

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)

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responsible for Nunavut Development
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Mary Killiktee
(Uqummiut)

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(Rankin Inlet South)

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

*Minister of Health; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention;
Minister responsible for the Qulliq
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*Deputy Chair, Committee
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(Pangnirtung)

*Minister of Family Services; Minister
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Status of Women; Minister responsible
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, May 28, 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, 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 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): (no interpretation) Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 601 – 6(2): Makimaniq Plan 3 Update

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in October 2024, Family Services and Nunavut Tunngavik hosted the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction. As this House is aware, roundtable meetings provide an opportunity for interagency collaboration on poverty reduction.

At the gathering, Nunavummiut from diverse backgrounds and circumstances shared valuable information about the cost of living, existing programs and feedback on how these programs could better serve them, innovative ways forward, and specific, proposed actions to capture in the Makimaniq Plan 3.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that a draft Makimaniq Plan 3 is now being reviewed by Nunavut Tunngavik and other stakeholders. The final draft is expected to be completed by late spring 2025 and I hope to table it in the September sitting of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

The draft includes themes that emerged during the roundtable, including increased community decision-making, strengthened local economies, support for healing and

wellbeing, lifelong learning, increased food security and food sovereignty, cost of living supports, and increased access to housing.

Mr. Speaker, at the heart of the Makimaniq Plan 3 is the belief that the way forward to a Nunavut without poverty is by walking a path of collaboration. I would like to thank government staff, Nunavut Tunngavik, and community members and organizations who are actively joining us on this journey.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 602 – 6(2): Progress on Nunavut Wind, Solar, and Energy Storage Products

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to highlight the progress being made across Nunavut in advancing renewable energy and reducing our reliance on diesel. From wind to solar, we are seeing several Independent Power Producer Program projects move ahead. This progress marks a pivotal shift toward cleaner, more sustainable energy to benefit Nunavummiut today and in the future.

(interpretation ends) In Sanikiluaq, the Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation has led the development of the territory's first Inuit-owned wind turbine. This 1-megawatt turbine, paired with battery storage, is expected to offset over 50 per cent of the community's diesel fuel usage, a remarkable step forward in energy self-reliance.

In Naujaat, Kivalliq Alternative Energy is spearheading the Ikayuut Solar and Energy Storage Project, which is on track to begin operations in spring 2026. Once operational, it will supply up to 30 per cent of the community's electricity from locally produced, clean energy.

While these projects are not owned by Qulliq Energy Corporation, we are proud to actively support their development by offering technical expertise, sharing system integration knowledge, and building partnerships to advance community-driven energy priorities.

Mr. Speaker, Coral Harbour is next in line for a solar and energy storage project, also led by Kivalliq Alternative Energy, anticipated to begin operations in 2027. We also are

seeing wind and energy storage projects in Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake being developed to potentially supply up to 40 per cent of each community's electricity needs.

Qulliq Energy Corporation also continues to support locally led, clean energy through our Net Metering program for homeowners and municipalities, and the Commercial and Institutional Power Producer Program for larger customers.

Mr. Speaker, through strong partnerships and a shared vision, Qulliq Energy Corporation is making meaningful progress towards a cleaner, greener, and more energy resilient territory. *Matna.*

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Minister's Statement 603 – 6(2): Introduction of the Sustainable Energy Support Policy

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that today I can share the Sustainable Energy Support Policy. In 2021 policy work began to promote renewable energy through programming. Since then, we have learned a tremendous amount about the opportunities available to us in the pursuit of sustainable energy. Building on our experience, the Sustainable Energy Support Policy replaces the Renewable Energy Support Policy, marking Nunavut's next step toward energy sovereignty and a stronger commitment to climate action.

Under this new framework, we carry forward our established programs that support renewable systems for cabin owners and homeowners, and introduce the new Independent Power Producer Subsidy that supports the Independent Power Producer program championed by Qulliq Energy Corporation. This approach provides much-needed government support for larger-scale power projects through Inuit and municipal-led initiatives. Our intent is to create drive for more ambitious and resilient energy solutions developed right here in Nunavut. Also, homeowners can look forward to enhanced programming from Nunavut Housing Corporation that will support Nunavummiut's efforts to modernize energy efficiency.

The Sustainable Energy Support Policy applies to and supports all public bodies. As we seek to reduce diesel reliance or implement sustainable energy practices without encumbering current government operations, public bodies can now access direct support and guidance through the Climate Change Secretariat.

Mr. Speaker, the Secretariat will act as a central hub for this policy, ensuring we continue to take a unified, territory-wide approach to addressing our unique climate challenges.

Naturally, this will strengthen our contributions to Canada's national framework and our commitments to international emissions reductions.

(interpretation) Finally, I would like to acknowledge all the stakeholders involved in bringing this policy to where it is today: Qulliq Energy Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, regional development corporations, Nunavut Housing Corporation, and many others who were asked to dedicate their time and resources. Thank you for efforts and collaboration on this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 604 – 6(2): Outfitter Guide Training Program

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share an exciting update on the Outfitter Guide Training Program, a successful initiative that is increasing local economic development in our tourism and cultural sectors.

Delivered as a pilot project in Arctic Bay, last year the program trained 12 residents in guide outfitting. The program encourages residents to provide tourism services to visitors and increases the economic benefits coming from the tourism industry.

Mr. Speaker, following the success of the 2024 pilot project, the department is delivering the program again this year in Qikiqtarjuaq through funding to the hamlet. Additionally, the department is actively pursuing the delivery of the program in a second community this fiscal year, with further training considered for communities that wish to develop their tourism sectors in future years.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut, and especially Inuit, have expertise in arctic guiding. This program is delivered by Nunavut outfitters, resulting in 93 per cent of the program funding going back into the territory. In addition, many of the skills taught in this program are transferable to other economic sectors, including the fisheries sector, traditional economy, research sector, and various land- and water-based jobs.

Mr. Speaker, this is a seven-week program, and the department is aware that this is a long period of time for students to commit. To help alleviate this barrier, the Department of Community Services is collaborating with the Department of Family Services, which will provide additional remuneration to students attending the program in Qikiqtarjuaq to help with living expenses.

I extend my congratulations to the students who completed the program in Arctic Bay last year, and I wish this year's students in Qikiqtarjuaq every success. I encourage any hamlets interested in bringing this program to their communities to contact my department.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 605 – 6(2): Remember, Educate, Dedicate

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the recent launch of three new pieces to the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women's Council's RED collection. Remember, Educate, Dedicate was launched in 2023, to focus on the remembrance, healing and empowerment of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls with the help of Nunavut's artistic community. After its successful unveiling in 2024, Qullit plans to add pieces annually.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month on Red Dress Day, I had the privilege of presenting the latest pieces. The new additions join the existing collection on display in the Nunavut Legislative Assembly's Grand Hall.

(interpretation ends) The first commissioned piece is a copper wire qaurutik from Arviat's Nooks Lindell, with red beading from Lori Tagoona Randall. The second commissioned piece is a digital painting by Anisya Noanikhok Todd, entitled Iqaqtuiji. The third work is a multi-media piece, made by clients and staff of Iqaluit's Qimaavik Women's Shelter.

Mr. Speaker, RED has proven to be a powerful project to help Nunavummiut process the realities of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Nunavut. I look forward to seeing this collection grow, foster artistic expression, and provide outlets for families and loved ones to grieve our lost women, girls, and gender-diverse Nunavut Inuit.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 806 – 6(2): 2025 Pirurvik Preschool Graduates

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our communities they will be graduating from the schools and training program at Pirurvik. I would like to congratulate the Pirurvik graduates: Natan Ootuk (ph), Ariel Quassa (ph), Dylan Killiktee (ph), Freddie Qautanguq (ph) Liam Akeeroq (ph), Liam Inoroa (ph), Olivia Piugutaq (ph) Quentin Kamanautaq (ph), Tracy Kunuk (ph) Tyrene Makta (ph), Wilma Asasuk (ph). They have completed their training this fall for the early childhood program. I would like to congratulate them for completing the early childhood program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 807 – 6(2): Hockey Tournament

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge that on the date of April 3, 2025 to April 6, 2025 Kugaaruk held its annual Tuugaalik Cup hockey tournament, and once again I want to acknowledge tournament organizer Alex Ittimangnaq Junior and his wife Maria Ittimangnaq, as well as the Tuugaalik Cup committee members.

Mr. Speaker, also I thank all the sponsors who contributed greatly, the Koomiut Co-op, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Canadian North and the hamlet of Kugaaruk. Thank you all and to all the volunteers as well as to the mental health department doing a feast for the weekend of fun in Kugaaruk.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations once again team Naujaat who did a three-peat, champions again, three years in a row. Second place, Team Kugaaruk Narwhalers, and third place, Naujaat Whalers. Congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, also I thank Team Igloodik, Team Taloyoak Trailblazers, and the first time appearing to participate in the hockey tournament to Team Kugluktuk. Thank you all.

Mr. Speaker, every year this Tuugaalik hockey tournament gets greater and greater, and it is well organized, thanks to Alex Ittimangnaq Junior. My hat is off to you. And already I'm looking forward to the next one in 2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 808 – 6(2): Welcoming Elders to Rankin Inlet

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues and also to the people of Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my thanks and gratitude to all those who have been involved in bringing Nunavut elders back to their homeland. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the first four clients were flown from Ottawa to the community of Rankin Inlet, to take their place in the newly built long-term care facility.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Sammurtok: The community of Rankin Inlet welcomed them with open hands. Mr. Speaker, finally a dream becomes a reality. This project was a long-term project, which began in the Fifth Assembly. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the previous ministers of health, as well the current Minister of Health, for keeping this project moving forward when there have been and continue to be so many challenges in developing infrastructures in our territory.

Many individuals have contributed to making this dream the reality that it is now, and the staff within the Department of Health and the department formerly known Community and Government Services, and other Government of Nunavut staff, to staff the Tagjaq Corporation, which will be operating the new facility. It is good news indeed that our elders will be closer to home, and their family members will not have to travel so far out of the territory to visit. I look forward to when the next group of elders will be moving to the Rankin Inlet long term care facility, and we will welcome them as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Member's Statement 809 – 6(2): Public Safety in Nunavut

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to continue along the theme of public safety in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, it is not a secret that alcohol-related harm and violence and crime continues to plague our communities, and keeps our Royal Canadian Mounted Police stretched to the limit. There are some in Nunavut that commit crime, in extreme circumstances, murder, while intoxicated. Unfortunately there are others that commit heinous acts after just a few beers.

Mr. Speaker, it's clear that there are some people in Nunavut that should not drink and consume alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, many of these individuals have received convictions and have been placed with court orders to refrain from the consumption of alcohol. I've raised this specific matter numerous times to the Minister of Justice's predecessors. Mr. Speaker, I hope that in light of my recent efforts over the last couple of years that the Department of Justice's Community Justice Division, who is responsible for monitoring these individuals, has placed greater emphasis on their responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice to the Minister of Justice that I will be asking questions on this topic at the appropriate time, on the number of individuals who have court orders to refrain from the consumption of alcohol, as well as the number of individuals that have received convictions with breaching that specific court order. Again, I would just like to give the Minister of Justice notice that I will be asking these very specific questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 810 – 6(2): Hockey Tournament

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues, and also to my constituency. Although there was a statement about hockey, although in the community of Igloolik there was no hockey arena, but they had one. And I also want to mention the people who played. (interpretation ends) Terry Ooyak (ph), Dean Oakeo (ph), Wayne Ungaraq (ph), Jaco Igirniak (ph) Sam Igirniak (ph), Randy Randall (ph), Ammac, Travis Koonook (ph), Paniliaq Taragootook (ph), John Sowdloapik (ph), Dennis Akeegok (ph), Brandon Qipanuq (ph), Hunter Ungaraq (ph) Clifford Quamanaq (ph). I would like to congratulate them. Even though we no longer have an arena, they were able to win the hockey game. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Member's Statement 811 – 6(2): Encourage the Use of Inuktitut Language

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about and encourage the people that we need to utilize Inuit language. Usually we speak to that issue. It's very good to speak Inuktitut, and also it's good to speak and they are received very well, along with English and French languages. I am urging and encouraging to everyone that Inuktitut can be learned by anyone. And I want to encourage everyone.

When I was younger I did not speak English when I was growing up, but today, because I want to learn, I'm able to speak English and read and write English. If there's an interest in it and if they want to learn, they can learn. So I'm encouraging everyone to learn Inuktitut writing and speaking.

I'm encouraging everyone who is interested in learning Inuktitut to do so and to learn.

Also, I want to let everyone know that there's an Inuktitut program and that you can go to, which is Pirurvik, and they are able to train you through the Internet and through the website, or you can attend by yourself. Although I don't work for them, I'm just encouraging everyone because according to what I have heard at the Legislative Assembly, that Inuktitut language, It's very encouraging to hear Inuit speaking English and it's encouraging to hear English speaking people to start speaking Inuktitut. So I'm encouraging everyone to do so.

I have been wanting to raise this issue, according to what I have heard. So I want to practise. I will practise English and you can practise Inuktitut speaking. I'm very proud of our language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 812 – 6(2): Safety on the Ice

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to give my constituents some advice and those young people in Nunavut, especially for the sake of our young hunters who are not experienced out on the land, to be very careful on ocean ice near the rivers, because some young people are not aware of the dangers on the ice, especially at this time of year, when spring is upon us. So I just wanted to advise all young people and hunters to be especially careful, especially around ocean ice, near the rivers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 813 – 6(2): Fishing Derby in Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my colleagues and everyone in Nunavut. Have a great day.

Mr. Speaker, on May 16 to May 19 there was a fishing derby in Baker Lake, and they had a great time and many Baker Lakers were able to go out and go fishing all day and all night, some of them. And it was a great time and everybody was safe. All the people who travelled out on the land arrived safely and came back safely, and it's great to see that.

In the fishing derby committee, I want to say their names and thank them: Timothy Kilabuk (ph), Nancy junior Artinik (ph), Marjorie Kautaq (ph), Sarah Amatituq (ph), Sarah Avala (ph) and Havlan Qulluq (ph). They worked all winter raising money for the fishing derby in every way possible and they wanted to make sure that Baker Lakers were able to have a great time in the fishing derby. And before the derby, they first drilled a whole bunch of holes in front of Baker Lake to help the people who don't have augers, so they made the holes for them and it helped a lot. And families were able to be there. I was able to talk to some. I just wanted to make some people laugh when we were there, and it worked. They were laughing.

I thank the committee for holding the fishing derby. The prizes were a snowmobile and an ATV and cash. You're very good at what you do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 814 – 6(2): Naming the New Daycare in Kinngait

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to everybody in South Baffin.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today at the end of the last weekend in Kinngait there was a new day care that was open, and, Mr. Speaker, the local district education authority had a naming contest, and it was named after Simega Shuvega, and the late Simega Shuvega was a board member for DEA, the District Education Authority and the hunters and trappers association, and other places. That person was recognized because he served the community a lot, and so the daycare is named after that person now

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, daycares are increasing in number every year. There used to be just one daycare in Kinngait called Saipaaqivik, but this new one is in part of the Peter Pitseolak School. I know the local community will be able to utilize it. All the workers who work, who want to work, they always look for daycare workers and when it's not available they can't have jobs like that, so the opening of this daycare is very obviously welcome by the staff and it will improve everything for the community. And all the boys and girls that will be staying at the daycare, their toys and reading material, all those will help them develop before they get into school.

I thank the local District Education Authority because they helped create the daycare, and all the operators that will be running the daycare. We thank them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 815 – 6(2): Whale Cove to Rankin Inlet Walk to Raise Funds

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Everybody in Whale Cove and Arviat, good afternoon.

I would like to recognize a person from Whale Cove who is walking right now. He started walking. His name is Leroy Sabourin. On May 24 to Whale Cove to Rankin Inlet, and I believe he is still walking and he should be arriving in Rankin Inlet soon. So I wanted to support him locally here. He's trying to raise money for people who lost loved ones, money for their families, and also to make sure people remember cancer victims, people who have had cancer. So he's walking on their behalf, and he even slept along the way and camped along the way. He has great support for whatever he needs. And I really say thank you to the people who are supporting him.

The person walking is doing this for his mother, because she passed away in 1997. I know this Walk For Cancer will help a lot. And, Leroy, I think you're doing something great. And if you want to look online about the hike, it's on Facebook. If you would like to donate to his cause, I know my colleagues will want to donate to the cause. You can send them to his e-mail, at Qarliksaq80@gmail.com, QARLIKSAQ80. Write that down, please, 80@gmail.com.

I would like to thank Leroy. I believe he's doing a great thing, and he wants to help, so I thank him for doing that by walking for cancer patients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my pride and welcome my family members, my younger sisters. They are here. The one in the middle is my younger sister, Geela Kooneeliusie. She's the SAO for the hamlet, and my other little sister, Lizzie Anaviapik, recently moved to Iqaluit. I'm sure you hear her on the radio. She says, "I'm Lissie Anaviapik", on radio. So welcome. I'm very proud of them. And I remember my mother was sitting here at one point last year during the winter time, and I introduced my late beautiful mother. Thank you for coming, and please be welcome. And I'm proud to see you here. And also Monica Kooneeliusie, who is a hamlet councillor, and they have been travelling down south and passing by, so they dropped in to visit. I would like to have everybody be proud of them and welcome them. This is the first time I've had one of my siblings here, or two of my siblings here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good day, everybody. It's a beautiful day. I just wanted to say for the record, also welcome Lizzie to the House. I didn't realize you were sisters, and it sure explains a lot, because you're really good people. You are a lot alike. And I would like to put into the record that Gadong (ph) is in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6, Oral Questions. Yesterday we did a good job, everybody getting their questions in. Please continue to do that today, as well as keep preambles short and responses direct. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 1261 – 6(2): Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I want to dig deeper into the details of the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link megaproject. The minister will recall the recent announcement concerning the Nunavut-Manitoba joint declaration indicated that the province's utility, Manitoba Hydro, would "commit 50 megawatts of reserve load capacity to support the development of the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link."

For the benefit of Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings, I would like to invite the minister to expand and elaborate today on how this specific commitment will help to advance 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 thank you to my colleague for asking that question. We are not doing this project by ourselves, but they are looking into the future. The Nukkek Corporation is doing the work, and we completely support it. Like anything that is planned but not built yet, we have to try and imagine them, and it has to start from that, imagining it. So the Manitoba Hydro has said that they're going to make 50 megawatts available, and that will help a great deal, because there were discussions for a number of years in the past.

