

**NUNAVUT HANSARD**

**UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT**

**FRIDAY, MAY 23, 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 Community Services;  
Minister of Human Resources;  
Minister responsible for Nunavut  
Business Credit Corporation; Minister  
responsible for Nunavut Development  
Corporation; Minister responsible for  
Trade; Minister responsible for Mines;  
Minister responsible for the Workers  
Safety and Compensation Commission*

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

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

**Bobby Anavilok**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Janet Brewster**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

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

*Deputy Premier; Minister of  
Education; Minister of Justice;  
Minister responsible for Labour;  
Minister responsible for Human Rights  
Tribunal*

**George Hickes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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

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

*Government House Leader; Minister  
of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Nunavut; Minister of Environment;  
Minister responsible for Energy*

**Joelie Kaernerik**  
(Amittuq)

**Mary Killiktee**  
(Uqqummiut)

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

*Minister of Finance; Minister  
responsible for the Nunavut Housing  
Corporation; Minister responsible for  
the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis  
Commission; Minister responsible for  
the Nunavut 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 Nunavut Arctic  
College; Minister responsible for  
Homelessness; Minister responsible for  
Status of Women; Minister responsible  
for Poverty Reduction*

**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  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Friday, May 23, 2025**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Ms. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Joseph Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 09:01*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Deputy Speaker** (Mr. George Hickes): Thank you. I would ask Ms. Quassa to lead us in prayer today.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker's Statement**

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Quassa. I would like to thank everyone for watching their clock yesterday. We did manage to get through everyone for question period, so I think that was an accomplishment, although we might have to close it a little bit tighter because Speaker Akoak is expected back later today, so I will be going back to my question seat on Monday.

Item 2, Ministers' Statements. I'll start off with Minister of Health. Minister Main.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 583 – 6(2): Launch of the Medical Travel Handbook**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to announce the launch of the *Nunavut Medical Travel Handbook*, a comprehensive and updated resource designed to make medical travel easier and more efficient for Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) This new handbook is a result of collaboration between the Department of Health's Medical Travel Division and the Office of Patient Relations, and it will provide critical support for those travelling for medical care outside of the territory. The handbook includes valuable information such as tips, check lists, and

answers to frequently asked questions. It aims to help patients better prepare for their medical journeys, ensuring they understand what to expect and how to navigate the medical travel process. From pre-travel advice to understanding what services are covered this tool is designed to improve the overall experience for both patients and their escorts.

As we continue to support Nunavummiut in accessing the health care they need, the launch of this handbook marks an important step in our commitment to providing comprehensive and accessible health services. It will help ensure that patients and their families are well informed and better prepared for their medical travel, ultimately leading to a safer and more organized process.

The *Nunavut Medical Travel Handbook* is available on line on the Government of Nunavut website, and hard copies will be available at all health centres in all languages.

I encourage all Nunavummiut to take full advantage of this resource. Together we can continue working towards improving health outcomes and ensuring that all residents have access to the health services they need when they need them. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Minister Nakasuk.

### **Minister's Statement 584 – 6(2): Client Relations**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues, and also to the people of Nunavut, good morning.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share an important update from the Department of Family Services. On April 24, 2025, the Family Wellness Division launched a new Client Relations office. This initiative ensures that Nunavummiut have a clear, respectful, and confidential way to voice concerns related to child protection, residential care, and family wellness services.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, we heard from families and communities and from members in the House that Nunavummiut need a trusted place to be heard. The department has responded. The Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit principle of Inuuqatigiitsiarniq (respect for all people), Tunnganarniq (building constructive relationships), and Ikajuqtigiinni (working together for the common good) are reflected in our government's commitment to client relations. These values are embedded in how complaints are received, reviewed, and resolved.



Community members can reach this new Client Relations office by email at [yourvoicematters@gov.nu.ca](mailto:yourvoicematters@gov.nu.ca), or by calling 1-844-FWCHILD (1-844-392-4453) to speak with a Client Relations Specialist.

Here is how it works. Concerns and inquiries are acknowledged within two business days. A response is provided within 14 business days. All feedback is treated with strict confidentiality. Serious concerns, such as child abuse or neglect, are referred immediately to regional teams under the *Child and Family Services Act*.

By making complaint processes more accessible, prompt, and culturally responsive, we are strengthening public trust and helping ensure that our services remain accountable and are continuously improving.

*Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 585 – 6(2): Celebrating Ten Years of the Hivuliqtikhanut Leadership Program**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Good morning. Before I start my statement, I would like to stay good morning to Celia Kulula (ph).

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Hivuliqtikhanut Leadership Development Program—a Government of Nunavut initiative that continues to strengthen and inspire leadership across our public service created in 2015.

The Hivuliqtikhanut Program was designed specifically for employees to build leadership capacity at all levels and support the development of a representative public service.

The program consists of three key streams: the Emerging Leaders Series, for new and aspiring managers; the Supervisors' Series, for those with leadership experience; and the Senior Managers' Series, for individuals currently in or transitioning to executive roles. Each stream helps empower employees to lead in ways that are grounded in Inuit Societal Values and reflect our culture, priorities, and vision.

Mr. Speaker, this year we proudly celebrate the graduation of the 10th cohort of the Emerging Leaders Series. This group includes 19 Inuit participants from 11 departments and agencies across nine communities. The training, delivered through a blend of in-person and virtual sessions, began in October 2024 and concluded in February 2025.

With this cohort, a total of 338 Government of Nunavut employees have now graduated from the Hivuliqtikhanut Program—239 of whom are Inuit. This milestone demonstrates our continued commitment to implementing Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims and support Inuit leadership within the public service.

Mr. Speaker, the ongoing success of this program is thanks to the dedication of our facilitators, mentors, and Elders, whose guidance enriches every cohort. We also acknowledge the critical support of our funding partners, including the Article 23 Implementation Fund.

To all graduates past, present, and future, *qujannamiik*. You are the leaders who will carry Nunavut forward.

*Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 586 – 6(2): Strategic Partnerships in Renewable Energy Projects**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me a second time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight Qulliq Energy Corporation's ongoing support for renewable energy development and for two transformative initiatives that hold great promise for Nunavut's future. While these projects are not owned by Qulliq Energy Corporation, we are proud to support and collaborate with these projects to help advance clean, reliable, and locally beneficial energy solutions.

