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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Quttiktuq)

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Table of Contents

Item 1: Opening Prayer	1
Speaker's Statement	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Item 2: Ministers' Statements	1
Item 3: Members' Statements	5
Item 6: Oral Questions	9
Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters	33
Item 13: Tabling of Documents	34
Item 22: Orders of the Day	36

A.

Daily References

Friday, May 30, 2025.....	1
---------------------------	---

B.

Ministers' Statements

613 – 6(2): Tobacco and Smoking Act Public Awareness Campaign (Main).....	1
614 – 6(2): Launch of Qisiapiit Branding for Nunavut's Dressed Sealskin Program (Akeeagok D).....	3
615 – 6(2): 2025 Makigiaqta Health Camp (Nakashuk)	3
616 – 6(2): Fox Trapping Education Program Pilot (Joanasie)	4

C.

Members' Statements

827 – 6(2): Grade 6 Graduates (Nutarak).....	5
828 – 6(2): NHL – Edmonton Oilers (Qavvik)	5
829 – 6(2): High School Graduates (Quqqiaq).....	6
830 – 6(2): Silapaak made by Lilly Ukpatiku (Malliki).....	7
831 – 6(2): Baker Lake Search and Rescue (Simailak).....	7
832 – 6(2): Grandchild's Birthday (Quassa).....	7
833 – 6(2): Caribou Management in the Kitikmeot (Anavilok).....	8
834 – 6(2): New Senator: Nancy Karetak-Lindell (Akeeagok P).....	8
835 – 6(2): Appreciation to the Elders (Akeeagok D).....	8

D.

Oral Questions

1292 – 6(2): Expanding Culinary Arts Programs (Simailak)	9
1293 – 6(2): Public Safety (Lightstone)	11
1294 – 6(2): Coral Harbour Caribou Survey Malliki).....	12
1295 – 6(2): General Rate Application (Sammurtok)	13
1296 – 6(2): Support for Film, Television, and New Media (Quqqiaq)	15
1297 – 6(2): Arctic Security (Kaernek).....	17
1298 – 6(2): Tourism (Nutarak).....	18
1299 – 6(2): Municipal Relations (Qavvik)	20
1300 – 6(2): Community Coroners in Igloolik (Quassa).....	21
1301 – 6(2): Territorial Parks (Killiktee).....	23
1302 – 6(2): Arviat Health Centre Ramp Entrance (Savikataaq)	25
1303 – 6(2): Caribou Management in the Kitikmeot (Anavilok).....	27
1304 – 6(2): Staff Housing (Hickes)	28
1305 – 6(2): Tobacco Act (Brewster)	30

E.

Reports of Standing and Special Committee On Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 46 – 6(2): Report on the Review of the 2023-2024 Public Accounts of Nunavut (Hickes).....	33
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F.

Tabling of Documents

404 – 6(2): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Policies for Fiscal Year Ending 31 March 2022 (Akeeagok P).....	34
405 – 6(2): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Policies for Fiscal Year Ending 31 March 2023 (Akeeagok P).....	35
406 – 6(2): 2023-2024 Nunavut Development Corporation’s Annual Report (Akeeagok D).....	35
407 – 6(2): 2023-2024 Nunavut Victim Services Annual Report (Gross).....	35
408 – 6(2): 2023-2024 Tourism Act Annual Report (Akeeagok D)	35
409 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Health: Follow-up from the Committee of the Whole’s Consideration of the 2025-02026 Main Estimates of the Department of Health (Hickes)	35

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, May 30, 2025**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaernerck, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Ms. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Joseph Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 09:00*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Before I go to Item 2, this morning I have a special birthday wish for my granddaughter. She's a teenager now, 13 years old today. Every year I've missed her birthday for 12 years, all but one I was at home for her birthday. I wish her a very big special day today. (no interpretation) Trinity Appaq (ph), Happy 13th birthday.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Ms. Nancy Tupik, it was her last day yesterday for this sitting. She had a special occasion to go to for I think one of her family's graduation. I would like to thank her very much for helping us out at the front here with the clerk, Ms. Kooyoo. Thank you so much.

>>*Applause*

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

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 613 – 6(2): Tobacco and Smoking Act Public Awareness Campaign

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

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I am pleased to share that the Department of Health has launched a public awareness campaign to support the *Tobacco and Smoking Act*, which governs the use of tobacco, vaping products, and cannabis in Nunavut.

This Act, which came into effect on May 31, 2023, replaces outdated legislation and was developed to better protect Nunavummiut by expanding smoke-free spaces, increasing buffer zones, and introducing new restrictions on the use and sale of tobacco and alternative products.

Mr. Speaker, To promote these changes, the Department of Health has developed a year-long campaign with posters, public service announcements, social media content, and toolkits for community health representatives, schools, retailers, and government staff.

Second-hand smoke is harmful to everyone—especially children, Elders, pregnant women, and those with health conditions. That’s why all Government of Nunavut staff and public housing units are now smoke-free, including balconies, hallways, and other common areas.

It is also now illegal to smoke, vape, or use cannabis in any vehicle when someone under 19 is present—including ATVs, snowmobiles, and boats.

The Act outlines additional smoke-free areas, including:

- Workplaces.
- School and hospital grounds.
- Childcare centres.
- Playgrounds and sports fields.
- Public events like concerts and feasts.

A 9-metre buffer zone is now required around entrances, exits, windows, and air intakes. That’s about nine big steps—helping reduce exposure in shared public spaces.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all Nunavummiut to support this work by following the law and helping protect our communities from second-hand smoke. Members are welcome to visit our Tobacco and Cannabis Program team in the lobby during the break to view the new materials and learn more. *Matna*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister’s Statement. Hon. Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeegok.

Minister's Statement 614 – 6(2): Launch of Qisiapiit Branding for Nunavut's Dressed Sealskin Program

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to announce the official launch of Qisiapiit, the new brand identity for Nunavut's Dressed Sealskin Program.

Qisiapiit, meaning “Beautiful Skins” in Inuktitut, reflects our respect for traditional practices and our government's commitment to supporting Nunavut's sealing sector. This branding initiative highlights the cultural and economic importance of sealing and ensures that locally harvested sealskins remain available and accessible to Nunavummiut.

Through the Department of Environment's Sealskin Purchase Program, sealskins harvested in Nunavut are circulated in our traditional economy and kept within Nunavut, supporting local hunters and seamstresses, and as well promoting cultural practices.

Mr. Speaker, sealing is far more than an economic activity. It is a part of Inuit identity, for food security, and a vital link between our people and the water. With the creation of the Qisiapiit brand, we are trying to empower our communities by ensuring access to the materials they need to preserve and pass down traditional knowledge and skills.

The launch of Qisiapiit celebrates of tradition, self-reliance, and pride. You can have faith that our government understands the importance of Inuit practices and making sure tradition remains strong in a modern Nunavut. We are proud to offer Nunavummiut access to these beautiful, locally sourced skins that carry with them the skill, knowledge, and cultural heritage of our people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 615 – 6(2): 2025 Makigiaqta Health Camp

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Pang residents.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I had the privilege of speaking to the participants of the 2025 Makigiaqta Health Camp. Hosted at Nunavut Arctic College's Nunatta Campus, the health camp allowed Inuit high school students from 13 different communities to learn about healthcare careers and the educational pathways to those opportunities.

