

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-Niaqunnguut)

*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
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(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

*Deputy Speaker; Chair of the
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(South Baffin)

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

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(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqummiut)

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
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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*

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(Hudson Bay)

Joanna Quassa
(Aggu)

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

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(Rankin Inlet North-
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, May 26, 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. Joeline Kaernerck, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, 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 13:30

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. Tony Akoak): (no interpretation)

>>*Prayer*

Speaker's Statement

Speaker: Welcome back, everyone. Before we proceed with *Orders of the Day*, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the deputy speaker for having taken over last week while I was delayed by weather. Thank you very much.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: I also wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Minister Nakashuk and other dignitaries for taking the time to travel to Gjoa Haven for the recent opening of the community's new shelters for women and men. Thank you so very much.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: These facilities provide essential services to the community and I was very pleased to have been able to participate in this important event.

I also wish to note that the House of Commons is holding its first sitting today since the recent federal election. I am very pleased to be able to offer my congratulations to the newly elected Speaker of the House, Francis Scarpaleggia. I'm hoping I said that name right.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Who took the chair shortly before noon today. I also note that His Majesty the King will be delivering an historic Speech from the Throne tomorrow morning at 11 a.m. We will be watching it with attention.

We will now proceed with the *Orders of the Day*. Item 2 – my apologies, I just got back – Ministers’ Statements. Hon. Government House Leader, Minister Joanase.

Item 2: Ministers’ Statements

Minister’s Statement 588 – 6(2): Minister Absent From the House

Hon. David Joanase (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise members that Hon. Lorne Kusugak will be absent from the House from Monday, May 26 to Wednesday, May 28, 2025 for personal reasons. The Hon. David Akeagok will be acting as Minister of Finance and I will be acting as Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation during the duration of Mr. Kusugak’s absence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeagok.

Minister’s Statement 589 – 6(2): Western Premiers’ Conference

Hon. P.J. Akeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and it’s great that we are all back here in the House. I say afternoon to all my colleagues. It’s great to see everyone here and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on May 21 and 22 I joined premiers from Western provinces and territories in Yellowknife to discuss shared priorities and joint action on economic and energy corridors, Arctic security and sovereignty, and international trade and tariffs.

I’m pleased to note that there was a great deal of support for Nunavut’s priorities.

My colleagues joined me in acknowledging the importance of major projects such as the Arctic Security Corridor/Gray’s Bay Road and Port project in addressing Canada’s sovereignty.

Mr. Speaker, we also called for investments in the North that allow access to natural resources, benefit local economies, and strengthen Northern communities.

As western premiers we called on Canada to do more than assert its sovereignty — we asked for long-term investments that support healthy, resilient northern communities, build employment opportunities, advance Indigenous and economic reconciliation, and reinforce our strategic position in the region.

Mr. Speaker, a large part of our conversation was centred around energy and economic corridors that will facilitate access to reliable power and critical minerals. I used this opportunity to champion the Inuit-led, Inuit-driven Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link, which is also supported by the Government of Manitoba.

As western premiers we supported the ongoing work to strengthen Canada's Arctic security. We reiterated our call to the federal government to accelerate progress to reach the NATO defence spending target of 2 per cent of GDP, and to identify opportunities from these investments to assist in achieving important development objectives in the north and across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the conversation continued regarding the financial uncertainty for workers and businesses created by the tariffs imposed on Canada. As western premiers, we affirmed our commitment to Team Canada's collaborative approach to respond to U.S. tariffs and to support local workers and businesses affected by this trade disruption.

My colleagues and I called on the federal government to prioritize work towards the removal of Chinese tariffs and noted the importance of regular and ongoing engagement with China to improve trade relations.

Mr. Speaker, fisheries are key to Nunavut's economy. As western premiers we were pleased to see the Prime Minister's commitment to assist the seafood sector impacted by Chinese tariffs.

Mr. Speaker, these meetings are integral to advancing Nunavut's priorities.

Alberta will host the next of Western Premiers' Conference in 2026.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeagok.

Minister's Statement 590 – 6(2): Growth in Nunavut's Film Industry

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to share exciting developments in the growth of Nunavut's media sector.

I would like to highlight the success of North of North, a groundbreaking television series produced by Red Marrow Media. As the first large-scale television series filmed almost entirely in the territory, it has put Nunavut's film industry on the map. With broadcasts on CBC and APTN, and an international release on Netflix, North of North has placed Inuit storytelling on the global stage.

The production was led by Inuit producers Alethea Arnaquq-Baril and Stacey Aarluk MacDonald, and featured a majority Inuit cast and crew. With the support from the Indigenous Screen Office, North of North established a dedicated studio space in Iqaluit. This studio will be able to serve future productions for many years to come.

The series also provided training opportunities for 16 local residents, building skills and creating pathways into film and media careers. Over 155 days, the production generated an estimated \$9.5 million in our local economy impact. This includes over \$2.5 million in labour and \$2.45 million in accommodations, and substantial investments in transportation, catering, and other local services.

On April 29, 2025, it was announced that North of North will return for a second season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 591 – 6(2): Investing in Trades: The Noah Paniyuk Scholarship

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues. Before I proceed I would like to welcome Linda Paniyuk, Betty, and so forth. Welcome.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share an important new initiative that supports the *Katujjiluta* mandate priority of "Reinvesting in Education" by expanding opportunities for Nunavummiut to pursue careers in the skilled trades.

(interpretation) With great respect and honour, the Qulliq Energy Corporation is proud to launch the Noah Paniyuk Scholarship Program, a new annual scholarship established in memory of our late colleague, Noah Paniyuk.

Mr. Speaker, Noah was a valued member of the Qulliq Energy Corporation team and a respected journeyman whose dedication, professionalism, and mentorship left a lasting impact on all those who worked alongside him. His legacy continues to inspire excellence within our workforce.

The Noah Paniyuk Scholarship Program will provide two eligible Nunavut students with \$5,000 each in financial support, who are enrolled in, or have been accepted into, a recognized trades program anywhere in Canada. Applications will be reviewed through a formal selection process, with the scholarships awarded to candidates who demonstrate a strong commitment to their trade and embody the values Noah exemplified: passion, dedication, and excellence in the field.

Mr. Speaker, there has never been a more crucial time to strengthen Nunavut's workforce. As we face growing infrastructure needs, and as national interest in Arctic sovereignty increases alongside new investment in the region, supporting the education and development of local talent is essential to ensuring long-term self-reliance and resilience in our territory.

Through this scholarship, the Qulliq Energy Corporation reaffirms its commitment to building capacity, honouring legacy, and helping Nunavummiut access meaningful, in-demand careers.

Matna.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 592 – 6(2): Grand Opening of Gjoa Haven Shelters

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues and those listening in in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to announce the grand opening of the Gjoa Haven Women's and Men's Shelters. This critical infrastructure is a key development for the community of Gjoa Haven and the Kitikmeot region.

The shelters are a result of a partnership between the Department of Family Services, Nunavut Tunngavik, and Kitikmeot Friendship Society, and the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven. The shelters mark a significant moment in our collective efforts to address housing insecurity, and they provide culturally grounded, trauma-informed services to Nunavummiut. They offer critical support to individuals and families facing homelessness and family violence.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I had the honour of attending the opening ceremony earlier this month with many dignitaries, including Iqaluit members Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster and Adam Lightstone, Nunavut Tunngavik President Jeremy Tunraluk, and our Commissioner Eva Aariak. We were warmly greeted by the residents Gjoa Haven, along with Mr. Mayor Raymond Quqshuun. I am grateful to the community members who showed us so much kindness and celebrated with us while we were there.

Each facility offers ten beds and around-the-clock safe accommodations. The shelters are part of a growing network of transitional and emergency housing services across Nunavut, in particular in Kitikmeot. Family Services supports five homeless shelters, three transitional housing programs, and two homelessness start-up initiatives. This project aligns closely with the outcomes of the Makimaniq Plan, and represents meaningful community decision-making.

Mr. Speaker, the Gjoa Haven shelters are beacons of hope, safety, and healing. They reflect what we can achieve when government, Inuit organizations, and communities unite with a common vision.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Minister's Statement 593 – 6(2): Launch of the Early Learning Resources Web Page

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back to you and our colleagues that were here over the weekend, and as well to everyone that is here with us in the house and listening across our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Department of Education has created a new online resource section on the Government of Nunavut website to make key early learning tools publicly available. These culturally and linguistically appropriate early learning resources are now accessible to caregivers, parents, local community organizations, and staff at licensed child care centres.

I would like to acknowledge our partnership with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association in developing some of the resources and their support for making them available online.

Mr. Speaker, early learning books, including audiobooks, teaching materials, videos, and music, are now freely accessible online. Making these resources publicly available aligns with the Nunavut Early Learning and Child Care Quality Framework, which recognizes the importance of early learning opportunities with family, in the home, and in the community, in addition to licensed child care settings. I encourage families to visit the department's website and check out the resources available to support fun and engaging activities and learning with their young ones.

Mr. Speaker, increasing access to culturally and linguistically appropriate, quality early learning resources is one of the ways that our department is fulfilling the *Katujjiluta* commitment of reinvesting in education towards the outcome of strong childhood foundations for Inuit identity, resilience, and learning over time.

The Department of Education continues to develop and distribute new early learning resources, which will be added to this webpage on an ongoing basis, making early learning opportunities more accessible across the territory.

Quana, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Minister's Statement 594 – 6(2): Honouring the Life and Legacy of Nelson Pisco

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about a man whose leadership, vision, and dedication have profoundly impacted our Government and Nunavummiut. It is with deep respect that I honour the extraordinary life and legacy of Mr. Nelson Pisco, whose passing is felt by all who had the privilege of working alongside him.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pisco was a respected leader who shaped much of Nunavut's infrastructure development during his twenty-four years with the Government of Nunavut. As the Director of the Technical Services Division, he exemplified integrity, resiliency, and humility. Under his leadership, the Technical Services Division became an integral part of the Government of Nunavut's efforts to build a sustainable future.

Mr. Speaker, Nelson's contributions speak volumes about his character and commitment to our territory. He was instrumental in the creation of the Asset Management online tool, transforming how we assess and maintain government facilities. His work on energy efficiency in infrastructure is saving the Government of Nunavut over \$6 million annually, improving more than 190 Government of Nunavut facilities, while promoting environmental sustainability.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pisco's leadership extended beyond technical expertise. He approached his work with kindness and respect for others, always keeping the well-being of Nunavummiut at the heart of his projects. For Mr. Pisco, infrastructure was never just about buildings – it was about improving the lives of the people they were meant to serve. Whether through energy efficiency, sustainable development, or infrastructure improvements, Mr. Pisco's focus was always on the betterment of our communities.

(interpretation) Finally, Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to Nelson's family. I want to send my heartfelt sympathies to Nelson's family at this time, his wife Jessie, and children, Felix and Mary Sarah, who couldn't be here with us today, but please know that his legacy will forever be part of the fabric of Nunavut infrastructure, and his contributions will continue to inspire us.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 595 – 6(2): Mental Health Review Board Training in Nunavut

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an important advancement in the protection of patient rights within our mental health system — the training and development of Nunavut's Mental Health Review Board.

In Nunavut, the purpose of the Board is to serve as an independent safeguard that counterbalances the expansion of authority required within the health care system to care for individuals with mental illnesses sooner. This safeguard is particularly important as we work to enhance access to timely care while ensuring that individual rights are protected.

As part of our efforts to strengthen this essential body, we recently provided specialized training for MHRB, Mental Health Review Board members in Nunavut. The training

ensured they are well-equipped to perform their important duties as they make binding decisions on various matters, including:

- The identity of or right to a *tikkuaqtaujuq*, or support person;
- Consent for irreversible forms of treatment;
- A patient's capacity to consent to treatment;
- And decisions surrounding involuntary detention.

The training covered the board's election and composition, function and responsibilities, and the role of cultural advisors. Training will also include matters referred to the board, application and withdrawal process, hearings, decisions, and appeals process.

Mental health review boards are independent, quasi-judicial safeguards designed to ensure that every individual is treated with fairness, respect, and dignity in accordance with the mental health acts. The role that this board plays is critical in ensuring that decisions related to treatment, consent, and detention are made with objectivity, free from prejudice, and are not only lawful but also compassionate and fair.

While the structure and mandate of these boards varies slightly across Canada, the shared purpose remains constant: to safeguard the rights of individuals receiving mental health care and to provide oversight where the stakes are high and vulnerability is greatest.

Through this training, Nunavut has reaffirmed its commitment to a mental-health system that is both responsive and respectful — a system where the care provided never comes at the expense of a person's rights.

Matna, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3, Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 792 – 6(2): Hockey Tournament in Naujaat

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to all my colleagues and people in Amittuq.

I rise today because the Amittuq hockey team, they went to Naujaat for a hockey tournament and Dion Akeeagok (ph) was the captain and teammates were Francois Arnaquq (ph), Ethan Qalutsiak (ph), and Mr. Kotalik (ph), Jack Evala (ph), Eugene Amagoalik (ph), John Morgan, Felix Atagutaluq (ph) and Corey Don Issiguitoq, Alvin

Gene Mikik (ph), and Justin Morgan was the goalie. George Antalaliq (ph) were the helpers or the coaches.

