

**NUNAVUT HANSARD**

**UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

**IQALUIT, NUNAVUT**

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Beauchesne's 6th edition, citation 55

***Corrections:***

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**Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**

**Speaker**

**Hon. Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)

**Hon. David Akeeagok**  
(Quttiktuq)

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

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Indigenous Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council; Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister of Languages*

**Bobby Anavilok**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Janet Brewster**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

**Hon. Pamela Gross**  
(Cambridge Bay)

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

**George Hicket**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

*Deputy Speaker; Chair of the Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. David Joanasi**  
(South Baffin)

*Government House Leader; Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Environment; Minister of Energy*

**Joelie Kaernek**  
(Amittuq)

**Mary Killiktee**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**  
(Rankin Inlet South)

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

**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)

**Joanna Quassa**  
(Aggu)

**Inagayuk Quqqiaq**  
(Netsilik)

**Alexander Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

**Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Thursday, February 20, 2025**

**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. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Tony Akoak) (interpretation): Thank you. Before we get started, can Ms. Quassa lead us in prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker's Statement**

**Speaker:** Welcome back, everyone. Before we proceed with Orders of the Day I am pleased to welcome members back to the House for our winter sitting. I also extend a very warm welcome to elders and youth who are following our proceedings on radio, television, and Internet live stream.

I wish to begin by taking this opportunity to publicly thank the members for South Baffin and Uqqummiut for hosting Commissioner Aariak and myself during our recent visits to the beautiful communities of Kimmirut, Clyde River, and Qikiqtarjuaq. We were warmly received by the elders, students, and residents in all three communities, and our events were very well attended.

Our Legislative Assembly's Mace has now been to every community in the territory, on at least one occasion.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Earlier this year the deputy speaker and I had the honour of hosting our federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts here in Iqaluit for the 41st annual Canadian Presiding Officers Conference. The event was very successful and I am proud that our guests were able to learn about our Inuit language and culture during their time in Nunavut. I'm so proud to have our staff organize that meeting. It went very well. People in front of us did a great job. And also to Mr. Hickes for keeping everybody entertained during their stay was in Nunavut. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** I am also pleased to take the opportunity to welcome Nancy Tupik and Kooyoo Nooshoota, both of whom will be assisting us at the table during our winter sitting.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Nancy and Kooyoo are no strangers to the House, having served as table officers during previous assemblies.

I also wish to take this opportunity to advise the House that the member for Hudson Bay will remain in his constituency during the current winter sitting. The member has asked that I convey his best wishes to the House for a successful sitting, and that he does not want to be a distraction to its important work during this difficult time for him and his family.

Before we proceed with the Orders of the Day, it is my duty to advise the House that I have received the following message from Her Honour the Commissioner of Nunavut, February 13, 2025.

### **Money Message**

(interpretation) Mr. **Speaker:**

I would like to advise and ask to follow in the Legislative Assembly to have these bills passed in 2025, the winter session of the second session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly:

Bill 70, *Appropriation Operations and Maintenance Act, 2025-2026*;

Bill 71, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2024-2025*; and

Bill 72, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2025-2026*.

That is from Eva Aariak, the Commissioner of Nunavut.

(Interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Hon. House Leader, Mr. Joanasié.



## **Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

### **Minister's Statement 515 - 6(2): Ministers' Absence from the House**

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise members that the Minister Lorne Kusugak and Minister Margaret Nakashuk will be absent from the House today due to illness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Minister's Statement 516 - 6(2): Notice of Budget Address**

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform my colleagues that on Monday, February 24, 2025 I will introduce the proposed 2025-2026 budget on behalf of the Government of Nunavut. This budget will outline our government's financial priorities for the fiscal year 2025-2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Minister's Statement 517 - 6(2): \$15 Million NTI Contribution to Health Infrastructure**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my colleagues, and it's great that we're meeting again.

Mr. Speaker, the Katujjiluta mandate committed to investigating in long term care for aging Nunavummiut so that elders can live their last years in dignity, closer to family in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to announce an important milestone in realizing this commitment. The Nunavut government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated have entered into a contribution agreement to support the renovation and expansion of existing facilities that play an important part in providing elder care.

This generous contribution from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is a significant step in ensuring elderly Nunavummiut continue to receive care in a safe, culturally appropriate setting and in territory.

(interpretation ends) Ten million dollars through the agreement with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated will be used to support building condition assessment and feasibility studies for the continuing care sisters in Igloodik and Gjoa Haven. These studies will provide the path forward for potential expansions and much needed improvements to ensure that our

elders and community members continue to have access to high quality, safe, and accessible care.

Additionally, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated has provided \$5 million for the renovation of the Andy Aulatjut elders home in Arviat. The upgrades and potential expansion to this facility, alongside those in Igloolik and Gjoa Haven, represents an efficient and cost effective way to keep more elders in territory, ensuring that they receive the care that they deserve in a culturally appropriate and supportive environment.

These investments are vital to improving services for elders, and they reflect the shared commitment of the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to enhance the quality of care for Nunavut elders.

I would like to personally thank the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated executive, the board, and their senior staff for their support and collaborative approach in working with the Department of Health. There's so much that we can achieve through working together, and I look forward to seeing these projects come to fruition.

Health plans to continue the search for further infrastructure funding including from our federal partners to address the significant needs in support of aging with dignity. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 518 - 6(2): Ensuring Nunavut's Voice in Strengthening Internal Trade**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's great to see almost everybody back here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update this House on the important work Nunavut is doing as a partner in strengthening internal trade in Canada and ensuring our territory's needs are reflected in Canada's economic future.

(interpretation ends) On January 31, 2025 I joined my federal, provincial, and territorial colleagues in Toronto for a meeting of the Committee on Internal Trade, convened at the directions of the Canada's First Ministers.

With global instability, shifting trade dynamics, and looming threat of a 25 percent tariff on Canadian products from United States, it has never been more critical to reduce

barriers, improve interprovincial trade, and ensure every region -- especially the north -- is positioned for success.

Trade barriers, whether regulatory, logistic, or financial, have a direct impact on our cost of living, business development, and ability to build strong, sustainable communities.

At this meeting, chaired by Minister Cleveland of the Northwest Territories, I worked along with our territorial partners to ensure that Nunavut's realities are reflected in national trade policies. I advocated for:

- Reduce restrictions that drive up costs for Nunavummiut;
- Ensure fair access for Nunavut businesses to interprovincial markets;
- Strengthen supply chains that recognize Nunavut's reliance on southern trade routes;
- Addressing labour mobility challenges that impact workforce recruitment in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's economy is deeply connected to the national and regional trade policies, and we are committed to working with our partners to build a stronger and more resilient north. Strengthening internal trade is not just about economic opportunities, it's about ensuring that Nunavut businesses, workers, and communities can thrive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 519 - 6(2): Avannaarctic Games 2025**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I actually start, I have people of Kinngait in my thoughts.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of accompanying our athletes, coaches, and cultural performers to the first ever Avannaarctic Games, hosted by Greenland in the municipality of Ilulissat, from February 8 to 14.

Mr. Speaker, the event was dedicated to our northern cultures and keeping our traditional games alive. The week featured traditional sports and a mix of Inuit and Dene games events, including the Stick-pull, hand games, Kneel jump, Head pull, Arm pull, Four-Man carry, One-Foot high kick, two-foot high kick, Alaskan high kick, Aqsaaqqat, and the Airplane.

Team Nunavut had the opportunity to compete along with team Kalaalit Nunaat, Team Nunapkut, and team Nunavik.

Mr. Speaker, following the Avannaq Arctic Games, our athletes will have many stories to share and inspire young generations to participate. Not all of the events were familiar to our athletes, yet I was very proud to watch them learn from the other regions and participate. Overall, our athletes did very well, but our female athletes stood out and had many podium performances.

(interpretation) Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to discuss the future of Arctic sports with the chair of the recently incorporated Sport Nunavut, Mr. Romeyn Stevenson. My department has been working closely with Mr. Stevenson to establish an Arctic Sports advisory committee, which would be dedicated to overseeing Inuit games and in preparing athletes for future competitions. My department remains committed to maintaining and fostering new partnerships to promote traditional sports and ensure they continue in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mayor Palle Jerimiassen for his community's warm welcome and the hospitality extended to our contingent. Events like the Avannaq Arctic Games provide the opportunity for us to connect with our circumpolar friends, continue dialogue on shared challenges and successes, as well as strengthen our relations across the north.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit traditional games have always played an important part of our history and culture. The skills learned through and Inuit traditional games and sport are still highly relevant today, teaching our young athletes about their own mental and physical strength. I look forward to continuing this progress and cheering on our athletes at future events, including the upcoming 2026 Arctic Winter Games.

Sport has connected us and brought us the opportunity to share and learn from each other. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and in particular the athletes who were able to meet and compete.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 3, Members' Statements. Member for Tununig, Ms. Nutarak.

### **Item 3: Member's Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 699 - 6(2) Health Care Service Concerns**

**Ms. Nutarak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise a concern regarding the sustainable delivery of health care services for the residents of Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health will be aware that I'm very disappointed with the anticipated reduction in the number of paramedics in our communities. The paramedics up in Pond Inlet have come to know the community very well. They have been essential in delivering emergency services, especially when there is a shortage of nursing staff, which happens quite often.

Mr. Speaker, I do recognize that Health's nursing recruitment and retention efforts are seeing some success. We welcome the nursing staff that come to work in our community health centre, but we are not there yet. We don't want to see our paramedic service reduced while we wait for our health centre staffing to stabilize.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the Department of Health to revisit the suggestion of having a permanent doctor position established in Pond Inlet, a physician who could provide medical services to all the high Arctic communities. This would reduce the need for medical travel to Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the situation at the Sailijarvik Boarding Home is not a healthy one for medical travellers. There are still too many people there who drink and make other patients feel uncomfortable and unsafe. Consideration should be given to using the old boarding home across the road to separate the drinkers from the non-drinkers and restore some peace and comfort.