(interpretation ends) The Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link is an Inuit-led initiative spearheaded by Nukik Corporation. This visionary project will connect the Kivalliq communities of Arviat, Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Whale Cove to Manitoba's hydroelectric grid and broadband network. It promises to deliver clean energy and high-speed internet, reducing our dependence on diesel and opening new opportunities for economic growth.

In April 2025, the Governments of Nunavut and Manitoba signed a joint statement of cooperation to advance this initiative. As part of this partnership, Manitoba Hydro has committed 50 megawatts of reserve load capacity to support the project's development. This is a significant milestone, bringing us closer to achieving greater energy stability, lower emissions, and long-term cost savings for Nunavummiut.

In addition to the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link, Qulliq Energy Corporation is also supporting the advancement of the Iqaluit Hydroelectric Project, another promising initiative in our transition toward clean energy.

Led by Nunavut Nukkiqsautiit Corporation, the Iqaluit Hydroelectric Project aims to replace diesel-generated electricity with renewable hydro power. The proposed facility is planned for development approximately 60 kilometres northeast of Iqaluit, along the Kuugaluk River, and is expected to generate between 15 and 30 megawatts of electricity. Qulliq Energy Corporation was pleased to see the project recently secure additional Federal funding to support technical and environmental studies.

(interpretation) Qulliq Energy Corporation's support for these two major initiatives reflects our broader commitment to advancing energy solutions that are both sustainable and community-driven. By continuing to work alongside our partners, we are helping shape a cleaner, more reliable energy future for Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Nakashuk.

### **Minister's Statement 587 – 6(2): Senior Management Updates**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we all know the Public Service is a foundational pillar to action the hopes and expectations shared in this House. As the *Nunavut Agreement* created our government, we have the obligation and the privilege to support Inuit employment at Nunavut Arctic College. Senior officials play a vital role at the College by providing leadership and support to our broader team. Today, I am proud to confirm two new Inuit to the College's key senior management team.

The College welcomes Majorie Kaviq Kaluraq as the new Vice-President. This role was left vacant when Jackie Price, another strong Inuk leader, transitioned into the President's role in October 2024. Ms. Kaluraq has been with the College since 2009 where she began as an instructor for the Nunavut Teachers Education Program, and since then, Ms. Kaluraq has taken on more responsibility within that program and has been present and active during key areas of growth.

The College also welcomes Lizzie Aliqatuqtuq as the new Dean of Education, Inuit and University Studies. Ms. Aliqatuqtuq's portfolio includes the Nunavut Education Program, Early Childhood Education, and the four programs under the Inuit Language and Culture program. She has worked with the College in various capacities, starting as an Adult Educator in Qikiqtarjuaq, and has taken on additional responsibilities within the Inuit Language and Culture Division. Ms. Aliqatuqtuq is fiercely committed to promoting Inuit excellence in the work she does.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit employment is about more than numbers. It is about the drawing on the experience of those people who know the strengths our beautiful territory has to offer and who understand how resilient our people and communities are. I am proud that the Nunavut Arctic College continues to grow by drawing on the strength and commitment of its Inuit team.

*Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister for Nunavut Arctic College. Back to *Orders of the Day*. Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Lightstone.

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

#### **Member's Statement 787 – 6(2): Public Safety (911 Service)**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to say happy Friday to you as well as all of our guests and members, or sorry, Nunavummiut that are watching our proceedings today.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned yesterday, I would like to continue on my theme of public safety. I would like to give the new minister of the department of community service notice that I intend to follow-up on the important issue of introducing 911 emergency services to all Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, in 2017 the CRTC, the Canada Radio-television and Telecommunications Agency, directed all telephone companies to update their networks in order to be ready to provide for the next generation 911 voice and text-messaging service. Mr. Speaker, this is a new and improved 911 service, and once launched will give Canadians and first responders new tools that will enhance public safety by providing quicker and more accessible communication during emergencies. This will make it possible to provide additional details about emergency situations. For example, in the future Nunavummiut will be able to send a video of an accident as well as make medical information available to first responders. This will lead to safer, faster, and more informed emergency responses, and enhance services for those hearing- and speech-impaired.

This transition to the next generation 911 service is a shared responsibility between all levels of government and telecommunication service providers.

Mr. Speaker, territorial municipal governments will need to ensure their emergency call centres are ready for this new service. I would like to give notice again that at the appropriate time I'll be asking for an update on the Government of Nunavut's response to prepare for this public safety enhancement. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Member's Statement 788 – 6(2): Celebrations in Chesterfield Inlet**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say good morning to the people of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a couple of recent events in Chesterfield Inlet. Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago Chesterfield Inlet's new airport terminal was opened. It is very good for the community to have this new facility, and I would like to thank David Akeegok, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, and Minister David Joanasie, Minister of Community Services, for coming to the community for the grand opening. We were also joined by Simionie Sammurtok, the mayor of Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, at the time we had another cause for celebration. Mr. Andre Tautu was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal. I would like to congratulate Mr. Tautu for his recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is good news for the community of Chesterfield Inlet and I'm very happy to share with my colleagues today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Member's Statement 789 – 6(2): Postponements During Search and Rescue**

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank the Koomiut Co-op in Kugaaruk, Hiniqtuqhiut Katimajit in Taloyoak, as well as the Sculpin Derby committees in Kugaaruk and Taloyoak for postponing their derbies last weekend, out of respect to the families of the two couples that were being searched for. Thank you all. My hat is off to you all and that is great respect.

So, Mr. Speaker, the fishing derbies will go ahead this weekend and I thank both of my constituent communities in the constituency of Netsilik for respecting the families of the two young couples last weekend. It humbles me greatly, and as their MLA in the House, Mr. Speaker, it makes me proud when they make great decisions out of respect in trying times, when it is needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 790 – 6(2): Birthday Greetings to Wife**

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Good morning, Mr. Speaker. It's a beautiful morning today and it's a Friday and I'm very happy that I woke up this morning with my wife. It's her birthday, and I wish her a happy birthday. I want everybody to know she didn't want me not to tell anyone, but I want to tell everyone. I'm always very happy when there's a birthday. I'm very happy today. My beautiful wife, Carol Akeeagok, have a great day on your birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Happy birthday, Carol. Item 3, Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

**Member's Statement 791 – 6(2): Commissioners Awards and Coronation Medals in Kinngait (Joanasie)**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to all my colleagues and everybody in the South Baffin.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today. The Commissioner of Nunavut was able to come to Nunavut back in March, and she was presenting King Charles III medals while recognizing the people. I would like to recognize major Jimmy Manning and master printmaker Shuvina Ashoona. They received the King's Medal as recognition.

