it for 40 years. They have a 40-year life span. So looking at when they were built in Sanirajak, it was built in 1974. It has passed its usefulness.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there was an important report back in 2015 prepared by a Senate committee, and it clearly laid out the issues around aging infrastructure in Nunavut. It's quite sad; you read this report, it's almost ten years old, and we're still running up against these same systemic issues around power generation in Nunavut. We are making progress, but we have a lot of work to do, including for communities like Sanirajak. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Minister for telling us about that. Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is 25 years old. It's almost half as old as

our power station -- oh, my apologies. So what now? What else can the Qulliq Energy Corporation do? I know it costs money whenever there is an emergency and you spend a lot of money on airline charters.

This winter it's going to be cold, and maybe someone from the Qulliq Energy Corporation could be in the community for the whole winter so that they can realize how old the station is. It's way past its useful time.

Can the Minister commit to having one of his employees, electricians to be based in the community to take care of the wires all winter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister from Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the staffing, in terms of which communities we place specific staff members in, that's an operational matter and it's not something that I would typically be getting involved in, in terms of committing to putting specific staff into specific communities.

I can say that Qulliq Energy Corporation takes reliability very seriously and when there's a power outage in Sanirajak, as the member mentioned, there is hardship. We understand that and we do everything we can to ensure reliable power supply for communities, including Sanirajak.

I don't believe the corporation has a power line technician assigned for that community, but we do have staff who are available on call on short notice to support the community and to fix any issues should they arise this coming winter. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1030 – 6(2): Public Service Announcements in the Nattilingmiutut Dialect

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for languages and they concern the issue of the Natsilingmiut dialect in the Government of Nunavut's public service announcements.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my constituents in both Taloyoak and Kugaaruk to continue to raise their concerns to me about the Government of Nunavut's public service announcements not being available in the Natsilingmiut dialect. Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, I have raised this issue a number of times in the House, and it continues to be a top priority.

Mr. Speaker, my concern is that my constituencies do not have public service announcements available to them in our regional dialect. Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe having them available in the Natsilingmiut dialect would strengthen and promote its use in our region. Mr. Speaker, the translation bureau has a total of 30 positions allocated to each branch. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister clarify how many translator positions in this branch are currently vacant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the translation, to the member's question in regards to the vacancy rates, there are a total of 20 vacancies within the language branch division. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on November 3, 2023, the minister of the day tabled the 2021-2022 Minister of Languages Annual Report. Mr. Speaker, the report indicated that "36 Government of Nunavut employees received 15 Inuktitut language training sessions that included 17 hours of structured instructions. The project management team received 11 training sessions and Inuktitut translators-reviewers received four training sessions."

Mr. Speaker can the Minister clarify if these Inuktitut translators' training sessions included training sessions for the Natsilingmiut dialect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Languages, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for a very good question. Mr. Speaker, I have to circle back to my department and provide further details to the member if need be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to be a strong advocate for the promotion, preservation, and revitalization of the Natsilingmiut dialect.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that it is a requirement to have all public service announcements in every official language available for all Nunavummiut to read and understand. Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe having the Natsilingmiut dialect available in the Government of Nunavut's announcements will assist greatly in strengthening and promoting its use. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister commit to hiring a Natsilingmiut-speaking translator and having the Government of Nunavut's public service announcements available in Natsilingmiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Languages, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, I can commit to having my department to look into whether we can explore having a translator within the Netsilik region.

In terms of your Assembly, Mr. Speaker, that would be through your office, but also we have other agencies within the government, which is the Nunavut Arctic College, which has a program for interpreter-translator program, and I highly suggest anyone in the territory to take that program if anyone is pursuing to have translation interpreter within any community in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1031 – 6(2): Marine Protected Areas

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are to the Minister of Environment. I want to follow up today on issues that I have been raising over the past year concerning marine protected areas. As the Minister will recall, I have asked a number of questions about the South Baffin area of interest which may lead to the creation of a new marine protected area near the communities of Chesterfield Inlet and Coral Harbour.

The Minister has previously informed the Legislative Assembly that his department has been participating in a working level co-development committee and an executive-level steering committee. Can the Minister provide an update today on status of this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that very good question. The member is correct that the Government of Nunavut is looking into having marine protected areas. To my knowledge there are about ten marine protected areas within the works. One of them is the Southampton Island marine protected area.

Mr. Speaker, my department has committed to continue working collaboratively with all the stakeholders, including local communities and the Kivalliq Inuit Association, for a balanced and inclusive approach towards the marine protected area assessment. The work is ongoing, Mr. Speaker, and my department is working hard in this area to have a marine protected area established and developed in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister will recall, his predecessor informed the Legislative Assembly that the Department of Environment is working to develop a new protected area strategy. When I last raised this issue during the winter sitting, the Minister informed the House that his department was continuing to work on the strategy. Can the Minister provide an update today on the status of this work, and can he indicate when the new strategy will be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, member, for that good question. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment has not dedicated person-years for the creation of marine protected areas, but we are working very hard. My staff are working very hard with many hats on their table, but Mr. Speaker, I cannot commit to tabling any document in regards to the marine protected area strategy. We are still working to develop that strategy as we speak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister will recall, I have spoken on many occasions about the need for new marine infrastructure and more economic development opportunities for the community and residents of Chesterfield Inlet. When I asked the Minister during the most recent fall and winter sittings for the assurance that his department will oppose any attempt by the federal development to block economic development initiatives such as this, the Minister could not provide a clear answer.

Mr. Speaker, I will ask the same question one more time: Will the Minister commit to ensuring that his department will oppose any attempt by the federal development to block economic development initiatives that would benefit the people of Chesterfield Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment, the Government of Nunavut is participating in the assessment process of proposed marine protected areas as we are speaking about it with the Government of Canada and regional Inuit associations on this strategy.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the assessment process is to develop an understanding of the feasibility and desirability of these protected areas. Mr. Speaker, the assessment considered environmental and socioeconomic information so that partners and

stakeholders can understand the benefits and impacts of the protected areas, but in terms of the member's questions, I cannot commit to the member's question in this area but I can circle back with my department staff to further discussion in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1032 – 6(2): Funding Options for Power Infrastructure

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have more questions today for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, I very much wanted to jump in yesterday to support my colleague from Aggu during her questioning of the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, but the time ran out.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the Minister indicated yesterday that he was considering deferring one of my colleagues' question to the Minister of Finance, so I'm very happy to finish the job today.

Mr. Speaker, here's what we know. We know from the Qulliq Energy Corporation's planning documents that almost half of the territory's power plants are past the end of their intended life span. We know from responses provided by the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation the prospects seem dim for significant federal funding to be forthcoming in the near future to fund their replacement. And we know from many interventions that many of my colleagues have made, that the reliable supply about electricity is as fundamental a function of government as providing clean drinking water.

Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister of Finance the other day to provide us with a sense of the direction that he will be taking in his final budget address of this Assembly early next year, and I'm going to ask him today to expand and clarify how his budget will approach the issue of funding replacement of our territory's aging power plants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. Mr. Speaker, we are in need of replacing aging equipment. I had just a few moments ago seen a list of aging infrastructure, especially the power plants. Many of them are beyond the 40-year shelf life that they're good for, and the corporation is doing incredible work in order to keep them at the very minimum running.

In terms of replacing them, Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy Corporation is putting together, I believe, a plan to deal with them. As I stated in my earlier response in our conversation earlier in the week, I said that I had written a letter to the federal government asking to increase our debt path to give us more room for big infrastructure.

Part of that is to be lined up so that if the Qulliq Energy Corporation needs to put in more funds for heavy infrastructure like that, if it's this government or the next government, will have the room and space to be able to do that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague from Aggu reminded the House yesterday, the government set a precedent a few years ago by providing direct capital funding to Qulliq Energy Corporation to pay for the LED street light project. Can the Minister of Finance describe what specific factors or conditions would allow him to follow a similar approach in respect to power plant replacements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Financial Management Board takes a look at requests from corporations such as Qulliq Energy Corporation when they come to ask for funding and financial support, Mr. Speaker. That decision is not made by myself alone.

Mr. Speaker, the Financial Management Board recently approved QEC's request to increase their debt limit to \$400 million. That's going to take a toll. We have already expended, of the \$700 million in debt cap, we have already expended 368.6 million of that, Mr. Speaker. All this infrastructure costs a lot of money.

I'm very hopeful that our debt pad limit increases to 1.05 billion, we can begin to at least make a dent in some of the infrastructure that we are lacking in this territory. Power is one of them, but there's an endless limit of shortages we had. We have heard in here the need for more schools, the need for more health centres, but there's also a need for more money to be able to do that, Mr. Speaker. It's a very tough balance for this House to deal with, and I appreciate the patience and some ideas that come through this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank again the Minister for addressing the government's debt ceiling and borrowing limit because I think these are, it's important information for all Nunavummiut to know. We know as a general budgeting principle that we shouldn't be borrowing to fund day-to-day operations, but we should be prepared to borrow for our infrastructure needs, which is in the same principle of getting a truck loan or mortgage payment.

If the Minister could confirm to us the extent to the Qulliq Energy Corporation's board of directors' authority to take on new debt in order to fund the most urgently needed power

plant replacement? Or just to confirm, do they need to have the approval of the Financial Management Board required for borrowing above a certain level? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that level of clarified detail to speak on that very complicated question, Mr. Speaker, but I do know that the Qulliq Energy Corporation's board of directors have been working very hard to try to find ways to find money to fund their infrastructure replacement requirements. They do have four options, Mr. Speaker. They could seek federal funding. They could raise the rates, Mr. Speaker; not a popular one, but they can do that. They can borrow funds; and they could also get contributions from the Government of Nunavut for all of the above, Mr. Speaker.

I know that the corporation is working hard to try to figure out how they can best do that, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to speak on behalf of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I don't want to tread anywhere near there. But we will in Finance support them in trying to find best ways to begin to deal with the power issues around Nunavut. They're doing a great job with what they have, and we will continue to support them, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 1033 – 6(2): Departmental Positions

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): (no interpretation)

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and they concern his department's position in Kugluktuk. As the Minister is aware, Kugluktuk is a decentralized community. The government's most recent employment report indicates that the Minister's department has a total of 10 positions in the community. 50 percent of the positions are filled and 50 percent are vacant. Can the Minister indicate which positions are currently vacant. (interpretation ends) 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 don't have the position by position titles of those are vacant right now, but I will commit through correspondence to my colleague on this very important question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the Minister, is aware the government recently announced that the major departmental reorganization will take place at the beginning of the upcoming 2025-2026 fiscal year. This reorganization will impact the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Can the Minister indicate if any of the department's current positions in Kugluktuk will be impacted by the reorganization? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it should not be impacted if they're working for the Economic Development side. They will be there. I don't anticipate any impact at the regional offices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That's good to hear. The lack of staff housing has been identified as barrier to filling positions in communities. Can the Minister indicate how many staff housing units in Kugluktuk have been allocated for his department's positions? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in line with his first questioning, I don't have that detail, but I will commit to providing correspondence specifically for those positions whether they have staff housing attached to it or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1034 – 6(2): QEC Employees Work Responsibilities

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning to the people of Arviat. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker back on March 1 the Minister and I had an exchange about a manual lines person to be stationed in Arviat as there is an empty staff house unit there that belongs to Qulliq Energy Corporation. My last line of questioning at that time was will the Minister look at the feasibility of permanently stationing a linesperson in Arviat. I ask the Minister for an update on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. 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. When we did look into this, it turned out, as I recall there was some, there was a request made to the then-minister at the time, and I was not in the role of Qulliq Energy Corporation at the time. There was correspondence to the effect. I believe the MLA was copied on that. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm aware that the Minister is not responsible for day-to-day operations, as he told my colleague here, that he doesn't make the decision what positions go where and all that, but he is the Minister responsible for the corporation.