I am very pleased to announce that they came third in the tournament and also in the dog team race. They had a qamutiq up from Igloolik in Sanirajak. They were going to go to Igloolik, but they had to go to Hall Beach. It was from Arctic Bay, Igloolik, Pond Inlet, and Hall Beach racers. And also the dancers of Hall Beach went by snowmobile to Naujaat to go dance. I don't have their names, though, but the Hall Beach dancers came in second in the dance tournament in Naujaat, so I wanted to congratulate them. That's why I rose. Thank you for the opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 793 – 6(2): Pond Inlet Needs a Children's Group Home

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back, Mr. Speaker. I say hi to the people of Pond Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read to you part of a letter that I received from a constituent regarding the need for group home for vulnerable children. My constituent writes:

“There are not enough foster parents in Pond Inlet. Children are usually given to grandparents or family members. The grandparents love them and try to care for them, but they tend to tire easily because of old age, so whoever is living with the grandparents has no choice but to help regardless of their history or if they have never had any intention to raise kids. When the mother in Nunavut dies or has her children taken away, two families are often confronted with questions like who is going to adopt the children. This is usually resolved between the two sides with no problems, but if one family is dysfunctional, it is even harder. There are arguments, name-calling, sometimes even threats. It is a bit much for an elder to take.

“Sometimes families' choice for who should care for the children is not the best choice, as dysfunction runs in entire families. Some kids are removed repeatedly from their family, and so something major happens because there are no foster parents. Some of these children are placed with whoever is available at the moment. It is a very scary and dangerous situation.

“If there are no foster parents, open a group home. There is a women's shelter and soon to be men's homeless shelter, but there is nothing it for children.

“Many Inuit women are having kids at a very young age, and not just one; some are having four by the age 21 with no education, no job, no housing, nothing. So it just

continues and exaggerating the housing crisis, food insecurity crisis, job shortage, pretty much everything.”

(interpretation) I would like consent to conclude my statement.

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

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

(interpretation ends) Exaggerating the housing crisis, food insecurity crisis, job shortage crisis, pretty much everything. Family planning needs to be taught in our schools. Mr. Speaker, I support my constituents suggesting that Pond Inlet needs a safe home for vulnerable children. At the appropriate time I will have question on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member’s Statement. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Member’s Statement 794 – 6(2): Happy Birthday Wish to Daughter

Mr. Quqqiaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today. On May 24, my daughter Charlene Inipaluq (ph), it was her birthday yesterday. I love her very much. I hope you have a great day, and I saw you on the Internet. I love you. You are now 12 years old, and I thank you for supporting and helping your mother and your grandparents. Thank you very much and I’ll see you when I get back home.

I have named her Inipaluq in Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I wish her a very happy birthday. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Member’s Statement 795 – 6(2): Welcoming the Noah Paniyuk Trades Scholarship

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the new Noah Paniyuk Trades Scholarship announced by Minister Main, the Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation. I am in full support of the initiative which invests in the future of our skilled labour force. The scholarship will help support two candidates who are enrolled in any organized trades program in Canada and are working towards a career in a skilled trade.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of my family connection to Noah Paniyuk. He was a respected journeyman who was dedicated to his job.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all our youth who are wondering what they will be doing after graduation from high school to consider a profession in trades. To those youth I say: As Nunavut grows your skills will be in high demand, and you will also have the satisfaction of helping a strong territory.

The Noah Paniyuk scholarship is exciting news, and I look forward to be hearing who will be selected as the successful recipient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member statement. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Member's Statement 796 – 6(2): Hockey Tournament in Naujaat

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon, colleagues, and people of Nunavut, and the people of my riding. My colleagues also recognized the hockey players and the dancers. At the Winter Sitting I had announced that they will be at upcoming events in the spring year. It was well deliberated in Naujaat, and during that week there was quite a bit of activities with the hockey players and the dancing activities. Some arrived by skidoo from Kugarjuk (ph) and Igloolik, and we also had people coming from the Kivalliq region. It was a joyous and happy event that happened with the square dancers, the hockey tournament, and the volleyball games.

I thank all the participants who arrived from Sanirajak from Kugarjuk and Rankin Inlet, and also the hockey players from the Amittuq area and from all over the communities. It was a joyous event with activities from all over Nunavut.

Everything happened safely just last week. And when we see events like this it's a joyful event when no accidents and anything happens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 797 – 6(2): Support for Post-Secondary Students

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon, colleagues and people of Baker Lake. Have a good day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Nunavut's post-secondary students who are working hard to acquire the skills and knowledge that will enable them to join the workforce and lead our territory into the future. Mr. Speaker, it is very

unfortunate that so many post-secondary students face unnecessary obstacles when comes to getting the supports they need to continue with their studies.

Mr. Speaker, too many of our smart young citizens are still having issues with receiving their student assistance funding, getting their airline tickets to travel to school, or having their tuition paid. Dealing with these kinds of challenges is a huge distraction from focussing on their studies, much less getting to their academic institution, settling in, buying their textbooks, and so on.

Mr. Speaker, this winter I was pleased to support the passage of the government's new legislation, the *Post-Secondary Student Support Act*, which will replace the current *Student Financial Assistance Act* that was inherited from the Northwest Territories.

In receiving the government's comprehensive review of the financial assistance for Nunavut students report, it is clear that challenges facing the delivery of Nunavut's financial assistance program are well known and long-standing. And, Mr. Speaker, they are still occurring.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of the territory's future success, support for our post-secondary students must improve as soon as possible. I strongly urge our government to provide the additional resources and supports that were promised when they brought in the new legislation as a priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

Member's Statement 798 – 6(2): Support for Kugluktuk District Education Authority

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): (no interpretation)

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Kugluktuk District Education Authority, which has written to me a letter calling for safety, equity, and cultural preservation in education. Mr. Speaker, during our last sitting I asked the Minister of Education to look into providing proper compensation and recognition for our Inuinnaqtun educators that truly reflect their valuable role in preserving and revitalization and transmitting Inuinnaqtun language for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of other issues which impact the delivery of good education to our Kugluktuk children and youth. For many years Kugluktuk representatives have argued that the current high school is too small and does not meet

current standards to serve the population. The community needs a new high school, but it is not clear where the project is at within the capital budget cycle.

Mr. Speaker, the Kugluktuk District Education Authority has expressed deep concerns with the lack of support and communication from the Kitikmeot School Operations Division. It took a very long time to get a simple letter of support for a much needed project that the DEA had already accessed funds for. The district education authority indicates that they have not received responses to multiple inquiries and concerns, particularly related to funding. Mr. Speaker, the lack of communication creates barriers and delays in addressing pressing community and educational needs. For example, the district education authority needs dedicated funding for the office manager position. This position not only supports the educational programs, but also plays a key role in overseeing financial matters and ensuring accountability on how funds are spent.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Anavilok: (no interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I urge the Department of Education to take these issues into consideration and provide better support to the Kugluktuk District Education Authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 799 – 6(2): Birthday Greetings

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut, and to those who are listening on TV and across the airways.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and delight to share a very special birthday greeting to my niece Ariel, and it was just her first birthday on the weekend on Saturday and I would just like to wish her the very best as she enters her first year. I know watching her she has grown so much over the past year and I can't wait to see where she goes throughout life. It's just so incredible to see the young children grow and be a special part of their lives. I know she's in Taloyoak right now enjoying her birthday with her family in Taloyoak, and going to be enjoying special occasions and milestones as well, as her father Jonathan is set to prepare to be graduating on the 29th.

I just want to wish them all well, the family the Eetoolook (ph) family. Thank you for hosting Ariel and her mom Avery, and we wish you all the best as you celebrate some wonderful milestones this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 800 – 6(2): Dog Team Quest

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on April 15 to April 23 there was a dog team quest from Pond Inlet to Igloolik and I would like to congratulate the committee and the planners and the volunteers who supported this quest. There were eight dog teams and they were all young people, which I was very proud of, and they are all arrived safely.

This is the 26th year that the dog team quest has been in operation on an annual basis, and I'm very proud and also congratulate the high Arctic area where the quest took place.

The winners from one to eight, Jinneal Nanuraq Uttak, who came in first place; Joshua Ivalu, who came in second; Lee Inuarak came in third; Donovan Qaunaq came in fourth; Isaac Irngaut came in fifth; and sixth, Tom Naqitarvik; seventh, Daniel Inuarak. And I also congratulate the last person who came in first in my mind, Ada Kownak (ph), who I'm very proud of.

For this upcoming year it has been indicated that they will be travelling starting off in Igloolik to Pond Inlet, and again it will be the same volunteers who will be working and also to the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, who made a contribution. They travelled 513 kilometres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to recognize two incredible people I want to welcome to your house, Mr. Speaker. First, to welcome Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's president, Mr. Jeremy Tunraluk. Thank you for your leadership and thank you for your hard work of really advancing the interests of Nunavut, especially at the moment of time that we are in as a country, and I think that unity is really so important. I just want to recognize your strong leadership in bringing that forward.

Second, Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize my role model. I am very fortunate to be working with her as my constituency assistant. No stranger to this House, no stranger to this role, Ms. Becky Mike.

(interpretation) Please welcome Becky Mike, because she has worked very hard. All her hard work will be felt today because she wants to help move forward with Nunavut to

benefit Nunavummiut. I have learned a lot from her as well. Thank you and welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6, Oral Questions. Before we proceed, I think every one of our 13 members wants to ask questions today, and I'm sure all the ministers would like to answer those questions as well. Please be mindful of your oral questions. Make sure your preambles are short and understandable. Thank you very much. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 1233 – 6(2): Non-Insured Health Benefits Program

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciated your comments earlier, and it was an absolute pleasure to keep your seat warm for a couple of days.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health today on the topic of the Report of the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs that the Canada government did in December 2022.

Mr. Speaker, specifically I would like to start off with recommendation number 4, where it states that the Government of Canada takes feedback from Indigenous health professionals and organizations on the effectiveness and cultural understanding of non-insured health benefit bureaucrats, and work within non-insured health benefit offices to improve their awareness about the First Nations and Inuit communities that they serve, and to identify and eliminate barriers the non-insured health benefit office has created that impede Indigenous Canadians from accessing basic standard care provided training for non-insured health benefit employees.

Mr. Speaker my first question is: How did the Government of Nunavut staff participate in that review? And can the minister list any significant barriers identified and what actions are being done to reduce or eliminate those barriers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question. In terms of that report and the follow-up out of that report, my understanding was that the ball was in the court, or the next moves to come out of that report were ones belonging to Indigenous Services Canada. We do have a number of important initiatives in Nunavut that are being supported by Indigenous Services Canada. The Healing By Talking program is one, the Mobile Trauma Response

Teams is another. We agree with the overall message of that report in terms of non-insured health benefits needs reform. It needs to be modernized.

And in terms of educating or informing officials from Indigenous Services Canada, we do have regular trilateral meetings with them. The next one is coming up shortly, I believe in a couple of weeks and it will be here, in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's very exciting to hear that those discussions are ongoing. With respect to the minister's response, I think there is some responsibility on stakeholders as well to push the Government of Canada to make these improvements, and I encourage the minister to continue to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to jump to recommendation 18, where it speaks that the Government of Canada will work with First Nations and Inuit partners, health professional regulatory authorities, and health professional associations to increase awareness of the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. I know the minister and I have had some discussions inside this topic outside of this House, and some inside the House as well. My question there, Mr. Speaker, is: What discussions and actions have been taken to increase access to and awareness of Non-Insured Health Benefit programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It's a really good question, and I think for Department of Health it has to be a balancing act in terms of facilitating access to non-insured health benefits programming, say for example the Healing By Talking Program. We have seen great success with that program, really positive feedback, Nunavut Inuit accessing mental health supports through that program. So that's an example of where we can facilitate access.

But at the end of the day we need to make sure that Indigenous Services Canada knows that Non-Insured Health Benefits is their program. And there is some great work happening between our department and Indigenous Services Canada.

However, unfortunately, we're still without a contribution agreement for non-insured health benefits, medical travel benefits. Not to try and change it, it is under the same program. And so on one hand we are making progress delivering important services with the support of Indigenous Services Canada, but on the other side, through that program we're having some really foundational, fundamental difficulties that come down to a disagreement around whose program it actually is. We want to make sure that our federal counterparts understand it is their program, and they need to fund it properly.

On the mental health front, the Healing By Talking Program also offers in-person group sessions, which have taken place in a number of Nunavut communities through support of Indigenous Services Canada. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to go back to recommendation number 5, which I believe follows right up with his response that he just provided.

Recommendation number 5 from the standing committee report was that the Government of Canada work with First Nations and Inuit partners to undertake an urgent review of the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program's Medical Transportation Policy framework, to clarify the eligibility criteria for client escorts and that compassionate accompaniment be accepted as an eligibility criterion for client escorts.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister just mentioned, there seems to be some disagreement on what is accessible under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Medical Travel Policy, but even as the minister just stated, on overarching responsibility for it.