Alongside other healthcare professionals, staff and students from the College's Nursing Program worked with the group in the nursing lab to learn about health-related procedures and equipment. It is my hope the camp inspired students to see themselves as future students in the College's wide range of health-related programs, and as future employees in the Department of Health.

I urge my colleagues in this House to encourage high school students in your communities to enroll in Makigiaqta's future career camps.

Thank you to Minister Main, the Department of Health, and Makigiaqta for partnering with the College to make this important event a reality. When organizations partner in the territory, Nunavummiut benefit.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 616 – 6(2): Fox Trapping Education Program Pilot

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning to all Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, my colleague just talked about beautiful skins, and it's great to see this initiative today. And with the use of furs as well as like fox furs for parkas.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to share that my department actively continues to work on developing a Fox Trapping Education Program for Nunavummiut. Fur harvesting is a great resource available in Nunavut. The Department of Environment would like to support Nunavut harvesters in accessing that resource, by providing those interested with the necessary education and equipment to practice trapping safely and successfully.

Mr. Speaker this program will have three components: a trapper education manual for the community-based workshop, a video series depicting fox pelt handling, and a hands-on trapper workshop.

At this time, we are in the process of organizing the trapping workshop pilot this fall to train our Conservation Officers in fox trapping, so they can later deliver the workshop to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, we believe that programs such as these are instrumental in driving Inuit self-determination and building Nunavut's sovereignty, through harvesting practising that connect us to our culture and our environment.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to this program for Nunavummiut and encourage more usage of furs in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 827 – 6(2): Grade 6 Graduates

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Good morning Nunavummiut, and Pond Inlet residents. This morning I would like to mention graduates of grade 6 who will be completing their grade in June and they will be moving on to the middle school to higher grade. Forty-five students will be moving on: Alashua Akpaleapik, Joanzie Angnatsiak, Vanessa Angnatsiak, Mason Angnatsiak, Malaiya Arnakaliak, Gabriel Arreak, Alooooloo Atagootak, Nelson Atagootak, Angelina Enoogoo, Sonia-Rae Enookolo, Jeffrey Idlout, Sophia Idlout, Brianna Inuark, Ellie Inuark, Ashl Issuqangituq, Donja Itturligaq, Aiden Kadloo, Philip Kadloo, Leroy Kalluk, Britney Kasamak, Donovan Killiktee, Janice Killiktee, Roger Killiktee, Anna-Mary Kilukishak, Lawson Kilukishak, Jimmy Kippomee, Aleks Koonark, Dustin Koonoo, Lakisha Kublu, Skylar Kuniliusie, Simon Kunnuk, Cain Mucktar Jr., Mayla Nakashook, Caillou Nasook, Devon Ootoovak, Thomas Panipakoocho, Peter Pewatooluk, Charles Quaraq, Jazmine Quasa, Lily Sangoya, Naja Sangoya, Jaipiti Saunders, Akoela Simonee, Jamila Suno. Donovan Ootoovak (ph) (no interpretation).

Thank you. These are the students that completed Ulaajuk School grade 6, and will no longer be there. I always like to say to my children, (interpretation ends) "Just because you go to high school doesn't mean you have to start smoking." (interpretation) That is advice that I give them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Member's Statement 828 – 6(2): NHL – Edmonton Oilers

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues. Good morning Nunavummiut and good morning to the Edmonton Oilers fans in Hudson Bay and across our country.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, the last time Edmonton Oilers won the Stanley Cup was in 1990, never mind about the Montreal Canadiens winning the cup in '39. It has taken 32 long years for

Lord Stanley to return back to Canada, and we are hungry as Canadians to finally bring back home Lord Stanley to Canada.

Mr. Speaker, NHL is not just a game; it is our game. It is a Canadian game, and the Edmonton Oilers have a very good chance, for the second time in two years, to bring back home Lord Stanley. It's going to take the best player in the world, Connor McDavid and his buddy Leon Draisaitl and the rest of the Edmonton Oilers to bring back Lord Stanley Cup to Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that the first two games will be in Edmonton starting Wednesday, June 4. Oh, boy, it's going to be something else. I look forward to the month of June and I just have a last twelve words to say: Let's go, Oilers! Let's go, Oilers! Let's go Oilers!

>> *Laughter, Applause*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: You were so funny to watch a hockey fan cheer last night.

>> *Laughter*

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

Member's Statement 829 – 6(2): High School Graduates

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the high school graduates in the constituency of Netsilik. First of all I want to name the high school graduates for Netsilik high school and they are: Steve Angulalik Alookey, Jonathan Tigumiarituq Eetoolook, Samara Ummaluk Lyall, Torry Iqalugak Tulurialik; and for Arvilikruaq Illiniarvik, Loretta Uqqarqluk.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud and privileged to mention their names today in this House, Mr. Speaker, and I wish you all the best in your life's journey and I wish you great adventures in your next chapter in life. Always believe in the sky is the limit and learning is never-ending. You learn something new every day. I wish you all the best, and I hope all the best for each and every one of you. I do hope you all capture your dreams, because dreams are meant to be captured.

I want to say that I am living the dream today, and we do have a dream. You can capture your dreams. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 830 – 6(2): Silapaak made by Lilly Ukpatiku

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my constituents in Naujaat and Coral Harbour, Salliq, and everyone in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my gratitude when I just arrived here, I was handed this outfit that I'm wearing. The person is sitting right over there, the person who made it, Lilly Ukpatiku. Thank you for making this parka for me. She just gave it to me, in a surprise gift. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 831 – 6(2): Baker Lake Search and Rescue

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues and everyone in Baker Lake. My daughters, good morning.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, last fall I got to take part in a special certification graduation in Baker Lake, with regards to some of the members of the Baker Lake search and rescue. They took part in a drone pilot course. That's the new direction the search and rescue has been taking with regards to searching for lost hunters. It's going to help with searches. It's going to expedite some of our searches that we do. It saves the ground searchers from having to go up hills, walking or on ATV.

I would like to commend the participants of the certificates that took the course last fall, took pictures. It was a nice ceremony that was put on by emergency assist. The first one was Francis Iyago, Solomon Mariq, John Eetegoyok, Richard Aksawnee, Harold Putumiruqtuq. Some of these gentlemen have put in many years volunteering their time with certain and rescue, helping lost hunters, not only from Baker Lake, but neighbouring communities. Some of them have helped in other searches in Kivalliq. I commend you guys. Thank you guy for putting your dedication, your service and your volunteerism. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 832 – 6(2): Grandchild's Birthday

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to people in Igloolik and everyone in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, this morning, because I would like to express my pride to one of my grandchildren, Chloe Quassa's birthday. I'm very proud of her. She helps with the recreation department, ever since she starting being old enough to work, and she was recognized. It's her birthday today so happy birthday, Chloe. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 833 – 6(2): Caribou Management in the Kitikmeot

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to inform residents of Kugluktuk, as we know, as hunters, we go out wolf hunting. There is a total of 157 wolves were harvested, (interpretation ends) 157 wolves this winter for the Minister of Environment, to get some numbers how much was distributed to the community. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Iqaluit- Niaqunnguu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 834 – 6(2): New Senator: Nancy Karetak-Lindell

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues and all the people having birthdays. We say happy birthday to them all, all the people that were mentioned here. Have a great day. And today is a beautiful day and a Friday.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and express my pride to our new senator who was sworn in yesterday, Nancy Karetak-Lindell. She is no stranger to everyone in Nunavut, and she was sworn in and signed the papers. I'm always very proud of her accomplishments in the highest offices. Everybody knows that she was the first female Member of Parliament and that she opened the doors for so many others. She was a Canadian representative to the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, and she even went to become the leader of housing. She's a great example, especially for young people and especially young women. My daughter always looks at her accomplishments. She's a great example.