Mr. Speaker, from past years, if I recall correctly, some of the power plant workers or operators or superintendents, I'm not sure what they were, I believe they were trained and they were authorized to reset breakers when a breaker went off due to large winds. I don't know if the Minister can look at that. But also, when I asked this question back on March 1, the current minister was the Minister of Qulliq Energy Corporation. That's neither here nor there.

Can the Minister look into or explain to me if that's still possible for the local QEC workers to reset breakers that have gone off on power poles after extreme winds or extreme weather conditions? 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. It gives me an opportunity to talk about our amazing local staff. In fact, we had operators from across Nunavut just here in Iqaluit for training. We bring them in on an annual basis for training opportunities, and we really value the work they do right across Nunavut.

And of course the focus being in this line of questioning on the staff that we have in Arviat. My understanding is that there are certain things that operators are allowed to do and then there are certain things they're not allowed to do. In terms of the detailed listing or detailed division of duties between what a power line technician would do and what a local plant operator is authorized to do, I don't know that detailed information here in front of me.

But the biggest concern for us, and the first thing we talk about in every issue is workplace safety for our staff, and we are never, never willing to make any compromises on that safety aspect. It's something that at the end of the day we want to make sure all of our staff go home and that they are not in an unsafe workplace.

I am not saying that the member is requesting unsafe work; I'm just saying that the reason that we had these division of duties, and they're followed quite strictly, is around safety. We can't have staff working in an unsafe environment.

And when you look at power outages, the power outage in Arviat that happened roughly a year ago, very high winds, low visibility. You know, snow drifting across the road. And so when you have that type of environment and there are employees, we want to make sure that they're safe. I thank the member for the question. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm fully aware about the safety of all workers, of any workers, and only doing what they're capable of and what they're authorized to do. My question was, it was past practice and it appears it is not now, and I just asked the minister if that could be looked into. It was a past practice but it is not now.

I will go on to my next line of questioning. Mr. Speaker, there seems to be a lot more winds, a lot more extreme weather events that are happening throughout Nunavut. I would just like to ask the Minister if he would be willing to look into, I don't know what the word is, pre-emptive action before an event happens in a community. For example, Arviat is forecasting a big blizzard or a big wind or freezing rain, and there's an empty staff house there. Wouldn't it make sense to fly a linesman in there and wait just in case something does happen so there's already a lineman there? It could be applicable to any Nunavut communities. If you know there's going to be extreme weather events in a community it might be a good idea to fly a linesman in there so the linesperson is in the community if something should happen. Can the Minister look into that? Or what is the Minister's position on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It's something that we can look into in terms of positioning staff in a proactive manner. I think, you know, one of the things that we have to keep in mind is that it's aircraft-dependent. If we're going to position staff or move power line technicians around the territory, they need an aircraft, and the aircraft needs fuel. So in Arviat's case, that could be a potential issue. I know the new tank farm for the community will have fuel that will be able to support aircraft.

But that is something that we can look into. We would also have to keep in mind the need to have contingencies available. We can't always pinpoint which community is going to be impacted after a blizzard, so in the Kivalliq's example, if we have one of our legendary Kivalliq blizzards that we talk about here in Iqaluit, we don't know which community is going to be impacted. And so we would have to keep that in mind as well

in terms of where our staff are following a storm. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1035 – 6(2): Mental Health Workers

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention. As people of Nunavut I think we have all been touched by suicide at any time in any community. The Minister tabled a suicide prevention table or a suicide prevention document in the House, and I would like to ask the Minister if there's any positions open that are dedicated to suicide prevention.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. (interpretation) Yes, this has to be talked about. The plan that we put out sets out a direction on how we are supposed to deal with this issue and explains who is responsible for suicide prevention. It's not just the government; it includes Inuit organizations, hamlets, and private businesses, and committees.

(interpretation ends) We are looking at the list of our staffing across Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, we do have positions allocated for each community in Nunavut as of when this was prepared, which was as of July, we had front line staff in every community in Nunavut except for four. I'm just looking at the list in front of me here. That could have changed as of November. We're continually looking for ways to hire, to recruit, and of course retain our valued front-line mental health employees. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dealing with lives is very difficult when you actually have to deal with it. And the staff that will be responsible for that. Does the government have proper plans to support these mental health workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague for the question. The heaviness of the topic to work with, we are very cognizant of it, and we have heard of staff who have quit due to the heaviness of their positions. Some of them get burned out or get too tired and realize they have to take care of themselves, and

they quit their jobs. We've heard about that, so we have put up a plan, a way to help our staff, because we want to support them so much because they have committed so much of their lives, to themselves, sometimes they forget themselves. I feel so compassionate towards them. I think an example we can use here was there was a meeting here last month with mental health workers. It had been stated that the training that they had for I believe three days and part of the days they talked about (interpretation ends) different elements around self care. I think the approach could be summarized in terms of telling the staff that self care is not selfish. You need to take care of yourself so you can take care of others. It's one example of things that are being done to support the incredible folks providing mental health supports across Nunavut. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for having good considerations about your staff. Another problem is the lack of nurses, because they deal with people's lives, too. And they should I believe get a special bonus for their work. Has any consideration been done on that matter? That is my next question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member again for the question. The member makes a very good point that we need to be able to recruit and we need to be able to retain our employees. I'm very thankful that the critical staffing measures that we brought forward with the support of this Assembly and the departments within the government that they did include mental health positions like mental health nurses. There was a bonus component in their incentive component.

There are other things within those critical staffing measures that have benefitted mental health staffing one of which is job shares. That's something that we've heard from our staff and we're really excited to be offering them something they've asked us for.

And one final thing that's really been developing is the ability to provide virtual supports for mental health care, and that's something where staffing is a component of that. Our staff had asked for the ability to be able to work on a flexible basis and we're really excited to see that increase in mental health care. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1036 – 6(2): Iqaluit Deep Sea Port

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a little over a year now since the Iqaluit Deep Sea Port officially opened, and as the Minister will recall, his department's announcement concerning the opening of the port indicated that it was "working on devising an operational model that reflects local needs and capacity."

In April 2023, the Minister's department issued a request for proposal concerning the management of the deep sea port, but the procurement process was subsequently cancelled. I would like to ask the Minister, can he provide an update today on the status of his department's work to finalize its approach to the management and operation of the port in the medium and long term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, currently and for the medium term, we are managing it in-house. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister will also recall, the City of Iqaluit submitted a proposal to the national Trade Corridor Fund during the summer 2022 for the federal funding to upgrade and pave Akilliq Drive, the road that is attached to the deep sea port.

Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the proposal was not approved by the federal government as of yet, and I recognize and understand that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Community Transportation Initiatives program policy provides funding for small-scale marine infrastructure and community access road projects, but the scale of the deep sea port upgrades exceeds the program's funding limits.

For my next question I would like to ask, can the minister indicate how his department is working with the City of Iqaluit to address this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the city for maintaining the road very well that goes to the causeway. We have continued discussions

with the city on this in terms of getting development permits and that, and for them to maintain the road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the necessity of that road to the life of the project and the accessible outcome of the deep sea port, I really hope that the Department of Economic Development will be working with city officials to try and expedite the national trade corridor application and assist in the approval of the funding.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the closing of the second year of sea lift operations for the deep sea port, I will like to ask, can the Minister describe what types of post-season assessments his department has undertaken to identify areas of future operational enhancements and capital improvements, and will he commit to tabling a copy of last year's assessment in the Legislative Assembly at the beginning of our upcoming winter sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok: Mr. Speaker, those were a lot of questions. I don't know which one to answer. And I truly appreciate his passion towards this project.

Mr. Speaker, after the sea lift season, when the last ship has come to Iqaluit, we do get the people that are the users to meet and to see how the season went, and what improvements need to be taken. That is done through an operational level. I don't know if there's an actual report to table, but these are discussions that our staff have with the users. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1037 – 6(2): Iqaluit Condominium Program

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Housing. Last May I had asked the Minister for an update on the Iqaluit condo project, and the response then, there were 11 units remaining on the plateau and anticipating another call by this fall.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pretty sure it's fall time out right now, so I would like to get a further update on the Iqaluit condo program. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in terms of the condo units, there was a callout and our department, the housing corporation is going through them now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for that response. I hope people are listening and taking advantage of that callout.

Mr. Speaker, another question I had asked, I had asked on the path forward on behalf of the Nunavut Housing Corporation on honouring some sales agreements that were made in good faith on some units in my riding in Tasilik, in the Road to Nowhere area and in the response the Minister at the time stated that the path forward lies between the corporation and the clients, and they're working out the situations between each one individually. Can the Minister update the status of the negotiations as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to. Mr. Speaker, I'm not getting a lot of details from the corporation and the discussions that are happening. That's happening continually.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the corporation is working hard to ensure that we do best for those clients. They were put into the situation, and I know that our president has been working and meeting with the individuals to see how we could best make things work out for both parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I do realize the Minister is hesitant to get into the case-by-case numbers, or not the numbers but the situations. Also in the response back in May on the same line of questioning, the Minister stated that the parties are working to resolve the issue for the betterment of both parties.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to get an indication of how many of those issues have been resolved and how many are still outstanding, and is there an anticipated timeline to realize a solution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the specifics in terms of what has been cleared up and what are we still working on, Mr. Speaker, but in my recent

discussions on this particular topic, Mr. Speaker, just before session, I was speaking with our president and trying to find out where we are on those. Mr. Speaker, those discussions continue, Mr. Speaker. We do have programs that I've talked about in this House, in terms of homeownership assistance and other home programs that are going through those and seeing where and how we could help the clients.