However, because Manitoba Hydro will be where the power lines will start, so they were kind of late in getting involved. So after this has been approved it looks like the project is going to go ahead and we in the Qulliq Energy Corporation will be supporting it, and also

the Manitoba government and Manitoba Hydro will be supporting it. The federal government will have to provide support as well, to get this going. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for your response. Mr. Speaker, when I asked the premier yesterday to provide the House with an approximate price tag for the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link project, all he could say was that it will be in the billions. Mr. Speaker, as someone once said, “A billion here and a billion there, and soon they are talking real money.”

Mr. Speaker, the minister recently informed the Legislative Assembly that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has asked the federal government to take over a portion of its debt. Can the minister provide more clarity today as to the approximate cost to construct the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link, and can he confirm how much, if any, of the cost is expected to be paid by the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The most recent estimate around the cost of the project was around \$3.2 billion, and that is a substantial figure of money. There’s no debating that. That’s where I think it does take strong partnerships and strong involvement from our federal partners to see projects like this, to see projects like the Iqaluit hydro project, which is also being proposed, to see those move forward, because they are, as the premier has mentioned, they are nation-building.

In terms of the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s involvement, we are a strong supporter. And in terms of our role in the project, we have a memorandum of understanding with Nukkek Corporation, which is allowing us to discuss and flesh out in greater detail what role we would play. And in terms of the project, we would be a large customer to the project. We want to make sure with any project, even if it’s diesel generators in a community or if it’s the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre project, we want to make sure that ratepayers are protected and that we’re not developing infrastructure in a way which results in increasing costs for customers at the end of the day. So that’s a kind of a foundational principle for us. We are always looking for the cheapest way to do things and deliver clean, reliable power to Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for your response and for providing more information on this project. The more questions we ask, the more information we get out to the public and we learn more about it.

Mr. Speaker, both the minister and I represent Kivalliq constituencies, and I'm very confident that he does not want to see his constituents pay any more than they have to for electricity. Although I support the goal of getting off diesel, we need to be mindful of the impact of our decisions on the lives of our residents. In the end, our constituents are the ones paying for the power bills, homeowners and small businesses and the like. Can the minister clarify today whether or not in the end our customers, our constituents will be protected for paying any more or higher power rates than we already are, once we get off diesel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The cost of the power through the Kivalliq hydro project, it's too early to say exactly what the cost would be. We do have work that's ongoing towards the power purchase agreement, and that would ultimately feed into the cost of power provided through the project.

We are in a territory-wide rate structure, as the member knows, so if we are able to deliver cheaper power in any given community or region, those savings would be shared right across Nunavut. And so that's the nature of what we're dealing with.

In terms of more information about this exciting project, I would encourage the member to look online. Nukkik Corporation has a wealth of information. They have annual reports. They have presentations. They have consultation reports. There is so much information available, and I'm sure that the more the member learns about the project, perhaps the more excited he will get around the future of economic development as well as energy in the Kivalliq. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1262 – 6(2): Public Safety – Alcohol-related Crimes

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned during my member's statement, my questions today are for the Minister of Justice regarding court orders, specifically for those to refrain from the consumption of alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, in a territory that is plagued by alcohol-fueled crime, in a territory where there is a significant amount of repeat offenders being charged with breaches of conditions, it's important that our Minister of Justice, responsible for public safety, pays close attention to this issue.

My first question I would like to ask the Minister of Justice: Over the last fiscal year, 2023-2024, how many court orders did the Nunavut courts provide or give Nunavummiut

to refrain from the consumption of alcohol? And in addition, how many convictions led to charges of breaches of those exact court orders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. That's a very detailed question that I know the department is working on, and compiling since the member made his statement. But I can say, Mr. Speaker, that in my understanding, the courts are making fewer abstinence orders for people on probation, as they are hard for people who are maybe addicted to alcohol. And when they are ordered our community corrections officers monitor and support the individuals by helping them access and complete programming to avoid behaviour that leads to criminal activity.

We do know that while there are community corrections officers that focus on supporting access to services such as alcohol treatment, the officers may also order a breach of the individual's conditions, which can result in an individual being placed in custody.

To further answer his question, I can get back to the member with those numbers once I receive them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the minister's response and I look forward to seeing that additional information, as the minister committed.

Mr. Speaker, court orders to refrain from alcohol is an important tool in our fight to reduce alcohol-related crime and violence. However, Mr. Speaker, a stronger form of court order is that of an interdiction. The Minister of Finance in response to my question last week indicated that in Nunavut's 26 years there's only been one interdiction order given by the Nunavut courts to I guess prevent an individual from obtaining and consuming alcohol.

My next question is: With our high rates of alcohol-related crime, why has our Nunavut courts not utilized an interdiction order more frequently? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Interdiction orders are viewed as outdated, and are rarely used. Nunavut and Newfoundland and Labrador are the only two jurisdictions that include them in law, and even then, they're not commonly applied. Interdiction orders are a private law remedy, and they need to be issued by a justice of the peace under the *Liquor Act* to limit somebody's ability to buy, possess, or drink alcohol.

With that, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice does not issue or oversee these orders and has no role in initiating them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1263 – 6(2): Departmental Positions

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to ask questions for the Minister of Environment. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on an issue that I have raised on a number of occasions over the past year. As the minister is aware, the government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that the Department of Environment has a total of 14 positions located in my community of Igloolik. Only four of the positions are filled, and ten are vacant. This is a vacancy rate of over 70 per cent. Can the minister provide an update today on which positions are currently filled and which positions are currently vacant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Igloolik office has had challenges around staffing positions, and we have been trying to do better. With regards to the positions, there's a number of them. I'll list off a few. The social science researcher, it was filled on a remote basis in March 2025. The wildlife biologist II, polar bear, it has been vacant since 2019 and posted for staffing. Ecosystems research coordinator and environmental assessment biologist has been vacant since 2016 and we're planning to have it staffed remotely for a three-year term. It's ongoing, but with that my department has been working with the federal government to move some of the wildlife research section from Igloolik to Cambridge Bay, and the memorandum of understanding was recently signed and we'll be working with all the parties towards a lease agreement and work with the affected departments to moving the position to Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for clarifying that. (interpretation ends) You recall I have suggested one more than one occasion that the government should consider transferring some of these long-standing vacant positions to another community, and you just told us that that will be happening, where there would be a greater chance of them being filled by qualified applicants.

In return, new positions would be transferred to Igloolik and efforts would be made to ensure that they were the types of position that is could be reasonably filled with local applicants. For example, the Inuit language authority's positions could be a natural fit for the community. When I raised this issue last year, the minister's predecessor indicated

that he was willing to discuss this idea with the Minister of Culture and Heritage. Can the minister update me today on the results of these discussions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately we haven't had much progress to date on that, but we are still considering what positions if any would be moved around in different communities. But Mr. Speaker, I do have regular contact with my colleagues and we're trying to coordinate together on where best to place our public servants accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the Department of Environment has been working to develop a new wildlife guardian training program, the stated purpose of which is to "promote and provide employment opportunities within this field for Nunavummiut."

Can the minister provide an update today on how many positions under this program are planned to be located in Igloolik. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the wildlife guardian program we do try to put in place when there's an ideal than candidate or someone that wants to get into the field. And at this time I can't say whether or not there's going to be one or three or however for Igloolik specifically, but we do work with all the communities where there's an interest. There's a support for training and make sure that they succeed into the role and to have someone there to guide them through it. That has been essential, and we've seen some success in some other communities and we want to emulate that across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1264 – 6(2): Violence While Intoxicated

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to follow up on questions that Mr. Lightstone just asked, so my questions are for the Minister of Justice.

I would like to hear, we know that a lot of families are concerned about intimate partner violence and try to help their family members, and the issue of violence while intoxicated is one that is massive for us. I'll just start off by asking, other than a court order to abstain

from alcohol, what does the Department of Justice do in order to change the behaviour of a person who is charged with an offence related to intimate partner violence, or any other violence against any member of the community, whether they are being held in remand, whether they are serving some time, or whether or not they are on charges but free and out in the community? What programs help to alleviate the potential for them to continue to be a risk to society? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. The Department of Justice has the Therapeutic Justice Program, that provides an alternative to the criminal justice system, and this is by offering accused persons with Inuit-led supports and services that focus on addressing the root cause of their criminal behaviour.

This program offers clients a combination of cultural and mental health programming and other support. Clients can access traditional Inuit programming, such as tool making, land hunting trips and sewing traditional clothing to assist with their rehabilitation and their healing. This therapeutic justice program is funded by Justice Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik, and it operates in Cambridge Bay and Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently what avenues are in place for family and friends who are concerned about somebody who may be at risk to violence from either an intimate partner or anybody else in the community to protect those at risk? What can family and friends do to try to intervene? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. So within the department there is the Family Abuse Intervention Act Program, which allows for emergency protection orders, and for community intervention orders as well. They can get a family abuse intervention order or a peace bond, if they're concerned about their safety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'm also assuming and know that anybody who feels that somebody is contravening a court order, they are themselves able to call the RCMP to report that somebody is in contravention of a court order, such as to abstain from alcohol, so every person can do that.

I would like, Mr. Speaker, to take this opportunity to ask for an update on the progress towards working on *Claire's Law* for Nunavut. And as the minister will recall, Mr. Lightstone and I have asked about this a number of times, and want to see child protection and child abuse included in that.

I would also like to know whether or not there is any consideration of, in the work to make sure that it fits for Nunavut, whether or not there's a consideration about including information about those people who are under court orders not to consume alcohol or other solvents related to past violence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. The Department of Justice does take family violence very seriously, and is committed to developing solutions and developing tools which include that will help to continue to keep Nunavummiut safe. With *Claire's Law*, there is in the interim the department continues to monitor how *Claire's Law* is operating in other Canadian jurisdictions, to assess how those approaches could be applied to fit Nunavut's unique model. The department has also met with Royal Canadian Mounted Police to discuss options for potentially implementing *Claire's Law* in Nunavut, and both parties are now following up with additional preliminary research and consultation to identify the next steps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Oral questions. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Oral Question 1265 – 6(2): Elder Facility for Pond Inlet

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I direct my questions to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, the new long term care home in Rankin Inlet has began to identify which elders will be receiving care in that home. Plans are underway for long term care facilities to be built in Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit, to open more long term care beds in the territory. Can the minister provide an update on when he anticipates the next long term care homes will be constructed and how many beds will be available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that question. (interpretation ends) The next facility that will be constructed will be in Cambridge Bay. It will be 24 beds, similar in size to the Rankin Inlet facility. Right now it's in design phase, and I don't have the detail construction or anticipated timeline. There's a number of factors that could impact the timeline of construction, for example, the procurement process, the method of construction; if it's a conventional build or a pre-fabricated build, those timelines could change. But the timeline for that facility to be

completed would be sometime in the lifetime of the next government. (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you Mr. Minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the elders in Pond Inlet have expressed a strong interest in seeing an elder facility built in their community. Can the minister clarify what steps would be necessary to get the Government of Nunavut to consider Pond Inlet as the next community to welcome a new elder facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The potential for additional facilities in additional communities that is something that has been identified through the senior strategy, in terms of being a longer term initiative. There's a number of different ways that the community of Pond Inlet could advocate for such a facility to be considered. I don't want to get into the detailed process here, in the House, but it could involve a combination of municipal, territorial as well as Inuit-organization lobbying. And that's in terms of looking at future facilities, obviously not something I'm in a position to commit to today, but that would be my general understanding in terms of the lobbying process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for giving me somewhere to start.

(interpretation ends Mr. Speaker, on the very first day at the beginning of our term, every single Member of this Legislative Assembly tabled a petition which asked that an Elders' care facility with resources to handle complex care needs be built in every community of Nunavut. I am sure that the government considers these petitions very seriously, and should have conducted an evaluation or analysis of what would be required to respond to these requests.

Can the minister provide an overview of what work has been done to evaluate the possibility of building an Elder's Care facility in each of Nunavut's communities and, if the work has been done, and the possibility of building these facilities has been evaluated, can he tell me where Pond Inlet is in the list. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There was some work that was done around the needs assessment, which lead to a projected need of 156 beds by 2035. We're currently working to update that number, or that needs

assessment, and we have heard from multiple sources in terms of the desire for more facilities in more communities, and that's why it is included or was included in the Seniors Strategy.

In terms of the road map to get there and the list of communities and where Pond Inlet is on that list, we don't have a list. The previous government, there were decisions made to focus on the three regional centres, and at the beginning of this government we more or less endorsed that. And so Cambridge Bay, Iqaluit facilities; after that, as far as I know there's kind of a blank space there. In theory, future governments could build additional facilities; it's a question of the resources to do that and the political will to get there. So I'm not trying to dance around the question, but that is my understanding in terms of what the road ahead looks like. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1266 – 6(2): Daily Living Assistance for Elders

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to direct my question to the Minister of Health regarding today's concerns with Inuit and their need for assistance with their daily living, Mr. Speaker, and the training and hiring of professional caregivers to provide assistance. In the early days of our new Sixth Assembly, many members noted the importance of supporting our elders to age and receive care in their own homes.

With that, Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell this House, as of today, how has the Department of Health worked to provide training for personal caregivers for our elders in our smaller community, either through community learning centres or through other training opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. Yes, we work closely together with the elders' caregivers in regards to personal caregivers. We initiated this program, and it started 2020 with online training programs that are made available in every community. In January to March in 2025, we had online programs made available to the communities, and there were 17 taking the online course. There are further training programs that will be made available through the Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response as well. But there's always a but when there is no information available. Although they are providing those kind of programs in the smaller communities, as they are not informed.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) there have been some discussions in this Assembly about alternative models for elder living facilities, including “Greenhouse” and “Butterfly” models. It seems that the minister had indicated that these models are being considered as possible options for elder residential care in the Nunavut smallest community. Can the minister provide an update on what consideration his department has given to establishing greenhouse elder homes in Nunavut’s smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The member is correct; we had a desire to look at those models in more detail and see if they would be appropriate for smaller communities. Unfortunately, much of my staff’s time and resources have been pulled into the process around the Rankin Inlet long term care facility, and managing that major new facility, the admissions, the operations, as well as managing the ongoing needs in Nunavut’s communities. We do have a need for additional support on administration side of long term care and home care.

We realize that we have frontline staff who are doing a great job, but we also need to strengthen the administration side because we are getting more and more clients all the time. However, in terms of the alternative models, we do have a shared work plan with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated focused on elders, and that work around alternative models is one of the items we would like to address through that group. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, but the staff should work fully on this and I would like to share that (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, just because an elder is aging and is less able to do the things that they used to do does not mean that they have to go to a care home. Often enabling an elder to age with dignity means giving them a bit of extra support with their daily needs, or ensuring that they have appropriate assistance for certain tasks while supporting them to stay in their own homes.

Can the minister provide an update on whether any changes have been made to local home care programs to increase the level of support and assistance that can be provided to elders so that they can at their home for as long as possible. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The member is absolutely correct; there is a lot of benefit that can come from supporting elders in their home communities. When we look at supports provided to families, when

we look at supports through the home care program, as well as purpose-built housing that's meant for elders to live in. That's one of the things we've heard loud and clear from our clients in the home care program, that they want purpose-built housing for their needs.

We have recently completed our home care program review. There's a wealth of information that has come out of that, and there's a tonne of work that we have ahead of us to improve the home care program. We have a bit of a road map that has been established, and now we are looking to use that review to charter a path forward, including supporting caregivers better and also supporting our staff in terms of their professional development and remuneration (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1267 – 6(2): Marine Infrastructure

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions for today are for the minister of the new Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking Ministers Akeeagok and Joanasie for taking time to travel to Chesterfield Inlet to join Mayor Sammurtok and myself for the official opening of the new community airport terminal building. It was a great day for the community.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, the community took the opportunity to raise concerns regarding the condition of its marine infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, information provided by the government concerning Chesterfield Inlet infrastructure plans indicates that:

“The current dock is dangerous, and people have fallen trying to get down to the water and the current floating dock is damaged and needs replacing. We are in need of a larger docking system that will allow a boat to dock, even at a low tide. At this point the dock is on the ground at low tide, so no boats can dock.”

Can the minister indicate how his department will work with the community to address the new marine infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for welcoming us to Chesterfield Inlet for the opening of the air terminal building, alongside my colleague, Minister Akeeagok.

As for the question, Mr. Speaker, my department, through the Transportation Initiatives Program, we do have a \$500,000 marine infrastructure capital project program that municipalities can apply through. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, my department has worked

under the Transport Canada Oceans Protection Plan, there's a \$1.25 million federal funding that will be flowed through to the municipality towards. That is around marine infrastructure projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

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

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to that specific study I'll have to get back to the member on that. I do know that the department, we do engage in all communities around assessing, whether it's marine infrastructure or airport facilities, our capital needs, and we try to bring forward requests through to our federal funding programs that might fit the categories, according to our priorities at the territorial level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new Department of Transportation and Infrastructure is now responsible for administering the government's Community Transportation Initiatives Program, which provides funding to the municipalities to access roads projects and small-scale marine infrastructure. In the 2021-2022 annual report, that was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in March of this year, it indicated that Chesterfield Inlet received \$200,000 in funding for its access road project. Can the minister confirm when the 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 annual reports will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I can't say when those reports will be available for tabling, but I'll state that I know that that program is heavily oversubscribed. We know municipalities like to tap into it, whether it's expanding their access roads or the small craft harbour or marine infrastructure program that communities like to see through that. I know there is a huge interest for that, and I look forward to tabling that when it's written. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1268 – 6(2): Identification Documentation

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health, as soon as he sits down.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Anavilok: Mr. Speaker, I raise the issue of children missing necessary pieces of identification. During the recent appearance of the representative for children and youth during our standing committee hearings, sometimes it takes almost five years for a child to get their appropriate information, as many are born in Yellowknife or Edmonton. I think it took me about almost 18 years to get my ID, because I was born on the land.