I wanted to recognize our new senator. She was sworn in and she signed the documents and she is actually going to be the senator now for all of Nunavut. We know that she's going to work hard for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 835 – 6(2): Appreciation to the Elders

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, whenever I see elders, I really enjoy it, whenever I travel anywhere. my late father and my late mother didn't tell too many stories about who we were related to and what they used to do, so that they didn't tell me much stories about those days. Whenever an elder comes to see me, I really feel it when they talk about my mother and father. When we went to open the airport terminal, there was an elder that told me about working with my father, and learning with my father. I'm very grateful for our elders who knew our parents and are able to talk about them to me. It really brings me up.

Our elders remember what happened in the past and they are always very interesting. I encourage younger people, those of us who are younger people, encourage them to tell stories to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6, Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 1292 – 6(2): Expanding Culinary Arts Programs

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this morning are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College, and it's around the idea of running other college programs in other communities.

Mr. Speaker, in the month of March of this year I had e-mailed the minister about the idea of running a culinary arts program outside of Cambridge Bay and expanding it to other communities. The first question: What is the minister's position on expanding the culinary arts program to other communities in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for asking the question. Nunavut Arctic College can run programs anywhere, temporarily or for the long term, and whenever opportunities like that come up, we always encourage them to go ahead. If someone is interested in having a culinary program, if they have proper cooking facilities, they will have to locate a place with proper kitchen facilities. The lack of funds is usually what stops training from happening. Whenever we can get more funding from outside sources, it helps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. I'm glad the minister is open to the idea of expanding and running other college programs across in other communities in Nunavut. With the mine operating near Baker Lake, Agnico Eagle Mines and in Rankin Inlet, there is a need for people to work in the culinary arts. There's also restaurants in Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, and Arviat. What direction can the minister provide to the college to expand these programs to Baker Lake? In my e-mail to the minister, I had mentioned the Nunavut Arctic College, the community learning centre has an empty classroom. The first year towards running a culinary arts program is mainly getting to know the cuts of the meat, how to use knives and cutlery, and what not. So the first year is very basic.

I had also mentioned there's the old Iglu hotel, which is now shut down. There are 20 empty rooms. There was a commercial kitchen in there. What can the college do or what can the minister do to push running a culinary arts program in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. We can make a plan. I don't want to create barriers, but we do have to think about the funding that's available, a proper commercial kitchen, and also we call it the (interpretation ends) the tradesman. It's under the trades specifically, so we also would have to consider that the instructor has a red seal certificate to run that kind of training. But we certainly are open to what is available, and also of course the first thing we really need to have some financial support to give that kind of course in the community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for your response. For my third and final question for now, will the minister commit to giving direction to the Nunavut Arctic College in utilizing what the Department of Health is running, their health camp, and utilizing Makigiaqta? There are funds available there. I believe Agnico Eagle would be a fine partner in funding a culinary arts program. It's just the need for a spear-header, someone to get that culinary arts program started in across in other communities, and I believe Baker Lake would be a fine spot for a pilot project even if it's a one-year introductory course, to get people into the idea of taking culinary arts.

Will the minister commit to having Nunavut Arctic College reach out to Agnico Eagle and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and wherever else funding may be available to run this program? Will the minister commit to getting back to me at a later date with a response? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I do have that letter and we will put together that letter, of course. But we also want to say that we will continue to explore what options we have, and of course work with other organizations or businesses to see what could be done. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1293 – 6(2): Public Safety

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy Friday to you and everyone watching the proceedings today. I would like to thank our fellow colleague Mr. Qavvik for starting us off with such a great member statement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue along my theme of public safety, and my questions today will be for the Minister of Justice and will be regarding the department's budget allocations for the RCMP.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to a question that I raised during the winter sitting and that is the Civilian Complaints Review Commission's report into the Kinngait incident in 2019. Mr. Speaker, that report had identified a number of contributing factors that led up to that situation, including gross under-resourcing of the RCMP; high stress situations and the challenge in staffing RCMP officer positions in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice's business plan indicates there's a total of 193 positions allocated to the RCMP in Nunavut, consisting of both officers as well as civilian positions. I would like to ask the minister if she would be able to provide a status update specifically on the number of RCMP officers in the territory. 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. There are 200 positions within the RCMP, and of those, 28 RCMP police position are vacant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assume that the minister's response included a total of 200 positions, including civilians, but I was more interested specifically in the number of officers.

Mr. Speaker, moving on to my next question, the Iqaluit detachment has a total of 32 officers. I would like to ask: Can the minister provide the status of the current staffing levels of the Iqaluit detachment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member. I will clarify, Mr. Speaker, that of those 200, 157 of them are regular members. For the Iqaluit office, it is fully staffed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the minister's responses. Mr. Speaker, the law enforcement branch of the Department of Justice is responsible for public safety, and one of the objectives identified in the business plan is ensuring police services in Nunavut meets the needs of Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, the Iqaluit detachment is the busiest in the territory, and they respond to approximately a thousand calls of service per year. Mr. Speaker, the Iqaluit RCMP have indicated that they are chronically facing chronic shortages in the detachment, and on the busiest nights, they only have four to five officers available per shift to respond to the calls.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask: Will the minister commit to reviewing the current situation in Iqaluit and ensure that the Iqaluit detachment has sufficient policing resources to meet the needs of Iqalummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. The location of officers is up to the RCMP, as it is operational. I will discuss that with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1294 – 6(2): Coral Harbour Caribou Survey

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment regarding the Coral Harbour caribou survey and to the document. thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment did a population on May 2023 on Southampton Island and at that point there were approximately 12,651 in total population. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Minister, for that response. Is there a decrease or increase in the total population? Usually one household is allowed a total catch of four caribou in a year. Is there going to be a decrease or an increase in the allowable harvest? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time there's 1,000 that are allowed and that is the limit as of today. With the Coral Harbour Hunters' and Trappers' Organization, from what I understand they are going to keep it at the limit of 1,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1295 – 6(2): General Rate Application

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I go to my question, I would like to congratulate the graduates of Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation, and they concern the status of the general rate application.

As the minister will recall, the general rate application was submitted in December 2024, almost six months ago. In April of this year the Qulliq Energy Corporation announced that the Utility Rates Review Council has authorized the corporation to "implement interim electricity rates until the final rates are approved."

Can the minister confirm how the interim rates will impact private homeowners in Nunavut communities such as Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the member for that question. (interpretation ends) First of all, with the general rate application. I mean, I must state the obvious: Qulliq Energy Corporation does not take

pleasure or we don't want to increase power rates or costs to any of our customers; it's out of necessity that the general rate application was put forward. Through the Utility Rates Review Council process our numbers are validated and checked, in terms of making sure we're keeping costs as low as we can in terms of the cost to customers.