You know, Mr. Speaker, its unfortunate. Nobody would ever set out to misrepresent the possibilities that were there on the condo unit. It just worked out the way it did at the end of the day, and I assure my colleague that the corporation is trying to do its best to ensure that we bring the best foot forward in helping those clients that are caught in this situation. It's not the wish of the corporation to leave them hanging, Mr. Speaker. It's the wish of the corporation to ensure that we do the best we can for those that are caught in the situation, Mr. Speaker. I assure my colleague that I keep him updated, if there's anything significant to report on his constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1038 – 6(2): Community Access Road Program

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to Minister for Economic Development and Transportation pertaining to the road access program. Mr. Speaker as we are all aware, it's based on a proposed basis and I would like to mainly focus on the Igloolik road access program there.

I would like to ask the Minister how much was granted under this road access program to the municipality of Igloolik in the last year's fiscal year, if he has the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, zero. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Mr. Speaker, that was easy enough, zero. Why, I'm sure the municipality is not requesting for funding.

The next question I would like to ask is: Is there such limits in terms of granting this access? As we all know Igloolik is an island, and I was told and I was advised that there has been numerous incidents, incidents as in accidents, and so I would just like to ask the

Minister, is there such a limit when it comes to grants and contributions for each community? Or is it on a first come, first served? If the Minister can clearly explain to the House, is there a limit or is there no limit when it comes to this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for this program, which way more applicants come than the money that we do have, the limits per project is, if I recall, is up to 300,000 for each of the projects. I want to confirm that from Igloolik we did not receive any applications. I just wanted to confirm that to my member colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, when it comes to these proposals, I am sure there are active municipalities when it comes to proposal writing, requesting for funding under this program, so is the department now planning to not look into, as the Minister has stated, it's up to 300,000. How much of this, will it be the remaining of? Will it be the same of 300,000 for the next fiscal year or will it decrease? If the Minister can clarify, so I can have the municipality call to request for funding in terms of this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members be aware time the allotted for questions, -- sorry. Economic Development and Transportation Minister, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this program under the access road program is \$1.8 million and it's by application base and it could be, what we put limits is per project. 300,000 is that limit, but any community can apply for this, up to 300,000, but the overall budget for the access road program is 1.8 million. As I mentioned, we have way more applicants than funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members be aware time allotted for question period is now over. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request to go back to item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 5. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I've never had this opportunity before, so I will take it and thank the members for letting me.

I would like to recognize the mayor of Arviat. But firstly, he's my son, Joe junior Savikataaq from Arviat. I'm glad that he just walked in here. He is here for NAM. I would also like to recognize my long-time friend, Mr. Shawn Malley, and he's no stranger to everyone in NEBS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also recognize Joe-Joe, my former student mate. It's great that you arrived and also an SAO, John Hussey (ph). I also recognize him. The hamlet of Arviat from the outside have many responsibilities in areas that support the community of Arviat. The council, the major, with a lot of abilities, and their staff as a hamlet. I believe they run the most efficiently in the community of Arviat. And these people are responsible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. 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.

Before going on to the next item we'll break for lunch. Report back at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 11:57 and resumed at 13:30*

Speaker: Welcome back, everyone. I hope you had a good lunch. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 331 – 6(2): Decentralization Review

Tabled Document 332 – 6(2): Administration of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act Annual Report 2023-2024

Tabled Document 333 – 6(2): Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit Consolidated Annual Report 2019-2024

Tabled Document 334 – 6(2): Katujjiluta Mandate Progress Report 2023-2024

Hon. P.J. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm pleased to table four reports. The first report of the 2024 Decentralization Review.

Second, the Annual Report on The Administration of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act for the period of April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

Third, the Consolidated Annual Reports for the Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit for the period of April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2024.

And fourth, the Government of Nunavut's progress on the Katujjiluta Mandate priorities, highlights of 2023-2024 achievements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 335 – 6(2): Nunavut Emergency Management Annual Report 2023-2024

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to table the 2023-2024 Nunavut Emergency Management Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 336 – 6(2): Language of Instruction Regulations and Curriculum Progress Report 2023-2024

Tabled Document 337 – 6(2): School Planning and Design Guidelines 2023-2024

Tabled Document 338 – 6(2): Student Loan Fund

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to table three reports:

The progress report on Language of Instruction Regulations and Curriculum 2023-2024.

Second, the School Planning and Design Guidelines. And third, the Student Loan Fund for the year end March 31, 2023 and March 31, 2024. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 339 – 6(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2023-2024 Contracting, Procurement, and Leasing Activity Report

Tabled Document 340 – 6(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation 2023-2024 Annual Report

Mr. Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to table two reports. First, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2023-2024 Contracting, Procurement, and Leasing Activity Report; and second, the 2023-2024 Nunavut Housing Corporation Annual Report.

Mr. Speaker the Inuktitut version of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's annual report will be tabled once the translation is completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motion. Item 15, Notices of Motion For First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. I recognize the Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 16: Motions**Motion 41 – 6(2): Removal of Premier of Nunavut and as Member of Executive Council**

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Speaker: The motion is in order. Before we proceed with debate on the motion before us, I have a few comments to make as to procedures.

Number 1, every member has a right to speak once to the motion for a total of 20 minutes.

Number 2, the mover of the motion speaks first, and the seconder can speak next, if they so wish to do so.

Third, the mover of the motion has the right to the last reply, which closes the debate.

To the motion, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Member often states public that his door is always open when it comes to regular members seeking answers and solutions to the issues that we raise on behalf of our constituents. The reality is that, even the door may be open, does not guarantee that our

questions are welcome, or discussions that we have are productive. The proof is that for everyone to see.

More than one member has the experience of having repeatedly requested responses to the same question or issue; some have even had the experience of being promise, and response at a later date, and never received it.

And again, these words cannot stand alone. They require actions.

Mr. Speaker, just the past Thursday, on October 31, in response to the member's questions, the premier stated:

"I wish previous government had brought forward strategy as well."

This is an all-familiar statement that aligns with others, such as "this historical issue" and "inherent issue" used to avoid taking responsibility for issues or concerns that face Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the motion. Hon. Premier -- sorry. Secunder. To the motion. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker and my fellow colleagues here at the Legislative Assembly, I want to thank you for the opportunity to be able to speak to the motion.

I want to address accountability, transparency, and progress. I want to begin by stating that I am very proud of the work that we as a government have accomplished in the past three years. I am thankful for the leadership and the passion of my fellow colleagues here, the cabinet members, and I am grateful for the dedication and the commitments of our public servants who have implemented our political direction.

I am also proud of the working relationship I have had with the regular members. From the onset the Sixth Assembly has been based on Inuit societal values of Aajiiqatiginniq and Piliriqatiginniq. It is with these values in mind that we took on a different approach to the development of our mandate.

For the first time in Nunavut's history we included the regular members as well as Inuit organizations in the development of the Katujjiluta Mandate. To be accountable, I also tabled all the mandate letters for cabinet, making it clear what was expected of each portfolio. This is accountability.

Since we drafted our Katujjiluta Mandate and issued our mandate letters, we have been sharing progress reports updating members here in the Legislative Assembly and all

Nunavummiut on each priority. In fact, our third progress report was just tabled just moments ago. It includes details on what has been achieved to date under all five priority areas in the mandate.

In addition to the annual mandate reports, our government has been diligent to provide action plans, strategies, what we heard documents and annual reports on all our efforts. This is transparency.

You don't have to look far to see what we have delivered on our promises outlined in the mandate. We have implemented programs and initiatives that help children and families, as well as addressing the rising cost of living. Just a few months into the work that we have started, we were the first jurisdiction in Canada to deliver on the \$10 a day early childhood and learning agreement by partnering with our federal agreement. We have piloted full-day kindergarten in many of our communities, helping parents, especially mothers, access educational but also training and job opportunities, and for that I want to recognize the Minister Gross and our Department of Education for leading that very important work.

Mr. Speaker, we have increased minimum wage and we had ratified collective bargaining agreements, and increased salaries, and household allowances for government employees. I thank the Ministers of Finance and Human Resources for spearheading that very important work.

We have started construction of all homes in all of our 25 communities via our Nunavut 3000 plan. And by taking and thinking outside the box, building partnerships with Inuit organizations such as Nunavut Construction Corporation, we are building three times more at half the cost. Many thanks to our Housing Minister as well as CGS in that regard.

We ratified of devolution agreement, bringing decision making about our lands and our resources as well as fresh waters home, right here, where it belongs.

I am grateful to our partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik and the federal government for this historic achievement, as well as our negotiators and public servants who worked tirelessly to achieve this major milestone.

In addition to decisive action on these key priorities, we have tackled long-standing issues such as the problems in our child welfare system. We injected much needed resources to the Department of Family Services so we could address historic shortcomings and do better for vulnerable children and families.

(interpretation) I would like to thank Minister Nakasuk and her officials and the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, because they worked really hard to produce this. Quite recently during our sitting I agreed to have this introduced to the House, Inuusivut Inuinnaqtun

Strategic Plan. And they are based on working together with Nunavut Tunngavik, the RCMP, and Embrace Life Council. They have been actively involved in this work.

(interpretation ends) This work was led by our Minister of Health and supported by a whole-of-government approach. It was also championed by MLA Brewster and her inquiries into this Assembly.

Aging with dignity has been one of our key priority items. Our teams have been bolstering our infrastructure to meet the needs of our elders within our territory. Our government is working on three long-term care facilities in each region, for a total of 156 beds in-territory over the next five years.

(interpretation) As we are completing the elder facilities, the 24-bed elder care facility in Rankin Inlet is nearing completion, so we have started turning towards the Kitikmeot to Cambridge Bay elder facility and the operations are run by Iqaluit head office and Arviat, along with the Sakku Corporation.

(interpretation ends) I am thankful to our Minister of Health and Community and Government Services for these efforts. Last session we released the Nunavut Elders and Seniors Strategy, after conducting extensive consultations with elders across the territory as well Nunavut elders in Ottawa. I would like to thank MLA Quassa and MLA Killiktee for providing invaluable advice and guidance as we drafted this strategy.

This fall we announced the pilot for a mobile van for elders in five communities. I recognize that we made the bold decision to expedite getting the first mobile vans into five communities by choosing a pilot initiative in partnership with Northern Futures Development.

Some MLAs have insinuated that the partnerships are not how we do business in the Government of Nunavut. The decision was between using our short sea lift window to get five vans into the communities and doing business as usual, and getting zero vans into the communities.

The pilot for the five elder vans will inform the next steps of how we approach ensure that go all Nunavummiut communities get access to safe, accessible transportation for elders. I would like to thank MLAs Quassa as well as Simailak and others from all the other small communities that I know that I heard you loud and clear, and we will work hard to find avenues to ensure that our communities get elder mobility vans as soon as possible.

I also heard others stress the need for good policy for elder vans. This is exactly what our teams are working on developing.

As part of our commitment to Inuit employment, we created new associate deputy minister positions. The aim is to identify Inuit who can be trained to take on duties as deputy ministers. These positions are restricted to Inuit and considered public servants. Inuit in these positions are supported to support senior level responsibilities over time and gain the necessary experiences and essential skills through mentorship.