So my next question, Mr. Speaker, is, this policy framework could and should steer negotiations on the Non-Insured Health Benefit Medical Travel recovery for amounts. So if the minister can maybe highlight some of the actions that have been done to identify the criteria for medical travellers, and what work has been done with the Government of Canada to identify and solidify the responsibility of what that role is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question. The need for clarity around escorts' eligibility and benefits, that was something that came through loud and clear during our work on the medical travel policy review. Nunavummiut want clarity. They want a clear understanding of who is eligible for what and when, and we as a department have to deliver on that.

The work with Indigenous Services Canada is part of that. They need to fix or overhaul their program, but we also have work on our end to do. We have some ongoing work with consulting group that has started around the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, and the work is intended to help us map out which pieces of the program could be handed back to Indigenous Services Canada if they continue to be unable to fund it properly.

But at the end of the day, Nunavut patients are the first priority, and I look forward to meeting with the new Indigenous Services minister next week, following the conclusion of this sitting. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1234 – 6(2): Airport Infrastructure

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. As the minister is aware, Naujaat's new terminal building is a significant improvement over the old facility. It will be a great benefit to the community. Can the minister confirm when the official grand opening of the new facility will take place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my department and the transportation branch has been busy at getting those new airport terminal buildings on line. It was great to be part of the opening ceremonies, both in Kimmirut as well as Chesterfield Inlet.

We are putting the final details around the grand opening for other communities, Kugluktuk, Naujaat, Whale Cove, and once I have the details I will of course be sharing with my colleagues and I look forward to the openings there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the new airport terminal is very beautiful and the people in the community are very pleased about that. It's very good.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, my colleague from Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet recently tabled a copy of the resolutions that were passed at the October 2024 meeting of Kivalliq mayors. One of the resolutions was passed addressing the critical needs of Naujaat airport runway to be extended.

As the minister is aware, the Naujaat airport runway is the shortest runway in the region. This causes many challenges for air carriers serving the community. Recently a report indicated that the new department is reviewing this issue. Can the minister provide an update today on how his department is working to address the need for a runway extension at Naujaat airport. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know the member has been pressing on this matter even before I held the transportation file, and I do recall that the resolutions that have been passed before around Naujaat, the length of their airstrip.

Mr. Speaker, at Transportation and Infrastructure we do take stock and look at all the infrastructure needs across the territory, and with that, the airports capital assistance program which my department does tap into. For 2023 we are looking at rehabilitation projects in Kugluktuk, Whale Cove and Pangnirtung. They were approved, and we do try to address other communities, if it's Naujaat and others, we'll try to access funds for those purposes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister. (interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, he tabled the Nunavut Airports 20-Year Capital Needs Assessment Update in March 2023. The report identifies a number of issues at Coral Harbour airport, including the need to address several legacy abandoned buildings and assets. Can the minister provide an update today on how these issues are being addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Among other infrastructure needs across the territory, we do have assets that if they are surplus and/or need to be upgraded, renovated to get up to standards, we do try to allow for that and see where we can make these facilities and assets useable. We will continue to bring forward capital plans and budgets that fit within our priorities and within the federal funding programs that we have accessed to date, as well as future ones into the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1235 – 6(2): Airline Sector

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, and welcome back. And thank you for the beautiful welcoming to your community. It was so much fun to go to Gjoa Haven, even though it was just for a short period.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the minister of the new Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, it has now been almost exactly three months to the day since we first heard the announcement regarding the sale of Canadian North to the Exchange Income Corporation. As the minister will recall, the official announcement of the sale indicated that closing of the transaction is subject to obtaining required

regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions, and is expected to occur later this year.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the regulatory process, and can he indicate what submissions, if any, the Government of Nunavut has made or is planning to make to federal regulators. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as far as I know, my department has been engaging with Transport Canada and their officials on monitoring the review process for this and providing input as and when needed and will continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping for a little bit more information about what those submissions would entail.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the Exchange Income corporation already owns Calm Air, which focuses on services to Kivalliq communities, and I remain concerned that the proposed sale will entrench its monopoly position with potentially significant ramifications for such issues as the amount our government pays for medical and duty travel. As the minister is aware, the government's current contracts for medical travel, duty travel, and air freight on scheduled airlines were awarded in August 2019, and the government's official notice of contract award indicated that the total potential term of this contract is six years.

Mr. Speaker, if my math is correct, that means that the current contracts expire around 90 days from now. Can the minister clarify the status of the government's procurement process for its new medical travel, duty travel, and air freight contracts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And just going back to the previous question, I guess to touch a bit more on that, we do through this transaction want to ensure that this acquisition that takes into account Nunavammiuts' needs and interests regarding air travel. We do want to maintain affordability, reliability, and a safe transportation network system.

As for the current air service contract, it remains in place and it will up until the end of 2026. The government does expect to begin procurement for the next contract cycle in

fall 2025, taking into account any changes of air service landscape that we're going through at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my math was a little bit incorrect on that. I thought six years after 2019 is 2025, but I guess I was wrong.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I asked his predecessor a number of questions during last year's Fall Sitting regarding the federal Competition Bureau's announcement that it will be undertaking a market study of competition in the Canadian airline industry. At the time I tabled a number of documents in the House concerning this subject.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the regulatory process, and can he indicate what additional submissions, if any, the Government of Nunavut has made or is planning to make to the federal Competition Bureau. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The contract terms or the duration might have to do with the final year extension to that contract.

Mr. Speaker, air travel, we all know, is an essential service in Nunavut in connecting our communities, and the federal Competition Bureau's review, we will fully participate. And regarding the finer details, what's been submitted or what we plan to submit on behalf of Nunavut, I'll get to those details, maybe if my colleague will allow, I'll come back to her on that, for that specific information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Oral Question 1236 – 6(2): Local Transportation for Medical Clients

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, last autumn I asked the Minister of Health a number of questions respecting the lack of local transportation for elders or residents with mobility issues, Mr. Speaker. Inconvenience is often encountered by residents who also have to go to the airport. At that time the minister indicated that he would write a proposal supporting the community's requirement for an elders vehicle. That was back in the fall, in the month of October, and it has been six months already.

As such, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) can the minister confirm whether he has put forward a proposal for an elder vehicle to the premier and cabinet on behalf of Uqummiut communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for asking this question.

(interpretation ends) In terms of the elder van pilot project that is currently running, there were five communities that were selected for that initial pilot and so those are the communities so far that have received those vans.

In terms of the ground transportation at the local community level, there is coverage for emergency ground transportation. It can be from a client's home to the health centre or from the health centre to the airport. And right now, I know this is not exactly on the topic that the member was asking about, but I just wanted to share this information: Right now there are 17 communities that do have what's known as a stretcher service. It's not an ambulance service per se, but so 17 communities currently have a service where individuals including elders and others can be transported in emergency situations from their home to the health centre or from the health centre to the airport for a medevac flight. That's something that has been expanding and we're happy to see more and more communities getting that service. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's great to hear; however, I raised it as a concern with individuals who don't have a means of transportation, whether it's emergency or not. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on Friday the minister announced Nunavut's new *Medical Travel Handbook*. This document contains a lot of useful information; however, it completely ignores the lived reality of one very important aspect of medical travel, which is getting to the airport. The handbook indicates that the first step for the successful flight is "to pre-arrange transportation to the airport." It also states: "make sure someone is available to pick you up when you return to your home community."

As I have already mentioned in this House, there is no taxi services in some communities, such as Clyde River. Many residents do not have their own vehicles. And the health centres, they do not provide transportation for medical appointments.

So can the minister describe what supports his department can provide to assist medical travellers, especially elders, to get to the airports so that they can travel out for their medical appointment and get back to their home when they return to the community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. So the member is correct. We do have vehicles at each health centre in Nunavut, but the staff at our health centres don't have class 4 licences, which is required to provide a taxi or shuttle service. And so as well there's additional barriers at the staffing level in terms of job descriptions. Our health employees are not tasked with providing a shuttle service currently.

However, there is a bit of an opportunity, in terms of the new benefit through Non-Insured Health Benefits that came into place in 2023. As of June 1, 2023 Non-Insured Health Benefits now will cover a ride to and from the airport for all medical travellers, and my hope, or the department's hope is that this will mean more supports will come from the private sector in terms of taxis at the community level. It's an essential service, in our view, in terms of getting to and from the airport. The member is correct; not everyone has a vehicle, and we would like to see the solution for that gap coming from the private sector.

We are willing to support bridging the gap between Non-Insured Health Benefits Program and the private sector. We've done that already with the stretcher service that I mentioned. We have helped to clear the payment process between Non-Insured Health Benefits and the stretcher service. We would like to see a similar breaking down of barriers to benefits and when it comes to ground transportation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. definitely this issue has to be resolved for communities, especially the smaller communities that do not benefit much from these. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in October, the minister stated that for some Nunavut communities, arrangements are made to provide ground travel transportation for medical clients under an agreement with Indigenous Services Canada which was signed in the year 2023. He indicated that the community of Baker Lake was the most recent community to access this service. The Baker Lake airport is the same distance from the community.

In Clyde River the distance to and from the airport is also too far to walk. Will the minister commit to talking with Indigenous Services Canada to provide ground transportation services for medical clients in Clyde River? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can commit to having staff assist with the payment arrangements between Indigenous Services Canada and the service provider. The information I have in front of me indicates that the municipality of Clyde River is currently listed as a stretcher service provider, so if there's anything that needs to be addressed or fixed up in terms of that payment, I can commit to having that looked at and looked into. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1237 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut Relationship to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Arviat.

(interpretation ends) I have another question, but this seems like the appropriate time to have this question. My questions are for the premier, and they concern his recent announcement about his recent meetings with the new president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated happens to be in the House, so appropriate time.

Mr. Speaker, the premier's announcement from last week indicated that "we commend Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's new leadership for their collaborative approach to advancing dialogue."

Mr. Speaker, that's very good to hear, so I'm going to assume the premier will have no difficulty answering my first question: Has Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated withdrawn any or all of its active lawsuits against the Government of Nunavut, including its lawsuit regarding property taxation and educational legislation? Yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my colleague for his question, and I couldn't agree more; it's great to have the president of NTI right here in this House. There's no relationship that is more important to us as a government than that of with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, to date, no, there has been no lawsuit that has been withdrawn. However, we continue to have very good conversations and dialogue with the board of NTI, and I look forward to re-establishing a very strong relationship with them as we advance for the best interests of Nunavummiut moving forward.

At that announcement we identified two key work plans where we had jointly agreed, one being Arctic security and sovereignty, and second being infrastructure. I very much look forward to working with my colleagues here, as well as the board of NTI advancing those key areas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad they are working together, but it's sad that the lawsuits have not been dropped because in a lawsuit one side will win, the other side will lose, but the lawyers on both sides will win.

Mr. Speaker, during the recent televised hearings on the territorial public accounts, one of the government's witnesses confirmed that there are now \$20 million owing the Government of Nunavut in unpaid property taxes related to Baffinland's Mary River mine. Mr. Speaker, \$20 million could build a lot of houses or fund full scholarships for a lot of students, or do a number of useful things for our constituents, or fund the elder vans that are not operating yet.

Mr. Speaker, the devolution agreement that was signed last year contains a provision for a working group to address this issue. Can the premier tell us today who represents our government on this working group, and can he provide an update on what has happened to this working group to date. Thank you.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

Hon. P.J. Akeegok: Thank you for the question. Again I want to thank my colleague for his question. The individual that represents us as part of the Padda (ph) working group with the leadership of NTI I believe is our chief negotiator, Mr. Mansell, and those conversations continue to be very positive and I understand they have had the second meeting since. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I hope the working group works it out, because it has been approximately a year since the devolution agreement was signed, and in that agreement it says the working group has two years to work out their differences.

In March of this year the government issued a joint announcement with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, concerning the subject Arctic sovereignty and security. One of the priorities identified in the announcement is the need to "open opportunities for mining of critical minerals to meet Canada's growing need for responsibly sourced rare earth elements, and battery metals which are essential for clean energy and defence applications."

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the Premier spent his weekend catching up on last week's Hansard, so he will have read that my colleague from Baker Lake asked a number of good questions to the Minister of Mines regarding the need to streamline and speed up the regulatory processes here in Nunavut so that these critical minerals projects move from the drawing board to production in less than a decade.

Based on the premier's discussions with the new president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, can the premier indicate what actions NTI will take to help address the need for regulatory reform in respect to the mining sector? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my colleague. And absolutely, I did read the Hansard, Saturday morning, as I was just waking up. I was really intrigued by the questions on the importance of critical minerals, at the moment that we are in as a country. So I want to recognize my other colleague, as well, for continually pushing that.

Mr. Speaker, as I had just mentioned as well in my minister's statement, the importance of nation building and the importance of identifying nation-building project is really top of mind, and I want to commend the incredible leadership we have with NTI where we have identified four key nation-building projects right across the territory, two in particular of which tie directly to the opportunities to access to critical minerals. We know it's important, so as our government has been very supportive of advancing Inuit-led, Inuit-driven projects, and one being the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link which has been some incredible advancements and that's one where we've identified as a joint initiative between NTI as well as ours, to advance us.