In terms of the interim rate, the impact, it is similar to what we've proposed in the general rate application. There are a number of changes that we have proposed. We've proposed to increase energy rates by 9.5 per cent, and so I could get into more detail, but I'll just state that it's similar to what is being proposed in the general rate application. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the Qulliq Energy Corporation submitted its general rate application in December of last year, it not only said the rate increases are necessary to address the corporation's raising costs in aging infrastructure. During the recent winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the minister made a statement in which he informed the House that he has requested the federal government take over the Qulliq Energy Corporation historical debt, in order to alleviate financial strain. Can the minister clarify how a federal decision to take over the historical debt affect the corporation's revenue requirements, and consequently the rates that it charges to customers for power? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and thank the member for the question. It's a great question. Basically a takeover of our debt, or any assistance when it comes to our debt load, would help us to reduce our operating expenses. The amount of money we're putting out to service our debt is significant, and so we are very interested in federal assistance, whether it would be on specific capital projects, like for example a new power plant in Chesterfield Inlet, or on the debt load. So Whether it's through capital projects or whether it's on servicing the debt, any federal assistance helps us to lessen the burden on our ratepayers, at the same time deliver improved infrastructure that we know so many communities are looking for.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to highlight the unique nature of Qulliq Energy Corporation. We're talking about 16,000 customers over 2.1 million square kilometres. And so the challenges that our corporation faces are very high, in terms of logistics, but we are fully committed to servicing Nunavummiut, providing them with the reliable and safe power they need. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the Qulliq Energy Corporation submitted its general rate application in December of last year, it announced that the regulatory review process would take approximately six, seven months. Can the minister describe what additional information the Qulliq Energy Corporation has been asked to provide to the Utility Rates Review Council in order that it can finalize its final recommendations to the cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There was a number of information requests that came through as part of the review process. Qulliq Energy Corporation provided responses to information requests from the URRC as well as responding to concerns from the public that were submitted to URRC, the Utility Rates Review Council.

The next step in the process is for executive council to make a decision on this, and basically the menu of options in front of us are to either approve the rate as proposed, reject the rate as proposed, or to proceed with another option as proposed by the URRC. So that decision will be coming quite soon.

Again, I just wanted to thank everyone who provided input into the process, and the Utility Rates Review Council for their hard work. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1296 – 6(2): Support for Film, Television, and New Media

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of the new Department of Community Services. Mr. Speaker, before I was elected to represent the wonderful people of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk in the Legislative Assembly, I was very proud to serve on the board of directors of the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, and to have been a long-time volunteer with Taloyoak's local television channel, Isuma TV. Also I was the lead maintainer in the Kitikmeot, and also a radio network programmer for Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

Mr. Speaker, I was very happy to listen to the minister's recent statement concerning the success of North of North. Telling our stories to a national and local audience makes me very proud.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, his department's 2025-2026 main estimates include \$1.136 million in contribution funding for its Nunavut Film, Television and New Media Program. Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe how this funding will be spend during the current fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I applaud my member for his former work that he has done in advocating for Inuit television. It's something that we should be very proud of for that to be happening within our territory.

This program is budgeted for various things, and one of the main things is to help promote the Nunavut Film Development Corporation. That's one aspect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the members of the board of directors of the Nunavut Film Development Corporation, Isuma TV, the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation. Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe how his department's Cultural Industry Division works with these organizations to identify shared priorities and initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our department has ongoing collaborations with the organizations that my member colleague just mentioned. That's something that we cherish and something that we'll continue to do. As you know, when you spend a few dollars on the media, the return on revenue is far greater. It's something that we'll try to continue to promote throughout this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have risen in this House on a number of occasions about the importance of using local dialects when the government produces public service announcements for broadcast on the Internet, television and radio. Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe how his department's Cultural Industry Division works with the Department of Culture and Heritage on issues related to Inuit language and new media. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our department works very closely with the Culture and Heritage staff in terms of this. As the member is quite aware, there are 13 dialects, and which one do you pick when you're trying to broadcast Nunavut-wide. This is something that's always challenging, not just for our government,

but for the media, too. It's something that is an ongoing issue that we are trying to help reflect everybody's dialect into the media. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1297 – 6(2): Arctic Security

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everyone. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Premier of Nunavut with regards to Arctic security. As the minister is aware, Mr. Speaker, I have been trying to advocate for Sanirajmiut since they have operated DEW line sites, which is operated by Nasittuq Corporation. It was unfortunate to hear that the new prime minister of Canada announced that Iqaluit will be the new headquarters, under the Arctic security and sovereignty.

I would like to first ask, was Amittummiut at least mentioned when we had a provincial-federal partnership meeting with our federal counterparts, as I have been trying to advocate for the community of Sanirajak? if the minister can say that, yes, he has tried but I wonder, I know Iqaluit has a lot of resources, but I would like to know how was this decision made. I know it was done federally, but did the premier at least advocate for my constituents of Amittummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my colleague for his continued advocacy to see investments into Sanirajak. Mr. Speaker, just to correct the member, the prime minister didn't announce the headquarters here, but he did announce a northern operation hub, one of three that were identified.

To the member's question, yes, I continue to advocate for seeing further investments into Amittuq, most recently when I was in Yellowknife for our western premiers meeting. I had the opportunity to engage with senior officials at the Joint Task Force North, where I did talk about the opportunities around what could be in Sanirajak specifically. I did mention the questions I did receive through the years around what we could do to bring investments that tackle whether it's search and rescue or others as an opportunity for the government to consider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the correction.

Under the North American aerospace defence, I'm sure with this climate change and you know other nations are using, so under the North American aerospace defence, will the premier be able to still advocate that Sanirajak is capable of operating under the Arctic

security? And as the premier has mentioned, under the search and rescue operation as there's helicopter stationed up there all year long. I would like to know, under this program, will there be any new funding for Arctic security and rescue, as the premier has mentioned? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I want to thank my colleague for his question. I will always continue to see investments come to the north. It's great to see the Throne Speech specifically talk about the north, to talk about the Arctic, in particular to see investments in this. I very much look forward to engaging with the new defence minister, Minister McGinty. We have been reaching out to schedule a meeting, and I very much forward to building really a continued strong relationship we've had with the previous minister as we advocate and push for any investments to Nunavut to ensure that we bring benefits to tackle our sovereignty as a country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Arctic is very important, because the world's countries are now passing through and now there is more interest in the mining industry occurring, and there's an ore mine in Baffin Island and gold mine in Kivalliq. A lot of interest going on with the world, as the minister had stated. This would create more jobs and more economic. And we need to have those opportunities in the communities and to make sure that we protect the Arctic. When will you be able to meet with the federal government, and the one that you just mentioned, the new minister for military? Can you identify and let me know if you have received a letter from new government, as to when you will be able to meet with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, on Monday our prime minister, Mark Carney, we will be meeting with him as premiers, and we will be looking at key priorities for development in Canada. And he will affect his time when I will be meeting with the minister. Our staff and his staff are collaborating when a suitable date could be made. I expect we will meet with him and have told them that we want to meet, and we will continue promoting what infrastructure we require, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Oral Question 1298 – 6(2): Tourism

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) my questions are for the Minister of the new Department of Community Services, which

is responsible for economic development, tourism, and cultural industries. Mr. Speaker, summer is almost here and it will soon be cruise ship season.