Mr. Speaker, for some who do get into trouble because of their behaviour and are denied boarding on flights or get kicked out of the boarding home, they end up homeless and hopeless. This is a terrible state to be in, especially during the dead of winter. Alcoholism is an illness, and appropriate services should be available.

Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the incredible service delivery from all our health care staff. They need support, too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Member's Statement. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

### **Member's Statement 700 - 6(2) Birthday Greetings to Nephew**

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, February 20, 2025 to wish my nephew, Cameron Junior Qirngnuq, a happy 11th birthday. Happy birthday, nephew. Mr. Speaker, Cameron junior Qirngnuq is the grandson of former Netsilik MLA Emiliano Qirngnuq, and he is no stranger to this House, Mr. Speaker. I find him a very, very honourable person and I thank him for what he has done up to this day. Mr. Speaker, he is a very, very honourable person and I thank him.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Cameron junior a happy birthday today and I love him greatly. Happy birthday, nephew

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 701 - 6(2): Medical Transition Concerns**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to resume and reinforce my request that the government establish a transit centre for medical clients travelling through Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I believe many of my colleagues are too young to know what a broken record sounds like. Back in the day when you tried to play music on a vinyl record, sometimes the needle would jump and the same segment would play, over and over again. It was tempting to skip the song, but then you wouldn't get to hear it. It was worth taking the time to polish up the record and play it one more time, so here I go again.

Mr. Speaker, far too often medical travellers are left stranded in Rankin Inlet when planes are delayed and the hotels are full. The need for a transit centre in Rankin Inlet where medical travellers can stay has been supported by many of my Kivalliq MLA colleagues.

Last year I tabled a set of resolutions from the October 2024 Kivalliq mayors' meeting with resolution number 2 advocating for the establishment of a transit centre in Rankin Inlet. I trust the Minister of Health has read it with care.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will forgive me for being nostalgic and taking an is trip down memory lane. One of my very first questions I asked in this House over a decade ago on March 10, 2014 was to the Minister of Health of the day on this very issue. Medical travellers being stranded in Rankin Inlet is a long-standing concern for Kivalliq.

I would remind my colleagues that another issue which I have raised repeatedly since first becoming an MLA over a decade ago was the need for an elders care facility in Rankin Inlet.

At the risk of being ruled out of order for using too many cliches in one member's statement, Mr. Speaker, it seems that the squeaky wheel really gets the grease as Rankin Inlet's long term care centre --

Mr. Speaker, I would like to get unanimous consent to finish my statement.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues. At the risk of being ruled out of order for using too many cliches in one member's statement, Mr. Speaker, it seems like the squeaky wheel really does get the grease, as Rankin Inlet's new long term care centre will soon be welcoming its first elders. I look forward to when Rankin Inlet's transit centre will open its door to medical travellers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 702 - 6(2): Coral Harbour Arena Operational**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, this fall in Coral Harbour the arena finally opened for the public, and children are no longer playing outdoors and utilizing fully the arena that was renovated. For that I am very grateful. Kids last year played all winter outdoors on a lake, practising and so forth. The full utilization now of the Coral Harbour arena is something I would like to celebrate on behalf of my constituents, and I would like the House to acknowledge that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Member's Statement. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

### **Member's Statement 703 - 6(2): Igloolik Arena Fire**

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to inform the House what we probably all have heard, that the community arena in Igloolik burnt down and is no longer useable.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this is a devastating loss for the community of Igloolik. Not only did the arena provide a safe space for the community to gather and stay active, but it also housed the Artcirq Black Box studio.

Mr. Speaker, the studio offered a training program which allowed community members to practise performing arts, traditional Inuit games, and circus skills.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the hamlet's fire department team for their efforts to contain the fire.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the hamlet staff for their quick response when the fire occurred. They took the initiative to open a warming centre to support community members who were displaced from their homes due to the smoke.

Mr. Speaker, I will be following up on this issue with the appropriate minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Member's Statement. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

**Member's Statement 704 - 6(2): Presiding Officers' Conference**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to echo some of your early words. Mr. Speaker, as you mentioned, we recently hosted the 41st Presiding Officers Conference in Iqaluit, with speakers and deputy speakers and clerks from across the country from almost all jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, it was exciting. I know there was a lot of work by the staff. I would like to commend the clerk and one of his first jobs in taking over the role was hosting a national event, which, Mr. Speaker, as you well know, doesn't come without a lot of challenges.

Mr. Speaker, everyone I talked to from that conference really, really enjoyed themselves here. There was members that were going out on dog teams. I brought a number of members out just touring around town, going to different venues across the city just to give that grasp of realization of how complex and how remote the conditions that we work in, and how important infrastructure is.

So these alliances that we make at different parties at different groups are so important to continue to move forward when we have people that understand where we're coming from, where some of these arguments are made.

And I really appreciate Mr. Speaker yourself as well as I mentioned, Mr. Innuksuk, the Clerk, as well as all his staff to bring forward such a real positive event.

The agenda was very informative. There was a lot of dialogue, there was really good discussion from many different members. We had a number of different delegates that visited the proceedings during the Presiding Officers Conference.

I just wanted to thank yourself, Mr. Speaker, and all the staff from the Legislative Assembly, and to thank the participants in making the trek to Nunavut. And, you know, the weather didn't quite cooperate with us. It was almost too nice, Mr. Speaker. We weren't able to get out on the land like I planned with a couple of people, but those that did go out and enjoy some of the activities around the city gave glowing, glowing reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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



**Member's Statement 705 - 6(2): Sealing Competition**

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, (no interpretation) and there have been gatherings of people but it seems like we lost quite a few people this past year, and a lot of us have been grieving because of our huge losses of our relatives.

On January 1 in the high Arctic region, we are provided first of all country food when there's going to be a feast held on January 1. Usually a hunting group is put together, both men and women, who work together and also have seal hunting contest. And through those contests we provide the seal meat on our January 1 feast.

This time around it took 11 minutes for the winner to catch a seal. Oolesee Akeegok was the first one to catch a seal, my younger brother's daughter. She caught a seal in 22 minutes at that time. There were five seals caught. Three were caught by women and two were caught by men.

And in Arctic Bay, we have a brother-in-law who has been hunting quite a bit this past year. He participated in the seal hunting contest this year. Five women caught seals and the winners were the one who caught the largest and the second one was the smallest. These women were providing us with the food.

I wanted to recognize the women and all the participants who were in this event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 706 - 6(2) Johnny Lyall**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back to all of our colleagues. Hello to everyone that's listening today across our territory and throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a eulogy of a special man who I called grandpa. He was my mom's cousin-in-law, Mr. Johnny Lyall, Senior.

Mr. Speaker, I know Mr. Lyall was a very dear man to many, including one of our colleagues in this House, the MLA for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster, who was his niece. I think of him, all of his loved ones from across our territory, in Nunatsiavut, and across Canada, as I read this statement, and I've been thinking of the family since before he passed away.

Mr. Speaker, I know that it can be hard when we lose loved ones, and I'm thinking of those who lost a dear family member or friend. Today I would like to read a eulogy that

was read by his daughter Brenda. I wanted to be there at his funeral, however due to medical reasons I was not able to be with Mr. Lyall's loved ones.

Johnny Lyall was born between Pond Inlet and Boothia Peninsula to Ernest Wilson and Sharon Michelle Lyall. Through tradition he was given to his maternal grandparents. He grew up transversing through part of the Northwest Passage in search of new beginnings for his family. Johnny was immersed in tradition and the ever-changing way of life ahead.

Johnny grew up walking from point A to point B. He would tell his family that he would walk with his older brother Napachee (ph) from Nakura (ph) to Spence Bay, 30 miles each way.

When he was 15 years old he was young man and needed to leave home to find work. In 1955 when the ice was thick enough to travel on, he went from Spence Bay to Cam-3, a Shepherd Bay DEW Line site. He had four dogs and it was his first time away from home and alone. He built himself a small igloo and waited for the military aircraft to pick him up and work at in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Quana, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

When he arrived he was taken care of by many loving people, Bev Arreak (ph) and Barry Hicke (ph), to name a couple of people, who took care of him, who took him in as his own. He met his wife Margaret and the rest is history. They married on January 21, 1962.

Johnny passed away on January 20, 2025. He did not want to be late for another anniversary. Throughout his career he worked for the DEW Line, Hudson's Bay and in 1961 he joined the force. Sorry, 1964.

1964 was a pivotal point of his career. He never attended residential school, and he was the only one of his 12 siblings that didn't attend. RCMP wanted him to go sign up as a step-up. He would interpret and guide for them. Having no formal education on paper he attended adult education and obtained grade 6, and signed up.

As a Special Constable he guarded the Queen, Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and was a good friend of Commissioner Hodgeson, who loved Cambridge Bay.

Johnny was a humble man and did not want to be in the limelight. He served in Cambridge Bay for 13 years and seven years in Frobisher Bay.

Johnny would take his family on patrol with him to Arctic Sound, Round Sound, Bay Chimal, and Bathurst Inlet. He would inoculate dogs and do police business. He served with Corporal Lyle Hawkins when they both did the last dog patrol from Cambridge Bay to Pelly Bay return.

We grew up listening to his stories and every year on his daughter Brenda's birthday he would tell her that he was on a manhunt with the late John McSagik (ph). They tracked the suspect to bay Chimal and Bathurst Inlet. When he reported in using a short wave radio, he was told that she was born. This was February 1967, the coldest time of year.

In 1984 when he retired from the RCMP, he started driving the taxi for the Co-op until after 30 years he retired in 2015. His advice was to tip big when taking a taxi.

Johnny in his younger years was the fastest runner, was an expert with the dog whip. He was also a very sharp marksman as was awarded for it. He was loved by many and made sure that people ate.

The day he was medevacked at he was at the could up and checking mail. Eight hours later he was on his way to Yellowknife.

Johnny's family cannot emphasize enough how grateful they are for the most exceptional care that he received at the Health Centre as well as in Yellowknife. They all use up together as a family and took turns caring for him, and making sure that he was not alone at any time.

So if you're ever in need of the Health Centre or RCMP or anyone doing front-line work, please be sure to be kind and ask them if they are hungry and in need of a snack.