To date, six associate deputy minister positions have been created. I was pleased to see three Inuk women rise through our ranks from these associate deputy minister positions and assume the roles as deputy ministers and president, leading the department of EIA, Justice and Nunavut Arctic College. This is progress.

We have all this work while carving out a place for Nunavut on the national but also the international tables, so that we have a voice when it comes to issues that impact our territory and our people. This past summer we saw the launch of our direct flight between Greenland and Nunavut, a result of a memorandum of understanding we signed with Greenland in the summer of 2022.

The Iqaluit-Nuuk flights were so popular that the airlines are projecting doubling the weekly routes for the summer of 2025. I want to thank Minister Akeegok for his work on this.

Just a month ago, Nunavut co-hosted the Nordic Ambassador Meeting right here in Iqaluit, which provided our territory an opportunity to voice our perspective on Canada's efforts on Arctic sovereignty and security.

While taking part in national and international tables, my ministers and I have been championing numerous initiatives. We have argued that bolstering Canada's sovereignty means support for transformative nation-building efforts. We have put forward the needs for funding for the Qikiqtarjuaq port, to bolster offshore fisheries, tourism, search and rescue operations, as well as Canada's security needs.

We have also championed Inuit-led projects such as the Grays Bay Road and Port project, opening opportunities for mining, but also opening up potential for critical minerals needed both for Canada and our military needs. I would like to recognize the incredible lobbying efforts of my colleagues from Kugluktuk, but also from Taloyoak as well.

We have also championed the Kivalliq Hydro Fibre Link a terrestrial power and telecommunications link between Nunavut and southern Canada, to reduce Nunavut's reliance on diesel power in the Kivalliq and improve Internet connectivity. We have put a spotlight on Iqaluit hydro-electric project as well. This Qikiqtani Inuit Association initiative is a long-term plan to provide sustainable, affordable and reliable sources in energy in Nunavut's capital. This nation-building project would decrease Nunavut's carbon footprint, reduce our territory's reliance on diesel, and provide Nunavut's capital with a renewable energy supply. This is partnership.

In the past three years our cabinet and senior officials have also ensured that we are constantly connecting with Nunavummiut. I know our cabinet members and deputy ministers have been encouraged to travel to as many communities as possible. For my part, I have been blessed and I have visited 16 communities since becoming premier in 2021. It's important for me to hear directly from Nunavummiut, to meet with elders, students, educators, hamlet councils and housing authorities.

Thank you for the invitations from MLAs Killiktee, Nutarak, Sammurtok, Quqqiaq, Malliki, Kaernerik, and to be able to visit all these amazing communities, as well as yours, Mr. Speaker.

We are working hard. We are communicating our work regularly, and we are remaining accountable to Nunavummiut. I want to asking my fellow members in the Legislative Assembly to take a hard look at what is happening here today. Are we upholding the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit values we were all raised with? Are we operating as a true consensus government, with the goal of serving the best interests of Nunavummiut? Is this the kind of politics we want to uphold in our territory?

This motion is being introduced during a week when three women, three strong MLAs who have upheld IQ principles and championed the importance of cooperation are unable to join us here in this Legislative Assembly. This motion is coming when we are less than a year away from the end of our mandate.

Could we improve as a government? Yes. However, I maintain that my cabinet and I have been accountable, transparent, communicative and goal-oriented. We have less than a year to continue our very important and ambitious mandate.

Transformative change does take time. Transformative change means finding partnership and building bridges. It means trying new ways to address long-standing problems. I ask each MLA to take these factors into account as they decide how to vote on the motion.
Qujannamiik.

Speaker: To the motion. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues and Nunavummiut. I will address the motion in front of us. First I want to acknowledge the premier's personal qualities. He is a friendly and charismatic colleague and a dedicated family man. I think we all recognize these attributes and respect him, so we have to approach this discussion with the respectfulness that it deserves.

At the same time, we have a greater responsibility to continuously evaluate leadership decisions that impact Nunavut. That is why we are all here. The premier will remember that during our discussions leading up to the initial leadership forum and decisions about

who would lead our government, I asked him many times who would he bring with him, knowing that he had these goals and didn't have the experience of being a regular MLA, that he didn't seem to have experience in working with the Government of Nunavut which would allow him a great deal of knowledge about all of the processes involved in leading a government.

From the start of his leadership, the premier made some critical errors that have had lasting effects on our government. One of his first actions was the removal of our top public servant, a highly qualified and knowledgeable Nunavut Inuk whose corporate knowledge and experience was inn valuable. Her unbiased advice would have been instrumental in advancing the Katujjiluta Mandate. Removing her at a time when we needed all hands on deck, stability and experience, was I believe a big misstep, and I never understood that, because she was loyal to Nunavut and still demonstrates that.

Subsequently, the creation of a new role, Chief of Strategic Operations, raised bigger concerns. This position, which is unprecedented in Nunavut's history, was filled by a friend and former employee of the premier in his previous role. The title and overlapping responsibilities with the already existing principal secretary role seems to have caused confusion among staff upstairs.

In the interests of transparency, I questioned the premier on the creation of this position and the appointment, seeking more information about how the position would fit organizationally and how it would impact reporting relationships. Yet I'm still awaiting a full and proper response, even after some more follow-ups.

Appointing someone without political experience to oversee all the individual cabinet staff members has lead to division and a toxic work environment, and an unfortunate turnover in cabinet members, from what we see and hear. The lack of unity and increased tensions are evident, and an atmosphere like that seems to have encouraged siloed operations, rather than collaboration.

This approach was also very much not in keeping with one of the most important Inuit values on which the Katujjiluta Mandate and our system of consensus government is based, Inuuqatiittiarniq.

In addition, ministers must be able to rely on their political advisors to provide clear and unbiased advice that is in the best interests of their respective ministers. Even a so-called dotted-line relationship to anyone other than their ministers not only infantilizes them, it creates the perception that ministerial political advisors must either consult or in some way be accountable other than their minister. That is just not good governance.

There are many examples that I could refer to. There's the issue of the devolution signing authority, the issue of devolution in the absence of a new tenure Inuit employment master

plan, which expired in 2023. There's no replacement for that yet. We're not sure where that is.

We also need to address the ambitious agenda set forth by this government. With less than a year remaining effective leadership is crucial to accomplish our goals before the next administration takes over.

Initiatives like providing vans for our elders are commendable, but they require clear policies, accountable decision-making, and proper accounting to be successful. We simply can't rush things or break the rules to make the focus on announceables.

We must ensure that public servants have to guide them in their work and that members have policies to refer to on questions of accountability and ensuring our ability to fulfil our own fiduciary responsibilities.

As members we must focus always on improving the lives of Nunavummiut through transparent, effective, and accountable governance. None of my comments are about personal judgments, they are about assessing leadership. Leadership decisions that affect our collective future, the future of our growing territory. We need unity, experience and clear direction to put our best foot forward. I wouldn't be serving my constituents or Nunavummiut if I just looked at the calendar and said, "We have less than a year to go so let's just sit back and say and do nothing."

Time is precious, so whether we are just sending a powerful message or ensuring leadership that will help us fulfil commitments to Nunavummiut and set the next Assembly on the right path for success, then we are obligated to consider and pursue it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the motion. Member for Cambridge Bay. Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Quana, Mr. Speaker. I'm speaking against the motion and express my hope that we can stay the course we charted together when we first met in this Chamber.

First and foremost, I have great respect for our Premier Akeeagok. I know how hard he works and how much time he spends attending community events and representing our territory locally and on the national and global stage. He sacrifices valuable time away from his family to fulfill these responsibilities. The role of a premier carries an incredible level of responsibility and pressure, and P.J. navigates that with grace and humility. As a new mother, I experienced his incredible support from day one, and I'm forever grateful for him and many of my colleagues in this House.

Our line of work puts significant pressure on each of us. Nunavut is only 25 years old and we represent 25 communities spread over a vast land mass, one-fifth of Canada, to be

exact. Listening to the debates in this House it's evidence that our overall needs far exceed our current resources. Whether it's the infrastructure deficit, the shortfall of staff housing and public housing, our collective concerns over aging schools, health centres and power plants, we all face similar pressures. I know that each of you is fighting for your community, just as I am. And our premier is doing the exact same for all of Nunavut.

We all want to bring progress as swiftly as possible. Today I believe we should reflect on our roles and acknowledge the pressure that comes with trying to meet all these needs. We can address them much more effectively when we are united. Let's return to the collaborative work we've been doing and to the progress that we're making, including re-designing post-secondary student assistance program, through our new legislation that will better support our students and future leaders through all the goals, and fulfil our commitments to a fully bilingual Inuktitut K to 12 school system, and with the creation of more day care spaces across all of Nunavut.

We need to work together, set positive examples and be role models to support goals of increasing Inuit employment that will bring more opportunities to our people, support our progress, and work to enhance government services overall.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose this motion and will be voting against it. I ask each of you to consider our limited time and the fact that three of our female colleagues cannot be here today. Let's agree to communicate more, stay the course, maintain momentum, fulfil our obligations, advance our Katujjiluta Mandate, progress, and get back to work. Quana, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the motion. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's unfortunate that we are having this discussion here today. The matter of a vote of non-confidence is of course a very drastic measure, and a challenging process for all involved, on this side of the table as well as on the other side.

Mr. Speaker, Tuesday morning I asked Iqalummiut to provide their input, and they have answered. Over the last 24 hours I was surprised with the number of e-mails that I received. I would like to take a moment to read a little bit of what I have heard:

"I do not think this is appropriate timing."

"I think this early ousting is ridiculous."

"I think as a whole P.J. has done a great job."

"A slap and a warning would have been a better message from all MLAs in order to address matters of concern."

"I do have confidence in P.J. Akeeagok and I believe he has done a great job as premier."

Again, these are constituents' words.

"My husband and I are not in support of the non-confidence vote. We are in support of the premier."

"I'm very happy with the job he is doing and I hope he remains premier."

"I believe he has been the most active and productive premier I have seen in my nearly ten years of living in Nunavut. It is very difficult to effect change in this territory but I believe he has done well for Nunavummiut. He has my support to continue as premier and I would also appreciate it if you would support him as well."

"People need to know that they are public servants, which is how P.J. Akeeagok is to his constituents, and in his role as a leader."

"You now need to speak on behalf of the premier. I believe the majority of us in Nunavut do not want to see him go."

Mr. Speaker, like I said, I was surprised at the amount of e-mails I received, and that is just a few examples. In summary, all e-mails that I've received from constituents have been in support of the premier and have been alluding to the inappropriate timing, given the fact that the election is only months away.

Don't get me wrong, Mr. Speaker; I share my members' frustrations when a minister dances around a question or when I have to follow up with a minister to ask when I can expect a response. Or more significantly, when I have to repeat concerns year over year with little to no progress on the matter. However, in order to address poor performance issues I prefer a more amicable approach. I prefer to identify shortcomings and allow an opportunity to seek corrective action.