Mr. Speaker, beautiful Pond Inlet is a world-class attraction for cruise ships; however, it is important that communities benefit fully from cruise ships' visits, and it is important that the industry respects our environment. Can the minister highlight what new marine tourism initiatives his department is working on in preparation for this year's cruise ship season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our department does a number of good initiatives for the cruise ships. One of them is the Cruise Ship Ready, and the, (interpretation) I cannot read what's written here, (interpretation ends) to help set up Inuit in pursuing a career in the cruise industry. Expedition Cruise Tourism are one of the few things that we do in terms of preparation for the cruise ships. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister. (interpretation ends) Pond Inlet is very high marine traffic area, and concerns have been raised with me about many issues, including fuel resupply tankers. Can the minister indicate how his department works with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to coordinate government activities related to marine traffic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that goes to I have formed an association, and through that association we work very closely with them in terms of the concerns that are raised by the communities. They have been very responsive in terms of any concerns that are brought forward.

In terms of other ship interactions, between our fuel delivery and our cruise ships, that one I'll visit. But if there needs to be coordination, I'm sure that we'll be able to do that, because from the cruise ships activities and other shipping activities that are taking place in the Arctic, as it gets busier, all the companies have been very cooperative in terms of wanting to make sure that community concerns are heard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that a tanker was anchored in front of Pond Inlet all summer last year, and that caused issues with the hunters.

Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to recent statements about guide training. This is an area with a lot of potential for communities like Pond Inlet. Can the minister describe what other new initiatives his department is working on in relation to training for residents in this sector of the economy. Will this guide training course go on-line? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the one that I had a minister's statement on is the pilot project that we're very happy in terms of getting it up and running. It's something that I encourage hamlets to start applying for that. I cannot confirm whether it is online or not, but a lot of our programs are switching into more online, and I hope that some of the programs that are being offered by my department will start to reflect that.

With the comments made by my colleague, I'll make sure to revisit some of our training programs that are being offered throughout the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1299 – 6(2): Municipal Relations

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am too interested to question the Minister responsible for the Department of Community Services. Mr. Speaker, as the minister might be aware, Sanikiluaq's new hamlet municipal office complex recently became operational, and I want to express my appreciation for the government's effective response to the disaster that destroyed the community's previous facility. There is no doubt that Sanikiluaq has really nice warm weather, and I would like to ask the minister if he can confirm when he will be visiting the community to officially open the new complex. And I extend that he invites his cabinet colleagues to visit Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for the invitation. It's something I'll definitely look through my calendar to try and see if we can go. Any of the government-funded, we've been working as a government as a whole, and when one gets invites we all invite each other, so that's something that I'll definitely include. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We just have four months before the dissolution of the current Sixth Assembly, and I hope that the minister will fly down to visit Sanikiluaq and open the new facility.

Mr. Speaker, the new Department of Community Services was established earlier this year as part of a government reorganization, and I would ask the minister, can he highlight some of the ways in which the new structure will improve services to municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there's a number of highlights that I can point out on what the transitional work that has taken place. Our staff are working really hard and really diligent in terms of reshaping the department. It's something that I'm very proud to lead, and some of the work and already having discussions is related to motor vehicles licensing, and some of the larger communities of having only one person administering that. With this realignment, it allows us to sort of pool our staff together, and to see where we can help support more of that service. So that's one of the examples that I wanted to highlight. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the work of Nunavut's 25 mayors, all municipal councillors, and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. I would like to ask the minister, can he describe what specific initiatives his department is currently working on with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is a very loaded question; the Nunavut Association of Municipalities is one body that is a wonderful venue to work with and to look at different ways to help each other. That relationship and that bond is very strong, in terms of within our departments and in terms of working very closely together. And that's something that we will continue to do. There are various things that our department is working very closely with the association. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1300 – 6(2): Community Coroners in Igloolik

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the new Minister of Justice, and they concern the issue of community coroners.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the minister's statement in the House yesterday highlighted the importance of our community coroners. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Nunavut coroners for the very important role they play in our communities. Mr. Speaker, in her statement yesterday, the minister indicated that:

"The Office of the Chief Coroner issued a public call for new community coroners. More than 25 applications have been received so far."

Can the minister provide an update on how many community coroners were appointed in response to the public service announcement, and if there are any located in Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for that question. That community coroners callout was one where we are still working on the applications, I believe, at this point. We hope that those will help to fill vacancies.

In terms of Igloolik, there are currently no coroners in the community, and hopefully out of the applications that have been received, we can have applications from Igloolik, but at this point, I'm not sure on the status. I can get back to the member when we know more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do hope that there are applicants from Igloolik. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to support every reasonable effort to retain community coroners in communities, including Igloolik. Can the minister clarify how her department trains and supports newly appointed community coroners. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. There is a newly updated Nunavut coroner training program, and with that is the development with manuals to be available in all official languages. Beyond that I'm not sure, but I can look into that further and figure out the specifics. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'll look forward to the information that you may get.

Mr. Speaker, changes to the *Coroner's Act* came into effect August 31, 2024. One of those amendments requires the Office of the Chief Coroner to produce an annual report, and for its tabling in the Legislative Assembly. Can the minister confirm when the Office of the Chief Coroner's annual report will be tabled in the House. (interpretation) 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. In terms of the annual report from the chief coroner, I'll have to get back to the member on that particular detail. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1301 – 6(2): Territorial Parks

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I have a question about Uqqummiut to the minister, and I want to make sure that this will stay in the sunlight and it won't get buried. This is about the issue of territorial parts in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, the federal and the territorial governments announced 4.7 million in federal funding under the Canada Nature Fund in September 2019 to support the establishment of Agguttinni Territorial Park near Clyde River. During the Legislative Assembly's recent Fall Sitting, the minister's predecessor stated that the Department of Environment was continuing negotiations with Qikiqtani Inuit Association on a memorandum of understanding concerning the construction of a shared facility in the new park that would serve as a park office and a visitors' centre. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of memorandum of understanding, and will he commit to tabling a copy of the document in the Legislative Assembly once it has been finalized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment alongside, before the realignment, Community and Government Services and Qikiqtani Inuit Association did enter into a memorandum of understanding to build a shared building facility in Clyde River. This memorandum of understanding outlines the parties' relationship in relation to the construction and use of a shared facility. Whether or

not it can be tabled, I'll have to check back with all the signatories on that. But it has been executed, and it's in effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your response. Again, I want this file shining in your cabinet. My constituents in Clyde River are very excited about the establishment of the new Agguttinni Territorial Park. Mr. Speaker, in addition to protecting our land and wildlife, we hope that the park will encourage economic activity and job creation by attracting visitors from other parts of Canada and around the world. Can the minister describe how his department is working with the tourism division of the Department of Community Services and the travel Nunavut organizations to prepare for the new park. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We want to make sure that we showcase our beautiful community, and we work with tourism committees for the development of parks so that visitors will become interested in visiting them. So we expect that Clyde River and Nunavummiut will be able to utilize this park while they showcase the beautiful land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your response. And again and again I'll say again: I want this file to shine brightly in your cabinet. It is important that we have good legislation in place to regulate activity in our parks. As the minister is aware, his department has been holding public consultation meetings in a number of Nunavut communities, including Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, to get public comment on development of a new territorial parks act. Can the minister describe what major changes to the legislation are being considered, and can he indicate when a new act will be ready for introduction here in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our territory is vast, and when we are developing territorial parks, I'll state that for Agguttinni, it would be the biggest territorial park in the territory at a span of 13,000 square kilometres. And with that, our legislation that we work within, we do have also community joint planning and management committees that we work with on establishing these parks. So when the landscapes change and if there's new things to take into account, we'll bring forward new amendments to our legislation.