Also, the Commissioner was able to recognize people from different communities for different reasons, and it was really recognized by people in Kinngait. The term is called *Ijjirmiktaujuq* in Kinngait. It's a recognition medal and the fire chief and the search and rescue group, and also our elders in the community that provide their knowledge to fellow community members. And even young people were able to be recognized. It was real great to see. And also one of the oldest elders were recognized.

Also people who have saved other people's lives during accidents or other things happening. We always remember people who saved other people, and we're grateful that they were able to be recognized by the Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Joanasie. Members' Statements. Seeing none, next item on the list. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Gross.

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

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Ullaakuut.* Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I would like to welcome some special guests into the House today from Connected North. We have with us today we have Jennifer Corriero, who is the executive director and co-founder of Connected North.

>>*Applause*

We also have Michael Furdyk, who is the co-founder and director of technology.

>>*Applause*

As well as Barry Green.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, Connected North has been working with schools across Nunavut for over a decade, delivering thousands of live, interactive learning sessions that bring curriculum to life. They partner with Inuit content creators, science centres, museums, and more, all to support and inspire our students.

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut and our Department of Education, I thank each of you for the work you do enriching and celebrating our culture in the classroom across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to recognize two other special people here, a former instructor of mine, and somebody who I highly look up to, which is Jackie Price. She is a phenomenal woman and I would just like to congratulate her formally into her new role as our president of the Nunavut Arctic College. Alongside her and welcome her to her new role Lizzie Aliqatuqtuq. We really look forward to the work you'll do with the NTAP students and all the students that you serve and work with at the Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** I would like to thank you all for the work that you do on behalf of Nunavut, and welcome to the gallery. Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I would like to recognize two women that are in the Assembly. I'm very proud of them, from the Arctic College, and they have a higher positions now.

(interpretation ends) First I want to introduce Jackie Price, who transitions into the president's role in October 2024 after serving as the vice president. The college also recently welcomed Lizzie Aliqatuqtuq as the new Dean of Education in Inuit and University Studies, and she couldn't be here. and my apologies, Ms. Kaluraq couldn't be here this morning, but we certainly do welcome her to her new role as the vice president.

But I certainly want to introduce these three Inuit women, very powerful women, fiercely committed to providing Inuit excellence in the work that they do. Please join me in welcoming them into the House. *Qujannamiik*.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Once again, welcome to the House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Good morning and thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize and I stand to recognize our women, in particular my fellow community residents and I won't be the only one who will be calling her *ukuaq*, in-law. I always called her. Ms. Aliqatuqtuq, welcome. I'm very proud of you for your continuation and success and your strength, and a very good role model. Since you were young, when you moved to Qikiqtarjuaq you have been non-stop working, and very good seamstress as well. I'm very proud of you. And now a resident here in Iqaluit. Let's all call her *ukuaq*, in-law.

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names. Go to Oral Questions. First name, Mr. Lightstone.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Oral Question 1221 – 6(2): Public Safety (911)

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my member's statement, I would like to continue along the theme of public safety and my questions today will be for the Minister of Community Services regarding preparing Nunavut for the next generation 911 service that will enhance public safety by providing quicker and more accessible during emergencies.



As the minister will recall, I previously raised this issue during last Fall Sitting. When I asked the previous minister about this, he had confirmed that the government was “monitoring and look into this issue.”

I would like to ask, can the minister provide a clear description today of what specific legislative and technological actions need to be taken to ensure that all Nunavummiut have access to this important public safety enhancement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Government Services, Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our department continues to work towards getting 911 for Nunavut. It is through working with other governments, in terms of having dialogue through the federal, provincial, territorial meetings at the directors level. So getting that done. Also on identifying the infrastructure need that’s required to set up 911 is. And this would be managed by Northwestel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. I do hope that Northwestel will be prepared to roll out this very important initiative in a timely manner. Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out when I raised this issue previously, the Canada Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has already given clear direction to service providers to be prepared for this next-generation 911 service.

At that time the previous minister committed to me that he would work with his department into looking into providing formal submission to the CRTC with respect to the sale of Northwestel to the 60 North Unity Group. As the minister may be aware, the board of directors at Nunavut Tunngavik recently decided to reallocate 36 million it had previously dedicated to support the sale of Northwestel on the grounds that the proposed purchase did not come to fruition.

I assume the government has been kept informed about this issue and I would like to ask, can the minister indicate what his understanding is with respect to why this proposed sale did not occur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our government has been monitoring this, and we viewed it that it is a business decision and that it’s not the role of the government to get into that business. But we have been monitoring that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As previously indicated, it will be quite, very important that all level of governments collaborate with service providers to ensure this roll-out occurs. From my last question, as this will require interdepartmental collaboration, I would like to ask, can he confirm, or sorry, how or if the Department of Community Services is collaborating with the Department of Justice and the RCMP to roll out this important initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of different roles that need to get in, in order to get 911, the RCMP, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police being one agency, our ambulance and firefighters would be another. So there's a lot of work that is getting to try and build a 911. At this time we don't have that capability, but if and when that does happen, all those agencies will need to be a party to this. We continue to have discussions. Our staff continue to have discussions to those that will be impacted in terms of how to do it, because once you launch it you will need to have all official languages ready and also the infrastructure that is needed in order to run the 911. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Oral Question 1222 – 6(2): Critical Minerals**

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut, and Qamani'tummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I have more questions today for the Minister responsible for Mines. Mr. Speaker, during yesterday's question period I drew attention to the house to a public statement that was recently issued by our territorial chamber of mines. I will quote from it again:

“Nunavut's mining sector still faces a lengthy regulatory process compounded by multiple permitting processes, excessive reporting and overlapping jurisdictional requirements, all of which can discourage investment and delay critical minerals.”