Can the minister explain how his department works with the authorities of Alberta and the Northwest Territories to ensure that Nunavut residents, who travel to these jurisdictions, are able to get the appropriate birth registration information for their child in a timely manner, because they need the document in order to get their health care number. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to my colleague for asking the question. (interpretation ends) The work that happens immediately following the birth of a child depends on the jurisdiction in which the child is born. If it's for example in Yellowknife, there will typically be some paperwork that would be given to the parents following the birth, in terms of registering the child's name, filling out some information, and that would usually be done right in the facility where the child is born in the hospital. In an ideal situation, that would result in identification being provided to the parents. If there are gaps or there's a failure to fill out that paperwork, for whatever reason, we can follow up. Usually the best point of contact for parents is the local health centre, and they can contact the jurisdiction or provide the paperwork for that jurisdiction to get that ID issued. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: First supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a lot of children go out for medical travel for appointments, especially for dental care, but also for other needs. During our hearing, the deputy minister clarified that under 16s don't require identification if they are travelling with a parent or caregiver. The new *Medical Travel Handbook* should help explain that. However, when patients arrive in a clinic at the south, they are asked for the child's identification and if they don't have it there, there may be problems with the

appointment. Can the minister clarify how his department ensures that young children and their parents have the appropriate documentation that they need when travelling to medical appointments. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the quote from the deputy minister, she's correct that under a certain age you're not required, in terms of the travel. However, if there are requirements that are set by certain clinics or facilities and there are barriers to accessing care that individuals are encountering, then we would want to know about those so that we can advise parents or caregivers to bring along the required documentation. In most cases, if there is a concern or a gap in service, we will hear about it through the Office of Patient Relations. And there is a feedback loop where systemic issues, as numerous parents encountering the same issue at the same facility, Office of Patient Relations will bring it back and address that. We want children to access the care they need, no matter where they are. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Many Nunavut residents who were not born in Nunavut, in fact anyone over the age of 25 was born in Nunavut, some residents do not have a birth certificate either because they never had one or they lost their original certificate, and then all of a sudden it is needed for an official purpose. Can the minister explain for the benefit of the listening public what specific assistance his department can provide to help a Nunavut resident to get their birth certificate if they were not born in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I mentioned earlier, we can help provide access to paperwork, to forms that are required. We'll do everything we can to support individuals; however, we can't overstep the very real boundaries that exist between jurisdictions. I know Northwest Territories, for example, there are some services that are available online, so in terms of paperwork, there may not actually be any physical paperwork that's required to request certification. And so the best contact is your local health centre. If you're unable or unable to get into the health centre, the Office of Patient Relations is also able to help find a path to getting that identification.

We don't want Nunavummiut to be impacted by a lack of a simple thing like a certificate or other documentation. We want them to have everything they need to access essential health care. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1269 – 6(2): Filling Vacant Positions

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Arviat. It's now 20 degrees in Arviat. I envy you.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to question the minister of HR. Last week there, I questioned the Minister of Environment about two positions, the environment protection officer, and the wildlife deterrent specialist, on the status of the vacancies on those two jobs and what has been done. I would like to ask the Minister of Human Resources how many job actions are weight waiting in Arviat, if he has that number, and what are the main barriers from just advertising and filling a position in Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the recruitment that goes through human resources, they come in very different stages, so that's the details that I wouldn't have in this House, in terms of where those processes are. But I can definitely commit to my colleague to provide him an update on some of those processes that would be in place, especially for Arviat positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've heard a lot of jobs cannot be advertised because there's no housing available dedicated to that position in certain communities, and I believe Arviat is one of them. Are there currently any jobs that are not being advertised because housing is not committed, or cannot be provided for that position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member is correct that oftentimes the departments do ask for staff housing before they advertise, and it's a requirement if they are going to have staff housing, go through the staff housing allocation before that is determined. So there are positions that sometimes the departments wait until there is staff housing.

I cannot verify whether the ones in Arviat are in that situation, but that is a very, one of the biggest barriers to start advertising, if the department would like staff housing with that position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister to look into this. I've been informed by one of my constituents that NCC Development Corporation is using two or three government staff houses in Arviat currently, and if jobs cannot be advertised because the department cannot obtain its staff housing, why would the government be giving non-government entities access to their staff housing? So I'll ask the minister: Is the NCC Development Corporation using government staff housing in Arviat that could be used to fill jobs in Arviat that need housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to have to follow that up with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. As you know, how staff housing works is that Nunavut Housing Corporation does have a pool of houses for staff housing and public housing, and how that would be determined. It would not be the human resource department that would be assigning outside entities like Nunavut Construction corporations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1270 – 6(2): Improving Health Services

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health about something that needs to be corrected in health centres, because I've heard other communities, that when people go out for medical travel, and they just get sent home without a real diagnosis. There have been a number of times in this House where this was brought up where people went to the hospital, and they don't get really checked out very well and then they just ask to leave. Even though they keep going back to the health centre, they can't seem to get a diagnosis of what's troubling them, and then later on we hear that they have a disease that can't be cured.

I would like to know how the minister has made improvements in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we are fully committed to providing high-quality services to Nunavummiut, and when we look at the facilities that we have across Nunavut and the population of Nunavut, in between care provider and patient, we're talking about hundreds of thousands of interactions each year. Appointments could be after hours, could be through

clinics, could be to a nurse, to a doctor, to a specialist. And so when we are talking about anecdotes from members of the public, who may have very valid concerns, I think we have to be careful about taking a specific anecdote and saying that that is the norm, and that is what's happening to everyone.

There are a variety of anecdotes. There are some patients who have a good experience; there are some patients who don't have a good experience. We have ways to identify those less-than-positive experiences, and identify what the need, or what the problem is and to try and provide a better service for that patient.

The Office of Patient Relations is one. Going straight to the administrator or the chief supervisor of health programs at each health centre is another. And internally, we have a continuous quality improvement program within the department, that helps us to identify gaps and to work towards making sure that we're always looking for ways to improve the service. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's really regretful that those people who took a long time to be diagnosed, they keep going back to the hospital to find out what's wrong with them, and now we have people who don't want to go to the hospital. And I have mentioned this more than one time, about these problems.

You ask them to go to Patient Relations. They do call them, but I don't know if they get a call back. They don't tell me if they get a call back from Patient Relations.

I just do what you suggest; I tell them to go to the Office of Patient Relations now, because that seems to be the only route where they can go and complain. Have you seen any improvements coming out of the work of the Office of Patient Relations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the Office of Patient Relations, they do excellent work. I can't say that I know the details of each case. I have also referred many issues to them, but one thing that I do know, that I can speak to, is that the issue around advocacy, either a patient advocating for themselves, or their family advocating for them, that's something that is a good thing. We want to see people bringing forward their concerns to us. We want to know if they are not happy, if they don't feel respected, if they don't feel hurt. We don't want to see them going and submitting a complaint to Facebook, because we don't have a way to monitor that and take that information.

The information from patients when they are unhappy, that is valuable to us, because we want to improve our service. And so, right starting from the minister to my deputy and right through the department, we want patients and Nunavummiut to feel respected and to feel that they are in a safe space when they are in the health centre, in our facilities, and they can bring forward their complaints and their concerns, and that we will take them seriously. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I didn't get a response to my question, whether there have been improvements with Patient Relations. People are going on Facebook, and that's the only time they seem, appear to be heard. Facebook is utilized when issues arise. (interpretation ends) Maybe it's the avenue to solve the problem.

(interpretation) It's only then actions are made. That is a comment that I want to make, that there definitely needs to be improvements, and sometimes individuals, patients are asked not to come at all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Just a comment, but Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) And I thank the member for raising those concerns, and for the record I did respond to the member's question. There are annual reports that the Office of Patient Relations issues. Those are public documents, and anybody in the public, including members, have access to those. So if you would like to learn more about the work that Patient Relations does, there's publicly available information. I would encourage anybody who's interested to read up on those, and I can certainly make those available if anybody is unable to access them.

I will reiterate that we do want to hear the complaints from Nunavummiut. We don't want them to feel like they are unheard or that they have no one to bring their concerns to. Every patient is important, and we want to provide the highest quality service, every community in Nunavut, every facility. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1271 – 6(2): Status of Taloyoak School Project

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, this Assembly has approved funding for the construction of a new high school in Taloyoak, as the current school, which has students from kindergarten to grade 12, is very overcrowded at over 119 per cent utilization. Can

the minister provide an update on the current status of this project. 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. I think it seems timely because just in the past maybe half an hour I sent updated pictures to the member of the new high school trucks, and thank you to the team that shared those, and I can share those on to the MLA for his viewing.

It seems like the project is going forward in a great way, and the scheduled, anticipated completion is by July 7, 2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister responsible for education for updating me on the project from time to time. Mr. Speaker, the Taloyoak school project has taken some time to get underway, and this Assembly has approved a number of capital carryover requests to ensure that the full funding can remain in the project budget.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that some of the funds that were first designated to Taloyoak project were transferred to do renovations at the Igloolik school. Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm when these funds will be replaced in the budget for the Taloyoak school. 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. Yes, I believe the money was transferred over for a brief period of time, but that money was allocated for a future year of the project, and so it didn't have any implications to the project itself. So for that I believe it was last year, and now, for this year, the money is there, from my understanding, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when this project was first introduced, on face of the project was to renovate the Netsilik School, which was first built in 1978, and last renovated in 1998, over 25 years ago. Over time, the project has not progressed as originally proposed. It is not clear when the department plans to renovate the Netsilik School in Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update of when the Netsilik School in Taloyoak will be renovated. 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. In terms of the school there, the Netsilik school, I don't have a time frame on the renovation, as it's not in pre-planning, nor is it considered as a project for pre-planning. The last renovation done was in 1996, and beyond that, Mr. Speaker, as I have said in this House before, there are several competing projects in the communities, and we have ones that are very outdated and are in I think more of a need at this time, so I don't have a date for him, I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Oral Question 1272 – 6(2): Marine Infrastructure

Mr. Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Kangiqsualuk residents. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the minister responsible for the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, and they concern the issue of marine infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, in March of this year, the federal Department of Transportation announced \$44.7 million in funding for projects in Nunavut, under the Safety Equipment and Basic Marine Infrastructure in Northern Communities Initiative.

Mr. Speaker, this is good news. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the Sanikiluaq project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague is correct in that my department, the transportation, we've been able to access protection plan funding to improve marine infrastructure and reduce safety and environmental risks. Specifically for Sanikiluaq I don't have a specific update, but I do know that we have a number of communities, multiple communities that we are targeting to do this funding specifically. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, other projects included in the announcement are installation of safety lights and fuel resupply locations, and relocation of fuel resupply manifolds, in order to reduce environmental risk. Can the minister confirm if Sanikiluaq will be included in this scope of work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to confirm with my colleague on that, but I do know that we are trying to proceed with the work that has been outlined in the scope of work with the Transport Canada agreement. And with that, I'll keep my colleague apprised as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1273 – 6(2): Solar Panels

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation, and I do appreciate the minister's commitment to clean energy as well as changing, or modernizing the corporation scope and to include addressing climate change by reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

Mr. Speaker, this is a question I have asked to numerous ministers, and it's a question that I would like to ask again today.

In 2018 the federal government, our National Resource Canada had paid for the purchase and installation of numerous solar panels on Nunavut Arctic College's Nunatta campus. I have asked this question to the Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation as well as previous ministers of the Arctic College, and possibly Community and Government Services. The question was, since the solar panels were installed in 2018, have they been connected to Qulliq Energy Corporation's energy grid. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of that specific project, I don't know that I have that detail here in front of me. However, we do have the programming available to allow for institutions to connect that specific installation at the Nunatta campus. If the member will give me a minute or two, I might be able to find the status of that.

However, I think Qulliq Energy Corporation is happy to support municipalities as well as individual homeowners to integrate renewables into their buildings, whether it's a home, whether it's a community hall, or arena. The cost of installing or the capital cost of things like solar panels continues to decrease, which makes me hopeful about seeing more of it in the future in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the minister's commitment to follow up with me on this, and his commitment to look into it.

Mr. Speaker, it has been seven years at least since those solar panels' installation has been completed, which is most likely a significant amount of the payback portion required for the investment. So my next question I would like to ask the minister of Qulliq Energy Corporation is: Can he provide the House with an update today on negotiations between the corporation and the Government of Nunavut on negotiating a purchase agreement under the Commercial and Institutional Power Producer Program, which the Government of Nunavut falls under. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the Commercial and Institutional Power Program, we have a number of approved customers. In terms of the Government of Nunavut facilities and their plug in, or their connection to that program, I don't have a lot of information on that. Most of the clients that we have through that program are either municipal or non-Government of Nunavut organizations. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I would like to express my appreciation to the minister for his commitment to follow up on that specific question. Mr. Speaker, a significant number of Government of Nunavut's expenditures goes directly to the Qulliq Energy Corporation to pay for the electricity that our government assets utilize. Can the minister provide an update up to the house today: What is the most recent amount the Government of Nunavut paid to the Qulliq Energy Corporation for the energy consumption used for the previous fiscal year, which just ended March 31, 2025. 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 can commit to providing that information to the member. It is included in our financial statements. It's Government of Nunavut, I believe, is categorized as a related party. I apologize for not having that figure here today, but I'll commit to getting back to the member with that number, as well as the status of the, I will work with my colleague from Nunavut Arctic College on the status of the Nunatta campus panel array. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members, the time allotted for question period is now over. Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address.

Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Hickes.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on the review of the 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut. The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing from April 24 to 25, 2025 on the 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, 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 web site. The transcript from the standing committee's hearing is available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

Mr. Speaker, witnesses appearing before the standing committee included the Information and Privacy Commissioner and a number of Government of Nunavut officials, representing the Departments of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; the Department of Health; the Department of Human Resources; the Department of Justice; and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut. The standing committee notes its appreciation to the witnesses.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's report contains a total of 20 sets of formal recommendations. Fifteen formal recommendations are directed to the Government of Nunavut. These cover a number of thematic areas, including:

- Amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;
- The Government of Nunavut's annual reports to the Legislative Assembly concerning its administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and related regulations and policies;
- Capacity-building and centralization;
- Privacy Impact Assessments;
- Public sector salary disclosure;
- Non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements;
- Agreements between the Government of Nunavut and external entities under the *Police Act*;
- Prosecutions under section 59 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;
- Labour relations and the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;

- Information-sharing and protection of privacy in relation to missing persons legislation and other legislative initiatives;
- Health privacy issues and the development of health-specific privacy legislation;
- The application of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to municipalities, district education authorities, and other entities; and
- Information technology, cybersecurity, and the impact of artificial intelligence technology on access to information and protection of privacy.

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 five sets of formal recommendations directed to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, I anticipate that the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's responses to the standing committee's recommendations will be tabled in the House, through you, during our upcoming pre-dissolution sitting.

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.

Speaker: It is agreed. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present the report of the standing committee on the review of the *2023-2024 Annual Report of Nunavut's Representative for Children and Youth*. The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing on the representative's 2023-2024 annual report on April 28 and 29, 2025. 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 visitor's gallery and was livestreamed on the Legislative Assembly's website.

Transcripts from the standing committee's hearing are available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

Witnesses appearing before the standing committee included Nunavut's Representative for Children and Youth and her official, in addition to a number of Government of Nunavut officials representing the Department of Family Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Department of Justice, the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, and the Chief Coroner of Nunavut. The standing committee notes its appreciation to all the witnesses.

Mr. Speaker, I will say it was extremely disappointing and disheartening, in view of the important topics discussed during the appearance of Nunavut's Representative for Children and Youth, that the Premier of Nunavut chose to schedule a cabinet meeting which prevented the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs official from taking part in critical discussions on the first day of the hearing.

This lack of respect for committee proceedings is unprecedented.

The lack of representation from Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs made it difficult to fully address concerns and issues raised on the first day of the proceedings. Although members revisited a number of the same topics on the second day of the hearing to give the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs official the opportunity to respond, the flow of discussion had been interrupted and much significant context was lost.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's report contains seven formal recommendations directed to the Representative for Children and Youth and Government of Nunavut, which cover a number of thematic areas that were addressed during our televised hearing, including:

- The crisis of Child Sexual Abuse in Nunavut;
- Role of the Umingmak Centre;
- Collection and Use of Data;
- Collaboration and Coordination; and
- Communication.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to note for the record that the standing committee is requesting a comprehensive response to this report, pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

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.

Speaker: It is agreed. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Joanasie.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 397 – 6(2): Petroleum Products Division’s 2022-2023 Annual Report

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Petroleum Products Division’s 2022-2023 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Languages, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

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

Hon P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to thank the Member for Cambridge Bay that Bill 76, *An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act* be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the bill amends to the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the *Official Languages Act* in response to the report of the Standing Committee on Legislation on the review of the official language legislation. Mr. Speaker, this important piece of legislation is ready for consideration in the House. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a clarification. On responding to Oral Question 1251-6(2) yesterday, I indicated that there’s a need to update Bill 76. Mr. Speaker, what I meant to say is that we need to update the language legislation. 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 76 had passed second reading and is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

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

>>House adjourned at 15:43 and Committee commenced at 16:07

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

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 item to deal with: Bill 80. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to deal with Bill 80, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2025-2026*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Is the committee in agreement we deal first with Bill 80?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Acting Minister of Finance, do you have any officials you would like to appear before you. Mr. Akeeagok.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to allow the minister's witnesses to appear before the committee?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in. And for the record, Minister, can you please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

**Bill 80 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2025-2026 –
Consideration in Committee**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Lorne Kusugak, we think of him. He's in our thoughts. I'm here appearing before you, to my right Daniel Young, Deputy Minister of Finance. As well to my left Anna Fowler, Deputy Minister for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, thank you. I appear before you today to present Bill 80, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2025-2026*.

Through this Bill, we are seeking \$4.225 million in supplementary capital appropriations for 2025-26. This supplementary appropriation increases the approved 2025-26 capital funding from \$630.934 million to \$635.159 million.

(interpretation ends) The new funding is for three departments.

The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs will receive \$1.625 million to purchase furniture.

In August 2024, the Aeroplex Building, which housed the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, experienced a fire and flooding caused by the fire suppression system, and the staff were temporarily relocated to the Trigram building, where they have been using furniture and equipment belonging to the Department of Human Resources.

The previous furniture in Aeroplex Building was discarded due to mold contamination after the fire and flooding. This funding is needed to furnish the Department's new office space.