I can't specify when that would be coming forward, but we'll take into account all the consultations that take place with all the stakeholders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1302 – 6(2): Arviat Health Centre Ramp Entrance

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Arviat. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to question the Health minister . and revisit the issue of the Arviat health centre entrance. I questioned the Minister of Health back on February 22, 2024, which is over a year ago; to be exact, it's 15 months ago. At that time the minister was aware of the problem issue of getting into the health centre, as regulations state a wheelchair ramp has to be a maximum of 5 per cent grade, and that one there is closer to 30. The minister had committed to doing the work there. He said it's a priority and work was going to be done. And when I left Arviat to come to this sitting there, no work had been done on it yet in terms of less of a grade to get in.

I'll ask the minister for an update on the Arviat health centre ramp entrance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Honourable Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. Before I respond I would like to send a shout-out to all the dedicated and excellent staff we have in Arviat, as the member I'm sure would agree with me. They are incredibly hard-working and do so much for the community.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, looking at the entrance of the Arviat, it has to be worked on more than one way. The entrance, as you climb to the entrance that the ramp my colleague is talking about, is one of the issues, and there are other issues as well that need to be worked on inside. Right now the Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut department, we're working with them to see what actual work needs to be done, to document them, so that local businesses can have an opportunity to work on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister should be able to say like last year, it has been more than one year now that the work was going to be done. People on wheelchairs have a hard time getting to the health centre. They need to get help, just to enter. People who have to be on wheelchair, they can't enter the building on their own. They need help. I would like to know when the work will be done. The minister keeps saying the work is going to be done. That's what the minister was saying last year. When will be actual work be done? People who are handicapped and can't walk,

they can't enter the health centre on their own without someone else helping them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. I agree in terms of the concerns around mobility and access. We want to have barrier-free access to our facilities, and there has been some work done last summer to fix the ramp, but it was not comprehensive work; it was I believe just under maintenance, in terms of readjusting the entranceway.

In terms of the steps and the timeline, the assessment should be complete this summer, and then the next step following that would be issuing a request for tender. So as soon as possible. We have a number of health centres, including Arviat, that need work, and we have to work within the government processes to deliver projects. But timeliness is usually something that we push for in all cases. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in our exchange back in February 2024, it was a priority, and at that time the minister also stated that they had been aware of this since fall 2023 that getting into the health centre in Arviat is an issue due to the ramp. It's sad that it seems like the work will not be done this summer.

I ask the minister: Can the work to make the entrance into the Arviat health centre, to make it safe for people with handicaps or mobility problems, can that work be done before the end of this Assembly? Will it be done before the end of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member. In terms of the question, in theory it could be done before the end of this Assembly. Whether it will or won't, that depends on the processes that we're working through. Depends on the results of whatever competitive process is issued for the work on the health centre.

In Arviat, health infrastructure is an issue. The entranceway needs work. My understanding is that it has needed work going back some years, including into the life of the previous government. I'm happy to see that under this government we are moving towards some needed improvements.

Health infrastructure, right across, including Arviat, is a huge need, and if we make investments in infrastructure, we can deliver more services, better services closer to

home. That's a story or a business case we have been making to our federal partners in trying to look for more federal dollars for infrastructure so we can help communities like Arviat have the infrastructure they need for essential health services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1303 – 6(2): Caribou Management in the Kitikmeot

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Environment, and they concern the issue caribou management.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, his department issued public service announcement last month, indicating that the allocation of 105 caribou for the total allowable harvest for 2024-2025 from the Dolphin-Union caribou population has been reached, and that the harvest is now closed. Can the minister provide an update today on his department's work with the Kugluktuk Hunters' and Trappers Organization' and other co-management partners to involve residents of the community to herd population surveys and other initiatives. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Department of Environment does work hand in hand with the local hunters and trappers organizations in Kugluktuk, Ekaluktutiak, as well as the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board. There are ongoing consultations regarding the Dolphin-Union caribou herd monitoring. From the 2023 results survey estimates, we have come to this 105 total allowable harvest, and this consultation will continue on, going forward. My department is planning a submission based on the consultations to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and that is guided by these consultations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. (interpretation ends) During in our recent winter sitting, the minister stated:

"The Dolphin-Union caribou are listed a species at risk and are currently in the process of being up-listed under the federal *Species At Risk Act*, as a result of information collected from this survey supports the federal decision-making process."

Can the minister clarify how this up-listing will impact Inuit rates to harvest caribou from the herd, and can he indicate if the Government of Nunavut supports the designation of the herd as being endangered. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my department, again, we work with our co management partners, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board through the Nunavut Agreement. We have a robust system in place regarding wildlife management, and we'll continue to be engaged and working through the federal process of whether or not this specific herd might be listed as endangered.

At this time I think I'll just say that we'll work with the local hunters and trappers associations, and the results that we share with Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, as well as scientific research go and in hand together when we're making decisions of this nature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response.

(interpretation ends) I want to thank the minister for the statement that he made yesterday concerning his department's wolf sample collection, program which impacts a number of different caribou populations in the Kitikmeot. In his statement, the minister indicated that "a total of \$518,000 in wolf sample collection payments were paid to Nunavut harvesters in the 2024-2025 harvest year. This represents a submission of 900 wolf samples to the department, representing both the highest number of wolves submitted under the program, and the highest amount distributed to hunters in a single fiscal year."

Can the minister confirm how much of this amount was paid to the hunters in Kugluktuk, and also the number of wolves caught. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for Kugluktuk specifically, we had, as the member stated, 157 samples collected, which represents wolves harvested in an area where there is the caribou of special concern. Payments of \$900 per wolf equals about \$140,000 towards our harvesters and hunters, and I would like to thank the significant update that this program has had for Kugluktuk, as well as others. It helps the hunters, it helps the caribou population, and we want to continue to see this important program succeed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1304 – 6(2): Staff Housing

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on one of my colleague's question from yesterday, the member from Aggu to the Minister of Human Resources on the topic of public housing or staff housing review.

Mr. Speaker, in one of the questions that my colleague asked was asking the minister to indicate what changes to the policy are being actively considered, and the minister indicated it would be premature of him to start saying what is in there without being approved yet.

Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, I do disagree with that response. I think the public, as well as members of the Assembly here, need assurances that questions raised over the past are being addressed in this review. I would like to ask the minister to reconsider answering that question, to say what changes to the policy are being actively considered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do apologize if I answered in a way. I answered it was as if the policy was being done. But in terms of the review, the review has a number of components that are in there that would be on the updates to allocations to competition ratio. Also, to what positions would be ready for posts, and there's staff housing, and also the impacts on the remote hiring policies for that, and also in terms of trying to figure out how to get more staff housing into our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will look forward to further honing in on some of those things.

One of the issues that I have specifically brought up in this House a number of times with the Minister of Finance was the inequality of the household allowance, recognizing the minimum rent requirements to qualify for that program. The issue that I have raised in the past is that some rents include utilities and services and others don't. Where the government is currently not taking into consideration those additional costs, that would absolutely meet the minimum thresholds for this program.