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to hear the minister say that he shared my concern with this statement. My question for the minister is this: What specific actions will he take to address these concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of mines, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the devolution agreement that our government signed, this allows us to start looking at the processes that affects development throughout the territory, and it is through collaborations and working very closely with the Nunavut Impact Review Board or the Nunavut Planning Commission to make sure to get the processes streamlined so we can get development quicker. I think the institution of public government does wonderful jobs when they are thoroughly reviewing the projects, and that's something that we'll continue to try and enhance and work closely with. It's a collaborative effort that we're going to need to take, because those are enshrined in the Nunavut Agreement that we have to follow. But it's something that I think we can work within our territory to improve those processes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for the response. It's music to my ears that the department and the minister continue to work on streamlining some of these processes.

Mr. Speaker, I will again state for the record that it should not take a decade for a new mine to begin operations. When it comes to critical minerals and their importance to economic transformation, we cannot wait that long.

Mr. Speaker, I was also pleased to hear the minister say that he is currently writing letters to a number of new federal ministers to make them aware of Nunavut's concerns and priorities. Will the minister commit to tabling these letters as well as the federal replies to them in this House at a later date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Community Services, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll share the letters with my colleagues once those letters are, exchanges do come back. I don't want to commit to tabling letters because that's probably going to flood our tabling documents. But I'm definitely prepared to share whatever correspondence I go back and forth with with my federal colleagues, with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a final statement here. I appreciate the minister's work. I'm glad it continues to work with us. We do need to ensure that some of our critical minerals, or we gain access to some of these critical minerals in our territory. As I have stated many times now in this House, we have one mine closing. That's the mine closest to Baker Lake in just three years now, and we cannot waste any time. We need to ensure that we speed up some of these processes. That's just a final statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. That was just a statement. I will go to the next name on my list. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Oral Question 1223 – 6(2): Status of Chesterfield Inlet’s Naya Isabelle Facility**

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Ullaakuut.* (interpretation) Good morning, Chesterfield residents.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker as the minister will recall, a series of unfortunate incidents and the deaths of two residents at the Naya Isabelle home in Chesterfield Inlet led to the closure of the facility. The government requested the RCMP, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, to investigate and in February of this year the investigation was completed.

Can the minister provide an overview of the investigation, its findings, and describe what steps have been taken to address issues raised during the investigation, to ensure this type of thing does not happen again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your question on this issue. The investigations that took place after the deaths in the home have been completed. However, to date I cannot divulge the details. The investigators along with the RCMP have had to disclose the information, so I cannot get into specific details. However, the residents at the home were moved to another facility for the investigation taking place.

The investigations have not been disclosed as yet by the RCMP to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Major Crime Unit concluded that no evidence was found to suggest any criminality of the deaths of the two clients who were in the care of Naya Isabelle home. It is my understanding that the government will be reopening the facility as a group home in the near future, once some structural repairs have been completed.

Can the minister provide an update on what kinds of services will be provided at the group home once it is reopened, and whether former employees will have the opportunity to work there again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The request for proposal that we released for its opening closed without anyone giving any submission for the fact that the building still needs renovations, and we're looking at the renovations. Upon the completion of reservation and we will decide what use will have for the building. That was went through the contract. The previous staff that were there once, it's open again, I don't know if they will be awarded again, but all this will be cleared out upon renovations are completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, ever since the sad and unfortunate incident at the Naya Isabelle home, there has been a dark cloud over the community. It is a relief to know that there's no evidence of criminal behaviour in this case. However, Chesterfield Inlet residents have felt a burden of judgment. The minister's silence on this matter has not helped to alleviate the sense of blame.

Now that the RCMP have exonerated the former employees of the Naya Isabelle home, will the minister commit to apologizing to the people of Chesterfield Inlet for her lack of support for those residents who worked at the facility and were left unemployed and discredited as a result of these incidents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that question.

(interpretation ends) First I want to mention that when there were concerns brought forward to our department regarding the care of the people that stayed at Naya Isabelle, we did hire a third-party investigator to ensure that the government wasn't investigating its own work, contracted to Pimaksirvik. And also from that third-party investigation there was evidence that there wasn't enough care taken. So there is no apology to be made, because the investigation from that did show that there was some, there wasn't enough support. There wasn't enough work done to ensure that people that were in that facility, they needed more care.

I do recognize that the RCMP did state that there was no evidence of mistreatment, but in our care we have to ensure that people who are in a facility are well taken care of, and we did have to send them out to a different facility to ensure that they get the proper care.

Because of how things have run, Pimaksilirvik, we had to cancel that contract because of the lack of care in that area, but we have also sent our staff to the community to meet and discuss the issues that were brought forward to us, and they have been met more than once from the department staff to ensure they understood what was happening.

And what the long-term plan for those employees, I can't speak for them. We did provide supports in areas of ensuring that they get the support to get more resumes out, but I do understand the frustration of not getting the employment back within the community. We have done our service to ensure that they get the support to further their training or employment, but at this time, because it's not government employees, we have to, there are steps. We offer service to any person who wants to apply for any position within or outside of government, and I do believe the government did what they had to do to ensure people get the support. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 1224 – 6(2): Igloolik Arena**

**Ms. Quassa:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Community Services. As the minister will recall, the community of Igloolik suffered a devastating loss earlier this year when the Kipsigak arena was destroyed by fire. I again pay tribute to first responders and I again express my thanks that no lives were lost during the disaster. Can the minister provide an update today on the office of the fire marshal's investigation into the cause of the fire, and can he provide an approximate timeline for when the office's final report will be completed and shared with the Municipality of Igloolik? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have a firm update on the actual investigation. When I do, as the member wanted the number of people involved will we'll definitely share that, and as soon as I know, I'll update the member and the Municipality of Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to receiving that update.

(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 and issuance of building, demolition and occupancy permits, plan reviews and related inspections."

Can the minister describe what new fire prevention initiatives his department is working on. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our staff at Safety Services does regular and thorough review of the technical aspects of the building codes and the fire codes as they get updated, and that work continues to proceed and when an incident like a major fire does happen, that also is part of the lessons learned in terms of what else can be prevented. Our Safety Services staff are the ones that would write those technical codes and find the best practices throughout the country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I want to take this opportunity to thank the many community members who have been stepping up in recent weeks and months to identify ways of providing recreational programming to the community. Mr. Speaker, Igloolik's world famous Artcircus Black Box Studio was located in the arena. It is important that planning to replace the arena begins as soon as possible.