On multiple occasions I've made this recommendation to my regular member colleagues and recommended utilizing a letter of expectation, similar to what regular members caucus submitted to the executive council in the Fifth Assembly when we were facing the exact same frustrations.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this would be a more appropriate first step. I do not agree with taking drastic measures without an opportunity to correct the matter first. There has been no scandal or serious breach of ethics, and as such, I see no justification to bring down

the government, and more importantly, I do not believe it is in the best interest for Nunavut.

We are less than a year away from the end of this Assembly. We have a lot of work to do, and we need to remain focused and not let distractions get ahead of us. Mr. Speaker, for this reason, I'm happy to say that I will vote with my constituents and my conscience, and that I will not be supporting this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the motion. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeagok.

Hon. David Akeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few comments to the motion. I have been with the government for quite some time now, and this is the seventh premier I've had since I started as a government employee and as a minister with the government. I have held various positions. The work ethics are different but, they have the same goal: to represent Nunavut.

There are 22 of us who elect our premier in the House which we did in this case, and at that time when he was elected, we started creating the Katujjiluta Mandate. He was a new minister. He became premier and indicated what his goals are going to be. I was disheartened when he wanted to start the Katujjiluta Mandate. I was very scared that it might be a failure. I was with the government for quite some time, and then when the premier was elected to his position we created the Katujjiluta Mandate without involving the regular members. That was the reason why I was afraid and disappointed, because it set a precedent. He wanted the Katujjiluta Mandate and he wanted to place the priority.

Then when it started being put together we went on a retreat to Cambridge Bay, and at that time we agreed that we would work together. And then at that time he wrote a mandate letters, what you are going to be doing during our term.

I've been with the government for quite some time and there were some things that came up, but he gave us direction. He gave us a mandate. He supported us on an ongoing basis, and also involved other organizations for the better of Nunavut. And he made sure that everything was prepared.

It was a different move at that time, something that was unprecedented, but I am very, very proud of our premier who was able to involve everyone in this House for the mandate to become a reality.

We usually go with him when we are doing community tours. We visit the elders. We set up half an hour here and a half an hour there with another organization. We also set a time to visit the government employee, and we also visit the schools to meet with the students. Repeatedly he's one of the people. Usually there's a photo op at the end of our school visit.

But our youth, when they see the government in person, when they see the premier in person, they have something to believe in, in the future. We feel that when we go to the communities. When you go to the schools, the children are looking forward to the visit. And also the elders, he had personal discussions with the elders. And I would like to thank him very much for taking the time to talk to the elders and see what their comments and concerns and questions are, on a person-to-person dialogue. He always makes sure to meet personally with the elders, and it's something that he's very passionate about.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to make those few comments. I will not be able to support the motion.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I'm not 100 percent sure on the rules, but I wondering if I was able to do a point of order, because one of the members implied rules were broken and I wanted to know what rule were broken on the elders vans. What the premier has maintained is that we went through the grants program. They were following our rules. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: It is too late to raise a point of order right now because the person that was speaking has already spoken. Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Mr. Speaker, I'm asking, are we able to make point of orders if something, during this motion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Yes. Are you done? To the motion. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This process is quite different today. What I'm saying is in previous government I was on the other side of the room, and the ordinary MLAs, a motion was made, listened to an MLA making a motion and the thought you have put in this motion is obvious and the heavy weight considered. You acknowledge that.

I think after thorough thought today and having a vote afterwards, we may have to continue to work together afterwards. What I've noticed is from the previous Assembly, perhaps, if I may say, from my observations, the vote motions, when one is removed from an office or put into an office, when there is disagreement, that is normal. But from my observations, even after the votes have been made, some members, or if they become stalled and unable to move forward have because of the previous vote made, you can't forget it, and moving ahead, when we have to think of the needs of Nunavummiut that we have to push forward are put on the side because of a vote previous, perhaps a few years back. And it doesn't really help.

Our premier has served for three years and you appointed me to be a minister three years and I'm always grateful to you for that, because this is my responsibility, this is one of the largest ones. And I'm always grateful.

With respect to our premier, he told me you will be the Minister of Health. I can't forget that day. And it was during a time of COVID. How can I say that; he gave me the responsibility. I am still grateful to this day, and I have moved forward with my position and I have no regrets. And I've always been thankful to the premier because he considered I was capable.

Later QEC was given to me, and it was a very difficult position, and he had trust in me to do the work, and I thank him.

I've seen him as a leader working hard in his position. He never tires. He is constantly flying elsewhere to other communities and places. We have to work with Inuit organizations, the federal government, anything outside of our government. That we should be in terms with. He keeps the door open constantly, I've noted that, whether if it's Nunavut Tunngavik or other organizations.

(interpretation ends) There was a reference made to breaking rules, and a non-confidence motion is one of the tools that is available to members to address things. There are other tools that could be used if members feel that rules have been broken and there needs to be accountability. You know, members, this Assembly, members have the ability to summons witnesses. They have the ability to request for documents to be produced. And so if there is a desire for more transparency, whether it's on the elders van initiative, or whether it's other initiatives that the premier has been involved with, I would say there are tools available aside from the non-confidence motion.

The non-confidence motion is a sledgehammer and it's not going to fix anything. If a desire is to fix things then maybe we need to use a screwdriver or a socket set.

As I mentioned earlier, Mr. Speaker, this is a heavy matter. I want to tell all the members in the Assembly that I respect every one of you, and it's an honour to be here and work with you. This is a heavy matter, but after this day, no matter what the result of this vote, we're going to need to work together and Nunavummiut expect that. They expect us to make things work for them, keep the lights on, in my case.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. John Main: Mr. Speaker, one final note on this matter. I have raised the need for remote voting on multiple occasions. During the COVID pandemic we had, I spent an entire sitting I think I was over there on a TV, because I was in quarantine in Arviat, and that was very helpful at the time. It allowed me to participate and vote in this Assembly.

This again is another example where if we had remote ability to allow remote voting by members, the three members who are not here today would have the ability to participate in this important decision.

I wanted to point that out. Remote voting is also something that would allow members of cabinet to attend national functions, such as federal, provincial, territorial meetings while still doing their important job in the House. I wanted to mention that. It should be obvious I won't be supporting this motion today. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the motion. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my constituents watching over in Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, I want you all to know that my decision today is not my sole decision. As you voted me to be you member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Netsilik, I want to inform each and every one of you, I have consulted with great leaders in both communities and today it's going to be a tough political decision that I have to make. At the end of the day I want to be still friends with all of my colleagues. I want to continue working with you all. I want to continue joking around, laughing, eating together. Whatever stays in this House should always stay in this House.

Mr. Speaker, it is a tough day today, but I feel I have made my decision on behalf of my constituents. My decision is tough to make but I have to do it for my constituents. They voted me to be here today on their behalf. At the end of the day to all Nunavummiut that's watching, we as the members of the Legislative Assembly try very hard on your behalf. It is not an easy job to do. It is very tough at times, like say for example it's going to be a decision that we make today that we don't want to make, but we have to on each and every one of your behalfs. I respect all my colleagues. Whatever decision that I make, I hope we can still be friends today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the motion. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, good afternoon and my colleagues. To this motion with a few words as representative of our constituents and first of all to say as ministers, as cabinet, this affects one of our members. But if it was a motion for any minister I would still look at it the same way if it was requested of a minister, for example. Because we look at very different issues during this process. This is heavy issue.

(interpretation ends) I think as member of this legislature, it's been I'm going on 11 years as the member for South Baffin, and having had the privilege of serving on both sides of this House, and I again want to thank my colleagues for entrusting confidence in myself and my colleagues to put us in our positions here today.

Just to reiterate that if it was any one other one of my colleagues, that there's no confidence in them, I will stand by them just the same.

With that, (interpretation) You want to have a good clear thought here and your constituents, yes, and we have to remember that Nunavut began with a vision, and are we on the path of that vision? As leaders, when we are elected, we have things to take forward that our people expect, and we are constantly striving towards that. Katujjiluta Mandate is one route, and there are other issues that we pursue through Katujjiluta with Inuit organization.

And being a leader, we have to listen to our colleagues, our leaders in our communities, mayors, elected officials in other organizations. The things we decide are things we won't see overnight. I could say that, yes. Regardless, I could say the cabinet I work with in Nunavut government, they work very hard in trying to move forward. And the questions raised in the House and the questions raised by our communities, this will carry on.

I also agree with my colleagues that after a vote discussions will have to continue and working together, because our work won't stop here. Our work will continue, and we will continually strive towards these.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) just knowing that there are many people tuning into these proceedings, I do want to acknowledge Nunavummiut that are watching and waiting to see what happens here. I know for a fact that my colleague mentioned about a similar vote that happened in this House where Premier Quassa, there was a vote of non-confidence on him, and the ripple effect that it had on not just the Government of Nunavut as a whole and the public service, but all of Nunavummiut I think it was felt far and wide. And is this what we want to do again? I think that's a good that we're all trying to answer here today.

To me, it's not what I want to do, so with that I'm not going to be supporting this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the motion. I have no more names on my list. Premier Akeeagok. Does the mover of the motion have any last replies? Mr. Malliki, please proceed.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as MLAs, we got elected and then we selected the ministers to be in cabinet and we had confidence in them. However, with some of the words that were said, we did an admonishment but it did not have any effect. There are five ministers that have resigned, and that raises even more questions. That's what I wanted to say. There was a way, I introduced a way to improve things before it got more serious, so that is why I proceeded with making the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There has been a request to record the vote. All those in favour of the motion, please rise. I'll start with the mover.

All those in favour of the motion, please stand. When I say your name, please sit down. Mr. Malliki. Please be seated. Mr. Sammurtok. Mr. Quqqiaq. Mr. Kaerner. Mr. Hickes. Mr. Savikataaq. Ms. Quassa. Mr. Simailak.

All those opposed, please stand. Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Akeeagok. Mr. Joanasi. Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok. Ms. Gross. Mr. Main. Mr. Qavvik. Mr. Kusugak. Ms. Brewster. Mr. Anavilok.

All those abstaining from the vote, please stand. Eight for the motion and ten against the motion. The motion is defeated.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: We will now take a 10-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 14:37 and resumed at 15:07*

Speaker: Good afternoon. Welcome back, everyone. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 61, 62, 63, and 65, with Mr. Savikataaq in the chair.

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

I ask all members to remain at their desks so that we can immediately proceed to the Committee of the Whole. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed and Committee resumed at 15:07*

Chairman (Savikataaq): Good afternoon. I will call our Committee of the Whole meeting to 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. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of Bill 61, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2025-2026*, and the supporting documents for the Department of Justice, followed by the Departments of Environment, Culture and Heritage, and Legislative Assembly. We would then proceed with the review of Bill 53, 54, and 55 along with the supporting documents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na*. Are we in agreement we first did deal with Bill 61.