All of the leftover food that was at the hospital was left in the patient's coffee station so that people could eat anything other than hospital food. They did this in his memory.

The Lyall and Jenki (ph) families are very grateful for the love and support they received from the community of Cambridge Bay, the RCMP, and from all over Canada.

There is a big hole in our family's hearts. This hole is filled with love of Johnny and Margaret as they are reunited in heaven. Quana, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Member's Statement. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

### **Member's Statement 707 - 6(2) Presiding Officers' Conference**

**Hon. P.J. Akeegok** (interpretation): To Mr. Lyall's family, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you and all the people who were welcomed to Iqaluit, and also my colleague, Mr. Hickes, who had dialogue with the delegates. They felt the heart-warming welcome they received from the community of Iqaluit, saw the culture of our community, and they also warmly thanked Iqaluit.

And I would also like to say thank you to yourself, Mr. Speaker, and to the staff of the Legislative Assembly. As a representative for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, I extend my gratitude to the welcome that was felt by Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 708 - 6(2): Mace Tour to Kimmirut and Commissioner Awards**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would also like to send my condolences to Mr. Johnny Lyall's family and as members of the legislature back in 2021, in December, we went to his place to have a meal and I remembered that time.

And also, Lyalls have started their life in Cape Dorset, and as Cape Dorset people welcome them and feel condolences for them.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I rise today. Back in the beginning of December we went to Kimmirut with the Commissioner. We were travelling with the Mace, and during the touring of the Mace Kimmirut residents were first time seeing the Mace but also as well I believe it's called green, the gemstone came from Kimmirut and also with the Mace Peter Pitseolak had also taken part in the carving of the Mace, and his family were able to see the work he did.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you and your staff for bringing the Mace over to Kimmirut.

I also would like to send my appreciation for the Commissioner of Nunavut for giving bravery awards in Kimmirut, recognition awards as well.

And also there were quite a few people who were given awards. And also Mr. Sandy Akavak who worked with late Johnny Lyall was given a recognition award as well. Melissa Akavak who is the elder, who have contributed a lot by helping other women.

But also, there were quite few people who did search and rescue. Back in November there was an emergency in Cape Dorset. There were many people who did search and rescue for four days, four days after their power went out. They were recognized and the work they did.

I also would like to thank each and every one of the Kimmirut residents for welcoming the Mace and the staff. This was very successful and we travelled before the blizzard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Clerk.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to Oral Question 1004 - 6(2): Kugluktuk Power Plant**

##### **Return to Oral Question 1047 - 6(2): QEC IT System transferred to CGS**

**Mr. Clerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the return to 1004 and 1047 of 6(2), which was asked during the fall of 2024 of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My beloved wife is here, she is sitting in the gallery. I also would like to say how proud I am of her for starting her career which she was very interested and she's now the minister. And just recently when she would say good morning, Mr. Minister, and I would say good morning, Madam Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you. The two ministers, I understand. I also would like to thank Kathy Hanson (ph) who is also welcoming and receptive. Although I'm from Arviat, she has always receptive to me. I would like to say thank you for being

receptive. I believe she hasn't heard under the B11 I'm sure she hasn't heard noise (indiscernible). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and have a good day and welcome.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and recognize an individual in the House who now works in Naujaat, Kathy Hanson. When I was working for Parks she was my supervisor, and she's a very good person to work with. And she's very receptive as well. No matter where we see her she doesn't change. So I would like to welcome her to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6, Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

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

#### **Oral Question 1051 - 6(2): Health Care Services Concerns**

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Pond Inlet.

(interpretation ends) My question is to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware, I have expressed concerns regarding the reductions in paramedics providing health services in my community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the minister for getting back to me with a detailed reply when I contacted him earlier this year on this issue.

For the public record can the minister provide an update on the current policy for when paramedics will be retained in that community, and especially in Pond Inlet, and clarify how that decision is based on nurse vacancy level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Member, for the question.

In regards to Pond Inlet, we had just made this available according to the needs for paramedics.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the use of paramedics began as a response to staff shortages and as a way to make sure that we can keep our health centres open and keep services available.

Beginning last year, it was roughly I believe 2021, when use of paramedics began. That was in the midst of the Covid pandemic. Beginning last year Department of Health, we switched to a more structured approach to how we are allocating paramedics.

And so to get to the heart of the matter and the member's question in terms of how paramedics are allocated to her community, directors within each region will identify a need for paramedic support based on staffing levels in a given community, and then through our nursing resource program there would be a request submitted to the paramedic contractor for staff for that specific community.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the minister. Paramedics are very beneficial to the community. I also would like to does a supplementary question to the minister.

There was a staff in Pond Inlet who was a mental health officer, or the assistant mental health officer. That individual was helping individuals who wanted to get into healing programs. That position has never been. There was an Inuk who was working in that position, and that when the position stopped it was never reopened.

I would like to hear what happened, asking questions in regards to the status of filling this position. I know it's very important to fill the second mental health officer because that mental health officer.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister describe what efforts are being made to hire a mental health worker, and when he anticipates that Pond Inlet's position will be fully staffed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I will try to respond. And in terms of a mental health worker, you know, we have mental health nurses and then we have mental health paraprofessionals. So with regards to Pond Inlet, we currently have one paraprofessional working there. We're working to fill a position in the community for the mental health nurse.

We do have ongoing challenges with our staffing of the mental health nurse positions, not just in Pond Inlet, but in many locations. That's where we've moved to offering greater flexibility in terms of casual workers who would like to come in and provide service. We allow them or we support them. We also are moving increasingly towards job shares because that's something that we've heard directly from mental health professionals that they would like to see.

We're very happy that in working with the Nunavut Employees Union and Human Resources we've been able to move to a more structured approach, and we're seeing great success with these job-share offers, so we're hopeful in terms of Pond Inlet that this will help us to make sure those important services are available to the community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to thank the minister for the response.

I would like to ask another question in regards to the doctors. We had a resident doctor in Pond Inlet, and it was viable. It was very good and it was very beneficial and it was very good for the patients. I believe that we require a doctor now when we need it at the local level.

Can you tell me whether you're looking into having a doctor in the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation) The doctors, they are dealt with like a contractor. And looking at Qikiqtaaluk region and Baffin region we have a Baffin Island doctor, Qikiqtaaluk doctor, 24.5 positions for doctors. That's the number or the figure that is required. Usually they travel -- there are 20 who travel around Nunavut and the other doctors are transient doctors. They come to the communities. If there was any doctors interested in residing in Pond Inlet, we will be in support of it, but it's totally up to the doctors where they would like to reside, or whether they would be transit doctors or if they want to reside and be a doctor in the community.

So it's totally up to the discretion of the doctors. We cannot tell them where to reside, but we are open to them. I understand your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Oral Question 1052 – 6(2): Mining Activity in the Kitikmeot**

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for Mines.

Mr. Speaker, as you are very much aware, an important announcement concerning mining activity in our region of Nunavut was issued earlier this month by the Government of Nunavut, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and B2Gold Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the announcement indicated that the three parties have signed a new memorandum of understanding to “strengthen collaboration on economic development, training, and community will be in the Kitikmeot region.”

Mr. Speaker, two of the impacted communities in relation to the Back River Gold District are Kugaaruk and Taloyoak, both of which I’m very proud to represent in this House.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm when he will be tabling a copy of the memorandum of understanding that he recently signed with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and the B2Gold Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that memorandum of understanding that we signed on February 6 was a very good agreement that every one of our operating mines now have a memorandum of understanding. And it has been our practice of making these public, but we haven’t made it into the tabling. But I’m willing to provide a copy to my colleague of the memorandum of understanding that was signed between the three parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support initiatives and investments to provide training and employment opportunities for my constituents in Taloyoak and Kugaaruk. Mr. Speaker, for clarification, can the minister highlight some of the specific commitments that are provided for in the new memorandum of understanding that he recently signed with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and B2Gold Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have had right from the get-go a very good relationship with B2Gold and with Kitikmeot Inuit Association. Those two have an Inuit impact benefit agreement that specifies very much on the training of Inuit aspects, and that they are being implementing that as part of the memorandum of understanding. This allows the three parties to agree and focus on the education, the training, and employment opportunities for Nunavummiut and making sure our communities see economic benefits from mining.

So this is a memorandum of understanding that we are going to be promoting more and more, to ensure that Nunavummiut get those much-needed jobs and much-needed benefits arising from mineral right and extraction.

I thank the member for raising this very important issue. It's something that I will continue to promote and communicate with our partners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a number of my colleagues have raised concerns and asked questions regarding the Nunavut Planning Commission's Draft Land Use Plan. Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify the extent to which the Draft Land Use Plan will impact the projects that fall within the Back River Gold District. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is still a draft and it has no impact on any of the projects and especially on this Back River project. This Back River project is a permitted is already permitted. It has gone through the Nunavut Impact Review Board and has received consent to mine within the Back River area, unless they go outside of that scope. Then they will definitely have to go through the regulatory process again.

But the memorandum of understanding that we do have is within what they are already permitted to do, within the Back River project. That's something that I will continue working with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 1053 - 6(2) Medical Boarding Home**

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, the need for a transit centre for medical clients travelling through Rankin Inlet has been raised time and time again. A year ago in March, the minister indicated that Health would be bringing somebody on to conduct a detailed analysis on travel volumes and other things that might support establishing a boarding home here in Rankin Inlet. I believe a lot of information should already been available, as the Minister of Health in 2014 also stated that this issue would be looked into in some detail.

In response to my most recent question on this issue last October, the minister indicated that the flexibility study was underway, and a Health contractor was looking at the history of travel volumes, projecting to future travel volumes and specify giving consideration pass to travellers, which in other terms is transit medical clients.

Can the minister provide us with an overview of the contractor's finding and indicate when he will anticipate providing the final report of the flexibility study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague for asking those questions.

(interpretation ends) I don't want to sound like a broken record either, but Mr. Speaker, Department of Health does care deeply for medical travellers' well-being, whether they are passing through Rankin Inlet, whether they are passing through Iqaluit. No matter where they are, we want to make sure that they are taken care of from when they leave their homes to when they return.