Further to that, I very much look forward to hopefully hearing the Throne Speech tomorrow. We will pay attention very closely, as we have really brought forward these nation-building moments. And further, next week, Monday will be a very important day where the first ministers, the premiers as well as the prime minister, will be meeting, talking about the importance of investing and building quicker and faster among many things.

I truly believe that Inuit-led, Inuit-driven projects we brought forward fit that category of what we could do to diversify and become a real economic engine of this country as a territory.

With that, to the member's question, I believe the question was what have we done. The big piece I do want to reference is the implementation contract we were able to sign, which provided \$1.5 billion in new funding to the regulatory process in our territory, which then allows institutions of public governments to have the adequate resources to

review all projects that are coming, including the projects that I've mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1238 – 6(2): Igloolik Power Plant

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I want to revisit the issue of Igloolik's new power plant, and I want to thank the minister for the statement that he made last week in the House concerning this subject.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, Igloolik's current power plant has been in operation for half a century. In April 2024, the Qulliq Energy Corporation issued a request for proposals for the design and construction of a new power plant for Igloolik. Information published by the government indicates that Pilitak Enterprises was selected as the successful proponent. In his statement of last week the minister informed the House that design work is underway with "roughly 50 percent of the drawings completed and major equipment ordered."

Can the minister indicate when construction on the new power plant is expected to begin. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the colleague for the question. For that power plant for Igloolik there has been expectations that it will be built, and we know that, and Igloolik will be able to get a cleaner, safer power plant.

(interpretation ends) In terms of the detailed timeline for the construction of the plant, I don't have that information here in front of me. One of the key aspects around the new power plants in Nunavut, including Igloolik's is that there is a long lead time for the generator sets. And so in terms of awarding the contract, my understanding is that the successful proponent, which the member mentioned, would have placed orders already for the new generator sets, because it takes, if you pay for a generator set today you will not receive it until two or perhaps more years into the future.

And so while the design work is happening, one of the concurrent processes is around procurement of the key components for that power plant. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When there are going to be more houses being built, we want to make sure that the community has enough power to do that.

(interpretation ends) A number of my colleagues have been asking questions and raising concerns regarding the issues of generator capacity and emergency planning. Can the minister clarify the extent to which the design of Igloolik's new power plant will increase generator capacity, and can he clarify the extent to which the design incorporates any green energy technologies, including solar power. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) The new power plant in Igloolik does not include any renewables as part of the project itself. However, when you look at an older generation power plant, the one that we're using in Igloolik right now, for example, and a new state-of-the-art power plant, the newer design or new generation of power plants, all the switching equipment allows for easier integration of renewable power. Through our independent power producer program we have seen proponents like Nunavut Nukkiqsautiit. There's also, I forget the name of the proponent in Naujaat. But we have private companies who are building renewable energy capacity. But in order for us to plug it into our plant, we need to have the proper gear and equipment to allow for diesel generation, and then renewable power generation to work properly together. And so the new plant in Igloolik will allow that, and we hope to see more and more renewables coming on line in the future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree, it will be more appropriate if that can be handled at first (interpretation ends) In his statement of last week the minister informed the House that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is "enhancing emergency power reliability across Nunavut. Emergency generator units have been successfully installed in Rankin Inlet and Sanikiluaq, with more installations coming for Coral Harbour, Grise Fiord, Kugluktuk and Igloolik. These targeted investments provide essential backup power and strengthen community resilience during outages and maintenance periods."

Can the minister elaborate on the budget and timetable for the Igloolik emergency generator project. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Again I'm sorry to respond to the member that I don't have that level of detail; however, I will request that level of detail. Once I get that level of detail, I will share it with the member.

Those emergency power units are important, in terms of protecting the community. There is usually design or consideration given to locating the emergency units separate from the existing power plant, so that in the event of a catastrophic failure there would always be that emergency capacity in the communities. We want to make sure that Nunavummiut are provided for, and that we are prepared to provide at least backup power in the event of a catastrophic failure.

we do need more federal money to build more power plants in Nunavut, and we're going to continue hunting for that money which will allow us to upgrade our infrastructure in more communities across the territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1239 – 6(2): Support for Post-Secondary Students

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct reply question to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, in my member statement, I spoke of the challenges that are still facing Nunavut's post-secondary students when trying to access student financial assistance and related supports. The government's new *Post-Secondary Student Support Act* promises to address many of those needs and more.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update on when it is anticipated that the *Post-Secondary Student Support Act*, which received assent on March 11 of this year, will be brought into force, and for further clarification, will it be brought into force before the start of the new academic year this fall? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question regarding the new *Post-Secondary Student Support Act*. We're very excited to have this work underway within the Department of Education, and thank everybody who has helped to bring us to where we are. And we really do look forward to it supporting students, more enhanced support for students.

This undertaking is very substantive and we are working with the Department of Justice to work on the *Post-Secondary Student Support Act* and working to develop the new regulations in time for the 2026-2027 academic year. And for the interim, we're making amendments as we speak that will allow us to use this for the current regulations and allow more funding to flow to post-secondary students this coming academic school year, for 2025-2026. I really hope that we can have announcements coming out to support

those interim amendments for this extra support for students that are going to school this fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for the response. I'm glad the work is continuing, and hopefully the department, along with Justice, will be successful in streamlining and expediting some of these regulations that need to be implemented.

Mr. Speaker, the government's comprehensive review of the financial assistance for Nunavut students report noted that the challenges facing the financial assistance for Nunavut students program are well known and long-standing. The report states that the financial assistance office requires additional resources to support the program's efficiency and effective operation.

I don't believe the government needs to wait until the new legislation comes into force to begin some additional resources to the office. Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe what steps have been taken this year to address some of these long-standing issues, including delayed payments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you again to the member for the question. So with the comprehensive review of the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students Program, we have made a lot of interim program changes which lists a number of different areas of support. I guess one of the biggest ones was that we had interim people that were hired within the department to support the FANS division, and we found that that has been very successful, to have those extra staff in the department to help with this very extensive program.

We also have put in a wellness benefit. For this year we've issued 854 benefits, for students in the fall semester 387, 336 in the winter, and this current spring sitting, session semester, we've had 131. We also are doing implemented bi-weekly follow-up with students. We've conducted in-person training for staff. We've also implemented a new part-time study grant. The office in Arviat has seen a renovation, which I think will really help support the staff there. And we are undergoing the work to transition to the Oracle database. Those are some of the key highlights that I can share. I can share more through letter correspondence as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. Hopefully along with some of the work that's being done with the additional support staff will ensure the students

will receive their funding, food funding assistance in a timely manner. I often hear of students struggling and starving and couldn't wait for their payday to buy more food, so hopefully with some of this work being done that will ensure that their allowance is paid on time in the upcoming school year.

Mr. Speaker, one of the issues noted in the government's review of the financial assistance program is that the office had "taken on responsibility for student travel without adequate resources, making it difficult to meet student expectations for providing a service similar to a travel agency."

Can the minister confirm whether any steps have been taken to outsource the specific responsibilities for student travel so that the financial assistance staff can focus on supporting students through the application process and document submission requirements, and if not, will she commit to looking into doing so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. Yes, we do know how important travel is within for the students and their families, if they do have any, and we do look forward to some of the new recommendations coming forward to support student travel. We are looking, as the member said, to outsource this capacity for the FANS students, and yes, we are working on that piece and that component. I look forward to an RFP coming out in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1240 – 6(2): National Security and Arctic Sovereignty

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the premier and are about the Western Premiers Conference, and more specifically Arctic security and international trade.

I would like to quote from the announcement that was released, read after last week's Western Premiers Conference, where it states:

"Premiers were pleased to hear the Prime Minister's commitment to the Arctic Security Corridor. A secure Arctic reinforces Canada's sovereignty."

I would like to ask if the premier can elaborate on discussions he has had with our new prime minister on this subject, and can he describe what specific actions and investments the prime minister has committed to undertaking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my colleague for his question.

I have taken every opportunity to be able to have a strong working relationship with the prime minister. As noted, right after his selection to become the prime minister, his first domestic trip was here to the territory, which was great to see the interest, but also the immediate step in terms of wanting to come up to connect with the people of the north. And so I just want to do start by saying we are very thankful for that opportunity to have the prime minister come here.

The member's question, we've identified four key nation-building projects, two of which I just named in the previous engagement I just had. The Arctic Security Corridor, which is a Gray's Bay Road and Port project, which is being led by West Kitikmeot Gold, and which is one we are very excited about, in terms the Arctic being at the forefront and the investments that we would like to see.

The Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link is another one where that has been on the vision and the support is there in terms of wanting to see major nation-building infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, further to that, the deep sea port in Qikiqtarjuaq is one where we've identified jointly with NTI as well as the hydroelectric project right here in Iqaluit, which is yet again being led by Inuit. So these are really the four key areas where we've identified to the Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker, we are having a first ministers' meeting in a week's time, and I look forward to having deeper discussions not only with the prime minister but with the first ministers of this country of identifying and continuing to dive into those very important nation-building projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I appreciate the western premiers' desire for the Government of Canada to accelerate defence spending to meet NATO's 2 per cent GDP target. I have also called on the Government of Canada to do more to enhance the role of our Rangers, as well establish a new Nunavut regiment that would inevitably be a world-class force with respect to Arctic tactics and survival.

I would like to ask, can the premier indicate how the federal government has been responding specifically to these two calls. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I want to thank my colleague. To be clear, there are currently no investments that haven't been identified, but we are at the moment where we are having discussions and debates directly with the prime minister, as well as many of the cabinet colleagues on the investments, but there has never been a time where the north has really led, and I truly believe the four projects that we've brought forward are really exciting.

To the member's question, I really appreciated the engagement and the outreach that he provided in terms of his inquiry, and his interest in terms of wanting to see more investments coming to the territory, in particular a regiment. I have had the opportunity to mention that directly to Minister Bill Blair, at the time, and there was a lot of openness of wanting to see what that could look like.

There's a current new minister that was just appointed, and I very much support continuing to have that positive relationship with Minister McGuinty as we advance really the opportunity around the northern operational hubs and the important role that the Rangers play moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the premier's response. I'm very happy to hear that he had had these discussions with the previous Minister Blair, and I look forward to those discussions with the current Minister of Defence, Minister McGuinty.

With the given turmoil between Canada and the United States, there is urgent need for Canada and Nunavut to take every opportunity to diversity trade relationships, and I would like to ask if the premier can provide an update today on the status of our current trade and transportation linkages between Greenland, and can he indicate any specific initiatives that are underway to enhance them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I want to thank my colleague for his question. We have reached out to the new government. There's a new prime minister and I know we've really sent a strong signal of our support and our willingness to continue to strengthen what is already a strong relationship we have with Greenland.

At this moment we do not have a definitive date in terms of welcoming a delegation over to Greenland. I understand we are continuing to work specifically on the MOU, where we are tied let's say to fisheries, and we are hoping and looking at a future date in terms of

bringing a delegation over specifically to the MOU. But those are still ongoing and I very much support the strengthening that.

There's a request where I believe a delegation may be coming here, but there's ongoing conversations that are happening between our two administrations with our officials.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1241 – 6(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Capital Plan

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation. As the minister will recall, I asked a number of questions during the Legislative Assembly's recent fall sittings concerning the Qulliq Energy Corporation plan to replace one of the generator sets at the Chesterfield Inlet plant. In September of last year the Qulliq Energy Corporation issued a request for proposal for the design, manufacture, supply, and installation of a new generator set for Chesterfield Inlet. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Today I'm not prepared with that level of detail in terms of the generator set project at any given time. In Nunavut we have a number of different projects that are ongoing, but I can commit to getting that detail and providing it to the member as soon as possible.

In terms of Chesterfield Inlet, it is a community that is in need of a new power plant, but in order to continue providing reliable power until we're able to award a contract or construct a new power plant, things like generator set replacements are critical to ensuring that reliability in the interim. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He kind of answered the second question, but I'll go ahead with it. Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, the Utility Rates Review Council issued a report in 2022 recommending that Qulliq Energy Corporation's applications to construct new power plants in Chesterfield Inlet and Kugaaruk be approved; however, the projects have been cancelled due to lack of funding.

During the recent winter sitting the minister made a statement in which he informed the Legislative Assembly that it will cost approximately \$478 million to replace ten “gaining diesel power plants.”

Can the minister provide an update today on his decision with the federal government’s to obtain additional capital funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I really thank the member for raising this. It gives me an opportunity to talk about how important the Arctic Energy Fund has been to Qulliq Energy Corporation, in terms of being able to build new infrastructure but also protect our ratepayers. The Igloolik power plant, for example; that’s been made possible through the Arctic Energy Fund, and we’ve been loud and clear to our federal counterparts that we need federal support to provide reliable power to upgrade our infrastructure.