For today, I would like to get the minister's position on that specific program, recognizing that people have to pay rent. Some rent, like I said, is included with utilities, and others' isn't. Can I get a position from the minister on what the plans are to move forward with that program, and recognizing the rental costs and associated costs to people's rent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for continuing to raise this. It is a concern, and it is something that really needs to be addressed. I applaud my colleague for continuing to raise it in this House.

Within the discussions between our housing corporation and our departments and government as a whole, that concern and how to deal with that, that one is still ongoing in terms of reviewing how to get that resolved. At this point I don't have a solution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, and I do recognize it, but I wasn't asking for solutions right now. I was asking the minister's position on whether he supported the recognition, and bringing equality to our staff.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to working with the Department of Finance to recognize the equality of Government of Nunavut staff not currently receiving staff household allowance, where qualified? And would they recognize backdating that decision to appreciate that the staff members that have been very patiently waiting. I've been asking this for a year and a half now. I think there needs to be some recognition of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Definitely we're working with the Department of Finance to see how that can get fixed. It's something that once a decision is made, whether to backdate or not will also be part of the decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1305 – 6(2): Tobacco Act

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everyone. My questions this morning are for the Minister of Health, and they're related to the *Tobacco and Smoking Act*.

Mr. Speaker, try as I might, I can't imagine myself covering one metre in two big steps or even in nine big steps. So in the spirit of playoff season, I went and did the math (audio dropout) roughly four-and-a-half hockey sticks.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health. I have just had a review, a look back again at the Minister of Health's *2023-2024 Tobacco and Smoking Act Annual Report*, and one of the commitments regarding compliance or regarding the compliance and enforcement of the act is that Health is planning to collaborate closely with the Department of Finance and Justice to develop new and effective procedures that will streamline enforcement of the *Tobacco and Smoking Act* and its regulation.

I would like to know from the Minister how far has that proceeded. Is the work underway? I would like to hear about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. Right now in terms of the act, the focus is on creating awareness, creating understanding, promoting and sharing resources with Nunavummiut. There's not currently a huge emphasis on enforcement, although we know through the consultations that led up to the legislation there is a desire from Nunavummiut to see enforcement.

The work with Department of Finance and also Justice is ongoing. It hasn't progressed to the extent that we would like. We're still seeking consensus on the best avenue for enforcement. From the Department of Health's perspective, we've been looking to build on existing enforcement, I don't want to say agencies, but existing enforcement efforts as opposed to creating a completely new framework specifically around tobacco and cannabis. The work is ongoing and the big launch of our public awareness campaign starts tomorrow, and we're really looking forward to Nunavummiut learning more over the next year through that campaign. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In that report as well there was a focus on training and education, specifically for community health representatives and community wellness coordinators on the act, and of course on cessation, I'm assuming. What we know is that in 2018, 51 per cent of Nunavut youth ages 12 to 19 reported being smokers or having smoked, and that's six times the national average.

We have the advantage of so much work being done on curriculum in the territory, so I'm curious to know how teachers and educators have been engaged in training, and how they're being equipped in order to help young people make better decisions to stay away from tobacco and vaping products. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It's a very good question in terms of the involvement of education staff. The training and the knowledge-sharing with community health representatives and other health care professionals is ongoing. We had an in-person training with 16 community health representatives in February; another training session with the health care professionals in March. There is so much great work that's happening through the tobacco reduction; sorry, the proper term is tobacco and cannabis program. There's a lot of great work that is happening. They are visiting boarding homes. They're distributing motivational quit kits.

There's so much work that still can be done, where I think in terms of the school system and teachers, that's still on the to-do list. But as I mentioned, over the next year, the rollout of our mass media campaign will reach a lot of Nunavummiut through social media and other efforts to ensure that they know the harms of smoking and second-hand smoke and they know how to protect themselves and families from those harms. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think public education is extremely important, and I know I was very proud to be in leadership roles at both Alianait and Toonik Time, when we banned smoking from our events, whether they were inside or out. That public education campaign can go very far in ensuring that people are not exposed to second-hand smoke, at least.

Mr. Speaker, I'm really interested in looking to the future and looking at what's happening elsewhere, in order to ensure that nobody actually starts to smoke. I know that in New Zealand a few years ago there was a law introduced that effectively banned anybody born after 2008 from ever being able to buy any kind of tobacco product. I know that it has since been repealed; however, I thought that was a really bold move forward. And with the high level of smoke rates, especially amongst Inuit who live in Nunavummiut, I think it's really important to look to the future.

I would just like to hear whether or not those kind of bold actions are under consideration, such as raising the age to be able to buy those products annually from 19 to 21 to 22 to 23, so that we can build a generation that never legally smokes, or any other kind of innovative approaches for the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of that very good question, that's an option that I believe should be on the table. However, it's not currently the focus of the department right now. We are focused on implementation of the new *Tobacco and Smoking Act*. We know that there is significant harm to Nunavummiut through smoking, through second-hand smoke. It's affecting

everyone, from elders to parents to even infants who are, unfortunately, sometimes exposed to second-hand smoke. So through the act we're trying to denormalize smoking, and efforts around festivals and community events are welcome. I think it's great when we see municipal officials or we see committees taking a look beyond, this is not just a music festival; this is not just a fishing derby; we also have an effort to educate around public health. And so we really appreciate things like the member mentioned where people can make a difference at the community level.

We want to denormalize. We want to prevent Nunavummiut from ever starting to smoke, and also we want to help them to quit when they're ready.

just a reminder that in the lobby today we will have some materials available and there will be some swag there. And members are free to take some of that with you back to your constituencies. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members be aware 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

Committee Report 46 – 6(2): Report on the Review of the 2023-2024 Public Accounts of Nunavut

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 Public Accounts of Nunavut*.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing on the most recently tabled set of 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.

Mr. Speaker and members, witnesses appearing before the standing committee included the Auditor General of Canada and a number of her officials, in addition to a number of Government of Nunavut officials representing the Department of Finance, the Department of Environment, the Department of Human Resources, the Department of

Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, and the Qulliq Energy Corporation. The standing committee notes its appreciation to the witnesses.

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

- Budgetary and Financial Management Transparency and Timeliness;
- Accounts Receivable;
- Internal Audits;
- Contingent Liabilities;
- Investment Strategy;
- Climate Change and Activities of the Contaminated Sites Liabilities Working Group;
- New Accounting Standards;
- Comptroller Branch Priorities and Activities; and
- Activities of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

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*.

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.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 404 – 6(2): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Policies for Fiscal Year Ending 31 March 2022

Tabled Document 405 – 6(2): Report Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Policies for Fiscal Year Ending 31 March 2023

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table two reports, the 2022 and 2023 *Reports Respecting Benefits Paid to Ministers under the Ministerial Policies for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Tabled Document 406 – 6(2): 2023-2024 Nunavut Development Corporation's Annual Report

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *2023-2024 Nunavut Development Corporation's Annual Report*, I am pleased to table that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 407 – 6(2): 2023-2024 Nunavut Victim Services Annual Report

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to table the *2023-2024 Nunavut Victims Services Annual Report*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Tabled Document 408 – 6(2): 2023-2024 Tourism Act Annual Report

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to table the *2023-2024 Tourism Act Annual Report*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Mr. Hickes.