In terms of this topic, we have had quite a lot of discussion here in the House on this, and we had earlier in this government been providing information from a pre-feasibility study that was done. Looking at the numbers, it had indicated that the numbers of travellers going through Rankin was too low to support a boarding home.

However, in response to interest from the member and his colleagues, as well as from other residents in the Kivalliq region, we decided to take the step of going to a feasibility study, and that work is ongoing by our contractor. I don't have the results as of yet, but the plan would be to take that study to Indigenous Services Canada, who pays for the boarding homes, and to use that study to say look, this is what's needed and it let's work together to make it happen.

That report is still being worked on, the study. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do recognize that new infrastructure funding may not be available to build a new transit centre in Rankin Inlet, and I appreciate that existing health assets, including the old children's group home may be repurposed for our critical health service delivery.

However, there are other options, including work with private companies or the regional development corporation. Can the minister confirm whether he or his officials have discussed with other entities besides the federal government with respect to providing a transit centre services who are medical travellers passing through Rankin Inlet who may get stranded there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague. We have been talking about that with the Inuit regional organization in the Keewatin about this matter. We have discussed it with them. But there is never really any conversation as to who will start it. It has to start after Family Services has approved of it. Then we will be able to put request for proposals afterwards.

(interpretation ends) Looking at the existing boarding homes, Mr. Speaker, and how that process works when it comes to putting out a tender for a boarding home, say Ottawa, for example, which is an active procurement item, Indigenous Services and the Health department work together to set up the terms of the request for proposal and then it's put out. And then before that a proposal is awarded to a contractor, there needs to be an agreement between Department of Health and Indigenous Services Canada. Looking at Rankin Inlet, it would need to be a similar process.

The member mentioned the infrastructure piece. The key to seeing a boarding home operating on an ongoing basis is the operations funding, and that's where we need the approval from Indigenous Services Canada, because we are not going to pay for the operations of a boarding home. It is their responsibility through the Non-Insured Health Benefits program to pay for that.

The feasibility study, as I mentioned earlier, that's a step towards getting that agreement from Indigenous Services Canada to move forward on a boarding home in Rankin Inlet. We're working on it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I noted just a few days ago a contract was awarded for almost \$200,000 for a health integrated consulting group to address the administration of the Non-Issued Health Benefits program, which is provided through Indigenous Service Canada and includes funding for medical travellers.

According to the request for proposal document, the group will be looking at medical travel patterns and provides suggestions with respect to the resource allocation and quality improvement, among other areas.

Can the minister confirm whether the work performed under this contract will also address the need for a medical transit centre in the community of Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the colleague.

(interpretation ends) The work that the member refers to under this new contract, it may touch on the need for a boarding home or supports in regional centres like Rankin Inlet or Cambridge Bay. However, my understanding of the contract is that it will be at a higher level. It's looking at the different parts of the relationship between the Department of Health and Indigenous Services Canada under the Non-Insured Health Benefits program. There's medical travel, there's the boarding homes, there's vision and dental services. So we're looking at the different pieces and how we can try to make them work together better.

The work that the member referred to is also in light of our struggles with Indigenous Services Canada in securing the 100 percent coverage for the costs under the program. I'm sad to report that we are again running into delays and barriers to securing a contribution agreement for the upcoming fiscal year for non-insured health benefits. It's very concerning, because it's tens of millions of dollars of expense. And yeah, it's a difficult situation we find ourselves in with Indigenous Services Canada.

Our position is clear: They need to cover 100 percent of the costs of that program; their position is different. And so we are continually trying to make sure the Nunavut government does not pay for a federal responsibility. We want to use a Nunavut government dollars for things that Nunavummiut need. We don't want to be covering bills on behalf of our federal partners. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Oral Question 1054 – 6(2) Southampton Island Caribou Management**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the new Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the manager of the Southampton Island caribou population is very important to my constituents in Coral Harbour and the community Hunters and Trappers Organization. Mr. Speaker, as the minister is also aware, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will be meeting in Iqaluit next week. One of the items at the meeting is a request for board approval to initiate a process for determining the Coral Harbour based need level for Southampton Island caribou. Can the minister clarify his department's position on this request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleague for asking the question on this issue for Aivilik concern.

Mr. Speaker, caribou surveys and determination are made and we work diligently with NWMB, hunters and trappers in outlying communities, and as Department of Environment this ongoing survey and recommendations that are put forth are things we discuss. And we also include HTO in Salliq and determine what process take place in the survey.

Looking ahead, Department of Environment and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will continue in collaborating closely towards that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Malliki:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment is responsible for working with its co-management partner to undertake population surveys of different wildlife populations across Nunavut. I strongly believe we need accurate numbers to make good decisions.

Can the minister confirm when his departments plans to undertake its population survey of Southampton Island caribou herds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Southampton Island survey and the result with 1,000 caribou allowable basic need level, in May 2023 survey the estimates given was that the caribou population was around 12,000. The report submitted to NWMB and HTOs back in December, the survey results and what plans that will come forth is something will we'll be working closely with Nunavut Wildlife Management Board as we move along. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) as the minister is aware, the total allowable harvest for Southampton Island caribou is 1,000. This number has not changed since year 2019, over half a decade ago.

Can the minister clarify the circumstances in which he will consider increasing total allowable harvest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The local HTOs and NWMB, the priorities for surveys under the Nunavut agreement, the NWMB makes a recommendation to the Nunavut government whether it should increase or not, or decrease is something we would have to wait for. And the survey results are the caribou population increasing or decreasing after the survey, if NWMB feels comfortable to increase the number, is something we will review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 1055 - 6(2) Community Justice**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome all of my fellow colleagues back to the house for our final winter sitting of the sixth Assembly. I would also like to say *tunngasugit* to all the Nunavummiut who are watching our proceedings today.

Mr. Speaker, I had intended on raising the topic of Arctic security and sovereignty, but I will have to put the premier on notice for today.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today will be for the Minister of Justice and the topic will than community corrections. Mr. Speaker, this is a topic which I raised last winter on March 7, 2024.

Mr. Speaker, at that time I spoke with the purpose of parole officers also known as community corrections officers here in Nunavut. Now, they play a crucial role in our justice system by supervising offenders on probation or conditional sentencing, contributing to public safety while also supporting those offenders' reintegration into communities.

I would like to ask the minister if he would be able to provide an update to the House today as to how many community corrections officers there are, and more importantly, how many individuals are they currently supervising. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in total, Community Corrections has 27 positions. Out of those, 21 are community corrections officers, and they are located in all of the communities. And at the current, as of February 2025, there are a total of 428 clients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for providing an update on the status of Community Corrections officers, and it seems that they do have a quite a heavy load.

Mr. Speaker, returning to last winter's sitting when I brought this issue, up on that day I spoke of an article about another life lost to domestic violence, and another conviction of an individual who was on probation and in breach of court orders.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to reiterate again I'm very concerned with the rate at which we continue to read news articles of individuals who are on convictions, or who are convicted while on parole, probation, or court orders.

I would like to ask the minister if he would be able to provide an update to Nunavummiut on how many individuals or clients that are under Community Corrections supervision have re-offended so far this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have those statistics in terms of how many are repeat, or how many have -- how many under that. If I understand, I don't think we collect that data. What we have been focused on is in a bigger picture of how many clients there are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently read a job advertisement for a Community Corrections officer, and in the job description it did state that Community Corrections officer will play a role in collaboration with RCMP on any investigations of individuals who have breached their conditions while under the Corrections officer's supervision.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that this issue of five percent contributing to 95 percent of the crime is hindering public safety, and I would like to ask the minister to assure



Nunavummiut that he will closely monitor the situation with the intent of enhancing supervision, especially for high-risk offenders or clients under Community Corrections who have a past history of committing violent crimes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the member for continuing to advocate for this. It's something that I share in that, too, and something that our department continually strives on in terms of how to do better and how to keep our public safe. That's something that I will continue to work within my capacity and in directing our staff in ensuring that these expectations are met. And it's something that I want to -- I just wanted to thank my colleague for raising it, and I encourage him to continue to raise it, because the more voices we have on this, the more it gets strengthened. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 1056 – 6(2): Critical Minerals and the Mining Sector**

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues and my constituents in Baker Lake.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today is the first day of the Winter Sitting. My first set of questions are for the Minister responsible for Mines. As the minister will recall, I asked a number of questions on the last day of our recent Fall Sitting concerning the subjects of mining, critical minerals, and moving beyond Meadowbank.

Mr. Speaker, it is both extraordinary and frightening how fast our world has changed in just 100 days.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the situation with the United States is forcing us to finally recognize the important of moving decisively to streamline the process by which new mining projects, especially projects where critical minerals, are approved.

When I raised this subject back in November, the minister talked about a critical minerals roundtable, and he made reference to both the Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan. Can the minister provide a clear update today on what specific actions have been taken since that time to address the issue of critical mineral development in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll respond in two fronts. One is on the critical minerals itself and the work that we're working with Natural Resource Canada is to ensure that we try and work within our Canadian jurisdictions to see where those critical minerals can be extracted and how they can be. I keep advocating that we need more investment in order for those to be extracted and contributed to Canada.

And in these last few hundred days that my colleague mentioned, critical minerals have been in the forefront, especially in the eyes of what was our best friend in the south and the need for it. And I think the premier is meeting specifically on that, because it is an Arctic security and sovereignty issue, as tagged as part of the critical minerals and the need for us as Canadians to diversify our economy.

Far too often we relied heavily on the southern border, and now that work is to try and figure out how to do it.

In my minister's statement I mentioned that we do have a federal-provincial-territorial meetings on internal trade. There are two topics that are on that list. One is on the critical minerals, because a lot of our critical minerals just flow south or somewhere else, but not within our jurisdiction.

One of the critical things that I've been advocating for along with premier, an example is the Inuit lead project that Grays Bay would benefit Canada and the world if it was built and have access to the critical minerals that are currently identified in Nunavut.