When Nunavut was created we inherited some very challenging power generation infrastructure that has meant we’re playing catchup right now. So the Arctic Energy Fund is 75 percent from the federal government, 25 percent from Qulliq Energy Corporation. We’ve just about exhausted that, and so the tank, if you want to use an analogy, the fuel tank is almost on empty in terms of our federal funds, and we’re telling the federal government, we need some more in the tank here so that we can continue building new infrastructure, including for communities like Chesterfield. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the recent Winter Sitting the minister made a statement in which he informed the Legislative Assembly that he had requested that the federal government take over the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s historical debt in order to alleviate financial strain. Can the minister indicate what the federal response of this request has been. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We haven’t had a formal response to that. However, we were raising the issue of our debt load as something that we could use assistance with, because we are limited in how much debt we can take on. To build new infrastructure we either have to take on debt or we can access federal subsidies, or we can look at increasing power rates to pay for more infrastructure, which we don’t want to do. We want to protect ratepayers in Nunavut. We want to protect homeowners. We want to protect private businesses. We know that Nunavut is already a very expensive place to operate and maintain a home, and so that’s

where the federal funds or federal assistance is so key in terms of replacing infrastructure like the Chesterfield Inlet power plant.

So we are planning to conduct some outreach with the new federal government. However, we have some existing relationships that are quite strong at the civil service level, and under our president, Ernest Douglas, we're going to continue building those relationships to make sure Nunavummit are provided for through the Qulliq Energy Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1242 – 6(2): Support for Kugluktuk District Education Authority

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

Mr. Speaker, in my member statement, I addressed a number of issues which have been presented to me by the Kugluktuk District Education Authority. As many Kugluktuk representatives have pointed out over the years, the community's high school is too small and does not meet current building standards. Mr. Speaker, this project should have been prioritized long ago, but it seems to have been placed on hold with no clear communication or progress with the community.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of the new high school project for the community, and tell us when Kugluktuk's new high school will be built. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for asking questions about the Kugluktuk high school addition. I do know that we have been working to try and get the Kugluktuk high school on future consideration for pre-planning. Our department requested the project to be included for pre-planning for the fiscal year of 2024-2025, and it was not approved.

We have since gone back and asked, put out a building condition assessment, and I can confirm that that building condition assessment was completed, and that will help us determine our department's next steps for the school. We are working to put that for future consideration for pre-planning for the next fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Sometimes pre-plannings could take years, sometimes I notice five, ten years, but when I think of that I think of a middle school, and that could take some stress off, some space for a small school.

Mr. Speaker, Kugluktuk District Education Authority has expressed some serious concerns regarding the lack of responses and communication from the Kitikmeot School Operations Division, especially when it comes to inquiries about funding. As I stated, the Kugluktuk District Education Authority needs continued funding for its office manager position, among other needs.

Can the minister explain why there's such a consistent lack of communication from the Kugluktuk School Operations Division in response to inquiries from the Kugluktuk District Education Authority. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. We do know that our office managers are very important, and they play an important role in the operations of our district education authorities. I would like to thank those people in those positions for the important work that they do.

This is why in the last fiscal year we increased funding to ensure that each district education authority receives the necessary amounts to allow for a full-time office manager rather than only one part-time, as they had been for many years. So this funding allows our district education authorities to hire a full-time and a long-term manager to support continuity and ensure that the work of the district education authorities is being fulfilled efficiently and effectively.

We also know that this funding is guaranteed to all of our district education authorities under their collective agreements, and in terms of working with our regional school operations, I'll make sure that we relay that piece of information. And I do note that it was outlined in the letter that he's referring to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On my last visit to Kugluktuk one position I found out was the position of Inuinnaqtun consultant. Mr. Speaker, I previously raised the issue of adequate compensation and recognition for our Inuinnaqtun educators. It is very clear that without major effort and investment, the Inuinnaqtun language is at risk of loss. If we want good quality teachers who can use the language effectively in the educational setting, we need to compensate them adequately. It is my understanding that just a few weeks ago, on May 2, 2025, the Government of

Nunavut and the Nunavut Teachers' Association reached a tentative settlement on a new collective agreement, to replace the one which expires on June 30 of this year.

Can the minister confirm that new pay scales and incentives for language specialists, especially for Inuinnaqtun-speaking educators have been established in the new collective agreement to adequately compensate them for their important role in preserving, promoting, revitalizing our language with the education system.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. We do really realize the value of Inuinnaqtun speakers and the teachers that we have in our schools, and I would just like to pay a special thanks to our teachers that we have. One of them is in the House for me, my former teacher who's an interpreter here with us, James, as well as Eva. I thank them along with everyone else who supports our language and *Quana* to them all for the work that they do.

In terms of the negotiations, I can't speak to the specifics of that. However, I can say that those concerns were addressed and brought forward through my capacity when I formerly held the position with HR, and brought those forward to HR as well as with Education I brought those concerns forward from the community. We do recognize that the amounts are not high enough for their eligible language allowances under the Nunavut Teachers' Association collective agreement.

We are also working to plan for Inuit educator recruitment and retention action plan and this will help us better recognize the important efforts of Inuinnaqtun-speaking educators in our schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that we extend the question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Member is seeking unanimous position so to extend question period. Are there any anyways? There are none. Question period extended for another 30 minutes.
Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Oral Question 1243 – 6(2): Anuriquak Nukkiksautiit Project

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents have been excited about the Sanikiluaq high displacement renewable energy demonstration project, which is also known in Inuktitut as the Anuriqjuak project.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed project is expected to generate about 50 percent of the community's electricity demand. The wind energy will be sold to the Qulliq Energy for integration into the local electrical grid, through an independent power purchase arrangement. During the Legislative Assembly's recent Fall Sitting, the minister announced that the Nunavut Nukiksautiit Corporation continues to advance the Sanikiluaq wind energy project towards construction, with the completion of an access road this past summer.

I would like to ask the minister to provide an update today on the status of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's involvement with this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleague for raising this question. (interpretation ends) Yes, we are really excited about this project as well, having seen some photos of I believe the wind turbine components being delivered to a port in Montreal. it's very exciting to see a project coming closer and closer to reality.

Qulliq Energy Corporation supports this project, or has been supporting this project, as the Member mentioned, through the independent power producer program, and currently there is a detailed design as well as study work that's being done in parallel. This will inform the final interconnection between – it is very technical work. It determines how the renewable power source will operate with our existing power plant, and the intent of that work is to ensure that it works together smoothly and there's no impact to Sanikiluaq residents' power reliability. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good news from the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In September of 2023 the Qulliq Energy Corporation signed a formal energy purchase agreement with the project proponent. Can the minister highlight some of the major elements of the agreement, and can he indicate approximately how much power the Qulliq Energy Corporation plans to purchase on an annual basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am really wanting to be careful here in terms of how much of that agreement can be shared or disclosed publicly, and so in order to walk that line and make sure I'm not oversharing information from that agreement, I'll take this question as notice and I plan to respond to this question at the appropriate time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Question taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Oral Question 1244 – 6(2): Group Homes for Vulnerable Children

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, I used my member statement to read out loud part of a very eloquent letter from a constituent, explaining the needs of a group home for vulnerable children in Pond Inlet. Can the minister provide an overview of what steps must be taken, either by the government or by other entities, to open a children's group home in a Nunavut community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your question. There are different group homes and functions. Usually we work with, or anyone can work with the local hamlet. Or if there is a building available in the community, planning can be another step to access the funding from Family Services. And we also approach Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated if a new program or project wants to be initiated. So there are various programs, and these can be initiated locally at the hamlet, and Family Services are able to help in some areas of funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and (interpretation) thank you to the minister for clarifying that. (interpretation ends) The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts recently held two hearings which focused on the desperate need of protective services for Nunavut's children and youth. My colleague from Iqaluit-Sinaa revisited this issue just the other day. The minister's response to her indicated that the department needs to recruit more foster parents and hire more social workers, but it was not clear whether supporting the establishment of a group home for vulnerable children and youth is also being considered as priority.

Can the minister clearly explain her department's position on the establishment of group homes for vulnerable children and youth in Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for raising this issue. This is a very difficult area. We don't want our youth and children sent out of Nunavut, and we just don't want to keep them in group homes for our children and youth. The priority has always been if a child is in dire need, we always prioritize family first to see if relatives can keep a child, or a foster parent. We always raise the issue of foster parents and the lack thereof in Nunavut.

When we don't want you sent out of Nunavut; this seems to be the best route to take, and if we're going to have a group home, it will be more convenient for us to work with the local hamlet, as the needs would arise through them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that women's shelters, domestic-violence shelters, men's shelters and such facilities as low-barrier shelters and transitional housing facilities are generally established and operated by non-government groups and organizations with the government's support. However, the protection of children and youth is a government responsibility, mandated by legislation. Will the minister commit to reviewing the need for a group home or safe shelter for vulnerable children youth in Nunavut communities, and will she present the finding of her review to this House before the end of our term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for this question. (interpretation ends) I think when the Office of the Auditor General did put the report out, the Department of Family Services had to do a strategic plan, and in the strategic plan we do have a number of things that the department has to do, and a lot of it is of course protecting the children. So we are working towards the strategic plan on how we can better provide service and programs to the communities to help protect the children in the communities.

We will continue to work on this strategic plan to ensure that there's more programs and services that the department develops throughout.

We also did this with the community consultations, when our department staff did travel to the communities. I think a lot of the information that we have from the communities, as well as working with the cabinet colleagues, there have been a number of things that we want to improve on. Of course the protection of the children is a priority, and we will continue to work on the strategic plan. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1245 – 6(2): New School for Sanirajak

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education in regards to a new much needed new school in Sanirajak. As the minister is aware I have raised this issue of the need for a new school at almost every sitting during my term. The minister constantly indicated that her department is aware and is considering putting a Sanirajak new school project forward for pre-planning.

Now, Mr. Speaker has the department had enough time to consider and do the work so that the new school project for Sanirajak is now in the next capital project? Can the minister explain what is happening with the capital project planning for Sanirajak new school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to the member for the question and his advocacy for a new school for his constituency of Sanirajak. As we stated, there are a number of schools that are in the pre-planning phase, and our department is considering Sanirajak to be considered for future consideration. We have a number of other schools as well for future consideration, including Arviat, Baker Lake, Kugluktuk, and of course Sanirajak.

In terms of a time frame, the department has to put forward those proposals to the pre-planning cycle, and then they have to get approved. So in my capacity right now I can't say what's going to get approved or not approved but we're always hopeful that one of our schools or a couple of our schools will go forward for a budget cycle. And we're hopeful that coming down the road that those four schools will soon see either an expansion renovation or a new school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's good to hear that it's continuing to be in the future consideration, but it would have been nice if there was an actual time frame when is the future.

On October 29, Mr. Speaker, the minister committed to having someone from her department visit Sanirajak when it comes to community planning, and from the Community and Government Services, which is now Transportation and Infrastructure. Now, can the minister confirm her department's capital planner did visit Sanirajak? Did the capital planner visit? If not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. That's a level of detail that I'll have to ask the department about and get back to the member through correspondence in the next day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'll be expecting that correspondence from the minister in terms of the much needed new school.

Mr. Speaker, the minister also has indicated that school projects are brought forward when they are in one or two categories, either being crowded or in a poor condition. Now, I do believe Sanirajak meets both criteria, when it comes to overcrowded and poor conditions, so I do believe that it should be given the highest priority when it comes to capital planning a new school.

Now, as the minister has mentioned those four other communities, Baker Lake, Kugluktuk, Sanirajak, so would the minister be in agreement with me that the Sanirajak comes on the department's priority scale in submission for capital planning? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. From our colleague's constituency of Sanirajak, for the community of Sanirajak, the condition of the school is at 62 percent, I believe. We have a number of other schools that are also within that range, and that is one of our impending priorities, is that in Nunavut we have a lot of older buildings, and unfortunately a lot of our schools are old as well. We're working to try and address them as much as we can. But when our schools are costing upwards of 80 to maybe even higher than 80 million dollars, it becomes very challenging to have those included in our capital plans.

We do want them to go forward, but there's limited constraints that we can do in terms of building new schools and renovating new schools. But we do hope that in the very near future we can have more schools built and renovated, and we are putting in other proposals to the federal government to see where we can get extra support from our federal counterparts for that much-needed infrastructure like our schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1246 – 6(2): Community Aerodrome Radio Station Program

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of the new Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I tabled correspondence during our recent sitting that I had received from the municipality of Kugaaruk concerning the status of weather observation services at the airport.

Mr. Speaker, the minister's predecessor subsequently wrote a letter to me, in which he indicated that the government is "actively addressing the challenges impacting Nunavut's community aerodrome radio station program." Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update today on the status of this important work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my department has ongoing relationship and communicates with NAV Canada and their management regarding any issues or challenges that our communities face regarding the community aerodrome radio stations, also known as CARS. Those operate as an essential service that we rely on to ensure that our runways are safe and reliable for the aircraft to land.