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na*. Does the committee agree to have the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record Minister Akeeagok, can you please introduce your officials.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left, Christine Ellsworth, my brand new deputy minister, and on my left is Cameron Ahmad.

Chairman: *Mut'na*. We've already opened the floor for general comments already, so we'll go straight into the questions. If members can go to page E3, directorate. Any questions on the total expenditures on the directorates? Justice. Grant summary directorate, total capital expenditures \$3,050,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Members, go to E5. Justice, grants summary, registries and court services. Any questions? If not Justice. Branch Summary. Registries and Court Services. Total expenditures, \$3,467,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Members go to page E7, Justice, Corrections. I'm giving members a few seconds here. Justice, Corrections, total expenditures, 428,000. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to talk about the Ilavut Centre, the renovations there. There are some significant carryover amounts earlier this year, including a change of scope. Can I get an update on that project. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we had to break this into two pieces. When we did the original request for tender, the bids were too high. Then we cancelled it. So we changed it to two tenders, so the first phase, the more urgent ones we put out a request for tender, and there was a successful bidder and that successful bidder started the work in September of this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the issues with having to go into the two phases of this project was the amount of bids coming in. There were some significant, the actual bid in one case was 99 percent over the cost estimate, which is basically double, which I understand did lead to the need to go to the two phases in this.

I guess what concerns me there is so the next phase, when it goes it out to tender, as we have been seeing, things get even more and more expensive.

Is there any specific reasoning why there wasn't a supplemental appropriation requested to be able to do both projects? Or is the department comfortable that they will be able to the phase 2 work within an appropriate budgeted amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is comfortable doing the two phases. With what we were able to do with the first phase, I think that will go well in hand with the second phase. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Justice. Grand summary corrections. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good afternoon Minister and your officials. Regarding the on the land camps and alternative homes, currently how many are there in Nunavut, and how is the department helping with their capital needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: *Qujannamiik,* Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There is one community, and it's the community of Baker Lake that has a contract with us, and we help them through the contract services under Operations and Maintenance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Members, try to remember we're doing capital budget. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Minister. So there is no need for stains with capital purchases for the contractor in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na*. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Mr. Chairman, none that we know of right now as of right now. If our contractor has some inquiries about that, we're willing to visit any inquiries from our contractor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that the department have some money set aside in their budgets, if they need assistance with any capital type of purchases or to help with the alternative (indiscernible) that they're running. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget that I'm trying to get approved has minor capital. Within that, that fits within the criteria. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: (interpretation) Thank you ... (no interpretation)

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, fellow members. We will work with our capital projects, capital budgets, and this will help support our clients, those that are incarcerated.

I would like to thank our employees, even those that aren't here that deal with the program delivery. With your support we're able to do this. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like all members to stay in their seat and we will commence review of the Department of Environment's capital budget.

>>Committee recessed at 15:19 and resumed at 15:20

Chairman (Hickes): Thank you. I would like to call the meeting back to order. I would like to ask Mr. Qavvik, do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms.

Thank you. Minister could you introduce your officials, for the record, and start with your opening comments. Thank you.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my immediate left is Nikki Nweze, Director of Corporate Services, and to my immediate right is Deputy Minister of Environment, Pauloosie Suvega.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the Department of Environment's Capital Plan for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

For this fiscal period, the Department of Environment is proposing a capital budget of \$6.4 million. This expenditure will permit the Department to concentrate on two program areas: Wildlife Management, and Parks and Special Places.

The Wildlife Operations and Wildlife Research Divisions will spend \$4,350,000 to renovate a wildlife office in Taloyoak and build a new wildlife office in Arctic Bay. These divisions will also spend \$370,000 to replace old mobile and lab equipment.

The major project for the Department in the 2025-2026 fiscal year will be the development of infrastructure for the Agguttinni Territorial Park north of Clyde River. The Parks division will spend \$1,130,000 for the Maintenance of all Territorial Parks as well as \$550,000 in the 2025-2026 fiscal year to purchase a Backhoe and Snowblower for the Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park.

We will continue to monitor and maintain these sites, parks and campgrounds, in keeping with the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's Capital Plan remains focused on areas that support the needs and priorities of Nunavummiut.

Thank you, *Nakurmiik*.

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

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

The department's proposed capital budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year is \$6.4 million. The department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates provide funding for wildlife office replacements, facility renovations and small capital projects, including the acquisition of mobile equipment and the development of infrastructure in territorial parks.

Information provided by the department indicates that the estimated cost of the Arctic Bay Wildlife Office replacement project has increased by over 80% from \$3.75 million to \$6.85 million. Members are concerned at the significant increase and encourage the Minister to publicly clarify the impact that this will have on the department's schedule of wildlife office replacements.

On September 10, 2019, the federal and territorial governments announced \$4.7 million in federal funding under the Canada Nature Fund to support the establishment of a new territorial park near the community of Clyde River. On February 16, 2022, the department issued a Request for Tender for the construction of the new Agguttinni Territorial Park Office and Visitors Centre. The tender was subsequently cancelled on May 20, 2022.

During the Legislative Assembly's fall 2022 sitting, the House was informed that the department was working with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association to "finalize a Memorandum of Understanding" concerning the construction of a shared facility in the park. Members continue to look forward to updates on the status of the negotiations and continue to encourage the Minister to table a copy of the final Memorandum of Understanding in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

Members continue to encourage the Minister to begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly which details the department's activities, expenditures and initiatives in relation to Nunavut's territorial parks system, in addition to containing information concerning such measures as the annual number of visitors to our parks. This work would benefit from cooperation with the Tourism and Cultural Industries Division of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. This type of reporting would be of benefit to all Members in evaluating the impact of the parks program. Members also continue to recommend that the department's annual reporting provide detailed information concerning its usage of terrestrial and marine mobile equipment and other capital assets.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates of the Department of Environment. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Is there any general comments to the opening comments. I see none. Please turn to page I-3. Environment program management, total capital expenditures, \$6.4 million. Questions. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister's opening comments, the wildlife operations and wildlife research division will spend \$4,350,000 to renovate our wildlife office in Taloyoak and a build a new wildlife office in Arctic Bay.

These divisions will also spend 370,000 to replace mobile and lab equipment. Mr. Chairman, when the budget is approved, my question is to the Minister is when will Taloyoak see the wildlife office be renovated, and why did they not consider a new wildlife office instead. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Savikataaq): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Once the capital estimates are passed and approved by the Legislative Assembly, we will initiate the renovation for the Taloyoak wildlife office. The question around why did we not construct a new wildlife office, I would like to ask my Director of Corporate Services to further elaborate. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We believe that the wildlife office (indiscernible) can be renovated and it will also save government some cost. Instead of building a new one, we can renovate it and still fulfil our needs. And also once the project is approached, we also consult Community and Government Services and that's when we do a detailed review of the facility. They decided that the renovation is not an option, and then we probably come back to the Legislative Assembly for approval. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In October of 2022, your department provided a schedule of wildlife office replacements to MLA's. Mr. Chairman, the question is is the schedule still current. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, Member, for that question. The question from the member, yes, the schedules are on schedule, but Mr. Chairman, please note that due to financial constraints, the Department of Environment is completely not on schedule, but we do provide planned replacement years to identify communities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Just before I go to the next person then, the next planned wildlife office is Arctic Bay. Which community is next for replacements after that. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: My apologies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have identified after Arctic Bay is Rankin Inlet. And after Rankin Inlet is Kinngait, Baker Lake, Kugluktuk, Arviat, Igloolik, Kugaaruk, and Qikiqtarjuaq.

For the years of the plans are for Rankin Inlet is 2026-2026. 2027-28 is Kinngait. 2028-2029 is Baker Lake. 2029-2030, Kugluktuk. 2030-2031, Arviat. 2031-2032, Igloolik. 2032-2034, Kugaaruk. 2033-2034, Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Next question on my list, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Chair. I just have a couple questions with regards to the Sylvia Grinnell Park, and the park's master plan. This time last year I raised concern over the amount of vandalism and destruction that occurred in the Sylvia Grinnell Park in the summer of 2023 quite constant concerns were raised throughout the summer by residents. I did hear a little bit of the same concerns for the summer of 2024, but I was wondering if the Minister would be able to provide an update on the safety concerns at the territorial parks, and second, with regards to the Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park if there's any sort of security measures that will be incorporated into the master plan. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: We are dealing with the capital. If you can rephrase the question you have, in terms of tying it to capital projects as enforcement is a whole issue, but if you have a question on capital. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Chair. It's quite kind of you to enforce that capital O & M. But again I did ask the question with regards to the master plan for the capital project of the park, and would like to ask that question again. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you for raising the important issue. For the Sylvia Grinnell Park, we have park officers that that conduct patrols during the summer seasons. In terms of whether we provide enforcement actions, we do realize that RCMP are another avenue to get enforcement dealt with. But we do have parks officers that do conduct patrols in the Sylvia Grinnell Park. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, sir. I would just like to put forward a recommendation for the Minister and Department of the Environment in the Nunavut Parks and Special Places in the Iqaluit Planning Committee.

As there have been substantial amount of concerns of safety in the park, and at times poor reception for cell phone service in terms of safety, I would like to ask the Minister to consider incorporating safety features into the master plan for the park.

I think going down the road it might be ideal to have some sort of station set up where people can quickly contact security, or the RCMP, or wildlife officers. And that's just a comment. Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* That was just a comment. Minister Qavvik would you want to comment on the comment. Okay, Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, we'll take those considerations to Parks and Special Places division. I would like to take note that we do have a community fund plan management committee within the report in Nunavut, and those can be brought over to those committees. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Following the list the names on my list, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister (interpretation) I would like to welcome the Minister and his officials. (interpretation ends) In regards to Taloyoak and Arctic Bay does the Taloyoak community have a conservation office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Member, for the question. Yes, there's a conservation wildlife office in Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki: How many conservation officers are being -- how many conservation offices is the department leasing in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: My apologies, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Rankin Inlet wildlife is under lease, also Arviat and Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na* Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How old is the conservation office in Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. It was built in 1970. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman (interpretation ends) Deserve a new building as well instead of just a renovation. Is there any consideration on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good suggestion. As a department, if we had unlimited resources, we would build a new wildlife office buildings in Nunavut.