The Department of Justice is requesting \$600,000 to complete phase 1 of the Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre Renovation Project. The total funding approved for the Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre Renovation Project (Phase 1 & 2) was \$7.5 million, out of which \$610,000 has been used on the planning and design of the project. The current amount available for use is \$6.9 million, with a shortfall of \$600,000.

The Department of Family Services is seeking \$2 million to replace the roof of the Naja Isabelle Group Home in Chesterfield Inlet. A structural assessment conducted in October 2024 revealed extensive water damage and rot in the roof's wooden joists, thereby rendering the building unsafe for occupancy. The consultant recommended a full roof replacement, including all structural components, and advised switching to steel joists to enhance durability and ensure compliance with the current building codes.

Mr. Chair, that concludes my opening comments. I am available to address any questions about this supplementary appropriation, or our capital process in general. However, I do encourage members to save their questions on these specific projects for the responsible minister.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Bill 80, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2025-2026*. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (Capital), page 4, directorate, total directorate being requested \$1.625 million. Questions? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few questions here. That approximately \$1.6 million for furniture, how many offices is that for? Because that's a pretty high-costing furniture purchase. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, This will make 29 enclosed offices, 17 privacy cubicles and 23 open cubicles. We followed the Government of Nunavut's standard office space in determining how they were. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And just for clarity here, all this furniture, is it going to be flown in or is it coming in on sealift? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan is to fly them in. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On the briefing note here, it says on the 16 August 2024 is when EIA offices experienced flooding from the sprinkler system, and today is near the end of May, and they are going to flown in because they are moving into the new office space shortly. Why weren't arrangements made a lot earlier so that the furniture that could have been brought in by sealift at much less of the cost, maybe half of the cost? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. Ever since that devastating fire that had taken place, a lot of the planning and the work had started right then and there, and it has continued to do that. And it's one which has led us here, to get them flown in here. For sealift, it's going to be too late for them to come because we are trying to house the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs into their new office space. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I was referring to the sealift of 2024. This happened August 16, which is the middle of summer, and I believe the last sealift ship probably would have been October, and the minister did state that they started planning right away. Why didn't they plan to bring it on sealift? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Trying to order sealift in August to come in the fall, the window is too short. For any sealift, typically we start ordering them in April, May, June and April, so the cutoff dates would have been far too early. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if the million-dollar vans had not been bought by EIA, would this Bill be \$1 million less? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are two different. I can only speak for the furniture that we're trying to purchase through this supp that we're trying to seek approval for. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This will be just a comment. I think they should have tried harder to get it on sealift. \$1.6 million for furniture, I know they need furniture and they're moving into a new office space and they have to get it now; it's too late to go on sealift, but maybe it could have been on sealift last year and the sealift of 2024, late. There are lots of needs that are within Nunavut, and the government has to try to be as fiscally responsible as possible. I know they have to operate and they have to, it's too bad. I mean, it's bad that there was a fire, but that's nobody's fault. It's just a comment saying I think they could have tried harder to try to get it on sealift, and they might have been able to save half of the shipping costs.

As we all know, shipping on the airline is the most expensive way to ship and this will all be cubed and that's why it's so expensive. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Just before I move on, I neglected, there was a question raised at the committee meeting this morning on the history of surpluses at the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Minister, do you have those numbers for the past three fiscal years? Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. Yes, I do. Is it possible to respond?

The plans were to use existing furniture to move to a different department, a different building, but with the fires that took place, they were trying to salvage whatever could be salvaged, and that also took time in terms of trying to determine what to do.

Fire occurs, it just mixes up our whole planning time. It is because of the fire that we're asking for this, that we need in order to get the department to find a home.

For the surpluses, I'm going to address it as the member asked, for three executive years. For the operations and maintenance side, the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs 2022-2023, their surplus was 1.7 million.

For 2023-2024, the surplus was \$381,607.

And for 2024-2025 the surplus was 1,660,000.

For the capital in the same following fiscal years, 2022-2023, the surplus was 41,000.

2023-2024 the capital was for 41,000.

And 2024-2025, the surplus was 41,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you for that information, Minister. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister had stated that the furniture, they are utilizing the furniture, they are utilizing Human Resource's furniture.

The furniture that is being utilized, I would like it know if these furniture will be used again after the arrival of the expensive furniture that you're trying to order. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. They are utilizing the Human Resources before the office is completed. They will remain there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think my question was answered. Those departments, Department of Executive are utilizing that office right now at Human Resources' office. Is the equipment they're using now going to be all changed to the new equipment? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): My apologies, I didn't answer your question correctly. The office furniture is going to remain at the Human Resources office. If the

funding is approved, EIA staff will move to that new office and the office furniture will be new there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister explain, I'm sure the other departments have equipment or furniture that they're not using right now. It's just too expensive to spend \$1.62 million. And the have do you tell the same office furniture that is being ordered and some of the office furniture is probably new and could be reused. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): We considered that, to see what to do with the furniture. The furniture is usually for a particular department or a particular office, so the equipment or furniture we're trying to get will be for the new office building, and I'm sure the other departments need their furniture. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name I have on my list, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. A follow-up question popped into my mind after my colleague in our briefing notes, number 3 in the background, it states the original plan was to move into a new building by March 31, 2025. If that was the original plan, why wasn't this Bill presented during the winter sitting instead? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: All indications was that the building was not going to be ready in time. And that's for the government to lease that building. *Taima*. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. I'm kind of confused. Maybe Mr. Simailak, do you want to maybe rephrase your question? Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm a little bit confused too. In our briefing notes it said the original plan was to move in by March 31, meaning it could have been before March 31. So why is this Bill being presented now? Why was it not presented sooner so that if it was ready by March 31 that the staff would have furniture maybe if this Bill was passed earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. The original plan was to use the existing furniture to be moved from one building to another, and that was for the March move, and before the fire had taken place. The original plan was to keep the current furniture and reuse it, and with the fire that had taken place, that planning went out the window. And so that's what happened. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Minister. I will kind of move along here, regarding logistics. The first shipping to Iqaluit is usually, I believe it is July 9 of this year, and here we are, May 28. Did the department look into perhaps utilizing ocean vessels instead of flying them in?

And to tack onto that, if this is approved, I am assuming the order will be placed as soon as possible. When would the furniture arrive into Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the first sealift to Iqaluit is often pre-booked by October, in terms of floor space. That's one factor that was considered. But it's also in terms of planning and the need for supplementary appropriation to be approved, then we can start the ordering. Because we can't order unless we get the funds for it. That's the factor that has happened for this. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the plan is for furniture for 66 offices, if I heard correctly, offices/cubicles. That's a lot of office materials to be flown in. So how long would it take for all those furniture to come into Iqaluit, if this bill is approved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: If we can get the approval for this, the move-in date for the department will be September 1 of this year. That's from getting this approved to getting the furniture ordered. The furniture, we recently asked for an estimate, and we just received them recently. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Minister. If this is approved now and ordered, they should be moved in by September. Again, sealift is an option. If

the department did start working on replacing this stuff August of last year, why wasn't that taken into account to utilize the ship, ocean vessel, to save us money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, that's a great suggestion in terms of bringing it in by sealift, and that's something that our staff can commit, in terms of to look at the mode of transportation on how this is going to come in.

But trying to get sealift in time, especially for Iqaluit, is always challenging, in terms of late orders. But it's something worth exploring, so thank you for that recommendation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Following my list of names, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This question I would like to ask about this matter is, your experts, did they give you any options, any kind of options to see if they can find the cheapest way or the least expensive way of ordering them? Because looking at the \$1.6 million cost, I want to make sure if you were presented any opinions by your experts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my first question.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Yes, they were reviewed like that, so we look at it as one order in one package, or at the same time, so it won't be as expensive as ordering them one at a time.

Stantec company has been helping us with this, and we found that it's better to order them all at the same time so that it can be less expensive. That's what we did. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So trying to get the least expensive way to get them, so you probably saw some options, and this is the process that you agreed to follow. What about charters, chartering aircraft? Can some of this cost be used to charter an airplane to carry the furniture? Was that looked at? I'm sure you were provided some options, and we know that we're talking about 66 offices, so there will be very many objects. So my question is, are you trying to charter a plane to carry the furniture? Has that been considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. No, we have not thought of that option to charter an airplane. I don't think we will do that. We're requesting \$1.6 million, and out of that \$300,000 will be used for freight. That's how it is set up right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Just if I may, just during the discussion, I'm a little confused on the timeline. It seems there's been concerns raised on the timing of the purchase, that it won't potentially meet the sealift season. There's also been suggestion on charters and then commercially, just regular cargo.

But with regards to the timeline, so as the minister mentioned, in February 2025 Stantec did the interior design of the new building, yet the fire happened in August 2024. There's a number of months in between there that a lot of these things that are being suggested right now around the table we can assume were discussions at the departmental level in conjunction with Community Services.

Maybe if the minister could give a little bit better description on the timeline from when the fire happened, when the furniture was deemed unusable, and when they started the process to order this furniture, I think would alleviate a lot of the questions around the table. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I don't have the timeline of when that happened, but we can definitely. There are different notes that we have here, but nothing that I can give you right now in terms of when this happened. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. I'm a little – sorry. Ms. Fowler.

Ms. Fowler: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Maybe I can try and provide a bit of clarity.

The Aeroplex building had the fire in late August. At that time, we were already making plans to be moving into the new building, with the occupancy date of March 31, as was indicated in your briefing note.

In the time following the fire, we had to wait for some assessments to see if any of the furniture was salvageable and whether or not the floors were safe. There was a lot of water damage on the floor, so assessments through the property owners had to be done.

Following that we still engaged through Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut -- sorry, I was going to say Community and Government Services at that time, with real property in determining when we would be able to move into the new building. That date has changed a couple of times. So that March timeline was the initial one before the fire happened, and since that time, getting the building completed, drywall up and such, took a little bit longer than initially anticipated.

So that's where you see that in February Stantec was brought in to help us assess the interior and design it in a way that can accommodate all of the staff. So we have been working back and forth with Stantec in that process. And just very recently in the last couple of weeks have received an estimate for furniture to accommodate the size and office spaces within the new building.

I hope that provides a little bit more clarity. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you Ms. Fowler, much more. Mr. Malliki, you had another question?

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Listening to the comments, the timing for sealift, that these could have been prepared in advance for cargo, as the minister mentioned, the time to order through cargo shipping is from April to May, and April just passed away and couldn't get these through shipping? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the question, I think I commented that we were able to look into this. Whether we can still ship some through sealift and other suggestions that was raised here, these are areas that we will look into as we start ordering the required furniture. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As to your comment, Minister, there's no problem in further delay, then? Because he is committed to finding cheaper ways to ship them in. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't want any delay. The costing that we received recently, and upon approval at this time, we will be placing the orders. Upon our ordering of the material, perhaps some will be by way of shipping cargo or by plane. And to add, if we're going to fly them in, \$225,000. If it goes by ship the balance may be different, perhaps less, but we are looking at the actual costs at this time in this request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$1.62 million is quite a lot of money that is being requested. I have difficulty to approve the requested amount, as it is a big amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just a comment. If you go to page 4 -- Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had one question on this. The minister stated that they have a price already. My question would be, is this a sole-source contract to buy 1.6 million dollars' worth of furniture? Or is it going to go to tender? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We utilized Stantec to look for the price of those furnitures. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll ask my question again. Is it going to be sole-source contract, or is it going to go out to tender? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tender. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on page 4. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Capital, supplementary appropriation, capital No. 2, 2025-2026, total directorate being appropriated \$1.625 million, not previously authorized. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page 5. Department of Justice, capital, directorate not previously authorized, \$600,000. Questions? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Everything seems kind of straightforward here, but on the briefing note here on the second bullet there, it says it ensures compliance with building codes, mandatory fire safety regulations, and to obtain occupancy approval.

If the minister can just explain if it was not, obviously it was not compliant before, if we can get an explanation why they just found out that it wasn't compliant. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you. Upon inspection, that's what they found out about the building codes and the fire safety regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if the minister can answer this, but how often do they do inspections on government-owned buildings to see if they are code compliant or not, then? Because obviously this was not compliant until they did the inspection. And now they have to spend in the neighbourhood of total amount is 8 million to renovate it and make it compliant. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, through you, could I ask to switch my witness? Thank you.

Chairman: Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please proceed. Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, Minister, if you could introduce your new official.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my new witness to my left is Christine Ellsworth, Deputy Minister of Justice. As part of the work that the department is doing in two phases, and so while they are working on the renovations and that, part of the requirement is that there be an inspection. And through that inspection was where these two were highlighted. And that's typical, in terms of as projects proceed, and so that's it. *Taima*. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the minister for the explanation. Going on down again, the third bullet from the bottom, it says approximately 90 per cent of the contract has been completed. The only outstanding items are the fire alarm system replacement and electrical system upgrades.

Are they going to have to reopen any walls to check the wiring? Because 90 per cent complete, in my opinion, everything's closed in and they're just doing the finishing touches. And if it's an electrical system upgrade, that sounds a little more than just doing finishing touches. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, that level of detail we don't have at this table in terms of whether it's already enclosed are not. But we trust our staff that have put these numbers together, and in terms of getting the work done, and those outstanding items are stated in the briefing note that these are the ones that will be needed, so that is something that the contractor will get those done. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. We are on page 5. Supplementary Appropriation, Capital, No. 2, 2025-2026, Department of Justice, capital, directorate. Total amount not previously authorized \$600,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page 6. Family Services, capital, corporate management. Total corporate management not previously authorized, \$2 million. Question? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Got to treat all bills the same and get them thorough. It says here on the briefing note that a structural assessment in October 2024 confirmed widespread water damage, and rot had compromised the loose wooden joists and rendered the building unfit for occupancy. During that inspection they didn't come across anything that was not code-compliant, just like they did with the other ones? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, through you, could I ask to change my witness. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please switch witnesses out. And just for the record, Minister, if you could introduce your new official to your left.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my left is Jonathan Ellsworth. He's the Deputy Minister for Family Services. And Mr. Chair, if I could ask you ask through you if he can respond to the question that's outstanding. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The assessment that was undertaken in October 2024 would have needed to identify compliance issues with the building. As I understand it, Mr. Chair, any building requiring renovation needs to be brought to be the code of the day to be compliant with the building codes, as I understand. I will admit, Mr. Chair, I'm not a professional in asset management, but that is my understanding. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank you for the explanation, because in the other one we just passed, it was upon inspection that they found that they were not code-compliant, so just have to know.

Also, the bullet there says in December 2024 a final report and Class A estimate was received, and that's how they came up to a figure of near \$2 million. And it's a 30 per cent contingency cost. It's almost a third. That's quite a bit of contingency cost. So is that a normal percentage? Almost one-third of the total cost is built in there for any unknown factors. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, sadly, in the days that we are now, with all the unknowns, our contingencies are getting higher and higher as a result. Also, for a community like Chesterfield Inlet, there's a higher risk, in terms of that that we need to ensure for contingency. So those are the two factors.

But the biggest factors of the current world that we live in of our prices that change on almost a daily basis now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And according to the briefing notes, this structure or building is currently unoccupied. Back in June, that's when they found out they had issues and they had to fix them up. But there was an RFP back in June, I assume to use the facility. Was it awarded, and what are the future plans for this building? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our request for proposal was cancelled as a result of what the building assessment was deemed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And the other part of my question, what's the future plan for the use of the building. We're spending \$2 million, and obviously it's going to be used. We're not going to spend 2 million on a structure and not use it. So what are the future plans? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Through you could I ask Deputy Minister Ellsworth to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the RFP that was issued originally will likely be similar to the one we're going to issue in the future, presuming this honourable committee approves this request. We were hoping on an in-territory group home of sorts, not necessarily medical in nature, but more for through the lens of keeping children in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. We're on page 6. Supplementary Appropriation, Capital, No. 2, 2025-2026, Family Services, Capital corporate management. Total corporate management not previously authorized, \$2 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page 3, sorry, page 2. Apologies. It is usually page 3 in these things, so I went by memory before looking.

So Supplementary Appropriation, Capital, No. 2, 2025-2026, Schedule 1, Capital. Total capital appropriation not previously authorized, \$4,225,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to Bill 80 in your legislative binder. Bill 80, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2025-2026*. Clause 1, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Please go to schedule on page 2. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, \$1.625 million, Department of Justice, \$600,000, and Department of Family Services, \$2 million. Total capital appropriation, \$4,225,000. 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: Does the committee agree to bill 80 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 80 can be placed on *Orders of the Day* for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok, any brief closing comments?

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, my colleagues, for getting this through. I think it is a healthy debate like this that gives us the comfort that we're very engaged with, with the project. So I really appreciate the comments that were asked here, and I thank everybody for getting this. Hopefully those three projects will start to proceed. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I'll ask members, as we have concluded our business, I'll now rise to report progress to the speaker. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort members out. I'll ask committee members to stay in the seats for the entrance of the speaker. Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*Committee adjourned and House resumed at 16:57*

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 80 and would like to report that Bill 80 is 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? Mr. Quqqiaq. The motion is in order. To the motion? All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Acting Minister of Finance, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

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

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

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion? All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 80 has had third reading and is ready for assent.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: 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 9 a.m. *Orders of the Day* for Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer

2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to the Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 29 at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 17:00*



Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts

*Report on the Review of the 2023-2024 Annual Report of the
Information and Privacy 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
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Karen Nutarak
Joanna Quassa
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Introduction and Chronology of Recent Events

The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* was inherited upon division on April 1, 1999.

The most recent set of significant amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* were made in 2017. Bill 48, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, received 1st Reading on June 6, 2017. The Bill received Assent on September 19, 2017.

Bill 59, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, received 1st Reading during the Legislative Assembly's sitting of October 25, 2024. It was subsequently withdrawn from the Order Paper by way of a motion introduced on October 30, 2024, by the sponsor of the Bill, the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Section 61 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides, in part, that:

Appointment of Information and Privacy Commissioner

61. (1) The Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, shall appoint an Information and Privacy Commissioner to carry out the duties and functions set out in this Act and shall undertake other duties and functions in addition as required by other legislation.

The current incumbent, Graham Steele, assumed office on January 11, 2021. His term office expires on January 10, 2026. His predecessor, the late Elaine Keenan Bengts, served from November 15, 1999 to January 10, 2021.