With that, we are working with them and assisting them as well as, for example, medevac providers. We're doing whatever we can to make improvements, while also looking at longer-term solutions that are being developed and implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the community aerodrome radio station program plays a vital role in the Nunavut's smaller communities. Continuity of service and accurate weather observations are essential to supporting such things as medical evacuation flights. As the minister may be aware, the municipal council of Taloyoak wrote correspondence to the government on this issue in early April this year. Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to tabling a copy of his reply to the municipality in the Legislative Assembly before the end of our Spring Sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate this question. Mr. Speaker, I did receive the letter from the mayor of Taloyoak. My office received that correspondence earlier this month, and I did respond to that will letter just a week or so ago. I can look at tabling it during the sitting, going through the proper channels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, NAV Canada, which falls under federal jurisdiction, plays an important role in this area. Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to formally raising these concerns with the new federal Minister of Transport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Speaker it's not only my Department of Transport and Infrastructure that shares the concern; I know Department of Health has experienced challenges around this issue, and we've met on this specific topic as well. But I can commit to bringing forward Nunavut's priorities and concerns to our federal counterparts as it relates to NAV Canada and the services that are to be provided to our communities. Again, we want to allow for safe and reliable air service transportation systems across the territory, including Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1247 – 6(2): Nunavut Partnership Committee

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the premier. Mr. Speaker, last week on May 20 a news release announced a meeting of the Nunavut Partnership Committee, and the release indicated that the committee, which consists of the executive council of the Government of Nunavut and the board of directors of Nunavut Tunngavik, endorsed two new work plans which the premier mentioned earlier in the response. The release indicates that five other work plans already exist and focus on child welfare, elders, housing, community economic development, and training.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, would the premier be able to provide a brief overview of what kinds of tasks, responsibilities and accountabilities are included in each of those work plans, or if he's unable to provide a brief response about the details today, would he commit to tabling them in this House before the end of our sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Honourable premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my colleague for her question, very timely as well. I could be here all day providing that, and so I could commit to getting back to the member specifically. We identified jointly together with NTI, which has co-leads around those seven key priority areas we've identified, which we've then identified work plans of exactly what each partner will be focused on.

Through that I will commit to getting back to the member on specifically brief descriptions of each theme, and then the co-leads around that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following the Auditor General of Canada's 2023 report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut in May 2023, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated issued a news release which stated that NTI's Department of Social and Cultural Development will continue to research potential opportunities for NTI to become more involved in providing and overseeing prevention services for Inuit children and families.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard over and over again that the Department of Family Services is in a crisis. We've heard that child sexual abuse is a crisis. We're hearing as well that suicide is a crisis, and there's so much work to be done, and so many potential partners.

I wonder, can the Premier provide an update on what opportunities or initiative have been proposed by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated since 2023 to increase that entity's involvement in providing and overseeing such services that will help address each of those crises that have not been declared to be over since they were declared. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank my colleague for her question. I just want to recognize the incredible leadership that we have with my colleague here from Family Services, and the very important work that we've been able to do to bring resources in, and really the foundational piece is around what we've heard so far, directed to the Auditor General, among many.

As I noted, the work plan does identify child welfare being a priority, very much supported and engaging with NTI specifically in the work plan where we identify that as a joint initiative. It will be through that collaborative approach that we hope to see a continued, just discussion but investments around what we can do to make sure that we can do all we can to tackle the challenges that we know and that we've heard, whether it is reports through the Office of the Auditor General which was most recently here as well.

Through that I had committed to getting back to the member on more of the roles, but I can commit getting back to the member as well if there has been any advancements around specifically to her question. I don't have them. Usually those rest with the department leads, but I can commit working with the department to get back to the member through that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I do echo your gratitude for the Minister of Family Services in helping to address some of the challenges that are related to all of these crises. However, there's still a lot more work to be done, Mr. Speaker.

In July 2019 the federal government of the day introduced Bill C-92, *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*. The legislation passed, and was most recently consolidated on May 5, 2025. One of the central purposes of this act was to affirm the rights of Inuit to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services. The act allows the opportunity for such Indigenous bodies as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated provided to provide child and family services to Indigenous children.

Given the desperate need for resources and child and family services in Nunavut, and given that the legislative context provides for Nunavut Tunngavik to take on a substantive role in meeting this need, and given that one of the existing work plans of the Nunavut partnership does focus on child welfare, can the premier tell us what specific commitments have been made by Nunavut Tunngavik with respect to prevention, protection, placement, and ensuring that children and youth in care can maintain a connection their family, community, and culture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies, I called you the chair again. That was not intentional at all, Mr. Speaker. Again I want to thank my colleague for her question as well.

I couldn't agree more, just the importance around providing the foundational pieces of making sure that children have that connection to language, to culture, as noted. I do understand the senior officials continue to work on specifically the work plan that has been identified around the child welfare specifically. I am unable to provide comments specifically to Bill C-92 that you had referenced. I will have to check in with the Department of Justice to see what specific implications or challenges or opportunities that would have brought forward.

I will commit to getting back to the member specifically, I apologize. Again this is not something that falls in terms of the day-to-day operation, in terms of updates around that, but I will look into that and ensure that I get back to the member specifically on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members be aware time allotted for extension of Question Period is now over. Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of

Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Ms. Brewster: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 66, *Early Learning and Childcare Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the Bill as amended and reprinted is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 68(6) and have Bill 66 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Do members agree that Bill 66 as amended and reprinted has been reported back to the house?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive rule 68(6) and have Bill 66 moved to Committee of the Whole today. Are there any nays? No? There are no nays. Bill 66 will be moved to the Committee of the Whole today.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present the report of the Standing Committee review of the 2020-2021 and the 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Consolidated Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing from September 20 to 21, 2024. The standing committee's hearing was held in the chamber of the Legislative Assembly, and was televised live across the territory. Mr. Speaker, the hearing was open to the public and news media to observe from the visitors' gallery and was live-streamed on the Legislative Assembly's web site. The transcript from the standing committee's hearing is available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

Witnesses appearing before the Standing Committee included a number of officials from the Office of the Languages Commissioner, the Government of Nunavut's Departments of Culture and Heritage, Justice, Human Resources, Health, and Nunavut Arctic College. The standing committee notes its appreciation to the witnesses.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's report contains a set of ten recommendations. Seven formal recommendations are directed to the Government of Nunavut, which cover a number of thematic areas, including the application of the *Access to Information and Privacy Act* in relation to the activities of the Office of the Languages Commissioner; the

Government of Nunavut's responses to the Office of the Language Commissioner's previous recommendations; training for the Government of Nunavut staff regarding language law obligations; information-sharing agreements; health-specific patient relations language issues; and the Department of Culture's Language Act implementation section.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to note for the record that the standing committee is requesting that the government provide a comprehensive response to this report, pursuant to rule 91(5) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's report also contains three sets of formal recommendations directed to the office of the languages commissioner.

With that, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Member has moved that the report of the Standing Committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 392 – 6(2): Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, Public Housing in Nunavut

Speaker: It is agreed. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. I have one document to table today, which is the report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, *Public Housing In Nunavut*. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Hickes.

Tabled Document 393 – 6(2): Report of the Standing Committee on the Review of the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and the 2023-2024 Consolidated Annual Reports of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut

Tabled Document 394 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation: Follow-Up from the Committee of the Whole's Consideration of the 2025-2026 Main Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Tabled Document 395 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Family Services: follow-up from the Committee of the Whole's consideration of the 2025-2026 Main Estimates of the Department of Family Services

Tabled Document 396 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut: Follow-up from the Committee of the Whole’s consideration of the 2025-2026 Main Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I have three documents to table today in my capacity as chairperson of the Committee of the Whole. The first document is a copy of in response to questions that were asked during the consideration of 2025-2026 main estimates during the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole during the Winter 2025 Sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker and members, the second is a copy of correspondence from the Minister of Family Services in response to questions that were asked during the consideration of the department’s 2025-2026 main estimates, during the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole during the Winter 2025 Sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker and members, the third document is a copy of correspondence from the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure in response to questions that were asked during consideration of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation’s 2025-2026 main estimates during the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole during the winter 2025 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

I encourage all members to review the documents with care. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Hickes.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, that appointments be made to the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly.

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

Speaker: Item 15, Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills. I recognize the Minister of Languages, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 15: Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 76 – An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act – Notice

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 that Bill 76, *An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 16, Motions. Mr. Hickes.

Item 16: Motions

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

Speaker: Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive rule 45(1) and move the motion for which he gave notice earlier today. Are there any nays? Are there any nays? No? Mr. Hickes, please move your motion.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, whereas section 17 of *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly may establish such committees to aid and advise as it considers necessary;

and whereas the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make appointments and revocations;

now therefore I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet that appointments be made to the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly;

and further I MOVE that Daniel Qavvik, Member for Hudson Bay, be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, and the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion? All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Ms. Gross.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**Bill 75 –An Act to Amend the Legislation Act and Other Acts Respecting the Nunavut Gazette – Second Reading**

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, that Bill 75, *An Act to Amend the Legislation Act and Other Acts Respecting the Nunavut Gazette*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill amends several acts to reduce the number of documents published in the *Nunavut Gazette*, and providing for most to be published by other means. It also amends the *Legislation Act* to provide for consequential amendments to regulations and make technical changes to how certain specific statutory language is interpreted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill? All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 75 has had second reading and is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Ms. Gross.

Bill 77 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – Second Reading

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit- Niaqunngu, that Bill 77, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill makes changes and multiple statutes to replace Latin terms by plain language equivalents, to make the manner of taking oaths and affirmation more inclusive and to correct errors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill? All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 77 has had second reading and is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Bill 78 – An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act – Second Reading

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

Mr. Speaker, This Bill amends the *Vital Statistics Act* to allow for a non-binary sex designation on birth registrations; to allow for regulations to prescribe the requirements

for applications to change the sex designation on a birth registration; allow the birth registration of children adopted in accordance with customary law to reflect both birth parents and adoptive parents; eliminate the registration of dissolutions and annulments of marriage; provide for international divorces to be notated on Nunavut marriage registrations; modernize rules relating to how public officers sign documents; modernize the roles of deputies of the Registrar General; clarify the applicable penalties for offences; increase fine amounts; and modernize language.

Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate this this important piece of legislation is ready for consideration in the House. Health has worked diligently on this Bill for over a year, and we have dedicated significant time and resources to move it through the legislative process.

As we approach June, Pride Month, I encourage and urge members to consider the importance of moving this Bill forward. We have an opportunity to demonstrate to know the that we are guided by Inuit Societal Values, *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq*, which calls on us to respect others, and *Tunnganarniq*, embodying openness and inclusivity. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill? All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 78 has had second reading and is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation. Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Bill 79 – An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act – Second 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 read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will create additional regulation making power regarding health facilities and social services facilities, and will increase the maximum fine for offences. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill? All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 79 has had second reading and is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation. Second Reading of Bills. Acting Finance Minister, Mr. David Akeeagok.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 80, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2025-2026*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray capital expenditures of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill? All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 80 has had second reading and is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19, Consideration of Committee of the Whole and Other Matters, Bill 66 and Bill 80 with Mr. Hickes in the chair. Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we'll take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:23 and Committee commenced at 16:47*

Chairman (Mr. George Hickes): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 66 and 80. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Mr. Chair, we wish to deal with Bill 66. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Is everybody in agreement we first deal with Bill 66?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross, do you have officials you would like to have appear with you before the committee?

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chair. Yes, I do.

Chairman: And do members agree to allow the witnesses to appear before you with the minister?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in. Thank you. I apologize for that. I was not paying attention. I was reading off the script. For the record, Minister please introduce your officials and then proceed directly with your opening comments. Thank you.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chair. We apologize that we had our staff sitting here at the witness table, who are so eager to talk about this Bill. I'm very pleased to have our Deputy Minister of Education, Rebecca Hainnu, with me to my left, and we have Lynn Matt (ph), our Director of Early Learning and Child Care to my right.

Also in the House with us today we have Thomas Ahlfors, the Director of Legislation Division with the Department of Justice, and we also have Bill Cooper, Assistant Deputy Minister of Education Programs. And here with us are wonderful Arielle Stockdale, who is our Director of Policy, and she will be here taking notes.

Mr. Chair, thank you for the opportunity to appear before standing committee to discuss Bill 66 – the *Early Learning and Childcare Act*.

To begin, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to your committee for its thorough review of this Bill. I also wish to thank the dedicated staff of the Legislative Assembly and the team at the Department of Justice, who collaborated closely with the Department of Education to address the committee's thoughtful feedback.

Mr. Chair, the *Child Day Care Act*, currently in force in Nunavut, was adopted from the Northwest Territories on April 1, 1999. The legislation itself dates back to 1987, making it nearly four decades old. While it served as a foundational framework for child care in Nunavut's early days, it no longer reflects the realities, aspirations, or needs of our communities today.

Bill 66 proposes a full repeal and replacement of this outdated legislation. What we present to you now is a transformative legislative framework, rooted in Inuit values, responsive to today's realities, and aligned with the long-term vision of accessible, affordable, inclusive, and high-quality early learning and child care across Nunavut.

Mr. Chair, this Bill has been informed by extensive research, policy work, and engagement, including consultation with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, regional Inuit associations, child care sector representatives, the public, and many community stakeholders.

The insights gathered through these consultations are documented and publicly available in the *Child Day Care Act Consultation Report* on our department's website. These efforts underscore our government's commitment to grounding public policy in the voices of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chair, I am proud to highlight some of the fundamental changes proposed through Bill 66; changes that reflect our evolving understanding of early learning and child care, and are rooted in the principle of *Inunnguiniq*. Research shows that children who are healthy, safe, and immersed in culturally relevant learning during the early years are best positioned to fully participate in society as adults and to reach their full developmental

potential. This Bill reaffirms our *Katujjiluta* commitment to putting Inuit children, families, and communities at the centre of our work.