Just based on the constraints of our resources, we can only build one new building at a time, and we have identified Arctic Bay for a new construction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Can you determine what needs to be renovated and what needs to be rebuilt. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we identify new buildings we collaborate with the Community and Government Services. Also, we as a government, we abide by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission whether will the buildings are up to Code. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Minister and your officials. Regarding the Arctic Bay wildlife office replacement project, what's the project cost you're budgeting for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Just a second, Mr. Chairman. My apologies, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I thank the member for the question. For 2025-2026 we are asking \$3,500,000 for the construction, and the design is at \$100,000, totalling 3.6 million for 2025-2026, and following next year 2026-2027 construction cost for the department will ask \$2.4 million, and \$100,000 for the design. The final year is just warrantee cost at \$100,000 at 2027-2028, totalling \$6.850 million for the total cost of Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am wondering if the estimates the department is going off of will still be current. Is that today's pricing for what you are trying to ask for? Or when was the cost estimate done; what year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, Director of Corporate Services has corporate knowledge. I would like to defer the question to her through you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current estimate we have is for this current fiscal year, and Community and Government Services is the one that gives us the estimate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And the estimates are current, they're not from 2016, 2015? When was the estimates done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the cost estimates were provided during May 2024. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And if I read the substantiation sheet correctly, it's only about just under 1400 square foot building, which is the size of a house, but

you're asking for \$6.85 million. What's attributed to that exorbitant cost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to defer the question to my Deputy Minister through you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the member for that question. I think a lot of the cost is attributed to project costs are costs of materials, construction, the location itself. It's prohibitive in terms of getting materials in, plus competing with other construction projects in the community at the same time. Those are some of the common factors.

If there's further delays, some of the early estimates working with our partner's at Community and Government Services, the general advice is usually we expect those costs to significantly increase, and we've seen that trend post-COVID generally across the board for all communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Before I go to the next name on my list, a few clarifications. I've never known a wildlife officer building construction to be a multi-year project. Generally they are just a one-year deal. It's not that big of a place. Can we get an explanation why this is a multi-year project. Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, again I would like to defer the question to my Director of Corporate Services with your approval. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason we (indiscernible) information we received from CGS. They're the one that do the construction for all our department. And based on their availability and the project manager is available, I believe they decided to do it in two fiscal years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* And this has ballooned the cost from 3.57 to 6.85 million. This is my own calculation. That's an 80 percent increase in cost. Are you sure that it should be somewhere in the books, what's the square footage cost to complete this building. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. Mr. Chairman, we're going to have to circle back and get back your question at the earliest opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I'm looking forward to that, because that is a very, very high per square foot cost, a 1400 square foot building costing 6.85 million. It might be the most expensive building per square foot that the Government of Nunavut will own. I'll go on to the next. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier the Minister mentioned Rankin Inlet's wildlife office was next on the list. In the fall of 2022 it was listed in the planning studies from Department of Community and Government Services. As of today, what is the status of that plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Mr. Chairman, I would like to defer the question to my Deputy Minister, with your approval. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Suvega: Thank you to the Member for that question. The fiscal year estimates that the Minister had mentioned, those are largely projections that we try and estimate through the capital planning process with our planning partners interdepartmentally, especially with Community and Government Services. We're hopeful that they remain on these plans. Any sort of interruptions tend to drive up project costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I didn't hear an update on a timeline or expected cost, or what's the status of the planning on that project. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my knowledge, we have gone as far as identifying a lot for the new construction of Rankin Inlet wildlife office. I would like to ask my Director of Corporate Services to further elaborate with your approval. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's still under the capital project planning. We submitted a business case this year, but he didn't go forward. Finance and CGS was not agreed to move this forward, due to other projects that are more priority than wildlife office in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if a lot has been selected and business cases was put toward to funding, that would lead me to assume that the planning for the project is completed. Are there cost estimates for this next wildlife office. Thank you.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, for the last election, to my knowledge I have no knowledge of the cost of those, but I would like to get Ms. Nweze to further elaborate on that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no cost estimate at this point for construction of the wildlife office in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm confused if there's a business cost put forward, there's usually a cost associated with it. During fall 2022 sitting the House was informed Department of Environment was working with QIA to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the construction of a shared facility in the park.

Mr. Chairman, information contained in the Departments recent capital carryover substantiation sheet indicated that the proposed Memorandum of Understanding was submitted to cabinet for approval in December of 2023.

As of today, what is the status of the understanding with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, due to significant increase in construction cost, we all know environment, CGS and Qikiqtani Inuit Association are working towards finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding to build a shared building in Clyde River. The Memorandum of Understanding has not been signed to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was submitted to cabinet in December of 2023, almost a year ago. What is the status of negotiations on that Memorandum of Understanding? Was it not approved to proceed, or was there a concern by Qikiqtani Inuit Association on the Memorandum of Understanding. Thank you.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to update the House that Memorandum of Understanding has been signed. To my knowledge, a couple weeks ago it has not been signed, but we are working to finalize the lease negotiation for the shared building with QIA and environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very confused all of a sudden. I do realize that the Minister just corrected his earlier statement that it wasn't signed, saying that it is signed, but there's still negotiations ongoing with regards to the infrastructure itself. I would just like to get a clear ... maybe give me a Coles Notes timeline of how we've come to today. Where is this project from the approval of I'm assuming back of December of 2023. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the construction of the building we are planning with Qikiqtani Inuit Association to start after the 2025 sea lift delivery to Clyde River. During the early year, this year January, QIA did not meet the timeline for sealift to purchase the material, which is delaying the process to construct a shared building. I would like to get my Deputy Minister to further elaborate on the question through you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Suvega: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the member for that question. There isn't a lot more we can elaborate on, in terms of what the Minister has mentioned so far. The MOU has been signed, and I know that the lease conditions are currently being finalized.

We're working with our partners through Community and Government Services to try and finalize some of those details. If there's any sort of delays that are known at the time,

we're trying to finalize those as well, such as different contractors or whether there are going to be contractors working around the community with our different partners. We're hopeful that there's no more significant delays on this. Any further delays will ... the estimates factored in with our partners through Community and Government Services cost will drive up, so we're trying to edge ahead against any of those. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* I would like to just revisit Arctic Bay replacement wildlife officer building. The Minister said that the Minister will circle back with the department to get a price on the square footage. I did my rough math here, and the Director of Finance can correct me there, but it's \$4892 a square foot. I believe that might be the highest per square footage cost I have ever seen. I ask the Minister does that sound about correct to you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are very good math estimates, but I would like to get Director of Corporate Services to further elaborate square footage cost through you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nweze, before I turn it to you, how I got that was 6.85 million divided by 1400 square feet, which is the size of the building, and it came out to 4892. That sounds correct, Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, your calculation is correct. The Department of Environment, we don't discern the cost of the building. The estimate we have is based on CGS review of the cost of the infrastructure in Nunavut, and that one that gave us that estimate. They know how to get the information and do detailed analysis to come up with that cost. But yes, your calculation is correct, that's what it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* That is very, very high, but I'll go to the next person on my list. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (No interpretation).

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

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment in collaboration with other departments, did their best to analyze the cost. It's going to delay process to construct a new wildlife office in our plans, and that's going to delay our plans. I would like to get my Director of Corporate Services to further elaborate whether that's a possibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Just before I go to Ms. Nweze, just for comparison, the Nunavut Housing Corporation cancelled public house tenders when they might have been 1200 a square foot, and this is four times that. Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on what CGS telling us, delay in the project will increase the cost, if we delay and bring it up last fiscal year. I don't know how they determined the estimate, but based on what they said, they did the market analysis and come up with the estimate, and we have no other option other than to go with what the cost of the estimate they give us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Community and Government Services is here. Can I ask the Minister, that Minister a question.

Chairman: If the Minister of Environment can redirect the question to Community and Government Services, it's possible. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with the approval my colleague has agreed to answer the question through you. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Joanasie are you prepared to answer the question. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe the question is around the estimates for this building and the budget before it. Through the Department of Environment and what I can say is my department, if the client department here, environment so wishes to relook at re-examine the scope of this piece of infrastructure, maybe that's an avenue we can look at to try to look at cost savings.

Also I want to remind members my department has undergone, or is reaching out to the market around doing an assessment on what other factors are at play here that are driving costs upwards. We did a callout to Public Service Announcement, and there has been good response.

There's a high interest in this area where companies that are bidding for major projects, five million and over, as well as consultants for engineering, architectural, and cost estimating.

We're getting good feedback, and we will use this information to help in our estimating process for capital projects into the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Arctic Bay conservation office, I will not be able to support that, because it's much too expensive. I am even thinking it should be removed from the plan because it's too expensive. Thank you.

Chairman: There's talk here of deleting the Arctic Bay wildlife office replacement due to the cost. If we can, we'll take a five minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 16:07 and resumed at 17:31*

Chairman (Savikataaq): Next person on my list, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, before we took the break, there's been a lot of discussion on the price per square foot for the project in Arctic Bay, and a lot of concern that it's proven in the past that every time there's a significant cost increase on a piece of infrastructure, the costs never go down, they only continue to go up.

Paying close to \$5,000 a square foot is a very, very alarming as a precedent setting example of what a contractor bid could come into. So I would like to ask first if there's an opportunity to either reduce the scope of work, or work with a partner agency like the Nunavut Housing Corporation did. The bids were continually coming in over budget, so they negotiated a contract with the entity. The power plant that's proposed in the Kitikmeot, parting with the development corp out there to lower the cost of the infrastructure project.

So I would like to get the Minister's position on that first before we continue with this line of question. Thank you.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Member, for raising the important issue. Mr. Chairman, as a department, we can further reevaluate the planning and design of the Arctic Bay wildlife office and ... hold on Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies, Mr. Chairman.

Yes, the Department of the Environment can further seek a working relationship with Community and Government Services and other entities within our territory. That's advice that we can take as a department, to get through trying to further evaluate the cost of this building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand reading between the lines and the Minister's response to that, is the Minister proposing to remove this budget from the

request and come back for a supplemental appropriation when a more cost-effective means of construction is identified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na*. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: So I'm going to make a suggestion if the Minister is going to put an amendment to the bill forward, maybe we can defer Department of Environment until that amendment is ready to go, and we'll continue on with the next department. And then when the Minister has the amendment to the bill available, he can bring it back to the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na*. Minister Qavvik, are you agreeable to the situation as is presented to you, Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'll take that suggestion into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na*. We'll be deferring the Department of Environment. Will members stay in their seat and we'll get the culture and heritage in front of us now.

>>House recessed at 16:36 and resumed at 16:37

Chairman (Savikataaq): We'll reconvene our Committee of the Whole. I would like to ask Minister Qavvik do you have officials I would like to appear before the committee.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses to the witness table. For the record, Minister Qavvik, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, colleagues. Mr. Chairman, to my immediate right is the Deputy Minister of Culture and Heritage, Teresa Hughes. To my immediate left is Assistant Deputy Minister, Jeannie Arreak-Kullualik.

Qujannamiik, Itsivautalik. The 2025-2026 Capital Estimates for the Department of Culture and Heritage is proposed as \$1,500,000. This represents a \$300,000 increase from the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

This funding is for two application-based Contribution Programs: \$500,000 for Public Library Facilities; and \$1,000,000 for Heritage Facilities.

Aligned with Pijitsirniq and the Katujjiluta mandate focus on community-based and community-led programming, both programs are distributed through the department's Grants and Contributions Policy to non-profit organizations and municipal corporations.

These programs are scaled to support improvement to existing facilities or to help leverage other funding for new facilities.