Can the minister clearly describe how his new department is working with the new Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to include a new arena in the government's five-year capital plan. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department is working very closely with the hamlet of Igloolik, as this was a municipal infrastructure and it was insured under the municipality. We will exhaust that process before we start seeing whether our government will be providing extra funds, but it's one that is currently is through the municipal insurance company. That would be the first step in terms of replacing the arena. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Oral Questions. Next name I have on my list, Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

#### **Oral Question 1225 – 6(2): Medical Travel Concerns**

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, it seems that I must raise the issue of medical

travel at each of our sittings, as my constituents continue to experience difficulties in this area.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update on any recent initiatives that his department is implementing to improve medical travel services in the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) And in terms of raising medical travel as an issue, you know, it is one of the largest programs within the government. Just looking at the volume of travel, you know, 27,000 return trips in the last fiscal year. So it's a program that impacts many Nunavummiut and I thank the member for continuing to raise the importance of making improvements.

The *Medical Travel Handbook* is a major initiative that we have been working on for quite some time. I'm very pleased to see it roll out. And it will help Nunavummiut right across, including Kitikmeot residents. Looking at the handbook, which I have here in front of me, it will be available at the health centre level. It will be available in all four facial languages, including Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, and looking at the handbook it's a wealth of information.

We have heard that we need to communicate better and that our medical travellers need information so that they can access services and supports during travel or before travel, and so this handbook is a major initiative that we're pleased to see moving forward. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the hard work that the medical travel staff do to ensure that Nunavut residents can get to their appointments and get back home again. However, sometimes unexpected difficulties arise, and when that happens, after no more working hours, it is very difficult to get any answers from medical travel staff.

After this concern was raised to me several times by my constituents, I tried calling the after-hours number myself, but there was never any answer. This is very concerning.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain why there is no one available for medical travel to answer the after-hours phone number when medical clients face problems with their travel outside of regular working-day hours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Main.



**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) You know, I'm going to have to disagree a bit on the premise of the question. There are staff available after hours. I'm sorry to hear that there was a time or a specific call that was not answered. The 24-7 medical travel supports in each region are important to our clients, and we do have clients travelling every day of the year, so there are supports available after hours.

If there is a lack of response from the 24-7 line in any given region, then I would highly recommend that the individuals who are being affected submit complaints with a specific time, specific date, and when the calls were not being answered and we can have those addressed.

There may be times when the phones are not answered immediately. It's usually because staff are on the other line dealing with another client. So I would encourage clients to submit complaints if they are being affected, so that we can work to address these issues. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that sometimes there can be difficulties switching over phones or there is a time gap in the handover of calls. At the same time medical travellers should be able to get support and assistance to address their travel issues when they arise.

Mr. Speaker, for clarification, for the benefit of Kitikmeot residents who may be listening and for my own reference, for information that I can pass on to my constituents, can the minister provide some additional contact information, perhaps another phone number option for medical travel clients to use when they have problems with their medical travel and cannot get an answer on the after-hours medical travel phone line. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the opportunity to get some numbers out there. I'll provide the 24-7 numbers that do exist in each region. There are three separate numbers. In the Kitikmeot it's 844-886-8010. In the Kivalliq it's 884-886-8020. In Qikiqtaaluk it's 866-371-3305.

As I mentioned earlier, I would encourage anyone who is being affected by gaps in service in terms of that 24-7 coverage to flag those, and make sure that you submit a complaint, likely to our Office of Patient Relations staff, so that we can follow up on any gaps in coverage. As I mentioned those numbers and services are important for our

travellers and we want to make sure that they are available no matter what time of day or no matter where a client is in their travels. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

### **Oral Question 1226 – 6(2): Contaminated Sites**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to revisit the issue.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Environment. Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of contaminated sites, in my constituency especially, Uqqummiut.

As the minister will recall, I last raised this issue during our winter sitting. (interpretation ends) At that time I asked for an update on the Cape Christian Contaminated Site Remediation Project, but it was confirmed to me earlier this week it's Patricia Bay Contaminated Site Remediation Project, which is located near the community of Clyde River.

In his response to me the minister stated that "a draft consultation report is expected... It has not yet been determined which department is responsible for remediating that site."

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague for your questions in regards to get an update in regards to this.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I did want to, and I'm glad that my colleague is bringing this up again because we do want to ensure that we're talking about the same sites here. If my colleague recalls, the Cape Christian site that I was referencing, it was, according to the notes that I had at the time, what I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the old town site that my colleague references today are also known as Patricia Bay, if I'm not mistaken.

Environment is responsible to assess the liability and risks of all Government of Nunavut lands and assets, and for that particular site, results from the field work that had been conducted by Environment in the summer of 2024 recommends remedial action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Killiktee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that's how it is. You understood my question on the site that you just mentioned. That's how it's named, Patricia Bay. The Patricia Bay site was abandoned by American military and handed over to the Government of Canada in the year 1975, half a century ago. The community of Clyde River is very concerned about this long-standing issue, and especially asked me to push for action and request that I rise again to speak about this.

Will the minister commit to visiting my constituency this summer so that he and his senior officials can see the site with their own eyes? So that you can actually analyze the site as well, once the snow is all gone? If you can visit the community this coming summer and that's what I would like to hear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Yes, Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the member for pushing this issue forward. Mr. Speaker, the Minister for Community Services, Minister Akeegok as well might be, his department might also be responsible for this as well. I'll negotiate with him to make sure that we can go visit the community, once we have the free time in our calendar. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for committing to coming to visit our community and I would like to go with you. If you would like make the visit there, I can wait for you in the community for your arrival this coming summer, if possible.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) can the minister confirm how many other contaminated sites are located in Nunavut and also near Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, and can he indicate the approximate cost of fully remediating these sites. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is an ongoing work Department of Environment is working on through the Contaminated Sites Liabilities Working Group. I understand that there was some attention provided to this, the work of that group during the standing committee's hearing. But I do know that they're trying to collect an inventory of all the contaminated sites across the territory and where they are. Those details I don't have readily available, but once I do have that, I'll be sure to share that with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Oral Questions. Next name I have on my list, Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaermerk.