This Bill re-envision the fundamental principles of the act in alignment with Inuit *Qaujimaqatuqangit* and Inuit-centred early learning, enhances safety and well-being standards for children in care, improves licensing requirements to strengthen oversight while supporting operators, clarifies and enhances duties and responsibilities of licensed operators, establishes a clear, fair, and accessible appeals process, creates the Nunavut Early Learning and Child Care Council to provide sector guidance, and adds a requirement for annual departmental reporting for public accountability.

Each of these elements was developed with care, research, and community guidance to ensure that children in Nunavut have the best possible start in life.

Mr. Chair, this Bill represents more than legislative reform. It represents a reimagining of what early childhood care can and should be in Nunavut based on Inuit ways of knowing and being, the recent Canada-wide work to transform the early learning sector, and best practices informed by research.

It also allows us to build a system that nurtures the holistic development of our youngest citizens socially, culturally, emotionally, and intellectually while supporting families and empowering communities.

It acknowledges the importance of culturally safe and linguistically appropriate care. It recognizes that Inuit knowledge systems and worldviews must be foundational to early learning programs in Nunavut. Lastly, it lays the groundwork for greater innovation, flexibility, and community-led solutions.

I welcome your questions and comments as we continue this important work together.

Quana, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Gross. Does the co-chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 66, *Early Learning and Childcare Act*.

The standing committee supports the purpose of the Bill, which the Minister described in her opening comments. Committee members note the extensive consultations that went into developing this legislation and greatly appreciated the level of information that was made available in the consultation report.

For the record, I note that three motions to amend the Bill were adopted during the Minister's recent appearance before the standing committee to undertake clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. These amendments simply corrected some minor typographical inconsistencies in the Bill.

The Committee welcomes this made-in-Nunavut childcare legislation, which establishes new standards, requirements, and responsibilities for early learning and childcare that will help to promote school readiness and well-being of children in Nunavut. The legislation also provides for Inuit culture and principles to be the foundation of early learning and childcare programs across the territory.

This concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Do members have any general comments before we proceed with clause by clause? Seeing none, please go to Bill 66 in your legislation binder. Bill 66, *Early Learning And Childcare Act*. Clause 1, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: clause 11, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 16, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 17, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 18, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 19, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 20, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 22, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 23, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 24, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 25, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 26, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 27, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 28, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 29, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 30, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 31, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 32, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 33, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 34, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 35, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 36, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 37, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 38, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 39, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 40, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 41, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 42, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 43, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 44, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 45, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 46, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 47, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 48, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 49, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 50, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 51, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 52, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 53, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 54, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 55, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 56, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 57, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 58, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 59, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 60, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 61, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 62, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 63, agreed??

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 64, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 65, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 66, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: And clause 67, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does committee agree to Bill 66 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to Bill 66 as ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister, do you have any short closing comments? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chair and *quana* again to the committee for their work with the Department of Education on this Bill, which is very exciting to see this Bill being repealed and replaced to support our youngest citizens of Nunavut. I do thank the Department of Justice alongside the whole Department of Education, specifically Lynn Matt and the Early Learning Division, which really supports all of this wonderful work. We can't do it without the support of everyone involved. I thank everyone for their time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Gross and your officials. As we have completed our business before us, I will now rise and report progress to the Speaker. Sergeant-At-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

>> *Committee adjourned and House resumed at 17:03*

Speaker: Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hickes.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 66 and would like to report that Bill 66 is immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you.

Speaker: Is there a seconder? Ms. Brewster. Item 21. My apologies, agreed to the motion?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Opposed? Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 66 – Early Learning and Childcare Act – Third Reading

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, that Bill 66, *Early Learning and Childcare Act* be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion? All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 66 has had third reading and is ready for assent.

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 Legislation tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. *Orders of the Day* for Tuesday, May 27 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
 - Bill 76
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 80
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, May 27 at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 17:07*



**Standing Committee on
Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts**

Report on the Review of the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and the 2023-2024 Consolidated Annual Reports of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut

**2nd Session of the 6th Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Spring 2025 Sitting**

Chair

George Hickes

Co-Chair

Alexander Sammurtok

Members

Bobby Anavilok
Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster
Joelie Kaernerik
Mary Killiktee
Adam Arreak Lightstone
Solomon Malliki
Karen Nutarak
Joanna Quassa
Joseph Quqqiaq
Joe Savikataaq
Craig Simailak

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Introduction

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing from September 20-21, 2024, on the 2020-2021 and the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 Consolidated Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut.

The standing committee's hearing was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and was televised live across the territory. The hearing was open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery, and was livestreamed on the Legislative Assembly's website. The transcripts from the standing committee's hearing are available from the Legislative Assembly's website.

Witnesses appearing before the standing committee included the Languages Commissioner and a number of Government of Nunavut officials representing the Department of Culture and Heritage, the Department of Justice, the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Health and Nunavut Arctic College. The standing committee notes its appreciation to the witnesses.

Overview and Chronology of Recent Events

The *Official Languages Act* was inherited upon division on April 1, 1999. In 2008, the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut passed two language statutes, the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, which came into force in stages in 2017 and 2020.

The *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* constitute Nunavut's official languages legislation. The statutes outline the official languages of Nunavut, establish obligations for territorial institutions and other entities to provide services in the territory's official languages. The statutes also outline the need to preserve and promote the Inuit Language.

The position of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut is established by section 16 of the *Official Languages Act*.

Section 16 of the *Official Languages Act* provides, in part, that the:

Appointment of Languages Commissioner

16. (1) The Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, shall appoint the Languages Commissioner to exercise the powers and perform the duties set out in this Act.

Section 24(1) and (2) of the *Official Languages Act* provides that the:

Languages Commissioner's annual report

24. (1) The Languages Commissioner shall, within six months after the end of each fiscal year, prepare and submit to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly an annual report of the conduct of the office and the discharge of the duties of the Languages Commissioner during the preceding year, including

(a) the appointment and activities of an acting or special Languages Commissioner during the preceding fiscal year;

(b) a description of the number and type of applications and requests made under this Act and under the Inuit Language Protection Act, the status or resolution of the applications or requests that were active during the preceding fiscal year and information about any instances where recommendations made by the Languages Commissioner after an investigation have not been followed; and

(c) an assessment of the effectiveness of the enforcement powers exercised and duties performed by the Languages Commissioner, with any recommended changes that the Languages Commissioner considers necessary or desirable to improve compliance with this Act or the Inuit Language Protection Act.

Tabling annual report

(2) The Speaker shall cause the annual report to be laid before the Legislative Assembly as soon as is reasonably practicable.

The 2020-2021 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner was tabled in the House on November 19, 2021. The 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 Consolidated Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut was tabled in the House on October 24, 2024. These reports are also publicly accessible on the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut's website.

Observations and Recommendations Directed to the Government of Nunavut

Issue: Commitments to Provide Information

During the televised hearing, witnesses from the Government of Nunavut made a number of commitments to provide additional information to the standing committee.

Standing Committee Recommendation #1:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include the information that was committed to during the televised hearing of September 20-21, 2024.

Issue: Languages Commissioner's Investigative Authority and the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has overarching responsibility for the government's administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Significant attention was paid during the standing committee's televised hearing of September 20-21, 2024, to the issues of Government of Nunavut departments delaying a number of investigations undertaken by the Languages Commissioner by not releasing information requested by the Office of the Languages Commissioner.

The standing committee notes that sections 26(1) and (2) of the *Official Languages Act* provides that:

Application for Investigation

26. (1) A person may apply to the Languages Commissioner orally, or in another form that the Languages Commissioner considers to be satisfactory, for the investigation of concerns that, in the administration of the affairs of a territorial institution or municipality,

- (a) the status of an Official Language has not been recognized;
- (b) a provision of this or any other Act or regulation relating to the status, use or protection of an Official Language has not been complied with; or
- (c) the spirit and intent of this Act or the *Inuit Language Protection Act* has not been fulfilled.

Languages Commissioner may initiate

26. (2) On the Languages Commissioner's own initiative, or at the request of a territorial institution, a municipality or a member or committee of the Legislative Assembly, the Languages Commissioner may commence an investigation on the grounds for concern referred to in subsection.

The standing committee also notes that section 25(5) of the *Official Languages Act* and section 38(6) of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that:

Paramountcy

25. (5) If there is an inconsistency or conflict between this section and the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* or the regulations made under that Act, this section prevails to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

Section 38(6) of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that:

Paramountcy

38(6) If there is an inconsistency or conflict between this Part and the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* or the regulations made under that Act, this Part prevails to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

The Languages Commissioner's opening message in the 2021-2024 consolidated annual report included an excerpt from correspondence from the Information and Privacy Commissioner, which indicated that:

"Your office is governed by two pieces of legislation: the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. These two laws give you broad authority to investigate and to require the production of documents and other information.

The key provisions of the *Official Languages Act* on collection of information are the following:

- The Languages Commissioner may "request and obtain information from the persons and in the manner the Languages Commissioner considers appropriate": s 31(1).
- The Languages Commissioner may compel testimony "at a time and place" specified by the Commissioner: s 31(2)(c).
- The Languages Commissioner may compel a person to produce "documents and things" in a person's possession that the Commissioner considers relevant "at a time and place" specified by the Commissioner: s 31(2)(d).

Under the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, you have a right to whatever information you consider relevant, with few and limited exceptions. You may compel a public agency to give it to you. You do have some statutory restrictions on what you can do with the information, but that is a decision for you to make, not the public agency."

In her 2021-2024 consolidated annual report, the Languages Commissioner also indicates that:

"The additional duties [of the Languages Commissioner] are essential to note because the law outlines my office's power to investigate language rights infringements. These laws confer to my office the right to obtain information to support our investigation of any and all concerns regarding language rights infringements in Nunavut. Section 25(5) of the *Official Languages Act*, in particular, ensures that the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* does not limit our investigative powers. Section 38(6) of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* further affirms that the protection of privacy in regard to our investigation does not apply.

Our office has made numerous efforts to communicate these provisions of law to departments of the Government of Nunavut. Unfortunately, we have faced continued resistance from departments in providing the information needed for our investigations, which has delayed our efforts to address language rights infringements. I have reached out to the Information and Privacy Commissioner to further affirm my responsibility and powers to obtain information from Government of Nunavut departments and agencies to support my investigations.”

The standing committee is strongly supportive of efforts on the part of the Government of Nunavut to support the Office of the Languages Commissioner with respect to proactively informing departments of the investigative authority of the Languages Commissioner.

Standing Committee Recommendation #2:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report provide a detailed update on how it will inform its departments and agencies of the Office of the Languages Commissioner’s investigative authority.

Issue: Government of Nunavut's Response to the Office of the Languages Commissioner's Recommendations

Significant attention was paid during the standing committee's televised hearings of September 20-21, 2024, to the issue of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs' failure to respond to the Languages Commissioner's recommendations outlined in her prior year's annual reports.

In her testimony to the standing committee of September 20, 2024, the Languages Commissioner stated that:

"This consolidated annual report does not make any new recommendations, as many of our past recommendations still need to be implemented. In March 2022 we requested an update from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to monitor the progress of my office's past recommendations. The expectation was that our office would receive a response on some of the recommendations that were either addressed or not and the progress of those recommendations.

The first deadline for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs' response was set for March 30, 2022, with an expectation that we would receive a full progress report by the next fiscal year from the territorial government. The intention was to gauge the progress and monitor the Nunavut government's commitment to addressing language rights infringements. Our office did not receive a response regarding the progress and status of the recommendations in the fiscal years 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024.

... In March 2023 my office requested that the Premier's Office provide an update on the status and progress of those recommendations, with a deadline to respond by April 10, 2023. In the fiscal year 2023-2024 our office did not receive a response on the status and progress of those recommendations.

Unless territorial government institutions and public agencies provide updates on their efforts to address our office's recommendations, we cannot determine whether they comply with their language obligations and commitments."

In her testimony to the standing committee of September 21, 2024, the Languages Commissioner stated that:

"The fact of the matter is when I requested that information, there was no response within the timeline that I outlined, nor an update afterward. The government says they've responded. I couldn't include those in my annual reports because they did not provide that within the time frame that I requested so it could be included in the annual report."

The standing committee emphasizes the importance of timely responses from the Government of Nunavut to the recommendations made by the Office of the Languages Commissioner.

Standing Committee Recommendation #3:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include its responses to previous recommendations made by the Office of the Languages Commissioner.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report describe, in detail, the process by which it will ensure that it provides timely responses to the Office of the Languages Commissioners recommendations.

Issue: Training for Government of Nunavut Staff Regarding Language Law Obligations

In her testimony to the standing committee of September 20, 2024, the Department of Culture and Heritage's lead witness stated that:

"... we have had ongoing discussions with the Commissioner on how better we can respond from the government's side and the departments within the government, that one department, the Deputy Minister of Environment to take the lead. We have had to make more decisions on that, and we will work towards computer training, language-related issues and obligations under the *[Inuit] Language Protection Act* that we will be able to see the obligations on screen in written form and for employees to follow.