These are fast growing items that we need to pay attention to, and this is one of the critical things that in these -- since the United States have been eyeing on these. It's something that we're seriously talking about within our Canadian body, and that's something that I'll continue to advocate for is that our territory needs investment in order for us to contribute. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister, for your response. Mr. Speaker, it has now been almost two years since the Nunavut Planning Commission submitted its recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan to the Government of Nunavut, the Government of Canada, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Since that time I have asked many questions in this House about the impact that this plan could have on such important objectives as caribou habitat protection and critical mineral development including the Ferguson Lake project near Baker Lake.

Can the minister provide a clear update today – again, I say a clear update – on the status of his department’s participation in the review of the proposed Land Use Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Mr. Speaker, my department, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is one of the many players within our government inter-committees that are reviewing the Nunavut Land Use Plan, the draft, and along with the three signatories that will require and it is led through our Department of Environment. My department is involved in all those reviews, and wherever those subject matters need to be, my department staff are there and providing input to ensure that wholesome information is provided as the decision into, on the Draft Land Use Plan before it’s made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you again, Minister, for your response. I do hope we can put this Draft Land Use Plan moving forward finally before the end of this term, actually, hopefully.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall I have spoken in this House about the important steps being undertaken by the Municipality of Baker Lake and Agnico Eagle Mines through the Beyond Meadowbank Working Committee to address the transition for our community and region.

When I raised the subject with the minister last fall, he expressed a willingness to collaborate with my community, and I thank him for that. I also thank him for one of his follow-ups, where he visited Baker Lake, toured the community, met with the hamlet council, and began in-person discussions with the hamlet of Baker Lake and it was in person in early December.

Can the minister provide an clear update today on what actions have been taken since that time by his department to support the Beyond Meadowbank Working Committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for organizing the visit I had in Baker Lake and in meeting with the hamlet and the committee itself. That was a wonderful trip that I think a lot of the work was done. We agreed to work together and make sure we communicate with each other. And I really appreciate your community for leading that.

For these discussions, Beyond Meadowbank is an ongoing and very lively discussions that are taking place. Just a couple days ago I met with Agnico Eagle Mines on the visit that we had in terms of what are the next steps. The discussions I had with him is that internally, as government, we need to sit down and in terms of what the next steps are for the hamlet of Baker Lake. I asked our staff at that in the meetings that are taking place to ensure that Baker Lake, the region, and the territory all benefit from Beyond Meadowbank. And I think that's going to set a good example of when they are closures in other mines on how we should start planning and implementing enclosures when there are closures being coming shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 1057 - 6(2) Igloolik Arena**

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon, colleagues, and people of Igloolik. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister is aware, the community of Igloolik suffered a devastating loss last week, when the Kipsigak Arena was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Speaker, the arena was more than just a building or an infrastructure asset, it was a place of gathering and welcoming and belonging.

Can the minister provide an update today on the Office of the Fire Marshal's investigation into of the cause of the fire, and can he provide an approximate timeline for when the office's report will be completed and shared with the municipality of Igloolik. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at what happened in Igloolik, and I'm quite aware of how much effect it has had on the people of Igloolik with the loss of their arena.

I would like to thank the fire fighters and the volunteers and the people who provided services. I sent my gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, to date we haven't had any information coming from the Office of the Fire Marshal's investigation into the cause of the fire. I can't tell you when the office's report will be completed and shared with the municipality of Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the minister.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, far too many communities in Nunavut have suffered similar losses in recent years. As the minister is aware, his department's current business plan indicates that its Safety Services Division "provides the private and public sectors with fire prevention, electrical, elevator, boiler and gas services, insurance of building, demolition and occupancy permits, plan reviews and related inspections."

Can the minister describe how his department has been working with the municipality of Igloolik to ensure that all required inspections of hamlet and Government of Nunavut buildings in the community are undertaken on a regular basis. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Fire Marshal's Office is tasked with helping to try to prevent fires such as these.

Mr. Speaker, there are different initiatives and ways that the office does try to protect through fire and life safety initiatives, including fire code inspections, fire origin and cause investigations, fire prevention and public education. But I'll state that the Fire Marshal's Office engages with municipal training organization also to deliver training that is specific to needs that identified by communities and their fire departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would like to see more done by your department.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Igloolik's world-famous Artcirq's Black Box Studio was located in the arena. This group has contributed significantly to the community and has told our stories around the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that planning to replace the arena begins as soon as possible. Can the minister confirm that the replacement of Igloolik's arena will be added to the government's five-year capital plan. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Again, I feel for the people of Igloolik around this huge loss; not just with the arena, the hockey rink, but also the office of Black Box Studio and where the people from the community went to use the facility for different purposes.

Mr. Speaker, for capital losses such as this, and this is a municipal asset, we are engaging with Namix to see where this stands within their insurance program.

Mr. Speaker, as with other major capital projects, it goes through the cycle of planning. We look at across the departments which is the greatest needs, and when losses such as this occur, these get factored in as well and considered what can we do in this scenario. I'm looking at where one example that comes to mind around Sanikiluaq hamlet office that the government shifted at the time.

But I think with these, we're treating them on a case-by-case basis on when or how to go about with the capital planning for the arena in Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Oral Question 1058 – 6(2): NNI Policy Restricting Internal Trade**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to question the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation on the minister's statement earlier today ensuring Nunavut's voice in strengthening internal trade.

Mr. Speaker, on the first page it says here that "it has never been more critical to reduce barriers and improve provincial trade, and ensure every region, especially the north, is positioned for success."

Mr. Speaker, on page 2, the minister indicated that he was at a meeting there with the other trade ministers, and the minister said in his statement:

"I advocate for reducing restrictions that drive up the cost for Nunavummiut."

And I agree with the minister that restrictions drive up the cost for Nunavut. So Mr. Speaker, my question is the NNI, the Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti policy, is that a restriction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the short answer is no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the NNI policy is so that Inuit firms, Inuit-majority firms or Nunavut firms will get advantage and they can actually bid more for a project and still get it from a southern company that bids less, which to me seems like a barrier, and the minister's goal is to reduce restrictions to drive up the costs for Nunavummiut.

Can the minister explain to the House here and Nunavummiut how restricting competition is not a barrier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in relation to the land claims and the requirements for that, the three territories expressed that we do, that are we are all bound under the land claims, and within those land claims are particular articles and for us, article 24 is one we, as part of the Canadian free trade treatment that we did, was to exempt that within, because it is a constitutionally protected document that Canada and Nunavut have agreed on, in terms of that. So that particular policy it is exempted under our internal trades.

The reducing restrictions that I'm talking about is that there is a lot of red tape that takes place. Even in it's under NNI, if we do need a certified work force that needs to come up here and they need to be recertified or they need to have different certifications even within our own country. Those are the ones that were our work that we're doing in through our internal trade discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand what the Minister is stating, and I thank him for his reply there that the NNI policy, Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti will still be in place and could possibly keep the cost of entering into contracts higher. That's quite the possibility.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the construction costs have gone up a lot in Nunavut since the inception of this government. It started with Covid and it's just continued on and on and on.

A lot of the capital projects that have come before the House here, they have either been delayed or asked for more money so that these projects can go ahead.

In terms of reducing restrictions, wouldn't that be a restriction if you were open bidding? Like, even if it's just within Nunavut companies, that if there's more competition, that could possibly bring the price of construction costs down in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in terms of competing against a project, the Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti is encouraging our Nunavut companies to win those bids. And within those competitions, they do bid what is in the market. And what's in the market is what's driving the cost, and to a point right now is that we don't know what those costs are in terms of the last hundred days that we are in, or under hundred days that we are under, because there is so much uncertainty in the market. Those are the cost drivers that are putting our projects at risk; not necessarily the Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti incentives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

#### **Oral Question 1059 - 6(2): Marine Infrastructure**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to Nunavummiut. I would like to rise in the Legislative Assembly using the strength of Nunavummiut. But first of all, my questions are directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and they concern the issue of marine infrastructure in Qikiqtarjuaq.

I want to ask the question of, after I read the news on the media, I would like to remind the minister, as the minister will recall the premier issued a statement last week concerning the subject of Arctic sovereignty. In his statement the premier indicated that:

“Qikiqtarjuaq is a long-standing priority for the Government of Nunavut. This port provides critical Arctic infrastructure support, national security, search and rescue operations, and maritime defence. It also reduces our dependence on foreign ports for Nunavut's essential goods. This port will create opportunities for the expansion of the fishing industry in Nunavut, while improving deep water docking capabilities in eastern Arctic. Today some funding is in place and design work and community engagement have started. However, additional investments are needed to complete the project.”

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased the government remains committed to this important project. Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update today on the status of the project. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Hon. David Akeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this time we have provided funding available for the project and for the design this fiscal year. This is ongoing, continually being worked on. It's not evident that they will need additional funding to start the project.

Also, as I keep stating to the federal government, they need to provide more additional funding for this, because this is very critical, important for Nunavut, and also for Arctic sovereignty, because Nunavut's coastline and the ocean is the largest compared to the other provinces.

So I have been talking about this to the federal government, and the Qikiqtarjuaq deep sea port has been my priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response, Mr. Minister. I'm very pleased that they are working to continually complete this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As the minister will recall, the Legislative Assembly informed during the recent Fall Sitting that the estimated cost of Qikiqtarjuaq deep water port has increased from approximately 50 million to over, as you had stated, you need additional funding, that it would go over \$300 million. Can the minister clearly explain the reasons for this increase. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The design, during the design phase and as to what could the port be used for and they identified for the use, and they are now working on the plans on what kind of work that they will need. So in review of all those things, these are the reasons why there is an increase.

We have estimated how much it will cost to complete this, the size, where they will be getting gravel and what kind of equipment they may need to complete the project. So with that, that's why we need additional funding to complete this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now the fact that it's going to be too expensive and it's something that the Nunavummiut have been expecting and thinking about the other requests (interpretation ends) To my first question the premier has publicly stated that, "additional investments are needed to complete the project."