Earlier this month, I met with community partners in Cambridge Bay and marked the opening of the new Kuugalaaq facility. Led by Pitquhirnikkut Ilihatiniq (Kitikmeot Heritage Society), this project received \$550,000 in funding from my department over the last two years. Its success is a clear example of the importance of these funding programs. The proposed \$300,000 increase to the Heritage Facilities Contribution Program will help ensure that the success we saw this year in Cambridge Bay will continue to extend to other communities. Responsive to previous guidance from your committee, this 43% program increase will also help ensure existing community facilities are equipped to host exhibits from Nunavut's formal Heritage Collections.

Following Tunnganarniq and Aajiiqatigiinni, I am committed to ensuring your committee is provided all information it seeks and that we are incorporating your guidance in proposed plans. *Qujannamiik, Itsivautalik.*

Chairman: *Mut'na* does the chair of the Standing Committee have opening comments please proceed. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Chair. Welcome back, Minister, and your officials.

Thank you, Chair.

I am happy to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness concerning its review of the 2025-2026 Capital Estimates of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year is \$1.500 million for its ongoing Heritage Facilities funding and Public Libraries Facilities funding. This represents an increase of 25% from its 2024-2025 capital budget.

Members note that the department has allocated \$1 million for its Heritage Facilities Grants and Contribution funding program. The department's capital contribution program is allocated to non-profit community-based organizations and municipal corporations for the development or renovation of heritage facilities and relevant associated equipment.

Information provided to the standing committee indicates that a total of 44 community entities have received funding through these agreements since the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Members encourage the Minister to begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly which details the department's activities, expenditures and initiatives in relation to the Heritage Facilities and Public Libraries Facilities contribution programs. The reporting of specific work that has been done with these programs would be beneficial to all Members in evaluating the impact of the programs.

Members also note that the department has allocated \$500,000 for its Public Library Facilities Grants and Contribution funding program. This funding is intended to assist in the modernization of existing public libraries.

During the Minister's recent appearance, Members raised the issue of a new Nunavut Heritage Centre. Members recognize that this a major project that is currently in the planning phase and look forward to receiving ongoing updates on the status of this important work.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2025-2026 Capital Estimates of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Do members have general comments before we proceed to the detailed questions. I see none, so we'll proceed to the detailed questions. Culture and Heritage directorate. There's just one page on here. Mr. Hickers.

Mr. Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in March of 2022, Minister of Community and Government Services provided all members of the Legislative Assembly with a list of projects entering the planning stage for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

This list included that a new Nunavut heritage centre is going into the planning envelope for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. What is the status of this work.

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

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the very good question. Mr. Chairman, we have been supporting that project both through information sharing and financially. One being \$322,500 in 2024-2025 through the Heritage Facility Capital Contribution Program to support the planning and related work for the centre.

Mr. Chairman, last fiscal year the Department of Culture and Heritage provided \$200,000 through to support heritage summit exploring our territory-wide heritage network that aligns with the centre. We continue to work with Inuit heritage trust in this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've seen the design. There was a competition for a design for the new Nunavut Heritage Centre with Nunavut heritage, I can't remember if it's a society or group, but I know some of the directors on there, and they have been working very hard for a number of years to bring this project forward.

I know the Minister can't get into details on what type of discussions are ongoing, but is there similar to another project we've been talking about recently, is there an opportunity to partner with other organizations.

I know they have been trying to raise money on their own through private donors or other capital sources. I that is my first question, is the department opening to partnering with other entities on a shared ownership of the Nunavut Heritage Centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Member, for the very good question. I would like to take a note before that I met with the president of the Inuit Heritage and also the executive director on October 25, last week, and we discussed how we can better work together, in terms of getting Nunavut Inuit Heritage Centre one day in our territory here in the capital city.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, the Government of Nunavut cannot negotiate with other entities until we first get a Memorandum of Understanding signed for the planned Inuit Heritage Centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a territory, we've been waiting a long time. This was an agreed upon project back in 1999, back with the Nunavut agreement, and I'm in strong support of this program. What the Minister just said is needed in a Memorandum of Understanding to continue to progress these discussions. Is there a timeline for that to be negotiated and signed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you for that question, Mr. Chairman. Department of Culture and Heritage is working on the Memorandum of Understanding, and we're working with Community and Government Services in this area through capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My apologies. We're working towards getting a feasibility study done to this Inuit Heritage Centre, and I will entail how best to proceed with the construction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to think how to word this properly. Sorry, Mr. Chairman. A recent letter from the Minister of Community and Government Services indicated the work will continue to be undertaken for a planning study for the Nunavut Heritage Centre during this last fiscal year, or the current fiscal year.

The initial work was to include a visit to a heritage centre in Nuuk, Greenland and other sites to be determined. What is the expected timeline for that work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na.* Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The meeting happened I believe in September, and the Department of Culture and Heritage was not able to go to Greenland. I would like to get my Deputy Minister to further elaborate in this question to you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Hughes.

Ms. Hughes (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two part government through the planning process for capital projects, and also Inuit Heritage Trust also planning their capital process. Inuit Heritage Trust went to Nuuk, Greenland. The other places, we couldn't follow them. They had given us invitation, but the timing didn't go work through our department and through Community and Government Services to determine what kind of facilities, but this trip hasn't worked out.

Our project manager did not proceed as well too. When it will proceed is not clear. We are working with them. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it talks about the planning study for this piece of infrastructure, like I said, I have attended events where the design was in competition for with a number of different engineering firms and design teams, and there was a winning design. So to me a lot of the pre-planning is already done from their end already, so at little to no expense on the Government of Nunavut, so that's positive in moving the project forward.

Again, I saw it's kind of amazing how they roll the roof line into the land and it seems like it's really seamless. I know they're still working on the interior design on what type of programming would be available, and it's quite an impressive building design. I know there was some question on the lot location. There were two or three different proposed sites. Has there been a decision on the site location for the proposed building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Member, for that question. It's an impressive design. I've seen the details of that design.

For the last election there has been several areas, but up to today there has not been a selection identified yet. They're exploring between two that I am aware of within the city; one near being Aqṣarniit Hotel, and also another lot near the arena. Everyone knows of Apex Road. That's another lot area to have explored. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I mentioned earlier in one of my earlier preambles, I'll try to keep this sort. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the work that's been done to date on this, and I know it gets a little bit more complex when there's partners involved, but I encourage the Minister and department officials to work closely with Nunavut Heritage and come to terms in some way that we can actually realize this building.

I think it's going to be an amazing display of our culture and heritage and our territory. We have people visiting from outside the territory. I'm sure if that building was in place, they would probably be spending more time in there than in this room with us. I'll leave it as a comment. I encourage the Minister to help progress in project with some urgency. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. That was a statement. (interpretation ends) We're here, Culture and Heritage Directorate. Culture and Heritage Directorate, total capital expenditures, \$1,500,000.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree we have concluded with Culture and Heritage.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Minister Qavvik, brief closing comments.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, members, for your support. As you know, this is our last capital appearance as a member of the Legislative Assembly.

I look forward to the department and other community's non-profit organizations, municipal corporations to utilize the grants and contributions that we provide to anyone within the territory. They come in great use, and I commend your support. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: *Mut'na*. Officials may leave the witness table, and Members stay in their seats. We will continue our Committee of the Whole meeting with the Legislative Assembly Capital Budget.

>>*Committee recessed at 16:58 and resumed at 17:00*

Chairman: Good afternoon again. Thank you. We have the Legislative Assembly's capital budget here. I would like to ask Speaker Akoak do you have officials you would like to have before the committee.

Mr. Akoak: Does the committee agree to let the Speaker's officials before you.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness to the witness table. Please introduce your official and proceed with your opening comments. Speaker.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my right is our clerk of the assembly, Mr. Quirk.

Thank you, Chair. I am pleased to appear before you and Members today to present the proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

I am pleased to note that the proposed 2025-2026 capital budget of \$250,000 has not increased since the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

During the current Legislative Assembly, a number of improvements have been achieved at the Legislative Assembly Precinct, including the installation of a new Courtesy Flagpole, which has been used to commemorate such occasions as National Truth and Reconciliation Day.

Over the past year, the Assembly acquired a new vehicle to replace an existing asset. A major project for the current fiscal year is work to replace and upgrade all lighting fixtures and systems in the Chamber.

Potential projects for the upcoming 2025-2026 fiscal year include another vehicle replacement and the acquisition of new servers.

That concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

Chairman: *Mut'na*. Do any members have any general comments before we proceed to the detailed questions. Okay. Office of the Legislative Assembly Operations, total capital expenditures, \$250,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree we have concluded with the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Speaker Akoak, if you have brief closing comments.

Speaker: Okay, thank you. Thank you for your support, and we'll use whatever we can with that. This will be the last appearance for Mr. Quirk. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: *Mut'na*. The official may leave the witness table now. I was going to keep you there longer. Members, we'll take a short break before we commence concluding the Department of Environment.

>> *Committee recessed at 17:07 and resumed*

Chairman: Good afternoon. I would like to reconvene our Committee of the Whole meeting here we deferred Department of Environment, and we're back with Minister Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that \$3.6 million be from the proposed funding for the Arctic Bay project 2025-2026 capital estimates for the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na*. The motion is in order. A copy of the motion has been distributed to all members. Do members agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay. Environment Program Management, total capital expenditure, \$2800,000. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree we have concluded Department of Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Minister Qavvik, brief closing comments.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you members for your considerations. As I noted earlier with my department, this is our last capital estimate appearance, last member of the sixth Legislative Assembly, and I look forward to providing the programs to all Nunavut communities through the Department of Environment's programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Mut'na*. This concludes our Committee of the Whole meeting. I ask members to go to Bill 61 in your legislative binder.

>>Committee recessed at 17:14 and resumed at 17:17

Chairman: Thank you. We reconvene our Committee of the Whole meeting. We agree to go clause by clause on Bill 61, as amended, *Appropriation (Capital) Act 2025-2026*. Clause 1, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2 agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Go to schedule page 2. Schedule amount, appropriated for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, vote to capital as amended. Environment is at 2.8 million, so total capital appropriation, \$350,216,000. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Members, clause 4. Agreed

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 61 as amended.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 61 on the Orders of the Day for third reading.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: *Mut'na*. I will now rise to report progress.

>>*Committee adjourned and House resumed at 17:19*

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your Committee has been considering Bill 61, and would like to report that Bill 61 is immediately ready for third reading, and that one committee motion was adopted. 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.

Chairman: Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 61 - Appropriation (Capital) Act 2025-2026 – Third Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Hon. Member from Quttiktuq that Bill 61, *Appropriation (Capital) Act 2025-2026* be read for the third time as amended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. 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 7:

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: In accordance with the authority provided to me by motion 37-6(2) this House stands adjourned until Thursday, November 7 at 10 a.m. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:22*