... we're talking about creating a manual if the Languages Commissioner approaches you, what are you to do? And what steps would you have in coming up with a response, with a manual on the official languages. I agree that we need to work closely with the Commissioner and we have committed to working with them and agreements."

The standing committee strongly supports the development of computer training initiatives for Government of Nunavut staff concerning language laws obligations.

Standing Committee Recommendation #4:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on the implementation of its language obligations training modules.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed update on the status of the creation of the "manual" that was referenced by the Department of Culture and Heritage's Deputy Minister.

Issue: Information-Sharing Agreements with the Government of Nunavut and other entities

On January 30, 2023, the Languages Commissioner appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs to outline the issues that Nunavut is experiencing with the federal government's noncompliance with the two Nunavut language legislation.

The Languages Commissioner's 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 Consolidated Annual Report indicated that:

“the Languages Commissioner stated that this is especially concerning because federal agencies, departments, and institutions in Nunavut are accountable for the lack of Inuktitut in their oral communications, public signs, posters, reception, and client services as required under *Inuit Language Protection Act*.”

To address these concerns, the Languages Commissioner provided two recommendations in the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 Consolidated Annual Report, which indicated that:

“Recommendation 1: Memorandum of Understanding

Establish a Memorandum of Understanding with federal agencies, departments, and institutions in Nunavut. This will be the mechanism to improve communication on language issues and resolve them while concerns are raised about a federal institution in Nunavut.

Recommendation 2: Legislative tool

To hold the Privy Council accountable for the implementation of recommendations on Language issues in Nunavut and ultimately in Canada. To establish a clear time frame for federal agencies, departments, and institutions operating in Nunavut to respond to Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut's recommendations.”

In her testimony to the standing committee of September 20, 2024, the Languages Commissioner stated that:

“... having a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nunavut government will be a systemic way so the government can keep track itself on my offices past recommendations, and it is not person dependent. There's a clear paper trail of what the concern was, number 1; what the findings was, number 2 from my office; number 3, what the government needs to do; number 4, is there any updates or any progress on it; number 5, what more can they do to make sure that they are complying with the laws or following the recommendations. It is more of a systemic way of keeping track of the concerns from my office.”

In her testimony to the standing committee of September 21, 2024, the Department of Culture and Heritage's witness stated that:

"The Commissioner has invited us to make suggestions with the protocol, and we welcome that suggestion."

Standing Committee Recommendation #5:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on the status of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Languages Commissioner, the Government of Canada and other entities.

Issue: Health-Specific Patient Relations Language Issues and Related Matters

Significant attention was paid during the standing committee's televised hearings of September 20-21, 2024, to the issue of interpretation services for Nunavut patients receiving medical care and long-term care outside of Nunavut.

A Member asked a series of questions concerning patients, specifically Elders, who face significant language barriers when on medical travel for treatment.

On September 20, 2024, a Member noted that:

"I'll switch over to the Government of Nunavut for this follow-up question regarding interpretation services in hospitals down south, especially when it's after hours. It's been a longstanding issue with this serious concern where an elder doesn't know what's going on at all around them, or what's wrong with them, or how serious their illness is, and there's no one there to interpret for them. What work has been done recently to help solve this issue? Is there an on-call person that can be called up to rush to the hospital in the middle of the night to provide interpretation services?"

In her testimony to the standing committee of September 20, 2024, the Department of Health's witness stated that:

"I can't speak to that specific circumstance, but I know that we do have contingency plans in place at boarding homes. If there are no staff available to speak Inuktitut, they then call another boarding home to access the interpreters there.

In terms of what happens in those after-hour situations, we can admit [commit] to getting back to the committee as part of the follow-up out of this appearance to get a bit more detail on that."

Another Member asked a series of questions concerning translation services for Elders who live in Elder homes and care facilities.

On September 21, 2024, the Member stated that:

"I would like to ask another question about the matter to the Department of Health. Having interpreters after regular office hours, do they have proper interpretations available after regular working hours? Especially the one in Ottawa and the one in Iqaluit, the elder facility? ... I would like to ask about the two to see if the services, to see how it has been settled with the contractors who take care of elder facilities. Are the patients kept informed that there are interpreters available, even after regular working hours?"

In her testimony to the standing committee of September 21, 2024, the Department of Health's witness stated that:

"It really depends on the ability to hire and the availability of people to come in for those shifts. So there are two full-time interpreters at Embassy West. There are also medical interpreters that we have on call in other boarding homes that we can call for after hours if they're available. Also at Embassy West there has been a development of an interpretation tool for medications and clinical care, as well as staff using the translator app to communicate with clients. We're always looking to hire more, so if there are individuals in Ottawa that are interested in working in interpretation, there always needs to hire more interpreters, and those contracts allow for hiring of more interpreters"

Standing Committee Recommendation #6:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on the status of providing interpretation services for Nunavut patients receiving medical and long-term care outside of the territory, including services provided after operational hours.

**Issue: The Department of Culture and Heritage's Language Act
Implementation Section Staffing**

In her testimony to the standing committee of September 20, 2024, the Department of Culture and Heritage's witness stated that:

"We introduced a language act implementation section to monitor the implementation [of language law obligations]. Currently we have one employee there. We have three positions that need to be filled, and the workload is huge and the language issues in the various departments that we're working with, in terms of proper use of Inuktitut."

The standing committee recognizes the challenges the Department of Culture and Heritage may face when attempting to fill the vacant positions.

Standing Committee Recommendation #7:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on the status of filling the vacant positions in the Language Act Implementation section of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

Observations and Recommendations Directed to the Office of the Languages Commissioner

Issue: **Tabling of the Office of the Languages Commissioner's Annual Reports**

Section 24(1) of the *Official Languages Act* provides that:

Languages Commissioner's annual report

24. (1) The Languages Commissioner shall, within six months after the end of each fiscal year, prepare and submit to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly an annual report of the conduct of the office and the discharge of the duties of the Languages Commissioner during the preceding year."

- a) the appointment and activities of an acting or special Languages Commissioner during the preceding fiscal year;
- (b) a description of the number and type of applications and requests made under this Act and under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, the status or resolution of the applications or requests that were active during the preceding fiscal year and information about any instances where recommendations made by the Languages Commissioner after an investigation have not been followed; and
- (c) an assessment of the effectiveness of the enforcement powers exercised and duties performed by the Languages Commissioner, with any recommended changes that the Languages Commissioner considers necessary or desirable to improve compliance with this Act or the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

Section 24(2) of the *Official Languages Act* provides that:

Laying report before Legislative Assembly

(2) The Speaker shall, at the first opportunity, lay a copy of the annual report referred to in subsection (1) before the Legislative Assembly.

The 2020-2021 annual report of the Languages Commissioner was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 19, 2021. The 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 Consolidated Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut was tabled in the House on October 24, 2024.

The standing committee emphasizes the importance of the timely production and tabling of annual reports in the Legislative Assembly.

Standing Committee Recommendation #1:

The standing committee recommends that the Office of the Languages Commissioner makes every reasonable effort to produce and table its annual reports in the Legislative Assembly within the timeframes that are statutorily mandated.

Issue: Information-Sharing Agreements with the Government of Nunavut and other Entities

The Languages Commissioner's 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 Consolidated Annual Report indicated that:

"The Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut (OLCN) continues to receive concerns about federal agencies, departments, and institutions in Nunavut.

Furthermore, the issues the Office faces in addressing concerns involving the federal agencies, departments, and institutions in Nunavut are the following:

- (a) The lack of response from the obligated federal agencies, departments, and institutions; and
- (b) Tools to enforce their compliance with the law are absent, even if the complaints are admissible.

The Languages Commissioner's 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 Consolidated Annual Report indicated that:

"this is especially concerning because federal agencies, departments, and institutions in Nunavut are accountable for the lack of Inuktitut in their oral communications, public signs, posters, reception, and client services as required under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*."

To address these concerns, the Languages Commissioner provided two recommendations:

"Recommendation 1: Memorandum of Understanding

Establish a Memorandum of Understanding with federal agencies, departments, and institutions in Nunavut. This will be the mechanism to improve communication on language issues and resolve them while concerns are raised about a federal institution in Nunavut.

Recommendation 2: Legislative tool

To hold the Privy Council accountable for the implementation of recommendations on Language issues in Nunavut and ultimately in Canada. To establish a clear time frame for federal agencies, departments, and institutions operating in Nunavut to respond to Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut's recommendations."

The standing committee supports the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut in her efforts to improve communication with other entities, including the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada.

In her testimony to the standing committee of September 21, 2024, the Languages Commissioner stated that:

“Getting to your question now in regards to the protocol, I want to commit to having a formalized, signed protocol before the end of this fiscal year so that we can include it in our 2024-2025 annual report.”

Standing Committee Recommendation #2:

The standing committee recommends that the Office of the Languages Commissioner's response to this report include a detailed update on the status of implementing the two recommendations referenced on page 17 of its 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 consolidated annual report.

The standing committee further recommends that the Office of the Languages Commissioner's response to this report include copies of the Memorandum of Understanding referenced on page 17 of its 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 consolidated annual report, if completed.

Issue: Inuit Language Plans

Section 3(1) of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that:

Duties of every organization

3(1) Every organization shall, in accordance with this section and the regulations, if any,

(a) display its public signs, including emergency and exit signs, in the Inuit Language together with any other language used;

(b) display and issue its posters and commercial advertising, if any, in the Inuit Language together with any other language used;

Inuit Language Protection Act, Official Consolidation of Current to: July 1st, 2021
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(c) ensure that the Inuit Language text of its public signs, posters and commercial advertising is at least equally prominent with any other language used; and

(d) provide, in the Inuit Language, its reception services and any

Section 29(1) of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* provides that:

Inuit Language Plan

29(1) An organization that is not a territorial institution may manage its compliance with this Act by means of an Inuit Language plan, which must include the following:

(a) the organizational measures, policies and practices proposed for the communications with or delivery of services to the public that are required under this Act;

(b) a schedule for giving effect to the measures, policies or practices;

(c) an indication of the numbers of the organization's staff, if any, that are or will be fluent in the Inuit Language and able to communicate with or deliver services to the public in the Inuit Language as required under this Act; and

(d) the ways in which the organization will ensure that the Inuit Language plan and the availability of communications with

In her testimony to the standing committee of September 20, 2024, the Languages Commissioner stated that:

“As part of our roles, we deal with businesses in Nunavut that also have language obligations to provide services and advertising in Inuktitut.

(interpretation) To assist this sector in complying with the language laws, our office offers an Inuit language plan which outlines what a business will do to comply better and fulfill its obligations and appropriate timelines to fulfill the language obligations. We have worked towards updating the Inuit language plan guidelines as well as the form. This form is meant to address any shortfalls and identify ways to comply better. We have revised and shortened this form from an 11-page document down to a three-page form, which is now available.”

The Standing Committee appreciates the Office of the Languages Commissioner for its work to revise the Inuit Language Plans in efforts to have more Nunavut businesses participate and ensure their compliance with language law obligations.

In her testimony to the standing committee of September 20, 2024, the Language Commissioner also stated that:

"I have to provide information to the private businesses, for example what kind of obligations they have for the store, Northern Store. I have to make sure I can with them that if you're going to advertise to the public in English, if you're going to make commercial advertising, please follow Inuit language and provide that service to the public.

Not only making them aware if there was a complaint made to our office. We would provide that information, and to make sure that they follow the requirement.

... As I stated before, there's an application form that we provide to the private entities, what their requirements are on language laws. If they want to abide by the language laws as a private business, we provide that application form and information to the private companies. We also would put in an application form along with the information to the private businesses so that they will know which area they had contravened in the legislation, and to make sure that they don't break the law or contravene the law in the future. But there's always a but: The Inuit language plan, the one that you have to fill out, it's a form.

If the private business wanted to, they could utilize it, but I cannot force them. I cannot force them to use it, but it's up to the entity or the private business if they want to. I'm not sure whether there's going to be a regulation or legislation, but that's one of the barriers we see if they want to abide. I can encourage them to follow the legislation, but it's totally up to them.

And to further explain, as private businesses, every time we speak to the private businesses, we provide the Inuit language plan to them and we always explain that Nunavut government has funding available for private businesses to use to make sure that they follow the legislation. And we direct them to the Department of Culture and Language Services, but the Nunavut government have funding available for language work. But we do make sure that we inform the private businesses that there's funding available made by the Government of Nunavut to make sure that they, I would like to see, -- make sure that they follow the legislation."

Standing Committee Recommendation #3:

The standing committee recommends the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut continue to distribute the revised Inuit Language Plan form to private sector businesses in Nunavut.

Looking Ahead

Ms. Karliin Ariak's term of office commenced on February 18, 2020, and ended on February 18, 2025. The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts expresses its appreciation for Ms. Ariak's service throughout her term as the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut.

The standing committee notes that the position for the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut is currently vacant. The Standing Committee notes the Management and Services Board's jurisdiction with respect to the recruitment and selection process for independent officers of the Legislative Assembly.