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in the preamble to my first question, the premier has publicly stated that “additional investments are needed to complete the project”. Can the minister indicate what commitments he has received from the federal government, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and other partners to obtain the additional funding. (interpretation)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me explain a little bit more. The original budget in 2021, we gave the plans to the federal government and mentioned the price of it, and ever since that time everything has become more expensive, and this has become more expensive too.

So the premier and myself have started discussions with the federal government up to today, but we haven’t seen any indication yet from the federal government as to what they will decide.

But right now the federal government is under a prorogue, and if they’re going to be bringing out any money, then the Minister of Finance has to come up with the money. And that’s what the federal government has had to do when we don’t know when they will be able to restart in the federal government. But we have to follow their policies to create these programs and funding. That’s what I wanted to explain. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 1060 - 6(2) Grays Bay Road and Port Project**

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up today on the Grays Bay Road and Port Project, which is an issue that I have raised in the Legislative Assembly on a number of occasions.

As the minister will recall, the Nunavut Impact Review Board issued its notice of screening for this project in September 2024.

On December 4, 2024 the Board publicly released its Screening Decision Report, which recommended that a full environmental review of the project be undertaken.

On February 14, 2025 the Board announced that the responsible federal ministers had agreed with this recommendation.

Can the Minister confirm how the Government of Nunavut will participate in the review process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will be involved during the hearings of Nunavut Impact Review Board when they look at the project specific. We will contribute in terms of the information on this.

I also want to mention that we have a memorandum of understanding with West Kitikmeot that we will share the information as they do their project so any help that we can provide towards this project will go through that process too.

So there's two or three different processes that we will be involved in, and throughout. As this is an Inuit-led proposal that we want to have a say in this, and we'll participate in whatever capacity that we can participate in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I last raised this issue during the Legislative Assembly's Fall Sitting, the minister stated that he had signed a memorandum of understanding with the proponents West Kitikmeot Resources, as well as the Canada Infrastructure Bank.

Will the minister commit to tabling a copy of the memorandum of understanding in the Legislative Assembly before the end of our current Winter Sitting. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll take that for consideration whether to table it or not, but I am readily available to work closely with my colleagues with the memorandum of understanding for that project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization made a submission to the Nunavut Impact Review Board in October 2024. The submission indicated that the board of directors for the Hunters and

Trappers Organization does not support the Grays Bay Road and Port Project as currently proposed.

The board's concerns include the potential impact of the project on the health of caribou in the region, as well as the lack of clear benefits for ordinary residents of Kitikmeot communities, like Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important that organizations such as the Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization are able to fully participate in the Nunavut Impact Review Board's consideration of the project.

Can the minister confirm what resources will be available to Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization and the municipality of Kugluktuk during this process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A project of this size typically for organizations like hunters and trappers organizations, when they want to help contribute, fundings are usually provided through the Nunavut Impact Review Board as an intervenor. I would encourage the hunters and trappers to pursue that. It's something that is available, and should be.

Those voices are very important to hear, because this is a major project that's going to definitely have an impact in the region. It's something that needs to be incorporated as part of the decision-making process.

The Nunavut Impact Review Board through these reviews have funding towards, as an intervenor. And also I would encourage our hunters and trappers to talk to our government, too, and talk to the Inuit organizations, as this is a critical project that discussions need to be had.

I think the Nunavut Impact Review Board did the right thing of putting this as it needs a fulsome hearing. So thank you for the question, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members be aware time allotted for question period is over. Mr. Hickes?

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to extend the time allotted for question period. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Members seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There are none. Question period is extended for another 30 minutes. Oral questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

**Oral Question 1061 - 6(2): Nunavut Fibre Link**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question today through you to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, last October, on the 24th to be exact, I had asked the minister some questions on the Baffin Kivalliq Connector Fibre Project.

Mr. Speaker, it was announced July 4, 2024 that the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has provided almost \$272 million in funding.

In that dialogue that I had with the minister back in October, I had asked this, and in one of the minister's responses he stated that they have a working group set to advance the work of the statement of work that this Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has provided. I was wondering in the minister can update the status and makeup of that working group. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for following up on this question. It is a pretty big project to be following closely, and I appreciate his following it closely, Mr. Speaker.

My department has been working with Nunavut Tunngavik on moving forward with this project, the statement of work, and how we can work better on this project collectively.

It involves senior officials from my department as well as Nunavut Tunngavik, and they were having regular meetings, sometimes on a weekly or bi-weekly basis leading up to Christmas and things of course died down a bit throughout the holidays, but they did resume back, and Mr. Speaker, the work is ongoing. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the minister's response, it sounded like it was only department officials from Community and Government Services and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated that are meeting. No other government departments that are involved, and I find that very strange.

Mr. Speaker, also in one of the minister's responses to my questions back in October, he stated that he has correspondence with the vice president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated where there are some discussions about financial contributions for this fibre.

Mr. Speaker, since then we've had an election, and I would like to publicly congratulate Jeremy Tunraluk for winning the president's seat for Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. I'm sure from some of the comments that he's made, I look very much forward to the collaboration with the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, the minister had correspondence with the vice president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Since Mr. Tunraluk has been elected president, how many times has the minister met with or had direct communications on this project with the president? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did have discussion with the new president briefly on this topic – I'm trying to think back – in January, I believe, early January. And with that, on January 27 the president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated provided my department with a letter of support for the project, that Kivalliq Baffin connector fibre project.

I've been preparing some notes of further details around that letter to provide to my colleagues as an update, and that is still forthcoming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again going back to the discussions that I had with the minister in this House back in October, within the federal announcement there was a specific clause:

“The funding was awarded to the Government of Nunavut with the condition that the Applicant provides evidence of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's support.”

Mr. Speaker, also in the response that the minister had for me on that day stated that they're trying to meet right up until the November 1 deadline to provide the statement of work as required.

I'm hoping the speaker will indulge me, or the Minister will indulge me. It's a two-part question. Was that November 1 deadline met, and if not, why not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** I'll say that my department, we submitted our statement of work as to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission requirements, but it did not have the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated support letter at the time.

Since we have received that letter, it has been provided to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 1062 - 6(2): Tuberculosis Across Nunavut**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, very much Mr. Speaker. Welcome back, everybody, and I would like to thank my member colleagues for their expressions of condolences. I know that our family, our communities greatly appreciate those words.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health. I've risen in this House on a number of occasions to ask the government to provide up-to-date, accurate health information.

I firmly believe that being informed about our health status and with our health risks helps us make better decisions, both on a personal level and on a public and community-based level.

Recently the Government of Nunavut announced another tuberculosis outbreak in a Nunavut community, and by my count, that's four tuberculosis outbreaks in four communities over the past four years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask: Can the Minister provide an update on the incidents of tuberculosis across all of Nunavut's communities; and if he doesn't have the information at hand, would he be willing to take a document on the status of tuberculosis infections in Nunavut's communities before the end of this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleague for raising this issue. I understand where the member is coming from, and from the Department of Health's perspective, we see benefit to informing Nunavummiut about issues like tuberculosis and we look for ways to share information that protects patients' privacy, avoids re-identification of individuals in small communities, but also gives awareness to issues, whether it's tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, or other infectious diseases.

I do not have that updated community statistics in terms of the prevalence. I can say that the chief public health officer along with their team is working on an epidemiology report specifically on tuberculosis, and their plan I believe is to make that available to the public.

I can commit to seeking the specific timelines around that report, and if the report will not be coming out soon, then bringing something in response to this question sooner. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that, Minister. I think it's important for all of us to have as much information in our hands as possible, and especially those of us who are helping to hold the department accountable on this issue, so I appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, for two of the recent tuberculosis outbreaks, community-wide screening activities were conducted in the affected communities.

For one community it seems that the focus was on screening the contacts of known tuberculosis cases, and the public health advisory for the most recent outbreak indicates that the plan is to conduct targeted screening.

Can the minister clarify what factors determine his department's approach to screening for tuberculosis in a community which is experiencing an outbreak of this communicable disease. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to thank the member for the question on this important topic.

So the approach to screening for tuberculosis is determined by the chief public health officers and their team, in consultation with other staff within the Department of Health. There can also be guidance sought from national organizations, like the Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada, Indigenous Services Canada.

We also make efforts to consult with communities who are being affected. Thinking of all those four communities who are currently experiencing outbreaks including Arviat, the Chief Public Health Officer takes suggestions, guidance from the community and makes efforts to incorporate those where possible.

In terms of the community-wide screening approach, there will be a meeting where the chief public health officer will be able to answer directly to members' questions. And I should mention that she does an excellent job, a much better job than myself. And so I feel kind of uncomfortable trying to paraphrase here.



But the approach to community-wide screening is continually being revised, is my understanding, and there have been concerns around the effectiveness of community-wide screening efforts held recently in Pangnirtung and Naujaat.

And the chief public health centre officer and the Department of Health are continually looking for better ways to support Nunavummiut, to provide help, treatment for tuberculosis where it's needed as fast as possible.

And that's where this new approach to community-wide screening is being implemented in Arviat, and I have every confidence in the dedicated staff on the ground in Arviat in responding to this newest outbreak. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you Minister. You know, I think it's really important that communities are very much involved in designing any kind of a screening program. The words "nothing about us without us" comes to mind. And that community engagement is so important.

I just want to encourage all Nunavummiut to contact their public health providers and ask for a TB test. It's really simple. It's a scratch test. There's no harm in doing that, and there's a possibility to do some good by either screening yourself out, or by seeking treatment if you do have tuberculosis because that would not only protect you, but also your family and those vulnerable people around you.

Mr. Speaker, just over a year ago the Department of Health, in collaboration with a number of other entities, launched a study to explore waste water monitoring in the city of Iqaluit, as a tool to detect and prevent the spread of tuberculosis.

I wonder, can the Minister provide an update on what successes or challenges have resulted from this waste-water monitoring project to detect tuberculosis, and what considerations have been given to using this approach in other communities across Nunavut which may be experiencing rising numbers of tuberculosis cases. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

(interpretation ends) With regards to that research project in Iqaluit, I don't have the latest updates on that project. The Department of Health is not the lead on that, but we were supporting organizations. We were in support and interested, in terms of the effectiveness and the results of the research; we remained engaged with the researchers and we are very interested in terms of what we can learn through waste-water testing.