The 2020-2021 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 9, 2021. The 2021-2022 annual report was tabled on May 25, 2022. The standing committee held a televised hearing on the annual reports from September 26-27, 2022. The standing committee subsequently presented its report to the House on November 8, 2022. The Information and Privacy Commissioner's response to the report of the standing committee was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 6, 2023. The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 24, 2023.

The 2022-2023 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 24, 2023. Televised standing committee hearings on this annual report were held from April 19-20, 2024. The standing committee subsequently presented its report to the House on May 27, 2024. The Information and Privacy Commissioner's response to the report of the standing committee was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 24, 2024. The Government of Nunavut's response to the report was also tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 24, 2024.

The 2023-2024 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 23, 2024. The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing on the 2023-2024 Public Accounts on May 1, 2025.

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 transcript from the standing committee's hearing is available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

Witnesses appearing before the standing committee included the Information and Privacy Commissioner and a number of Government of Nunavut officials representing the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, the Department of Health, the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Justice and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut. The standing committee notes its appreciation to the witnesses.



Observations and Recommendations Directed to the Government of Nunavut

Issue: **Annual Reports on the Administration of 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* and related regulations and policies (the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Policy*, the *Privacy Breach Policy* and the *Privacy Impact Assessment Policy*).

The government's 2019-2020 annual report on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 16, 2021. The 2020-2021 to 2022-2023 consolidated annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 30, 2024. The 2023-2024 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 6, 2024. The 2024-2025 annual report has not yet been tabled.

The standing committee emphasizes the importance of timely tabling of annual reports to the Legislative Assembly.

Standing Committee Recommendation #1:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's 2024-2025 annual report on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* be tabled in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest practicable opportunity.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut introduce amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to provide for a statutory requirement for the Minister responsible for the Act to table, within six months after the end of each fiscal year, an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the legislation.

Issue: Capacity-Building and Centralization

Significant attention was paid during the standing committee's televised hearings of September 26-27, 2022; April 19-20, 2024; and April 24-25, 2025, to the issues of capacity and centralization.

In his 2021-2022 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner indicated that "there are too many vacancies, too much turnover, not enough training and little or no management support" with respect to the government's Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Coordinators.

In his 2022-2023 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner indicated that "capacity issues inside the Government of Nunavut are killing access to information and protection of privacy."

In his 2023-2024 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner indicated that it is "still true" that "capacity issues inside the Government of Nunavut are killing access to information and protection of privacy."

In his opening statement to the standing committee of April 24, 2025, the Information and Privacy Commissioner indicated that:

"Access and privacy law can be complicated, and some departments have really struggled to follow the law. There is also a lot of turnover in staff and a lot of vacancies. The pay was not high enough to attract people or to keep people and there was often no housing available, so people would apply for other jobs where housing was available. That was the main reason that progress on access and privacy was so painfully slow. You could find someone and train them, and then in a couple of months they would be gone, and the cycle would just repeat itself. To deal with these issues, the current government established a larger central office to provide support on access and privacy ... the reason why I say this the biggest and most important change in my time here is that having a central office with specialized staff means the Government of Nunavut can respond better and fast to access and privacy files. It is still early, but I can already see the difference. In short, Members, that central office is lifting everybody up. And that is a very good thing."

The standing committee continues to recognize that the government continues to face a number of significant capacity challenges in filling critical positions, such as health care workers.

On August 12, 2022, the Government of Nunavut issued *Request for Proposals 2022-52: Standing Offer Agreement - Privacy and Information Management-Specific Training and Consulting Services*. The Request for Proposals closed on September 16, 2022.

The annual budget of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs' Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Office has increased by over 135% from \$293,000 in the 2022-2023 fiscal year to \$697,000 in the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs' 2024-2025 main estimates indicated that the number of positions in its Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Office was projected to increase from 2.0 PYs in the 2022-2023 fiscal year to 5.0 PYs in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

The department's current business plan indicates that the territorial Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Office is "updating its training presentations and material and intends to use Fusion Cloud's learning module to make this training available to employees across the Government of Nunavut, including targeting training to new staff as part of onboarding."

The department's current business plan also indicates that the territorial Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Office is "reformatting and updating key forms that the public service uses in privacy impact assessments and privacy breaches, so they are easier to use and better address mandatory obligations under the Act."

The department's current business plan also indicates that the territorial Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Office is "looking ahead at how it can use Fusion Cloud to allow the public to submit Access to Information and Protection of Privacy requests through a public-facing portal. As this is not part of the initial Enterprise Resource Planning project, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has started to explore what it would require to implement this type of module."

Standing Committee Recommendation #2:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on the status of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy-related training and modernization initiatives that are referenced on pages 6-7 of the 2025-2026 business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed description of work performed during the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 fiscal years by entities under the terms of *Request for Proposals 2022-52: Standing Offer Agreement - Privacy and Information Management-Specific Training and Consulting Services*.

Issue: Sunsetted Policies

The Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs administers the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Policy*. The policy was most recently revised in October of 2019 and sunsetted in October of 2024.

The Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs administers the *Privacy Breach Policy*. The policy was most recently revised in October of 2019 and sunsetted in October of 2024.

The Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs administers the *Privacy Impact Assessment Policy*. The policy was most recently revised in October of 2019 and sunsetted in October of 2024.

Standing Committee Recommendation #3:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on the status of its reviews of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Policy*, the *Privacy Breach Policy* and the *Privacy Impact Assessment Policy*.

Issue: Privacy Impact Assessments

In 2017, the Legislative Assembly passed a number of amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act*, including the addition of new provisions concerning privacy impact assessments.

The statute defines a "privacy impact assessment" to mean "an assessment that is conducted by a public body as defined in section 2, but not including a municipality, to determine if a current or proposed program or service meets or will meet the requirements of Part 2 of this Act."

Section 42.1 of the statute provides that:

Privacy impact assessment

42.1. (1) A minister shall, during the development of a program or service by a public body or the redesign of an existing program or service by a public body, submit to the Minister responsible for this Act

- (a) a privacy impact assessment for the Minister's review and comment; or
- (b) the results of a preliminary assessment showing that a privacy impact assessment of the program or service is not required.

Preliminary assessment

(2) A minister shall conduct a preliminary assessment and, where required, a privacy impact assessment in accordance with the directions of the Minister responsible for this Act.

Municipality not included

(3) A municipality is not a public body for the purposes of subsection (1).

Standing Committee Recommendation #4:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include detailed descriptions of the findings of each privacy impact assessment and preliminary assessment undertaken under section 42.1 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025, and that these descriptions detail the extent to which the Information and Privacy Commissioner was consulted in their preparation.

Issue: Non-Disclosure and Confidentiality Agreements

Significant attention was paid during the standing committee's televised hearings of September 26-27, 2022; April 19-20, 2024; and April 24-25, 2025, to the subject of non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements.

In his testimony to the standing committee of September 27, 2022, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

"The answer to your question is that, in my opinion as your Information and Privacy Commissioner, and as a lawyer of more than 30 years' experience, the information law prevails over non-disclosure agreements, especially in the government context, because it is the people's money. If there's a non-disclosure agreement entered into by the Government of Nunavut, it means that there is some aspect of the public interest at play, and although the issue has not come before me, if somebody applied to see an agreement and the government said, 'No, we're not giving it to you because there is a non-disclosure clause in the agreement,' I'm very likely to say that that is legally wrong and the agreement should be disclosed. To put it in one sentence, Member, I do not believe that governments should enter into non-disclosure agreements and, if they do, it is very much subject to the information and privacy law."

In his testimony to the standing committee of April 19, 2024, the Department of Justice's witness stated that:

"To get to your second part about out-of-court settlements, sometimes confidentiality agreements are part of those settlements. It is usually protective of the personal information of individuals and sometimes to protect the specific details of a financial settlement. As the [Information and] Privacy Commissioner has said before, and we certainly agree, the dollar value that the Government of Nunavut spends is your business and it's the public's business, and that is something that we would disclose. It's not something that would be generally under the cloak of a confidentiality undertaking in a settlement, unless the court ordered something different."

The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2020-2021 and 2022-2023 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut* indicated that:

"Non-disclosure agreements are typically entered into with companies at the negotiation stage of directly negotiated contracts. This is particularly the case when the contracting partner will dis-close intellectual or business information to the Government of Nunavut for the purpose of the negotiations. This is distinguishable from confidentiality agreements, which form part of almost all settlement agreements entered into by the Government of Nunavut. The

Government of Nunavut does not ask complainants who allege sexual or other harassment to sign non-disclosure agreements. While a limited list with some information was provided as part of our last standing committee appearance, given the nature of these agreements and our legal obligations, the Government of Nunavut has examined the situation and has decided to not continue to provide non-disclosure agreement data, as this could constitute a breach of those same agreements. However, we can confirm that the number of non-disclosure agreements currently binding on the Government of Nunavut is quite low.”

In his testimony to the standing committee of April 25, 2025, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“... if the government’s position is that they will not talk about non-disclosure agreements or they will not give statistics because even giving statistics might violate the non-disclosure agreements ... that is not a reasonable position.”

In his testimony to the standing committee of April 25, 2025, the Government of Nunavut’s witness stated that:

“... there’s aspects of the settlement, particularly the amount which is non-disclosable. As well, as there’s a difference between a settlement and a release. In some situations, individuals will receive payment, funds, in order to release the government from their claim, and those would be subject to non-disclosure, but those are different than a settlement.”

Standing Committee Recommendation #5:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed list of non-disclosure, confidentiality and settlement agreements entered into between the Government of Nunavut and other entities and individuals between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2025.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report disclose the aggregate amount of public funds expended from the Consolidated Revenue Fund during the 2023-2024 fiscal year in respect to matters described in Note 24(b) ("Litigation") of the 2023-2024 *Public Accounts of Nunavut*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report disclose the aggregate amount of public funds expended from the Consolidated Revenue Fund during the 2023-2024 fiscal year in respect to matters arising from settlement agreements entered into between the Government of Nunavut and other entities and individuals.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report describes, in detail, its policies, practices and procedures regarding the process for entering into settlement and/or release and/or non-disclosure agreements in respect to matters arising in relation to *Human Resources Manual Directive 209: Internal Disclosure of Wrongdoing* and *Human Resources Manual Directive 1010: Respectful and Harassment-Free Workplace*.

Issue: Public Sector Salary Disclosure

In 2017, the Legislative Assembly passed a number of amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act*, including the addition of new provisions to allow, through regulation, the disclosure of remuneration of prescribed classes of public employees. However, new regulations to give effect to these changes have not yet been passed.

The standing committee notes that section 36 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that:

Annual report by Speaker

36. (1) The Speaker shall, during each fiscal year, cause a report to be laid before the Legislative Assembly

(a) setting out any policies made under subsection 33.1(1) in the previous fiscal year; and

(b) showing the amounts paid by the Legislative Assembly by way of indemnity, allowance, expense or benefit during the previous fiscal year to each person who had been a member during that previous fiscal year, other than those amounts paid pursuant to a policy made under subsection 33.1(2).

Annual report by Premier

(2) The Premier shall, during each fiscal year, cause a report to be laid before the Legislative Assembly

(a) setting out any policies made under subsection 33.1(2) in the previous fiscal year; and

(b) showing the amounts paid pursuant to a policy made under subsection 33.1(2), by way of allowance, expense or benefit, during the previous fiscal year to each person who had been a member of the Executive Council during that fiscal year.

Combined report

(3) For further clarity, the information required to be reported under this section may be combined into one report.

The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner* indicated that:

"There have been concerns raised following coming into force of this section of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* regarding the impact salary disclosure of public sector employees would have on Inuit employees, particularly in smaller communities."

On July 12, 2024, the Department of Human Resources issued an announcement indicating that:

"[The department] would like to inform Government of Nunavut employees that those employees who are in positions where the starting base salary is more than \$100,000 will have their name, position title and salary range dated back to 2018, released to a media outlet. Although this specific disclosure is the result of an access to information request, the Government of Nunavut is considering options for annual disclosure of this information. This information may be disclosed to the public in the near future. Please note that only base salary ranges and the employer cost of health and dental benefits will be provided, and not specific salaries."

The standing committee supports enhanced levels of public disclosure of remuneration for Government of Nunavut employees in the executive and senior management occupational categories.

Standing Committee Recommendation #6:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on the current status of the development of regulations under sections 73(l.1) and (l.2) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in respect to the disclosure of remuneration of prescribed classes of public employees.

Issue: Information-Sharing Agreements

A significant number of territorial statutes allow for the government to enter into information-sharing agreements with other entities.

Standing Committee Recommendation #7:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed description of each information-sharing agreement entered into by the Government of Nunavut under the authority of a territorial statute between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025, and that these descriptions indicate the extent to which the Information and Privacy Commissioner was consulted in their preparation.

Issue: *Police Act*

Nunavut's new *Police Act* was passed by the 5th Legislative Assembly and received Assent on June 8, 2021. It is not yet in force. The legislation provides, in part, that:

Agreement - contracted investigative body

6. (1) The Minister may, from time to time, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, enter into an agreement with an independent investigative body, or with its government, to authorize the independent investigative body to be a contracted investigative body for the purposes of this Part.

Agreement - contracted police force

(2) The Minister may, from time to time, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, enter into an agreement with a police force in Canada, or with its government, municipality or other authority, to authorize the police force to be a contracted police force for the purposes of this Part.

These provisions concern investigations into serious incidents occurring within the meaning of the federal *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act*.

In his 2021-2022 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner indicated that his office had not yet been consulted by the Department of Justice concerning proposed agreements between the Government of Nunavut and independent investigative bodies and other entities.

In his testimony to the standing committee of April 24, 2025, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

"I am pleased to say that last month I was consulted on the topic that was promised by the Minister of Justice back in 2021."

The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut* indicated that:

"The government remains committed to engaging with the Information and Privacy Commissioner about privacy matters as they relate to agreements with contracted investigative bodies and contracted police forces under the new *Police Act*. The Department of Justice is currently negotiating a draft Memorandum of Understanding with an investigative body for the investigation of serious incidents in Nunavut. Once the initial draft of the Memorandum of Understanding is prepared and there is sufficient substantive content for the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review, the Department will engage with the Information and Privacy Commissioner for feedback and recommendations."

The response also indicated that:

“The government continues to work toward bringing the *Police Act* into force and intends to do so within the life of this government. The Department of Justice has made significant progress on the development of the necessary regulations and plans to complete stakeholder engagement shortly and begin drafting later in the fall of 2024. The department anticipates completing the regulations and taking the steps to bring the *Police Act* into force by spring of 2025.”

The standing committee notes the importance of ensuring that agreements entered into between the Government of Nunavut and independent investigative bodies and other entities include disclosure requirements that are comparable to those which are in place in other Canadian jurisdictions in respect to the public reporting of investigative findings.

Standing Committee Recommendation #8:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report provide a detailed update on the status of consultations with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner regarding the entering into of agreements with contracted investigative bodies and contracted police forces under the new *Police Act*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report provide a detailed timeline for the coming into force of the new *Police Act*.

Issue: Prosecutions under Section 59 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*

In his 2022-2023 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner indicated that:

“Section 59 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* creates an offence, punishable on summary conviction, for anyone who knowingly breaches privacy or who wilfully interferes with the work of this office. There has never been a prosecution under this section.

In this fiscal year, there was one file for which prosecution should at least have been considered. It was a privacy breach case. Unfortunately, both the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Public Prosecution Service of Canada are doubtful that investigating (in the case of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police) or prosecuting (in the case of the Public Prosecution Service of Canada) is within their mandate. Investigation and prosecution of territorial offences is normally done by the Government of Nunavut's Department of Justice. The problem is that an *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* offence will almost always involve someone employed by or contracted to the GN. The Government of Nunavut's Department of Justice will usually be in a conflict of interest.

In short, it appears that there is nobody to investigate or prosecute an *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* offence. Even if there were, the maximum fine (\$5,000) is hardly worth the effort. Section 59, as currently written, is an empty threat. This is not a desirable situation. I bring it to the attention of the Legislative Assembly because a legislative response may be required.”

In its formal response to the Information and Privacy Commissioner's *Review Report 23-239*, the Government of Nunavut indicated that it “did not refer this matter for prosecution as it was uncovered well after the expiry of the six-month limitation period for the prosecution of territorial offences as specified in section 3 of the *Summary Conviction Procedures Act*. In light of the challenges posed by the six-month limitation, the Government of Nunavut would be open to discussing with the [Information and Privacy] Commissioner the possibility of a limitation period or an administrative penalty regime specific to offences under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.”

The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut* indicated that:

“The Government of Nunavut ... is considering options to address this issue.”

Standing Committee Recommendation #9:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on the status of developing amendments to address the issue of prosecutions under section 59 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Issue: Clare's Law and Missing Persons Legislation

During his September 2022 televised appearance before the standing committee, the Information and Privacy Commissioner confirmed that he had provided formal written input in July of 2021 to the Department of Justice concerning the development of a "Clare's Law" for Nunavut, the purpose of which is to address the issue of intimate partner violence. This submission was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by an individual Member on September 14, 2021, as part of an exchange of correspondence with the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Information published by the Government of the Northwest Territories indicates that:

"In the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Call for Justice Number 5.8 calls upon provinces and territories to adopt legislation related to missing persons.

As of June 2023, missing persons legislation has been enacted in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Newfoundland, and Ontario. Yukon's *Missing Persons Act* received assent in 2017 but is not yet in force.

Time is of the essence when a person goes missing. When police begin a missing person investigation, they often have no reason to suspect that a crime has been committed and therefore cannot obtain a production order under the Criminal Code or otherwise compel parties to release personal information about the missing person. Legislation provides mechanisms so police can access information more quickly and efficiently when conducting a missing person investigation. Most legislation in Canada related to missing persons provides for court orders that allow police to access records related to, and to enter premises to search for, a missing person. In many jurisdictions, legislation also allows police in certain situations to make emergency demands for records without a court order, for example, if it is suspected that records may be destroyed or that a missing person may be harmed during the time that would be required to obtain a court order.

When an investigation spans more than one jurisdiction, having similar legislation across provinces and territories can help police work together more effectively to locate a missing person."

In his testimony to the standing committee of April 19, 2024, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

"What I can say is how it relates to the existing access and privacy law, and the sort of things that Members would want to be thinking about if such a piece of legislation is tabled in this House for consideration.