**Oral Question 1227 – 6(2): Improving Services by Family Services**

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people. I was going to ask a question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, but I will be redirecting it to the Minister of Family Services.

As the minister's, member statement that there will be a telephone service, but first of all, my first question. Nunavummiut, the majority of the population are Inuit in Nunavut. What is the process that you will be working with? Will they be providing Inuit people to respond to the telephone calls? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your question. The receptionists will be able to speak Inuktitut and English. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. First supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's very good to hear, because people who, since English and French are recognized in Nunavut, this is very important.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General of Canada reviewed the child and family services. Have you considered after the hearing that the Canadian Auditor General feels that it's very better to provide the services to children and youth. Once this is rolled out to the communities like for example, if a person from Igloolik would call, as you had stated, that they would take two days to respond, but after two days, that they will be able to respond.

What's the process with this for the communities? We have social workers at the community level. How will this be providing better services to Nunavummiut? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have heard many concerns in regards to staff, and also if there was a belief that there was a concern in regards to a child being neglected, so these phone numbers that we provided, the people will be able to call, make calls to the phone number, if there's a belief by someone else.

But also but we do have to abide, the family social services workers will have to follow the rules that they have. So sometimes, due to ignorance, concerns arise due to lack of knowledge in the process of dealing with this. But the concerns, if there are concerns, if there was a concern about children not being taken care of properly, so there are phone numbers and we will be hearing different concerns in regards to this.

The concerns that were raised by Auditor General of Canada have identified and recommended many issues under the department. And our department has been working hard to look at different ways how to improve this, and we want to be more open to the communities. That's part of the reason why we want the process to be understood by the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, family wellness is part of our traditional values in Inuit, as you had stated, Inuit traditional knowledge that they will be using in providing services. It's just a comment, not a question.

But I would like to state as well that in regards to hiring Inuit within the government, I believe that it should have been reviewed first before you came up with the list of phone numbers, because Inuit traditional knowledge and providing service is quite different from European social services. But I'm sure you could come up with a staff rather than a phone number at the community level, if they had used traditional knowledge. I urge the department to come up with a traditional knowledge staff workers at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. I didn't hear a question. I'll go to the next name on my list. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

#### **Oral Question 1228 – 6(2): Concerns About Medical Services**

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I just want say in Kugluktuk there was a deceased, and these people in Kugluktuk, I send my regards and sincere condolences.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my member statement, there are concerns regarding the medical services which are being provided to my constituents. Often a diagnosis is made very late, after many visits to the health centre, only for a client to be sent home with Tylenol or Motrin.

Can the minister explain how his department works to ensure that adequate medical services are being provided in communities like Kugluktuk, which have limited access to doctors, and whether he is considering any policy changes to include the current situation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I send my condolences to people of well the family who lost their loved one in Kugluktuk.

(interpretation ends) In terms of the services that are provided at the community level and the need to provide quality health care to Nunavut residents, it is very fundamental to not just Nunavut Department of Health but to our whole country. When you look at the *Canada Health Act* and, you know, it sets out the desire or the objective around providing quality care to all Canadians, no matter where they live. And so it's very fundamental.

I'll try to keep my response short. In terms of the quality of the care that we're providing at the community level, there's a number of different factors that do impact it: Obviously the amount of resources that we can put into any given community. Kugluktuk for example, we are limited by our budgets in terms of the number of staff, the quality of the infrastructure, the adequacy of our infrastructure, but we do work within the budgets that we are provided.

In terms of the quality we do have a program within the department, a continuous quality improvement program where incidents at the community level, at the health centre level are tracked, and there's an ability to conduct investigations out of incidents and to follow up on those investigations so that we are continuously improving the quality of service to Nunavummiut, including Kugluktuk. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is very sad when an illness that could have been diagnosed earlier becomes fatal in a very short period of time. This can result in an elder having their lifespan cut shorter in their final years. And recently a very young person in Kugluktuk passed away after their illness was not diagnosed and they became very sick in a short period of time.

Can the minister clarify what steps his department takes to review such cases where an individual's illness is left undiagnosed and progresses so rapidly that they pass away before any effective intervention is undertaken. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Just to state that when I respond I'm not responding to any individual cases. I'm not able to speak to individual cases, out of respect for client privacy, and I don't want to cross any of those lines.

In terms of the continuous quality improvement program, we do have incident analyses that are conducted for the purpose of assessing critical events and recommending corrective actions to improve care.

All reported deaths in Nunavut receive a preliminary review to determine if a review of care services is indicated. This is a program it also has an electronic medical record component, so we ensure documentation is a part of this.

Just looking at the volume of interactions between clients or patients and care providers, we're looking at hundreds of thousands of interactions in Nunavut's communities over the course of a year, so that's where the recording and the data is really important for us.

There's also the ability of the family of an individual or an individual themselves, to submit complaints regarding the care they have been provided, either through the Office of Patient Relations, or there's also other complaint processes that are available to flag concerns. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Second and final supplementary. Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the lack of having immediately accessible doctor services is a big factor in illnesses going undiagnosed. Kugluktuk only gets doctor services half the year. It would be much better for the health of the community's residents if a doctor could be available on a more consistent basis.

Yesterday's press release announced the launch of the virtual critical care program for the Qikiqtaaluk region. The release notes "the first few hours of a critical illness are vital." This is an issue of concern in the Kitikmeot as well.

Will the minister commit to explore opportunities to increase doctor services and critical care services for the community of Kugluktuk? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, I can commit to that. We are looking for options or avenues to provide similar supports for Kivalliq and Kitikmeot. The virtual avenue of services has been expanding incredibly fast over the past couple of years, and it's through the support of this House and the support of my colleagues here that we have been able to continue the trend of providing more services to Nunavummiut, more specialist services at the community level.

In terms of advocating for more physician time for communities, that's the sort of lobbying and concern that could, and in my opinion should, make it into future territorial

budgets. It's only with the support of this House that we're able to continue increasing services to communities, including Kugluktuk. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Oral Questions. Next name I have on my list, member for Tununig, Ms. Nutarak.