I know it's not specifically on tuberculosis, but we're also looking very closely at waste-water testing for monitoring drug use here in Iqaluit, as well as other communities.

There are some intricacies when you're looking at a community that has utilidor piping as opposed to trucked services testing, and those would need to be considered if we were going to implement waste-water testing in a community without utilidor.

But I can commit to seeing what the latest update on that research is and respond to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 1063 - 6(2) Medical Travel and Calm Air Agents**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. Again, to the Minister of Health regarding a patient traveling to Winnipeg. As MLAs, we are often informed and people approach us with complaints and suggestions of what improvements may be made.

For example, in Winnipeg the Health Department has a contract with Calm Air. And on occasion, even we have weather warnings when the weather is perfectly fine, and many times as well people waiting in terminals end up waiting in Rankin Inlet, and worried where they may have to stay.

So going to the question on a transitional home for patients, many patients are travelling, really sick often, and you want a place to rest in Rankin Inlet, if you are in Rankin Inlet. But when flights are not travelling often, the hotels are fully booked. The idea of transitional home in Rankin is something I would support.

My question is with regards to the contract with Calm Air. What efforts have been made with Calm Air concerning patients who are travelling and the hospitality shown or not shown to medical patients.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the question. We work with the airlines, in particular the Calm Air and Canadian Air. We are constantly corresponding with each other what new changes we may need, if required, and we are constantly updating each other. If there's a problem, if there's a delay, or because of delays you have people stuck in places like Winnipeg due to weather. And on occasions we work with Calm Air and ask them could you have another (interpretation ends) makeup flight. (interpretation) Those are pretty successful.

But within our contract, there's nothing identifying what action is required if there are certain, or a number of delays to issue a make-up flight. So we don't have that in writing in our contract, so it is something that we end up having to correspond further to get a make-up flight, and we don't always agree.

Going to the issue of hospitality, when we are informed what improvements should be made, when did the event occur, who was affected personally, and when we receive those complaints, we are there, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): There's also people with disabilities that fly out for medical reasons, and especially the elders who need more help from the staff. When they are in wheelchairs, I've been told on more than one occasion about not providing enough support to people with disabilities and also to the elders.

My question is what is your department doing about providing those types of support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to your question, it is something we take seriously, especially when it comes to people with disabilities and to the elders, and to provide them safe and full support. We always look at where we can make improvements.

For example, I'll use this as an example. In regards to the agreement between (interpretation ends) I'll switch to English.

Right now under the current contract, Calm Air is not required to offer oxygen for medical travellers on board their flights. Their aircraft have emergency supplies only.

However, as part of our continual search for ways to serve Nunavut medical travellers, Calm Air has committed to developing their oxygen program by the end of 2025. This is a significant project. It involves regulatory components and training for flight crews.

Health is very pleased to see this moving forward, and we're going to continue monitoring progress on this with Calm Air. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And in regards to the boarding home in Winnipeg, we have seen videos of people who are intoxicated in that boarding home. Some are fearing for their safety because of the intoxication. Are you looking at how to improve that system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to alcohol and its effect, and I'll use alcohol as an example, it is something that we hear on a repeated case and where we can make improvements.

We also work with different departments. We have also talked about providing social workers to the patients staying at that boarding home. There is a need to have a social worker in-house. I think it would make everything better if we provide social workers in all the boarding homes, at the day it is.

If there's a problem, please make sure that you inform us by way of writing, or by phone. But when they are put on Facebook, we can't do anything about it, because we don't keep tabs. It is best if we get everything in writing or if we're informed by phone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Oral Question 1064 - 6(2) Qamanirjuaq Caribou Herd**

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for giving me another opportunity.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Wildlife in regards to the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd. It is becoming a concern in our community.

Mitch Campbell in 2022 did a caribou count in Qamanirjuaq. He indicated that there were 252,900 in total population. In 2017, they were 288,000. And in 1994, they were 496,000 in total in the Qamanirjuaq herd. Is the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd declining, when we look at the past numbers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you to the member for Baker Lake in regards to the Qamanirjuaq caribou population.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there's a quite a few reasons, and we do count the caribou herd. There's the predators, for example, wolves and people hunting the herd.

There's also climate change that is one of the factors. We look at those types of things. But there are different reasons, and usually we see a decline and an increase in the populations. We also work closely with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the minister. What plans does your department have in regards to the Qamanirjuaq caribou herd? What kind of plans does your department have to protect the herd, before we go into a quota system? It's something that we do not want to see being established for that area. What kind of plans do you have? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): The Department of Environment and its partners are looking at ways how they can protect a herd. If they should become species at risk, we have to set a system in order to protect the herd by way of using tags, which is being used in Coral Harbour and the Baffin communities. We are going to have an ongoing survey on the herd.

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

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll use an example. In the Kugluktuk area and Netsilik area they have bounties set for wolves, in order to increase the caribou herd. Was there an increase in the population, or what happened after that system was set up? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Environment also did a study on wolves to see if there's an increase or a decrease in the wolf population. They set a bounty of \$500 for one wolf. It was \$300 before, but increased it. Should this caribou become a species at risk, the bounty could be set up at \$900 per wolf.

We also gather samples. To date we have 341 for 2024-2025 and there's 187,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members be aware that Question Period is now over.

Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

## **Item 8: Returns to Written Questions**

### **Question 9 - 6(2): Income Support (Lightstone)**

### **Question 10 - 6(2): Public and Staff Housing Questions (Savikataaq)**

**Mr. Clerk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the Returns to Written Question 9 – 6(2) and 10 – 6(2), both of which were asked during the fall of 2024 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committee on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Government House leader on behalf of Minister of Finance. Mr. Joanasié.

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

### **Tabled Document 346 - 6(2): Public Accounts of the Government of Nunavut for the year ending March 31, 2024**

**Hon. David Joanasié:** I am pleased to table on behalf of Minister Kusugak the public accounts of the Government of Nunavut for the year ending March 31, 2024. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Member for Arviat-South, Mr. Savikataaq.

### **Tabled Document 347 - 6(2): E-mails between the Mayor of Arviat and the President of Nunavut Housing Corporation**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a documents of e-mails back and forth between the mayor of Arviat and the president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the mayor of Arviat on behalf of the other mayors asked a simple question, I'm interested in the number of homes where Kivallirmiut can move into and live since Nunavut 3000 was announced. How many houses have been completed in Arviat, Baker, Coral, Chesterfield Inlet, Naujaat and Whale Cove. And there was no answer, no simple answer.

So I would like to table this, and I would like the MLAs to read it and make up their own minds too, because all the MLAs here in Nunavut, they know what buildings are being completed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation and what's been ready to move in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. There are no items in the committee. Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole. There is no report. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills.

I recognize Mr. Savikataaq.

### **Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 63 - An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act - Third Reading**

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that many of my colleagues and Nunavummiut who are watching our sitting today may be feeling a sense of *déjà-vu*.

As you will recall, there were ten bills on the order papers for the third reading on the last day of our recent Fall Sitting.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately by the time we reached the last bill on the list, we were in such a hurry to finish the proceedings so we could begin the Clerk retirement ceremony, and it was a good one, that we for get to formally vote on my motion for third reading. So Mr. Speaker, we're going to do a do-over and make sure we vote this time.

With that being said, once again, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Baffin South, that Bill 63, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. To the motion.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** All in favour? Agreed. Motion carried. Bill 63 has been read for the third time. Thank you.

Item 22, *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Mr. Clerk:** Thank you. Tomorrow morning at 9, February 21:

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
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** This House stands adjourned until Friday, February 21 at 9 a.m. Sergeant-at-Arms..

>>*House adjourned at 16:22*



**Appendix** - Feb. 20, 2025









Nunavut Maligaliurvia  
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut  
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

### **Return to Written Question**

**Asked by:** Mr. Adam Lightstone, Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak

**Asked of:** Honourable Margaret Nakashuk, Minister of Family Services

**Number:** 9 – 6(2)

**Date:** October 24, 2024

**Subject:** Income Support

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**Question 1:** Please provide demographic information concerning income support clients in Nunavut's three largest communities as of March 31, 2023.

**Response:** Please see *Appendix 1* for table representing total head of households, spouses, dependents, and ages of income assistance recipients in each community. Please note that the details included are the extent of what our data system can track and provide.

**Question 2:** Please provide information on the number of youths who aged into income support for the three largest communities for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023.

**Response:** There was a total of 206 youth who aged-in (18 yr old) into Income Assistance in Nunavut for the fiscal year 2022-2023.

The 206 reflects the number of youths who were dependents of the household, but once they turned 18, they were no longer dependents.

The table below illustrates the number of you who aged into income support in each community for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2023.

Community	Age 18
Kuqaaruk	20
Cambridge Bay	6
Kuqłuktuk	4
Taloyoak	17
Gjoa Haven	17
<b>Regional Total</b>	<b>64</b>

Whale Cove	2
Coral Harbour	7
Arviat	35
Naujaat	20
Chesterfield Inlet	1
Rankin Inlet	3
Baker Lake	9
<b>Regional Total</b>	<b>77</b>

Sanikiluaq	13
Resolute Bay	0
Qikiqtarjuaq	4
Pangnirtung	21
Iqloolik	24
Clyde River	16
Pond Inlet	17
Arctic Bay	8
Kimmirut	7
Hall Beach	9
Cape Dorset	17
Iqaluit	11
Grise Fiord	0
<b>Regional Total</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>Nunavut Totals</b>	<b>288</b>

**Question 3:** Please provide information on the number of income support clients diverted in the three largest communities for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023, broken down into the following:

- a. Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) Program
- b. Adult Learning and Training Supports (ALTS)
- c. Employed
- d. Other

**Response:**

- a. There were a total of 14 Income Assistance Clients receiving FANS living allowance that also required 'top up' assistance from Income Assistance.
- b. There was a total of eight Income Assistance Clients receiving ALTS funding that also required 'top up' assistance from Income Assistance.
- c. Currently, our system does not track clients gaining employment. However, we will request our software developer to add a feature to capture this information moving forward.
- d. There was a total of 206 youth who aged-in (18 yr old) into Income Assistance in Nunavut for the fiscal year 2022-2023.