What the law does essentially is it opens up one more avenue for the police to obtain information that they do not currently have because, in our system of justice, we do not let the police go out and get information if no crime is suspected or if there's no actual crime. This would say, well, under certain circumstances, not all circumstances but under certain circumstances, they could go out even if there's no evidence of a crime and obtain information that they can't already get.

Now, under the existing law in Nunavut, it would not be allowed and that's why a piece of legislation is required. If such a piece of legislation were adopted, then it would fit in with the privacy law because the privacy law says, among other things, that it is okay to disclose information as long as there is a law that says that it's okay. If this House were to pass that legislation, it would fit in with the existing privacy law."

In his testimony to the standing committee of April 19, 2024, a Department of Justice witness stated that "... it is still on the legislative priority list for the department and it is still being looked at by colleagues in Justice policy."

The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut* indicated that:

"The Department of Justice continues to make progress reviewing how *Clare's Law* is designed and operates in other Canadian jurisdictions, and assessing whether a similar law would be an effective tool for helping Nunavummiut at risk. We are undertaking the necessary policy work and have begun engaging with key stakeholders, like the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, to better understand how *Clare's Law* could be adapted for Nunavut's unique needs.

The Department of Justice intends to bring forward amendments to the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* (FAIA) in the winter of 2025. At one point, it was thought that a Nunavut version of *Clare's Law* could possibly be part of the FAIA amendment package. However, upon further consideration and policy review, it has become clear that a *Clare's Law* for Nunavut would need to be a standalone piece of legislation.

The conventional *Clare's Law* in southern Canada and the United Kingdom is restricted to sharing any history of intimate partner violence information with a current or potential intimate partner. Members of the Legislative Assembly have asked the Department of Justice to consider a made in Nunavut *Clare's Law*, which would have an expanded scope, covering the disclosure of information pertaining to child abuse, elder abuse, and other violent offenses. While the Department understands the rationale behind an expanded *Clare's Law* model, this has resulted in additional engagement, legal, and policy work to be done.

At this time, it is uncertain when this review will be completed due to the expanded scope and consideration of Nunavut's unique circumstances. We recognize the importance of this work, but much remains to be done, and we currently do not have a specific timeline for its completion."

The response also indicated that:

"The Department of Justice has been monitoring developments on missing persons laws in other jurisdictions. The department does not have immediate plans to propose similar legislation for Nunavut; however, we will continue to examine this issue taking into account: the unique context of our territory, the number and nature of cases where persons go missing in Nunavut or cases of Nunavummiut who go missing in other provinces and territories, and the need to balance police investigative powers with privacy and the protection of personal information, among other considerations."

In his testimony to the standing committee of April 25, 2025, a Department of Justice witness stated that:

"The status of the *Clare's Law* review, the department has completed a detailed review of all Canadian legislation that is in place. Right now there are five acts that have been passed, three of which are in force. Two of those are of particular sort of interest, I guess, to Nunavut that we've been reviewing as a department. The first one is Manitoba, and that relates to the scope of the requests, the information that can be requested, because it includes, in addition to intimate partner violence, potential violence against children as this House has talked about; and also Newfoundland and Labrador because it's the smallest jurisdiction that currently has its Act in force as well right now. And looking more at those two models. Those are also the jurisdictions we've spent some time engaging directly with to get some feedback on.

Again, Manitoba is one of the ones that is not in force, but talking about some of the process and thinking that went into the scope of, I said, the information that can be requested. And then Newfoundland and Labrador, because of the regime is something that we think might suit a smaller jurisdiction like Nunavut as well. Just a little bit of background. For instance, Alberta and Saskatchewan are two of the other jurisdictions that have their Act in force. They're quite larger. They have a separate body, separate entity, a committee of sorts, that reviews applications for information that individuals wanting to get this disclosure from the police to review that.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, where they also have the RCMP as well, too, of course, they have the Newfoundland Constabulary ...the two larger jurisdictions, though, Alberta and Saskatchewan, they have a committee, and it requires sort of a separate administration and so forth, whereas Newfoundland and Labrador, their policing entities actually take care of the review and risk assessment

analyses. So, again, no decisions have been made, but we're engaging with these jurisdictions specifically on their laws at this time.

Also, what we've done is because the requests for information, it's to access information held by the police, which relates to Manitoba, their Act passed in 2022. They're still working on their regulations. I saw a notice earlier, it was released earlier this month saying they're targeting the fall of 2025 for their regulations and then with the plan of coming into force after those regulations are made. And that would be the first jurisdiction, again, that would specifically allow for not just information relating to intimate partner violence, but also offences against a child, like child abuse as well. So we're very interested to see how that progresses as well too.

So based on, again, our review of the information that we've gathered, assessing the issues as I just mentioned about the scope to include child abuse, also some of the privacy matters, we're here at a privacy hearing, so issues related to the nature of what can and can't be disclosed, but also how that information is disclosed."

Following their October 2024 annual meeting, Canada's federal, provincial and territorial privacy commissioners and ombuds issued a joint resolution concerning the subject of "responsible information-sharing in situations involving intimate partner violence." The resolution indicated, in part, that:

"... intimate partner violence (IPV) is a pervasive problem in our society, affecting Canadians from coast to coast to coast, in urban, rural, and remote communities. IPV refers to a form of gender-based violence that primarily harms women and gender-diverse individuals and includes multiple forms of harm caused by a current or former intimate partner ... some Canadian jurisdictions have taken the additional step of adopting a *Clare's Law* scheme, which generally enables a police service to disclose certain risk-related personal information about an individual to their current or former intimate partner to support informed decision making about their safety and the relationship ...

... against this legal and policy backdrop, Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial Privacy Commissioners and Ombuds with responsibility for privacy oversight (FPT Commissioners) collectively affirm that Canada's privacy laws generally permit the disclosure of personal information if there is a risk of serious harm to health or safety ...

... in particular, we call on the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to work with their respective FPT Commissioner to:

1. Ensure organizations develop privacy policies around the permissible disclosure of personal information in situations involving risks to life, health, or safety;

2. Identify and direct the appropriate organizations to conduct a public education campaign on permissible disclosures of personal information in situations impacting risks to life, health, or safety;
3. Develop culturally sensitive and trauma-informed tools and guidance to support organizations delivering services to marginalized, racialized, or vulnerable groups;
4. Encourage the proactive disclosure of IPV-related data, including relevant statistics, trends, and race-based data and analyses to shed light on the importance of the issue, and help improve future strategies for IPV prevention. Where there is a reasonable risk that releasing such data may, alone or in combination with other data, identify specific individuals, consider whether the public interest in disclosing such information outweighs any invasion of privacy that could result from the disclosure."

Standing Committee Recommendation #10:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include copies of the Department of Justice's interjurisdictional reviews of *Clare's Law* legislation and missing persons legislation.

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed update on the status of its work to address the joint resolution adopted in October of 2024 by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial privacy commissioners and ombuds concerning responsible information-sharing in situations involving intimate partner violence.

Issue: Health-Specific Privacy Issues and Related Matters

Significant attention was paid during the standing committee's televised hearings of September 26-27, 2022; April 19-20, 2024; and April 24-25, 2025, to health-specific privacy issues.

The standing committee also notes that the Government of Nunavut's *Information Sharing Agreement with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on Tuberculosis Data* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on February 22, 2024.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2022-2023 annual report indicated that:

"The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* is inadequate to deal with information and privacy in the health system. Almost every other Canadian jurisdiction has health-specific legislation. There is no reason that Nunavut should be so far behind."

The Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2023-2024 annual report indicated that:

"There is still no sign of health-specific privacy legislation. Nunavut is one of only two jurisdictions in Canada without a privacy law for the health-care sector (British Columbia is the other)."

During the Legislative Assembly's recent sitting of March 6, 2025, the Minister of Health announced that:

"... internal consultations within the Department of Health began in December 2022 and continued through April 2023. These discussions have provided crucial insights into how health information is currently managed and how it can be improved. Consultations with other Government of Nunavut departments are being conducted alongside the public consultation process. The external consultation process officially began in May 2024. Our approach included an online survey, which received 138 responses over 4 months.

Additionally, community consultations were held in Arviat, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Kugluktuk, and Qikiqtarjuaq. We plan to return to Whale Cove and Cambridge Bay this March after our initial consultations were canceled. The next major step is for work to begin on drafting a Legislative Proposal. However, given the complexity of this work, the new legislation will not be introduced within the current government's mandate. Nonetheless, this initiative remains a priority for Health and will lay the foundation for improved protection and accessibility of Nunavummiut's personal health information."

Subsection 67(c) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides that the Information and Privacy Commissioner may “offer comment on the implications for privacy protection of proposed legislative schemes or government programs.”

Standing Committee Recommendation #11:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a detailed update on the current status of the development of health-specific privacy legislation, and that this update include a summary of the responses to the department’s online survey and feedback provided at its community consultations.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a detailed update on consultations held to date with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner regarding the development of health-specific privacy legislation.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a detailed update on the current status of the administration of the Government of Nunavut’s *Information Sharing Agreement with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on Tuberculosis Data*, and that this update include a description of what privacy training, if any, has been offered to, and taken by, employees of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in respect the organization’s responsibilities and obligations under the *Agreement*.

Issue: Application of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to Municipalities, District Education Authorities and Alcohol Education Committees

In April of 2015, the *Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Regulations* were amended to designate housing authorities and housing associations as public bodies. However, District Education Authorities (DEAs) are not yet covered by the legislation.

In 2017, the Legislative Assembly passed a number of amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act*, including the addition of new provisions to allow, through regulation, for the designation of municipalities as public bodies. However, new regulations to give effect to these changes have not yet been passed.

On November 9, 2021, the Iqaluit City Council passed a formal motion directing the municipal administration to “work with the Government of Nunavut and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut on funding, training and file management systems, with the goal of coming under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* by January 2023.”

The Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2022-2023 annual report indicated that:

“In my last annual report, I wrote that access to information for municipalities appeared to be back on the agenda. One year later, municipal access to information and protection of privacy is off the agenda and shows no signs of being revived. At the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Account’s [televised] hearing in September 2022, the Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs indicated that municipal access to information and protection of privacy is not being pursued by this government. The City of Iqaluit, which adopted a motion on November 9, 2021, to explore the possibility of coming under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy*, has taken no further steps towards coming under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.”

The Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2023-2024 annual report indicated that:

“[One of my office’s priorities is to] gradually increase the capacity of the office so that it can handle the increase in work that will come with health-specific information legislation, and also with the extension of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to Nunavut’s municipalities.”

The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut* indicated that:

"Following the appearance before the standing committee, on June 11, 2024, the Department of Community and Government Services, engaged the Nunavut Association of Municipalities (NAM) requesting information pertaining to their current position on the development of regulations under section 73(a) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* considering designation of municipalities as public bodies.

The response, received on June 28, 2024, indicated a number of barriers that prevents their support of municipalities being designated as public bodies under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The following concerns were raised:

- Capacity of municipal administrators who are already overstretched with a multitude of activities related to critical municipal services and a limited budget;
- Challenges related to cybersecurity and data infrastructure;
- Unreliable technology infrastructure;
- Privacy concerns related to small community sizes; and,
- Vexatious and malicious requests for information.

Further to these concerns, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities anticipated that, if compliance with the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* became mandatory, that they would need at least five years to build a system that would be compliant with the legislation. The Nunavut Association of Municipalities letter suggested that other avenues for transparency and accountability should be explored before making the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* binding on municipalities, including community meetings, local consultations and other forms of direct engagement with residents.

Given the position of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, discussions are occurring between Departments of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and Community and Government Services on this file around the appropriate management of information and protection of privacy within municipalities. Issues around access to information and privacy will be included in future consultations around the *Hamlets Act* and *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*."

The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut* indicated that:

"The departments of Education and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs are exploring the potential of incorporating District Education Authorities into the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Regulations*, including logistical and administrative considerations related to access to information. The Department of Education supports District Education Authorities and encourages them to follow Part 2 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* for protection of privacy."

The response also indicated that:

"Alcohol Education Committees could currently be designated under regulation and no amendment to the legislation would be necessary ... an Alcohol Education Committee is considered an "other public body" ... the Department of Finance will consider the standing committee's recommendation to designate Alcohol Education Committees (AECs) as a public body under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in conjunction with its ongoing legislative review of the *Liquor Act*."

Although the standing committee supports the principle of having federal, territorial and municipal levels of government being covered by appropriate legislative frameworks in respect to access to information and protection of privacy, it recognizes the reality of capacity challenges facing smaller entities. Consequently, it is incumbent on the government to develop clear and realistic timetables in respect to such entities as municipalities, District Education Authorities and Alcohol Education Committees.

Standing Committee Recommendation #12:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a copy of the correspondence received from the Nunavut Association of Municipalities on June 28, 2024."

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on the current status of the development of regulations under section 73(a) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in respect to the designation of District Education Authorities as public bodies.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on the current status of the review of the *Liquor Act*.

Issue: Labour Relations and the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Section 1104 of the Government of Nunavut's *Human Resources Manual* ("Release of Information") was last updated on April 10, 2006, over fifteen years ago.

On February 20, 2024, the Minister responsible for the *Public Service Act* announced the appointment of Nunavut's first resident Ethics Officer.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner has written in a number of his formal review reports that the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* has become a "proxy battleground for labour relations issues within the Government of Nunavut."

In his testimony to the standing committee of April 20, 2024, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

"In my first year here in Nunavut, I would say that easily the majority of the cases that I saw fit within that category. So that is why I mentioned it. I used a fancy phrase; the proxy battleground, but really all that means is people were using this law to fight each other inside the Government of Nunavut. That's really what I meant.

Now interestingly, in my second year and into my third year here in Nunavut, that kind of faded away and it was never clear to me why. Since the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs hasn't been producing any statistics for a number of years now, it hasn't been clear to me what's going on down on the ground. I only see the appeals, but there was a period when I was getting very few of that kind of thing, and it's interesting; just in the last few months it has come back again.

Since the beginning of this calendar year, 2024, I would say the majority of the new cases that I've seen have involved fights inside the Government of Nunavut. I've been hoping that they were gone forever, but that has turned out, sadly, not to be the case."

In his testimony to the standing committee of April 24, 2025, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

"Now, when access laws were created back in this the – well, in Canada anyway, it was like the early 1980s – I think the idea was that citizens should be able to know what their government is doing. The government belongs to the people, and the people should be able to know and understand what their government is doing and why. So there's this kind of image that the people who would be using the law would be citizens who want to have a window into their government.

What I've been telling Members in the time that I've been here is that's not really what the Nunavut law is being used for. Yes, it is being used for that, but the majority of cases that I see are being used by employees of the government who are requesting information about what's going on inside their own workplace. And I look at this, and I say, okay, well, if that's what's coming to me, I'll deal with that, but that's not really what the law was written for.

And so as a result, it's really difficult for the Department of Human Resources, all the other departments, honestly, and for me to know how to take this law that was written for one purpose and apply it to something that's really quite different. I mean, it works, but not really. That's one of the reasons why I say that the most difficult files in Nunavut are at the Department of Human Resources because they have a lot of people coming at them for information and trying to apply a law that just doesn't really fit.

What would be ideal, and I've said this over the past several years, is for the Government of Nunavut to reach an agreement with their unions to say when there is a human resources issue, what is it the employee can see and what is it the employee can't see. That is something that should be negotiated, and then it all becomes part of the regular grievance process. Whereas what's happening now is the grievance process is happening, and then over the side, they're doing an access to information request, and it just doesn't fit together the way that it should. So there are ways of making things better, but right now, the access-to-information system is being largely used not by citizens back in communities but by Government of Nunavut employees who are upset about something that's going on in their workplace."

In her testimony to the standing committee of April 24, 2025, the Department of Human Resources' witness stated that:

"As the [Information and Privacy] Commissioner says, it's complex dealing with these files through the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. It's certainly challenging. We have had discussions with both unions. They're open to our suggestions, open to discuss them, but people do revert back to they do have the option under the Act, and they can go for *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* at this point in time. And there are protections under the Act where they can have an external body review what we've given them.

But we have formed an internal committee to review the last couple of years of *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* requests related to employee relations issues to provide, as the Commissioner suggested, an agreement with the unions for unionized employees that we can look to first before we go down this road. So just providing a list of what type of information employees are looking for, as opposed to what we normally get, which is give me every email that has my name in it, or related to me, or related to this situation, which is hundreds and hundreds of pages, which makes it really difficult to administer."

The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut* indicated that:

"To date, the Government of Nunavut has not had any discussions to revise the grievance processes to address concerns about how the current process impacts administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The issue will be raised at the next meetings with the Nunavut Employees Union and Nunavut Teachers' Association.

The Department of Human Resources has consulted with stakeholders including; the ATIPP Coordinators Committee, Employee Relations, the Department of Finance, the Territorial ATIPP Office, and the Department of Justice, on what issues they are encountering with the current Human Resources Manual Section 1104 and what amendments may be appropriate in the updated policy. The Department of Human Resources is reviewing the feedback and is working on possible updates to this section.

Correspondence has been sent to the Ethics Officer requesting that he reach out to the Information and Privacy Commissioner to discuss areas of potential future collaboration."

Standing Committee Recommendation #13:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report describe, in detail, what specific discussions it has had with the Nunavut Employees Union and the Nunavut Teachers' Association concerning potential changes to the grievance process in respect to access to information and protection of privacy.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report describe, in detail, the status of work to update *Human Resources Manual Section 1104 - Release of Information*.

Issue: Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Significant attention was paid during the standing committee's televised hearings of September 26-27, 2022; April 19-20, 2024; and April 24-25, 2025, to the issues of information technology, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

In his 2021-2022 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner indicated that "we live in a world of surveillance and cyberattacks."

In his testimony to the standing committee of April 20, 2024, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

"I've been the [Information and Privacy] Commissioner here in Nunavut for three years, and during the first two years, hardly heard the words artificial intelligence at all. Now when I go to a conference or I meet with my colleagues, it's all everybody is talking about.

This technology has burst into the public in a way that I think none of us imagined and it has profound implications for the way information is handled within a government. It has profound implications for access to information and also on privacy.

My very fundamental recommendation, Member, is that the Government of Nunavut needs to get ahead of this issue. The technology is developing so fast that the Government of Nunavut is already behind. I cannot urge them enough to at least give to their employees a framework for how artificial intelligence should be used within the Government of Nunavut. First of all, in decision-making, artificial intelligence has the ability to be used to make decisions, but suddenly now the decision is not being made by a human being; it's being made by a machine. If you apply for information about how that decision was made, it's not clear at all how the access law applies to that, or whether the Government of Nunavut would even be able to explain how it made that decision. So that's the big implication on the access side.