**Oral Question 1229 – 6(2): Public Safety in Pond Inlet**

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say good morning to the people of Pond Inlet and everyone in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the new Minister of Justice and they concern the important issue of public safety in Pond Inlet. Mr. Speaker, I have raised the issue of public safety in Pond Inlet on a number of occasions in this House. Many of my constituents continue to express their concern regarding the illegal importation of alcohol and drugs in Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker the government's approved 2025-2026 business plan indicates, its environmental scan that, "combatting bootlegging and drug trafficking is a key objective of the Government of Nunavut and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The government continues to work with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other partners, including Canada Post and the airlines, to address illegal importation of drugs and alcohol into communities."

Can the minister clarify, clearly explain what specific actions her department is undertaking to address this important issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Justice, Minister Gross.

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. We always want our communities to be safe, and for our communities to have that peace of mind for the communities to feel publicly safe. So I thank all of our, first of all I want to thank our RCMP members across the territory, including the ones in Pond Inlet, for their work that they do to keep our citizens safe.

In terms of working with Canada Post, we do at the Department of Justice feel fully committed to partnering with Canada Post to tracking public safety issues, and we have constantly pushed for Canada Post and the Government of Canada to implement a Nunavut-specific northern strategy, which will help enhance the efforts to stop illegal mailing of alcohol and illicit drugs. We also have been pleased that Canada Post recently ramped up their capacity efforts to interception of non-mailable items, such as illicit drugs and alcohol, and through these intensified measures they have achieved notable success with their intervention work.



Also, the Department of Justice is engaged with various stakeholders in Nunavut to help gain a better understanding with the associated challenges of the transportation of drugs and alcohol in our territory, and these stakeholders include the Canada Post, the airlines, and the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, in November 2020 Canada Post introduced its Indigenous and Northern Reconciliation Strategy. Mr. Speaker, the strategy outlines a number of priorities. One of the priorities is to “support the viability, wellness and safety of Indigenous communities... This includes working to reduce the non-mailable matter, such as alcohol and illicit drugs, that enter these communities.”

Can the minister clearly explain how her department in collaboration with Canada Post is working to reduce illegal transportation of drugs and alcohol into Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Justice, Minister Gross.

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. There is a lot of work that is happening with the Director of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, the representatives from Canada Post, as well as the Department of Justice who have met to talk about the allocation of resources for continuing inspections. Also worked on the pilot project in November 2023. And also, on January 20, 2025, our colleague, our former minister of justice, wrote to the federal ministers of justice and public safety and public works to show that our commitment to helping the resource enhancement and enforcement.

So there is a lot of work that has been happening, also within our department and with the RCMP and those stakeholders that we work with. I can commit to sharing a more detailed response with our colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I look forward to that. Mr. Speaker, the department’s approved 2025-2026 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2025 is to “work in partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to create and implement a crime prevention strategy.”

Can the minister confirm when the new crime prevention strategy will be tabled in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Justice, Minister Gross.

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. As you know, there is a crime prevention strategy that is being worked on, and it will be part of the RCMP shared directional statement and discussions, which will be coming forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Oral Questions. Just before I go to the next name on our list, I would like to remind members to keep your questions and responses concise. I have few more names. I would like to get through everyone on my list today. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

### **Oral Question 1230 – 6(2): Power Outages and Infrastructure**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm short and I'll try to keep it short.

>>*Laughter*

My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I just want to begin by saying how much I appreciate and respect the corporation's linespeople and other front-line crew who, by the very nature of their work, put their lives at risk to serve Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, the corporation issued a very detailed public service announcement earlier this month concerning recent power outages in Iqaluit, and Mr. Speaker, I was concerned to read in the public service announcement that two of our six power plants' generators have been out of service this winter. It stated a new generator will be brought into service this summer; and another generator is being replaced as part of our system improvements, with no timeline attached to that. And that's one-third of our capacity.

Can the minister elaborate today on the reasons for why these generators have been inoperable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Iqaluit power plant, it's our largest facility in Nunavut. It's the only power plant that we do have staffed 24 hours a day. Just mentioning that, in terms of the importance to the community of Iqaluit, we fully understand that it is a facility that needs to be well-maintained.

Looking at the gen sets specifically, those were inoperable due to mechanical breakdowns. We are working on a number of upgrades to the plant, so the generators that we're talking about are very large, maybe from here to the member, in terms of the size of the engines. They are absolutely massive.

We do have supply chain issues that affect us in terms of being able to make timely repairs to some of the units at the Iqaluit plant, and that is due to the fact that they are a European design, and so their supply chain in terms of trying to get spare parts as they are needed across the Atlantic ocean do impact us in terms of trying to make timely repairs. But we look forward to new gen sets coming on line at the plant, which will increase our reliability. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I admit I did try to sneak in a second question regarding the timeline about when that would happen, and I didn't hear that response, but I did listen very carefully to the minister's statement yesterday, and I empathize with my colleagues representing smaller communities who have also been experiencing outages that can't be addressed until a repair crew is flown in. Mr. Speaker, I was happy to hear that emergency generator units are being installed in a number of communities.

We know that losing power in a plant entirely can happen. It has happened in Pang and it's happened recently in Sanikiluaq. Mr. Speaker, there are close to 10,000 people living here in the capital city, and I wonder, can the minister outline what backup power generation infrastructure is in place in the event of a catastrophe at the main plant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We do have some limited capacity looking across the city. Different areas of the city's, say, key facilities like the hospital do have some backup. The airport has its own system. So there is some, I guess you would call it site-specific backup, emergency power capabilities.

In terms of the Iqaluit plant, it is partitioned so that the idea being that in the event of a fire that we would hope there would be only a portion of the plant would be lost. However, fire in Iqaluit or any other community is one of our biggest concerns and it is one of the things that we do raise when we are lobbying for additional federal funds to upgrade or build new power plants, is when we have facilities that are 50, 60 years old, there is an increased risk of catastrophic failure. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that part of the delay in restoring power during the outage that occurred during the blizzard recently was partially due to having to clear the roads so that repair people could get in there. I hope that both the city and the power corporation have taken this into account, and maybe plan for regular clearance. In the event of, for example, a fire, we want emergency services to get there as quickly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, when we did experience that hours-long power outage last week, I very much appreciated the frequency with which the corporation kept the public informed about the status of that repair work.

I am concerned, however, that we are very dependent on what I fear may be a very small number of highly skilled technical staff who can address complex engineering situations. Mr. Speaker, the minister faces a similar challenge when it comes to the recruitment and retention of positions in other health care professionals.