**Question 4:** Why are relevant income support statistics not included in the *Minister's Report on Poverty Reduction*?

**Response:** The department has not considered including income support statistics in the *Minister's Report on Poverty Reduction* before. However, the department will ensure they are added to these reports going forward.

Appendix 1

Community	HOH	Spouse	Dependents	Age	Age	Age	Age	Age	Age
				18	19 to 26	27 to 44	45 to 59	60	61 to 64
Kugaaruk	200	59	194	20	94	87	40	3	2
Cambridge Bay	222	24	131	6	48	97	76	3	9
Kugluktuk	227	36	229	4	42	108	87	6	15
Taloyoak	262	71	291	17	87	139	62	5	3
Gjoa Haven	293	64	267	17	105	144	72	2	5
<b>Regional Total</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>1112</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>34</b>
Whale Cove	38	6	45	2	11	21	10	0	1
Coral Harbour	167	27	160	7	83	74	22	0	7
Arviat	498	75	467	35	196	210	114	4	9
Nauyasat	188	49	227	20	81	88	31	1	1
Chesterfield Inlet	31	3	21	1	4	17	8	1	3
Rankin Inlet	102	18	95	3	26	39	44	2	7
Baker Lake	226	23	137	9	59	105	60	6	12
<b>Regional Total</b>	<b>1250</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>1152</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>40</b>
Sanikiluaq	245	44	243	13	89	114	58	2	10
Resolute Bay	13	1	5	0	4	4	5	1	0
Qikiqtarjuaq	150	30	116	4	41	84	41	0	6
Pangnirtung	308	48	259	21	100	127	92	2	7
Igloodik	393	89	492	24	144	202	84	6	9
Clyde River	199	44	185	16	58	103	51	3	6
Pond Inlet	308	30	254	17	73	159	71	2	9
Arctic Bay	142	25	175	8	36	86	27	0	4
Kimmirut	109	10	77	7	31	44	33	0	7
Hall Beach	166	37	202	9	58	91	40	1	1
Cape Dorset	327	73	362	17	94	174	90	2	15
Iqaluit	601	52	277	11	81	300	213	9	32
Grise Fiord	12	1	4	0	4	6	0	0	2
<b>Regional Total</b>	<b>2973</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>2651</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>1494</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Nunavut Totals</b>	<b>5427</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>4915</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>1649</b>	<b>2623</b>	<b>1431</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>182</b>



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Nunavut Maligaliurvia  
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut  
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

## **Return to Written Question**

**Asked by:** *Joe Savikataaq, MLS Arviat South*

**Asked of:** *Hon. Minister Lorne Kusugak, MLA  
Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Number:** **Written Question 010 – 6(2)**

**Date:** November 15, 2024

**Subject:** *Public and Staff Housing Construction*

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### **Question (1):**

With respect to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's news release of April 28, 2023, concerning the "signing of design-build contracts for the construction of 150 new public housing units" in the communities of Arctic Bay, Arviat, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Taloyoak, what is the current status of design, land lot development and construction for each of the 150 new public housing units?

### **Response:**

In all communities the design is complete, and land leases have been executed with the applicable Hamlet or City and Table 1: 2023/24 Public Housing Builds outlines the progress on each of the 150 units.



**Table 1: 2023/24 Public Housing Builds**

Community	2023/24 Public Housing Builds					
	2023/24 starts	Materials onsite	Site work/ Foundations - Start	Framing/ Floors/Walls/ Roofs- start	Target Substantial Completion Date	Current % Complete
Arctic Bay	8	Fall 2023	Fall 2023	Summer 2024	Fall 2025	45%
	12		Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Fall 2025	14%
Arviat	8	Fall 2023	Summer 2023	Winter 2023	Summer 2025	46%
	12		Fall of 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2025	27%
Baker Lake	8	Fall 2023	Summer 2023	Fall 2023	Summer 2025	46%
	12		Fall 2023	Fall 2023	Summer 2025	44%
Cambridge Bay	12	Fall 2023	Fall 2023	Summer 2024	Summer 2025	44%
Gjoa Haven	8	Fall 2023	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Fall 2025	40%
	12		Fall 2023	Spring 2025	Spring 2026	10%
Iqaluit	18	Fall 2023	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Fall 2024	100%
Rankin Inlet	8	Fall 2023	Fall 2023	Winter 2024	Summer 2025	46%
	12		Fall 2023	Summer 2024	Summer 2025	46%
Taloyoak	8	Fall 2023	Winter 2023	Spring 2025	Spring 2026	25%
	12		Winter 2023	Spring 2025	Spring 2026	14%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>150</b>					

Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak experienced various delays relating to site work and granular that resulted in the framing of floors and walls to be moved out to Spring 2025.

**Question (2):**

What is the current level of Inuit employment in respect to each construction project announced by the Nunavut Housing Corporation in its news release of April 28, 2023?

**Response:**

NCCD is contractually obligated to achieve 30% total Inuit labour averaged across all 150 units – so not necessarily 30% for each community but 30% overall.

NCCD is required to report on Inuit labour on a quarterly basis and data will be more meaningful once each build is approximately 30% - 50% complete as the Inuit labour target is required to be achieved at the end of construction progress and not something that requires to be met at each invoice stage.

In terms of the 150 units in the 2023/24 builds, only the communities of Iqaluit, Arviat, and Baker Lake commenced framing of floors, walls, etc. in fall 2023, thus, these projects have Inuit labour data to report.

The other communities started framing of the building in summer/fall 2024, thus, Inuit labour % is not available at this time given NCCD reports its detailed labour data on a quarterly basis. NHC should have initial Inuit Labour data early in the new year. Inuit Labour achieved to date for Iqaluit, Arviat and Baker Lake is as follows:

Iqaluit – approx. 20%

(NCCD is just preparing its final Inuit labour reports now that the build is complete so this number may change slightly.)

Arviat – 35% (as of current stage of progress)

Baker Lake – 29% (as of current stage of progress)

**Question (3):**

With respect to the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s news release of January 31, 2024, concerning the “signing of the 2024 Annual Allocation and Purchase Agreements (Design-Build Contracts) to develop 146 public housing units and 20 staff housing units” in the communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Coral Harbour, Grise Fiord, Igloolik, Kimmirut, Kinngait, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Naujaat, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay, Qikiqtarjuaq, Sanirajak, Sanikiluaq and Whale Cove, what is the current status of design, land lot development and construction for each of the 146 new public housing units and 20 new staff housing units?

**Response:**

In all the 17 communities the design is complete, and land leases have been executed with the applicable Hamlet. Table 2: 2024/25 Public Housing Builds outlines the progress on the 146 public housing builds.

**Table 2: 2024/25 Public Housing Builds**

Community	Public and Staff Housing Builds 2024/25				
	2024/25 starts	Materials onsite	Site work/ Foundations	Framing/ Floors/Walls/ Roofs	Target Substantial Completion Date
Chesterfield Inlet	8	Summer/Fall 2024	Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Summer 2026
Clyde River	8	Summer/Fall 2024	Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
Coral Harbour	12	Summer/Fall 2024	Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
Grise Fiord	6	Summer/Fall 2024	Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
Igloolik	8	Summer/Fall 2024	Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
	12		Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
Iqaluit	6 (+18 SH)	Summer/Fall 2024	Summer 2024	Summer 2024	Spring 2025
Kimmirut	6	Summer/Fall 2024	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
Kinngait	8	Summer/Fall 2024	Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
	12		Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
Kugaaruk	6 (+2 SH)	Summer/Fall 2024	Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
Kugluktuk	8 (+4 SH)	Summer/Fall 2024	Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
Naujaat	6 (+2 SH)	Summer/Fall 2024	Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
Pangnirtung	10 (+6 SH)	Summer/Fall 2024	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
Pond Inlet	6 (+2 SH)	Summer/Fall 2024	Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
Qikiqtarjuaq	6	Summer/Fall 2024	Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
Resolute Bay	6	Summer/Fall 2024	Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
Sanikiluaq	6 (+2 SH)	Summer/Fall 2024	Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
Sanirajak	6 (+2 SH)	Summer/Fall 2024	Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
Whale Cove	6	Summer/Fall 2024	Fall 2024	Summer 2025	Fall 2026
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>152 Public Housing 38 Staff Housing</b>				

*Note: In Iqaluit the reference to the 18 staff units may end up being divided into GN Staff Housing and also Staff Housing for City of Iqaluit should their \$5m contribution to this project be realized as anticipated.*

**Question (4):**

What is the current level of Inuit employment in respect to each construction project announced by the Nunavut Housing Corporation in its news release of January 31, 2024?

**Response:**

As indicated above, site and foundation works are underway, and materials have arrived at all 17 communities. Framing of floors, walls and roofs will begin in spring/summer 2025 so at this time, there is no Inuit labour numbers to report. Once building framing commences NCCD will report on Inuit employment results for each project on a quarterly basis. As is the case for the 2024/25 builds, NCCD is contractually obligated to achieve 30% total Inuit labour averaged across all 166 builds – so not necessarily 30% for each community but 30% overall.

**Question (5):**

In what specific ways does the 2023 Annual Allocation and Purchase Agreement between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and NCC Development Limited differ from the 2024 Annual Allocation and Purchase Agreement between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and NCC Development Limited?

**Response:**

The contracts are quite similar although the community location, number of units and prices vary.

**Question (6):**

What is the Nunavut Housing Corporation's timetable for publicly releasing the 2023 and 2024 Annual Allocation and Purchase Agreements with NCC Development?

**Response:**

NCCD contract amounts are provided in NHC's Contracting, Procurement, and Leasing Activity Report, which is published on an annual basis. NHC tabled the 2023-24 CAR/PAR/LAR report in the Legislative Assembly on November 6, 2024. The 2022-2023 CAR/PAR/LAR report was tabled March 8, 2024.