On the privacy side, the way that artificial intelligence works is to gather an enormous amount of information, an unimaginable amount of information and analyze it so that essentially it can predict what the next word in a sentence is going to be, or should be, or usually is. That means that the models take in as much information as they can get their hands on. I think people would be shocked if they knew how much information is being taken up by these models, and that includes the information of Nunavummiut."

In his testimony to the standing committee of April 25, 2025, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“So one of the things that I’m interested in, Member, is what’s happening inside the Government of Nunavut in terms of, like, policy development. To give an example, the Government of Ontario has issued policy guidance to the entire public service of Ontario about the ethical use of artificial intelligence, when it should be used, when it should not be used, how it should be used, and so on and so on. And I’m not aware of any public guidance having been issued by the Government of Nunavut, and I would say that because we can know for sure that it’s already being used without guidance, that we need to get that guidance out there ...

... I could go on for a long time about this, but I want to emphasize, Mr. Chair, just as I did last year that I’m not saying that artificial intelligence is a bad thing. It’s a wonderful thing. It’s happening. We all have to learn how to work with it. Especially in a government like this one, which is often short staffed, where there is a lot of turnover, there’s a real opportunity, I think, to use artificial intelligence to get better decisions faster by using artificial intelligence, but we desperately need some guidelines about how to use it properly and ethically.”

The Government of Nunavut’s response to the standing committee’s *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut* indicated that:

“The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is working with Information Management/Information Technology to develop clear, easy to understand rules related to the use of artificial intelligence in Government of Nunavut workplaces. This work is ongoing and will be based on the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, ensuring that there are reasonable protections in place so that personal information in our custody and control isn’t put at unnecessary risk.”

The response also indicated that:

“The Y-Drive migration project will require additional privacy assessments and data management standards, such as digital transformation, data classification, naming conventions, and retention policies. A new preliminary privacy impact assessment will be completed as part of this planning process.

In May 2022, as part of a pre-Privacy Impact Assessment exercise, the Government of Nunavut identified the initiative to replace existing human resources and financial systems with a cloud-based Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution would require additional privacy considerations.

Following additional work, the project team determined that due to the scope of the project a single Privacy Impact Assessment would not be suitable. Undertaking a single Privacy Impact Assessment too early would not be useful as most questions would not be answerable. Undertaking a Privacy Impact Assessment too late would mean the Government of Nunavut could not learn from the assessment findings. Instead, the team took an approach of considering privacy throughout the project, focusing on the right issues of the day and building them into the design of the project and system. The project team documented and communicated this approach through a report in October 2022 and shared the plan - and the report - with the Information and Privacy Commissioner shortly afterwards.

As an example of assessing privacy in different ways along the way, in 2023 the Departments of Finance and Community and Government Services engaged outside experts to assess and advise on network access, user authentication, and identity management - all issues that relate to getting onto the system in the first place.

Separately, the Departments of Finance and Community and Government Services have engaged external lawyers who specialize in technology contract and privacy law to help ensure Government of Nunavut contracts with the vendor contain appropriate safeguards.

As the project advances, we are ready to consider privacy from a new angle. The Department of Finance has initiated discussions with another firm for another assessment - this time focused on the impacts and risks of how we have configured the system for use, and to advise on how the Government of Nunavut can use, adopt, and adapt our protocols, processes and policies to safeguard personal and corporate information contained in the Cloud."

Standing Committee Recommendation #14:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on the status of work to decommission and replace the network Y-drive.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on its work to "use, adopt, and adapt our protocols, processes and policies to safeguard personal and corporate information contained in the Cloud."

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on its work to develop "clear, easy to understand rules related to the use of artificial intelligence in Government of Nunavut workplaces."

Issue: Amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*

Bill 48, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, was introduced and received 1st Reading on June 6, 2017. The Bill received Assent on September 19, 2017.

Bill 59, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, received 1st Reading during the Legislative Assembly's sitting of October 25, 2024. It was subsequently withdrawn from the Order Paper by way of a motion introduced on October 30, 2024, by the sponsor of the Bill, the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

In his 2023-2024 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner indicated that:

"Nunavut's information and privacy law is old. It needs to be updated to match the way the way the Government of Nunavut actually works. Information technology is advancing rapidly, and artificial intelligence has burst onto the scene in ways that seem like science fiction, but our information law still talks about photocopying."

In his opening statement to the standing committee of April 24, 2025, the Government of Nunavut's lead witness stated that:

"In previous standing committee appearances, [the Department of] Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs committed to a comprehensive review of the [*Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*], and I am pleased to share that this work has begun in earnest and is currently in the information-gathering phase.

The review process and information gathering undertaken is extensive, including work such as:

- Studying best practices in other jurisdictions;
- Looking at indicators of how the Act is currently functioning in Nunavut; and
- Looking at how Inuit ideas and values related to privacy and information sharing can be incorporated throughout the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

This important work will continue through the summer and into the fall with the outcome of the review to be provided to the next government."

Section 37 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides, in part, that:

Appeal of decision of head

37. (1) An applicant or a third party may appeal a decision made by a head of a public body under section 36 to the Nunavut Court of Justice.

However, the Information and Privacy Commissioner does not have the explicit authority under the legislation to appeal a decision made by a head of a public body in respect to their recommendations.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner indicated in his 2021-2022 annual report that the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* should be amended to “give the Information and Privacy Commissioner the power to order the disclosure of documents.” This recommendation was reiterated in his 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 annual reports.

In his testimony to the standing committee of September 27, 2022, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“The whole system would work better if I had the order power, but I know that inside the government, what they’re really afraid of is what if I make a bad decision, what if I do something that they think is just stupid, what do they do? They don’t want to give me that power, to which I say, ‘But the answer is simple and, that is, that if they don’t like my order, they go to court to have it overturned.’

If I issue an order that doesn’t make a lot of sense, they just get it overturned in court. Otherwise it becomes an order of the court and then they have to obey an order of the court or the government is in contempt of court. That’s using a technical, legal word, in contempt of court. That’s what happens in other jurisdictions in Canada.

That’s what should happen here. I am very happy to have my work looked at by a judge and, if a judge says I’m wrong, that’s great. That’s what judges are for, but the system right now in my view is quite unsatisfactory where, no matter what I say, the government can just keep doing what they’re doing. That’s what I would suggest, but there has to be a combination. I should have order power and the government can take me to court ...”.

The standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner* recommended that the Government of Nunavut:

"Introduce amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to provide order-making power to the Information and Privacy Commissioner in respect to the office-holder's duties under Division D of Part 1 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and Division D of Part 2 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The standing committee further recommended that the Government of Nunavut introduce amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to provide the head of a public body with the authority to appeal a decision or order of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to the Nunavut Court of Justice."

Standing Committee Recommendation #15:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on the status of its comprehensive review of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The standing committee reiterates its previous recommendation concerning order-making power and appeals.

Observations and Recommendations Directed to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

Issue: Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Annual Report

Section 68 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides that:

Annual report

68. (1) The Information and Privacy Commissioner shall, within six months after the end of each fiscal year, submit to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly an assessment of the effectiveness of this Act and a report on the activities of the Information and Privacy Commissioner under this Act during the fiscal year, including information concerning any instances where recommendations made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner after a review have not been followed.

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 2022-2023 annual report of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 24, 2023. The 2023-2024 annual report of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 23, 2024. Both reports were tabled in the Legislative Assembly less than 60 days after the end of the relevant fiscal year. The standing committee applauds the Information and Privacy Commissioner for the timeliness of his reporting.

The Legislative Assembly's 2024-2025 main estimates included \$400,000 in funding for the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. The Legislative Assembly's 2025-2026 main estimates included \$410,000 in funding for the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. The standing committee recognizes that the annual budget of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner has been stable in recent years.

Standing Committee Recommendation #1:

The standing committee recommends that the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's annual reports to the Legislative Assembly which are prepared and submitted under section 68 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* include a budget expenditure summary that is broadly comparable to those which are included in the annual reports of the Chief Electoral Officer, Languages Commissioner and Representative for Children and Youth.

Issue: Information-Sharing Agreements

The standing committee's report on the review of the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner recommended that the office's response include copies of information-sharing agreements entered into with other federal, provincial and territorial information and privacy commissioners between January 11, 2021 and September 30, 2022.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner's response included a copy of the *Memorandum of Understanding Between the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut* that was entered into on October 14, 2021.

The standing committee's report on the review of the 2022-2023 annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner recommended that the office's response include copies of information-sharing agreements entered into with other federal, provincial and territorial information and privacy commissioners between October 1, 2022 and March 31, 2024.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner's response indicated that: "a copy of the agreement between this office and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada was attached to my 2022 response to the Committee. There have been no new agreements."

Standing Committee Recommendation #2:

The standing committee recommends that the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's response to this report include copies of all information-sharing agreements entered into with other federal, provincial and territorial information and privacy commissioners between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025.

Issue: Devolution Data

The standing committee's report on the review of the 2022-2023 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner recommended that the Government of Nunavut's response "provide a detailed update on the status of work to decommission and replace the net-work Y-drive."

The government's response indicated that:

"The Information Management and Information Technology Division (IM/IT) is working on a project to migrate departmental shared drives (Y-Drives) to the cloud, using SharePoint Online and OneDrive. The Y-Drives contain the Government of Nunavut's operational and historical data, which are essential for the Government of Nunavut's functions and services. The Y-Drives are currently stored on Government of Nunavut's servers on-premise; however, the Y-Drive migration project will enable the Government of Nunavut to store its data in the cloud, which will improve the data availability, accessibility, and security. **The Y-Drive migration project will also include the devolution data that will be transferred from the federal government, as part of the Government of Nunavut's devolution agreement.** The Y-Drive migration project is in the planning stage, with a strategy being developed by the Information Management and Information Technology Division and the stakeholders."

Standing Committee Recommendation #3:

The standing committee recommends that the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner proactively contacts the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada and the Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada to explore appropriate channels of communication between the offices respecting the intergovernmental transfer of devolution data.

Issue: Correspondence from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut Concerning the Government of Nunavut Y-Drive

In his testimony to the standing committee of April 25, 2025, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“The Government of Nunavut holds an enormous amount of information, and the issue here is where is that information. And they hold it in different places. One of them is called the Y-drive. So that’s the English letter “Y” and the word “drive”.

To put it simply, Mr. Chair, the Y-drive is like a giant warehouse, and our friends from information technology at Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, they set up the warehouse for everybody to use. And they say to each department, each one of you has a room inside this warehouse. But what happens inside the room is up to each individual department. So it’s like a giant warehouse full of filing cabinets, right, just picture full of filing cabinets. Picture that in your mind: A huge warehouse full of filing cabinets, and every department has their own room.

The problem that I identified in my report was that the security in that warehouse was a mess. There were far too many people who could see information that they had no business seeing. Government employees should be able to see only the information that they need to do their jobs. They shouldn’t be able to see anybody else’s personal information unless they need it to do their jobs. Some departments were very good. Some were terrible, and again using the warehouse analogy, people could wander into one of those rooms and all of the filing cabinets were wide open, and they could look at whatever they wanted. Or some were locked and others weren’t. The privacy problem was that there was far too much information that far too many people could see. Now, this is a big issue, because you can’t just snap your fingers and overnight build a different warehouse. So what the Government of Nunavut did was they committed to transitioning to a new warehouse, but that’s taking time.

Earlier this week, the Deputy Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut sent me a detailed letter on exactly this question. I think the fact that this hearing was coming up kind of focused his mind, and so he wrote me a very detailed letter. I’ll have to check with him, Mr. Chair, to see if there was anything in it confidential, but what I would like to do to answer the Member’s question is table that letter, because it’s much more detailed and much more precise than I can be with you now.”

Standing Committee Recommendation #4:

The standing committee recommends that the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s response to this report include a copy of the correspondence that he referenced in his testimony of April 25, 2025.

Issue: Indigenous Perspectives on Privacy

Following their October 2024 annual meeting, Canada's federal, provincial and territorial information and privacy commissioners and ombuds issued a communiqué which indicated, in part, that:

"... the Chief Executive Officer of the First Nations Information Governance Centre delivered a compelling presentation on First Nations concepts of privacy and data sovereignty. The perspective he shared enriched discussions and broadened the commissioners' understanding of collective rights and data sovereignty from First Nations viewpoints, opening the door to further potential collaboration with First Nations groups to advance reconciliation."

Standing Committee Recommendation #5:

The standing committee recommends that the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's response to this report include copies of presentation materials provided at the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 annual meetings of Canada's federal, provincial and territorial information and privacy commissioners and ombuds concerning the subject of Indigenous perspectives on privacy.

Looking Ahead

During the standing committee's televised hearing of April 24-25, 2025, the Information and Privacy Commissioner publicly announced that he will not be seeking reappointment following the expiry of his term of office in January of 2026.

The standing committee expresses its appreciation to the Information and Privacy Commissioner for his service, and notes the Management and Services Board's jurisdiction with respect to the recruitment and selection process for independent officers of the Legislative Assembly.

The dissolution of the 6th Legislative Assembly will occur in September of 2025, followed by the 7th territorial general election in October of 2025. It is anticipated that the first sitting of the 7th Legislative Assembly will be held in November of 2025.

Consequently, it is anticipated that a televised hearing will be held on the Office's most recent annual report during the spring of 2026.

This hearing is anticipated to allow for detailed consideration of a number of emerging issues and themes, including:

- The status of the Government of Nunavut's formal responses to the recommendations contained in the standing committee's reports on its review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's recent annual reports;
- Recommendations for amendments to legislation and changes to the government's policies and practices, including potential amendments to section 59 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, which concerns prosecutions of certain offences;
- The status of amendments that were made to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in September of 2017 regarding the application of the legislation to municipalities and public sector salary disclosure;
- The government's annual reporting and administration of relevant policies, including the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Policy*, the *Privacy Breach Policy* and the *Privacy Impact Assessment Policy*;
- Health privacy issues and the development of health-specific privacy legislation;
- Privacy issues in respect to the coming into force of the new *Police Act*;
- The use of confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements by public bodies;
- Human resources and labour relations management issues in relation to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the administration of *Human Resources Manual Section 1104 - Release of Information*;
- Privacy Impact Assessments conducted by the government in respect to its programs and services;
- The use of artificial intelligence technology by public bodies in respect to their obligations under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;

- Information-sharing agreements between the Government of Nunavut and external entities; and
- The establishment of access to information and protection of privacy systems that can be utilized by Nunavut Inuit in respect to information in the possession of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Qikiqtani, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot Inuit Associations.



Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts

*Report on the Review of the 2023-2024 Annual Report of Nunavut's
Representative for Children and Youth*

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

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Introduction and Background

Nunavut's *Representative for Children and Youth Act* was passed on September 17, 2013, by the 3rd Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. The Office of the Representative for Children and Youth officially opened on September 30, 2015.

Nunavut's second Representative for Children and Youth, Ms. Jane Bates, was re-appointed by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on May 23, 2024, for a second five-year term.

Section 35 of the *Representative for Children and Youth Act* requires the Representative to prepare and submit an annual report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on the conduct of the office and the discharge of its duties during the preceding year. The Representative has a number of areas of responsibility related to the rights and interests of children and youth, including advocacy and advice regarding government services for children and youth, as well as the administration of the office.

The Annual Report of the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth for 2023-2024 was tabled in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on October 24, 2024. The report opened with the Representative's Message providing an overview of highlights in the report and strong words on the issue of child sexual abuse in Nunavut.

The report also included:

- An updated "Status of Young Nunavummiut" data section with analysis, discussion of trends and 16 recommendations to departments based on the Representative's interpretation of the data;
- a discussion of proposed amendments to the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*;
- an overview of individual advocacy cases and systemic advocacy issues addressed by the office, including a recommendation to the Department of Family Services with respect to placement and permanency planning for children and youth in care;
- a description of the office's five-year review of progress made to implement recommendations in the Representative's *Our Minds Matter: Youth-Informed Review of Mental Health Services for Young Nunavummiut* report;
- Advocate's Applause section focusing on the Department of Justice;
- a description of the office's newly developed child rights resources; and
- an overview of the operationalization of the office's Critical Injuries and Death program which came into effect on April 1, 2023.

Televised hearings on the annual reports of independent officers of the Legislative Assembly provide an opportunity for the issues raised in those reports to be discussed in a public forum.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held its televised hearing on the 2023-2024 Annual Report of Nunavut's Representative for Children and Youth from April 28-29, 2025. The hearing was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and televised live across the territory. The hearing was also open to the public and news media and was livestreamed on the Legislative Assembly's website. Transcripts from the hearing are available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

Witnesses appearing before the standing committee included the Representative for Children and Youth and her official as well as a number of Government of Nunavut officials representing the Department of Family Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and the Department of Justice, including the Chief Coroner of Nunavut. Although the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs was requested to attend, members were advised at the last minute that the Premier had chosen to schedule a cabinet meeting at the same time. As a result, the official from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs missed the first day of the committee's hearing. The lack of representation from Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs made it difficult to fully address concerns and issues raised on the first day of the proceedings. Although members revisited a number of the same topics on the second day of the hearing to give the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs official the opportunity to respond, the flow of the discussion had been interrupted and much significant context was lost.

The standing committee extends its thanks to the witnesses who participated in the hearing for their contributions.

During the proceedings, a number of commitments were made by government officials to provide additional information to the standing committee. The committee appreciates receiving some of that information and anticipates receiving the remainder of the information in due course.

Several themes were addressed in some detail during the standing committee's review of the Representative for Children and Youth's 2023 – 24 Annual Report to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut including: the crisis of child sexual abuse in Nunavut; the role of the Umingmak Centre; the collection and use of data; efforts to improve collaboration and communication; and difficulties faced by families when there are delays in accessing identification documentation for Nunavut newborns.

Child Sexual Abuse in Nunavut

In May of 2023, the Auditor General of Canada submitted a report to the Legislative Assembly on Child and Family Services in Nunavut. The first line of the report read:

"This audit report describes a crisis."