I wonder, can he describe what actions are being taken by the Qulliq Energy Corporation to ensure that it has the necessary numbers of trained staff that are needed to keep the lights on in 25 of Canada's most remote communities. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for that question. The member is correct; without our talented and dedicated staff, we would be unable to fulfil our mandate.

One of the things that we have done recently is looking at our benefits and salaries that we pay, or the wages that we pay to our staff, ensuring that we are competitive nationally. So that's an important aspect when we're trying to attract these skilled tradespeople. They are in demand right across the country – right across the globe, actually. So we need to make sure that we are competitive. And at the board level, at the senior management level, that work is ongoing.

The other big thing that we have to offer is strong support for professional development. Qulliq Energy Corporation works hard to make sure that our staff, no matter which position they are in, has an opportunity to advance their skills. And as an employer that's a big advantage that we do offer to our staff. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

**Oral Question 1231 – 6(2): Community Infrastructure**

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community Services.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Sanikiluaq has endured a number of significant disasters in recent years, where critical infrastructure has been severely damaged or destroyed by fire and other causes. Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm how many fires took place in the year 2024, and can he confirm how many of these are a result of arson. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Community Services, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the fire marshal's report, I don't have it here with me, but I'll definitely get those specific numbers of how many fires have taken place in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. First supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, news reports indicate that the Government of Nunavut recently worked on a pilot project with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities for emergency planning response in situations where critical buildings in Nunavut communities are destroyed. The reports indicate that a portion of work took place in Sanikiluaq. Will the minister commit to tabling a copy of the final report and pilot project in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Community Services, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll definitely look into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Second and final supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister will recall that when Sanikiluaq's municipal office was destroyed in a historic wind storm, the territorial government worked quickly to ensure that new complex was added to the capital plan without delay. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the community halls and arenas are absolutely vital to the health and well-being of our communities; they are not luxuries.

Can the minister clearly describe how his new department is working with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to include a new community hall and arena in the government's five-year capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for municipal buildings our municipalities have advanced to have their own insurance through NAMEX, and if they are not covered under that, then we start having discussions within our own government in terms of how we can support.

I definitely will work with my colleague on prioritizing the capital budgets, and that also includes the hamlets, of providing their integrated community infrastructure needs to our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you for that. Oral Questions. Last name on my list, Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Oral Question 1232 – 6(2): Update on Vacant Positions in Arviat**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to all Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my questions to the Minister of Environment. Mr. Speaker, there have been vacancies in Arviat's positions for quite a while now, and I was assured by the minister of the day last year that these positions would be filled in Arviat with a person working in Arviat, and not remotely. I believe there are still some of these positions that are vacant. If I can get updates from the minister on the wildlife deterrent specialists and the environmental protection officers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Environment, Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. For those specific positions, I will have to check into the department, but overall, the departmental vacancy, we do have 59.5 vacancies across the department as a whole, 37 of which are in various stages of staffing. As for the question, I'll get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have not seen either one of these jobs advertised, so when the minister responds to me I would like to know when these jobs were advertised, or if they are not advertised, why they are not advertised. Can I get a commitment that through a return to oral before the end of this sitting that I can get all of that particular information, because I was told that these positions will be filled in Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Environment, Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department is committed to improving capacity and reducing our vacancy rates. With that, I'll provide as much detail as I can on the question, and if we can provide that before the end of the sitting, I'll do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members will note time allotted for Oral Questions has expired. Before I go to the next item on the *Orders of the Day* we'll take a 20-minute break. Thank you.

>>*House adjourned at 10:47 and resumed at 11:09*

**Speaker:** I would like to call the session back to order. Back to *Orders of the Day*. Item 7, Written Questions. Seeing none, Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Reports of Standing and Special Committees On Bills and Other Matters. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notice of Motions. 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. 16, Motions. And 17, First Reading of Bills. I recognize the Minister of Justice. Minister Gross.

### **Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 75 – An Act to Amend the Legislation Act and Other Acts Respecting the Nunavut Gazette – First Reading**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that Bill 75, *An Act to Amend the Legislation Act and Other Acts Respecting the Nunavut Gazette*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion? All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried. Bill 75 has had first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Gross.

#### **Bill 77 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendments Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that Bill 77, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendments Act*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Gross. The motion is in order. To the motion? All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried. Bill 77 has had first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Government House Leader, Minister Joanasie. My apologies, sorry. I skipped one. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Health. Minister Main.

**Bill 78 – An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act – First Reading**

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

(interpretation ends) I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member from Cambridge Bay, that Bill 78, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act*, be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Main. The motion is in order. To the motion? All those in favour? Opposed? The Motion is carried. Bill 78 has had first reading. First Reading of Bills. Minister Main.

**Bill 79 – An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act – First Reading**

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

(interpretation ends) I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 79, *An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act*, be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion? All those in favour? Opposed? Bill 79 has had first reading.

First Reading of Bills. I recognize Government House Leader, Minister Joanasie.

**Bill 80 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2025-2026 – First Reading**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Minister Kusugak, I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq that Bill 80, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2025-2026*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Joanasie. The motion is in order. To the motion? All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried and Bill 80 has been has had first reading.



*Orders of the Day.* Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Item 22, *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

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

**Mr. Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Oversight and Government Operations and Public Accounts at 1:30 p.m. this afternoon.

*Orders of the Day* for Monday, May 26 at 1:30 p.m.:

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 the 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
  - Bill 75
  - Bill 77
  - Bill 78
  - Bill 79

## Bill 80

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

20. Reports of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. *Orders of the Day*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Just as we are closing out our Friday, just before I adjourn, I would like to make a quick comment and a request of Minister Main to make sure that there are no power outages during any of the hockey games that going on for the remainder of the playoffs. We only have one Canadian team left, so I'm hoping a lot of people are jumping on Edmonton Oilers' bandwagon. I know with the departure of my Winnipeg Jets, unfortunately, I have gladly jumped on the Edmonton Oilers' bandwagon, and I wish them all the best, and look forward to the completion of the Stanley Cup and to welcome the Stanley back to Canada.

This House stands adjourned to Monday May 26, at 1:30 p.m. Thank you.

>>*House adjourned at 11:15*