In response to that report, on May 30, 2023, the Premier of Nunavut issued a press release in which he stated:

"The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA) will establish a Government of Nunavut (GN) audit and support function and develop a performance accountability framework. Taking a whole-of-government approach, EIA will provide oversight across departments for services related to the wellbeing of children, youth, and families."

On May 31, 2023, the Premier rose in his place in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut to repeat this commitment, and stated:

"Mr. Speaker, as children are involved, our response must be swift."

To date, two years later, a government-wide action plan has yet to be finalized.

It also appears that the government has altered its approach to this issue. On April 29, 2025, during the second day of the committee hearings on the 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth, the witness for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs stated:

"Mr. Chairman, I also understand that when the committee identifies the need for a government-wide action plan to address child sexual abuse and sexual violence in Nunavut that there is an expectation that Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs will lead that work."

Mr. Chairman, it would not make sense for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to lead work on files related to children and youth."

It should be noted that while the Auditor General of Canada, Nunavut's Representative for Children and Youth and the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts have all identified the urgent need for a government-wide approach to address the crisis at hand, it was the Premier of the Government of Nunavut who made the commitment to do so under the auspices of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. It was, therefore, extremely disappointing and disheartening, in view of the topics discussed during the appearance of Nunavut's Representative for Children and Youth, that the Premier of Nunavut chose to schedule a cabinet meeting which prevented the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs official from taking part in critical discussions on the first day of the hearing.

This lack of respect for committee proceedings is unprecedented.

Following last year's April 2024 hearings on the Representative's Annual Reports, this committee had recommended, in its 2024 Report on the Review of the Representative's 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 Annual Reports, **that the Government of Nunavut immediately develop a government-wide action plan to address child sexual abuse and sexual violence in Nunavut.**

The government's formal response to the committee's recommendation, which was tabled on October 25, 2024, stated:

"The GN shares your concern for the safety and well-being of children in our communities. The Government of Nunavut will begin work on a government-wide action plan in line with the Standing Committee's recommendation. An interdepartmental and interagency approach is essential to identify a wide range of collaborative efforts within the government-wide action plan. This approach ensures that all relevant stakeholders are involved and that we leverage our collective resources and expertise effectively.

The GN is committed to working closely with partners to address the root causes and effects of child sexual abuse and violence. Our goal is to create a safer environment for all children in Nunavut and we are ready to collaborate with key partners to tackle this critical issue."

In her "Message from the Representative" section of her 2023-2024 Annual Report, the Representative wrote:

"The Department of Family Services must do better and be held accountable for consistently and accurately documenting all referrals of child abuse so the Government of Nunavut (GN) can understand the scope and magnitude of this issue. Even without child sexual abuse referral statistics from the Department of Family Services, based on our work, I can confirm that child sexual abuse in Nunavut continues to be a crisis. A crisis that has remained knowingly unaddressed."

"My office's paramount priority is for the GN to collectively address the child sexual abuse crisis."

Officials from the key front-line departments of Family Services, Health and Education all agreed that child sexual abuse is a crisis in Nunavut and yet, a government-wide action plan to address child sexual abuse in Nunavut has not been developed or finalized.

Child sexual abuse is a heavy burden that our territory bears, not only in its current state but as a legacy between generations, compounded by Nunavut's social realities and such factors as residential school experiences and past traumas. The committee agrees that a coordinated and collective approach must be taken to address this crisis and sincerely hopes that government leadership will respond accordingly.

At the beginning of her testimony, the Representative stated:

"I think that I would say, as everyone has indicated, child sexual abuse is a very difficult topic, and it is difficult to speak about. And one of the reasons that child sexual abuse typically is allowed to continue is because of silence. And I think that is because it's difficult to talk about, I think that the government has not necessarily ignored it, but I think it's a topic, it's difficult, how do you tackle it, how do you deal with it. I think that that doesn't excuse the fact that we haven't brought it to the forefront and said hey, here's a problem, here's a crisis and we need to deal with it. I think the how is probably the issue that has probably caused the government some difficulty, because it's not an easy topic. It's not an easy situation, because child sexual abuse occurs in a situation of silence, and that is difficult to break through."

Recognizing the difficulty of the subject matter, Members of the Standing Committee greatly appreciated the level of discussion and the depth of contributions to this topic from witnesses and officials during the hearing proceedings.

The committee appreciates that significant efforts are being made within the respective mandates of the departments of Family Services, Education, Health and Justice to identify, address and prevent instances where children or youth are the victims of abuse, whether it be sexual abuse or other forms of abuse.

As specific examples of these efforts, the committee was pleased to note the Department of Education's commitment to ensuring that staff follow their duty to report any disclosures or suspicion of abuse; the Department of Health's focus on its sexual assault nurse examiner training with 49 of 104 nurses registered for the course having already completed it; the Department of Justice's Victim Services program which ensures that wrap-around support is provided to child and youth victims of crime throughout the criminal justice process; and the RCMP's Special Investigations Unit.

The lack of data on reports and referrals relating to incidents of suspected child abuse or neglect and whether they are being investigated or followed up is a serious concern. Information from such documents as medical records, RCMP reports and court files should be consolidated to fully address incidents of abuse. The committee strongly encourages the Department of Family Services in its efforts to fully operationalize its new Matrix case management system as soon as possible.

As noted by the Representative during her appearance at the hearing:

"You can't address the crisis unless you have the mechanisms and tools in place to investigate it and to lay charges, convictions, and treatment perspectives."

Testimony from the Family Services official addressed the role of the community with respect to awareness and action to address child sexual abuse:

"I would also note, Mr. Chair, that this is something that the government needs to do with community. There is knowledge that needs to be shared. There's folks that don't see anything wrong with people undertaking these activities that, in our view, is very wrong. And so I believe there's a very big educational component that takes the community to understand the pieces around what is right and when is wrong.

The idea of a 12-year-old becoming pregnant is significantly problematic, Mr. Chair, and I think that boils down to having all of these pieces in place, having the capacity to address them but also the educational piece is probably of paramount importance to ensure that young people and adults alike are aware that these activities, although you don't see anything wrong with them, they are wrong, they are illegal. And we need to raise that awareness as a collective and we need to address through our sexual abuse action plan."

Witnesses indicated that Nunavut's *Surusinuut Ikajuqtigiit Child Abuse and Neglect Response Agreement* is currently being reviewed and updated. The committee anticipates that the new version of the agreement will be tabled in the Assembly in due course.

The committee was given to understand that a consultant has now been hired to begin work on a Nunavut *Child Sexual Abuse Action Plan*. Testimony from the Family Services official confirmed that the plan would have components similar to those of Greenland's strategy against sexual abuse *Killiliisa – Let us Set Boundaries* and will include public awareness campaigns, community champions travelling to communities to encourage people to speak out and assist people with those discussions, and also to conduct voluntary anonymous surveys of the adult population and youth.

The Standing Committee recommends:

- 1. That, with no further delay, the Government of Nunavut immediately develop and finalize a government-wide action plan to address child sexual abuse and sexual violence in Nunavut and further, that this action plan be tabled in this Assembly before the end of the term of this Assembly;**
- 2. That educational resources and materials to help children and youth navigate the trauma in their lives be developed as a component of the government's action plan to address child sexual abuse and sexual violence in Nunavut.**

Umingmak Centre

The Umingmak Centre is a child advocacy centre in Iqaluit that focuses specifically on the needs of children and youth who have experienced abuse. The facility is established by the Canadian charity Arctic Children and Youth Foundation as a child-friendly space where the RCMP, Child and Family Services and pediatricians can coordinate services.

During the hearing, the committee heard testimony from several witnesses respecting the important role played by this entity in addressing issues related to child sexual abuse.

The official from the Department of Health provided the following description:

"The Umingmak Centre is a very important part or tool in the toolbox in relation to child sexual abuse or other forms of abuse or neglect for children. It is an integrated program or service that is also funded by or supported by other departments than just Health within the government. Not only do they do the forensic sexual assault examinations, but they are a fully functioning clinic for abuse and neglect. They can provide things like onsite pregnancy testing and sexually transmitted infection testing. They have social services as well as medical services. We have a physician that we fund as a pediatrician to work at the Umingmak Centre. They have liaisons or elders that also work with the children and families. They are followed on along a continuum, from what I understand, so it's not just receive diagnosis and treatment or support services but ongoing services. So a family and children may remain working with the Umingmak Centre for a longer duration and then also be connected to other services, whether those are community services, services within Health, or other departments."

The official from the Department of Justice provided additional context:

"Investigators from both specialized investigative team work closely with the staff at the Umingmak Centre to ensure that if a sexual assault examination kit, is required it is conducted at the centre with a pediatrician in a victim-centred approach. Arrangements are also made to interview the child at the Umingmak Centre interview room. Once all avenues of investigation have been pursued and information and evidence collected, a decision is made whether or not there is sufficient evidence to effect an arrest. Investigators from the specialized investigative team work closely with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada to rely on information regarding the investigation to ensure that the Crown counsel is aware of the investigation and prepared for court proceedings."

The Representative noted her concern that the role of the Umingmak Centre is not yet fully integrated into the government's approach to address child abuse, stating:

"I also want to circle around a little bit to the Umingmak Centre. The Umingmak Centre is an invaluable resource and it provides a service that is not being utilized enough, in terms of often again when I review individual advocacy files we see that there's a child sexual abuse matter going on, the Umingmak Centre's not involved. And I'm hopeful that, again, also in the new standard and procedure for Family Services the Umingmak Centre is listed as a mandatory, now a mandatory kind of referral in those matters. So I think that this is another piece to the action plan, is putting all the pieces together that I'm a little bit concerned about."

The Standing Committee recommends:

- 3. That the Department of Family Services work to incorporate the role of the Umingmak Centre into the department's standards and procedures and, further, that additional resources be allocated to the Umingmak Centre to enable the delivery of its services in communities outside of Iqaluit.**

Collection and Use of Data

The Representative's Annual Report includes a report on the status of children and youth in Nunavut as required by section 35(1)(a) of the *Representative for Children and Youth Act*.

Since 2020, the Representative's Annual Reports' *Status of Young Nunavummiut* chapters have contained data and information sets relating to government services impacting children, youth and families in Nunavut as well as the social context in which those services are delivered. This ongoing collection of data has established a baseline of sorts, making information available for reference and comparison.

In its 2024 Report on the review of the Representative's 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 Annual Reports for 2020 through to 2023, the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts recommended that **the Representative for Children and Youth ensure that analysis of the various data sets published in the Annual Reports is undertaken to determine trends and to inform service delivery providers of areas of growing concern or specific service delivery areas in need of improvement.**

The committee was very pleased to note that the Representative has taken this recommendation to heart. Her 2023-24 Annual Report includes enhanced analysis of the data and discussion of trends relevant to each department. In addition, the Representative provides sixteen recommendations for the relevant departments based on her interpretation of the data and information, including a recommendation that "the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs as the lead, works to ensure current, complete, and accurate statistics are available through the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics."

It was previously noted that Nunavut's Bureau of Statistics faced challenges in producing up-to-date statistics for the territory, leading to gaps in the Representative's report.

During the hearing, the official from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs responded directly to this issue:

"I'm pleased to tell you that since hiring a Director for the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics, significant progress has been made: Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit has four staffed positions out of six, including the director, a long time staff member located in Pangnirtung, and two casual staff in Iqaluit. Staffing actions for two senior members of the team are nearing completion. We are working to ensure accurate and up-to-date statistics are available on the Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit website and will continue increasing the data available."

The committee was also pleased to learn through witness testimony that there have been significant improvements in how individual departments share data and information with the Representative's office since its last annual report.

However, concerns remain respecting the development, implementation and use of the Department of Family Services' new Matrix case management system which is intended as the primary vehicle for collecting and consolidating information relating to the protection of children and youth in Nunavut. The ongoing lack of comprehensive, reliable and validated information is of significant concern.

This issue was specifically addressed by the Department of Family Services official:

"Mr. Chair, reliable data is the backbone of an accountable system. In response to gaps identified by the Representative for Children and Youth and the Auditor General, the department committed to improving its information management systems through the phased roll-out of the Matrix Integrated Case Management System. Over the past year, we have made significant strides in how we collect, manage, and apply child welfare data. Phase One of the Matrix Integrated Case Management System has been completed. Phase Two is now well underway. This phase, Mr. Chair, includes the migration of legacy data, improvements to data quality, and a territory-wide retraining initiative for staff. A revised referral coding system has also been implemented, enhancing the accuracy and consistency of data used for decision-making and quality assurance.

We recently implemented a critical incident reporting module in Matrix, which has an established workflow that is a multi-layer approach to reviews and approvals of critical incidents. This quality assurance mechanism is being used to address gaps in practice as well as highlight inaccuracies in reporting. This new method to critical incident reporting will close a gap that the representative has consistently flagged. The launch of our first comprehensive Child Protection Referral Report in February 2025 marked a significant milestone, providing valuable insights into referral data, providing timelines, trends in maltreatment types, and regional variations. Together, these changes are building a more accountable and responsive system, one that supports better outcomes for children and families across Nunavut."

The committee notes that recent reports on Child and Family Services have explicitly excluded data or statistics due to the unreliable, and inaccurate, nature of the information. Although the Representative has commended the department for its 'honesty and integrity' in admitting this failing, it must be rectified.

The Standing Committee recommends:

- 4. That the Department of Family Services ensure that all future reports on Child and Family Services in Nunavut include comprehensive and up-to-date data on services being provided to Nunavut's children and youth.**

Collaboration and Coordination

In its previous report, the committee noted that the Government of Nunavut had established its *Surusinit Ikajuqtigiit Child Abuse and Neglect Response Agreement*, although it was not clear that the agreement was being implemented by all stakeholders nor that it was being implemented in a coordinated manner. Testimony from witnesses during the hearing indicated that the Agreement is currently being reviewed.

The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs official stated:

"I want to assure the member that our team is doing all that we can in addressing this. I believe this is where reference to a whole-of-government approach has been referenced and talked about. And in doing that, the intention is always for joint activities across departments and agencies to address a common goal, and in this case, addressing child sexual abuse."

I want to try and remain focused on the positive, that there's acknowledgement and that work is being done, and I recognize that this may not mean something right this moment, but I want to assure you that work is happening. In doing that it involves integrating policy development, program management, and service delivery across government. I have confidence and trust that my deputy colleagues that are sitting here with me through the Child Abuse and Neglect Response Agreement committee is doing exactly that."

Despite such assurances, committee members continue to have concerns that the system currently in place leads to inconsistent access to services.

Testimony from the Department of Education official provided further insight to this issue:

"Child abuse in Nunavut is so broad. It can be comments. It can be physical. It can be, it's so broad. And what the Department of Education – I'm speaking for the Department of Education – what we can do is so limited. We can report a suspected sexual abuse; we can report disclosures. We have the duty to report. And then once that's done we have referred them to the departments, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and that's the extent of our responsibility..."

But I would like to answer your question, is it going unaddressed? I think it's too broad of a statement. I think with every effort and with every good intention there is effort made. What we're not doing is having four departments get together and keep them an open file."

It's over and above our scope, because of privacy issues, but maybe that's something that we need to start looking at, through the action plan of the child abuse strategy in Nunavut."

In her testimony the Representative noted:

"One of the other issues that we see in individual advocacy cases, and certainly we saw it recently in a critical injury review that we did, and it talks about it here, is the coordination or collaboration between departments on various, on follow-up, largely. So there's an issue in front of us concerning a young person and departments have to collaborate, have to communicate to serve that child, youth, and their family. And this is an ongoing issue that we have seen, where the individual advocates will have to step in and get the departments together to start talking so that they are collectively providing those services."

The Representative raised the suggestion of a "reporting back" clause within legislation to ensure follow-up on specific cases, while maintaining confidentiality.

The Representative noted:

"So it in terms of follow-up I can safely say that it's an issue, and I think that that quality assurance mechanism needs to be put in for every department, and a coordinated case management system, and I hate to use the word "system". You have to have coordinated case management so that everybody, and that relies on good communication between the departments and back to the public, back to the person receiving the services."

The Standing Committee recommends:

- 5. That the Government of Nunavut, under the leadership of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, establish a formal system of interdepartmental coordination that ensures that children and youth in Nunavut receive the care and services to which they are entitled.**

Communication

Creating awareness of the rights of children and youth is an important role of the Representative's office. Members applaud the Representative on her office's work in developing child's rights resources that will eventually be incorporated into a comprehensive child's rights teaching guide that can be used in schools. The committee was pleased to note that the Representative's *Self-Advocacy Workshop* was again delivered to students in a number of Nunavut community schools.

In its May 2024 report, the committee had encouraged the Representative to increase her efforts to consult directly and engage more with children and youth to hear their views and perspectives on some of the key issues of concern respecting services provided by government departments.

The committee had also previously suggested that the Representative for Children and Youth consider establishing a Youth Advisory Council that could function in a role similar to the Representative's Elder Advisor group.

Members were somewhat disappointed, however, to learn that no work had been done with the office's Elder Advisors in 2023-2024 as the appointment terms of the Elder Advisors had all expired.

The Standing Committee recommends:

- 6. That the Representative for Children and Youth seek nominations and appoint Elder Advisors to the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth at the earliest opportunity.**

The committee was pleased to note that the Department of Family Services has established a new Client Relations Office to support families with concerns respecting services provided through its Family Wellness division including child protection and residential care, and to address complaints about services by ensuring compliance with established standards.

The Standing Committee recommends:

- 7. That the Department of Family Services provides regular reports to the Legislative Assembly on the operations of its Client Relations office including details on the types of complaints or concerns received and the responses and actions taken to address them.**

In conclusion, the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts commends the Representative for Children and Youth and her staff for their steadfast work in advocating for the rights and interests of Nunavut's children and youth.

The committee greatly appreciated the frank and open contributions of witnesses at the hearing in addressing a number of issues raised in the 2023-24 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth.

Members were especially pleased to note the increasingly positive working relationships between the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth and the leaders of Government of Nunavut departments. Testimony at the hearing provided many examples of the professional, caring and compassionate efforts undertaken within the departments of Family Services, Health, Education and Justice in response to questions, issues and concerns raised by the Representative.

Committee members would further like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Nunavut's front-line workers including community social services workers and family resource workers, nurses and health centre staff, teachers and school staff, as well as members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in delivering much-needed supports and services to the children and youth of Nunavut's communities.

The standing committee is requesting that a response to this report be provided to the committee pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.