Tabled Document 409 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Health: Follow-up from the Committee of the Whole's Consideration of the 2025-02026 Main Estimates of the Department of Health

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have one document to table today, in my capacity as chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, which is a copy of correspondence from the Minister of Health in response to questions that were asked during the consideration of the department's 2025-2026 main estimates, during the

proceedings of the Committee of the Whole during the winter 2025 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. 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. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Item 22, *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at 1:30 p.m. today and at 10 a.m. on Monday, June 2. *Orders of the Day* for Monday, June 2, 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.*

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Colleagues, enjoy your weekend, and stay safe. This House stands adjourned until Monday, June 2, at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:02*



Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts

Report on the Review of the 2023-2024 Public Accounts of Nunavut

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

Chairperson

George Hickes

Co-Chairperson

Alexander Sammurtok

Members

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

Introduction and Chronology of Recent Events

Section 46 of the federal *Nunavut Act* prescribes the role of the Auditor General of Canada in relation to Nunavut's territorial accounts. The legislation provides that:

"The auditor of Nunavut shall audit the accounts and financial transactions of Nunavut in each fiscal year in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and report to the Assembly on the result of that audit."

It also provides that the Auditor General "shall call attention to any other matter falling within the scope of the audit made under subsection (1) that, in the opinion of the auditor, should be brought to the attention of the Assembly."

Section 74 of the territorial *Financial Administration Act* provides that:

"The Public Accounts for the fiscal year must be laid before the Legislative Assembly on or before December 31 following the end of the fiscal year or, if the Legislative Assembly is not then in session, not later than 15 days after the commencement of the next session of the Legislative Assembly."

The *Management Responsibility for Financial Reporting* statement contained in the most recently-tabled Public Accounts of Nunavut indicates that:

"The Legislative Assembly, through its Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, is responsible to review the tabled Public Accounts and make recommendations where appropriate, to improve financial management, financial reporting practices and the systems of internal control. Management is responsible to review these recommendations and take action where appropriate."

The 2021-2022 territorial public accounts were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 8, 2022. The standing committee's televised hearing on the 2021-2022 public accounts was held on September 21, 2023. The standing committee subsequently presented its report to the House at its sitting of March 5, 2024. The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 24, 2024.

The 2022-2023 territorial public accounts were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 30, 2024, five months after the statutory deadline. The standing committee's televised hearing on the 2022-2023 public accounts was held from September 19-20, 2024. The standing committee subsequently presented its report to the House at its sitting of October 28, 2024. The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 22, 2025.

The 2023-2024 territorial public accounts were backdoor tabled on December 20, 2024, and formally tabled in the Legislative Assembly on February 20, 2025. 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 Auditor General of Canada and a number of her officials, in addition to a number of Government of Nunavut officials representing the Department of Finance, the Department of Environment, the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut and the Qulliq Energy Corporation. The standing committee notes its appreciation to the witnesses.



Observations and Recommendations

Issue: Requests for Additional Information

During the standing committee's televised hearing of May 1, 2025, a number of requests were made for additional information to be provided to the standing committee.

Standing Committee Recommendation #1:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include the information items that were requested during the televised hearing of May 1, 2025.

Issue: Budgetary and Financial Management Transparency and Timeliness

The theme of budgetary and financial management transparency was highlighted on a number of occasions during the standing committee's televised hearing. This was also a major theme of the standing committee's 2023 and 2024 televised hearings.

In recent years, the Government of Nunavut has expanded its financial reporting beyond the annual main/capital estimates, business plans and public accounts to include an annual "Consolidated Budget of the Government Reporting Entity" and an annual "Mid-Year Fiscal Report".

On October 24, 2023, the C.D. Howe Institute released its annual *Report Card for Canada's Senior Governments*.¹ The 2023 edition was titled *The ABCs of Fiscal Accountability*. The report awarded Nunavut a C+ grade and noted that:

"Nunavut tabled its budget after the start of the fiscal year and its financial statements were not timely. It released a mid-year fiscal update, an improvement from the previous year, but its update used restated figures in its budget comparison."

On November 19, 2024, the C.D. Howe Institute released its annual *Report Card for Canada's Senior Governments*.² The 2024 edition was titled *Fiscal Accountability by the Letters*. The report awarded Nunavut a B+ grade and noted that:

"In this year's report card, which covers year-end financial statements for fiscal year 2022-2023, and budgets and estimates for 2023-2024, Alberta and Yukon topped the class with grades of A and A- respectively. Nunavut earned a B+, Quebec and Saskatchewan earned B grades, while New Brunswick and Ontario each received a B-. Manitoba and British Columbia earned grades of C+. The federal government, Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories earned Cs. At the

¹ <https://www.cdhowe.org/public-policy-research/abcs-fiscal-accountability-report-card-canadas-senior-governments-2023>.

² [Fiscal Accountability by the Letters: The Report Card for Canada's Senior Governments, 2024 – C.D. Howe Institute](#)

bottom of the class were Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island with grades of C-.”

Section 74 of the territorial *Financial Administration Act* provides that:

Tabling of Public Accounts

74. Unless the Legislative Assembly otherwise fixes a date, the Public Accounts for the fiscal year must be laid before the Legislative Assembly on or before December 31 following the end of the fiscal year or, if the Legislative Assembly is not then in session, not later than 15 days after the commencement of the next session of the Legislative Assembly.

The dates of tabling of the Public Accounts have been as follows:

Fiscal Year	Date of Tabling in the Legislative Assembly³
1999-2000	May 29, 2001
2000-2001	May 16, 2002
2001-2002	June 3, 2003
2002-2003	May 21, 2004
2003-2004	December 16, 2005 ⁴
2004-2005	January 8, 2007 ⁵
2005-2006	March 6, 2008
2006-2007	September 16, 2008
2007-2008	July 31, 2009 ⁶
2008-2009	August 27, 2010 ⁷
2009-2010	April 15, 2011 ⁸
2010-2011	December 19, 2011 ⁹
2011-2012	December 14, 2012 ¹⁰
2012-2013	December 13, 2013 ¹¹
2013-2014	November 6, 2014
2014-2015	November 5, 2015
2015-2016	November 7, 2016
2016-2017	November 21, 2017

³ Green = Tabled by Statutory Deadline / Red = Not Tabled by Statutory Deadline

⁴ Backdoor Tabled

⁵ Backdoor Tabled

⁶ Backdoor Tabled

⁷ Backdoor Tabled

⁸ Backdoor Tabled

⁹ Backdoor Tabled

¹⁰ Backdoor Tabled

¹¹ Backdoor Tabled

2017-2018	November 8, 2018
2018-2019	November 6, 2019
2019-2020	November 5, 2020
2020-2021	November 19, 2021
2021-2022	November 8, 2022
2022-2023	May 30, 2024
2023-2024	December 20, 2024 ¹²

Prior to the standing committee's 2023 televised hearing, the Department of Finance provided Members with a document titled *Public Accounts at a Glance*. The standing committee is pleased to note that this publication is now publicly accessible on the website of the Department of Finance. This followed a recommendation made by the standing committee in its *Report on the Review of the 2021-2022 Public Accounts of Nunavut*, which was presented to the House at its sitting of March 5, 2024.

The standing committee notes that an annual report and audited financial statements for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation have not been tabled in the Legislative Assembly since March of 2023. This report was for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The corporation's 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 annual reports have not yet been tabled.

The standing committee further notes that an annual report and audited financial statements for the Nunavut Development Corporation have not been tabled in the Legislative Assembly since November of 2023. This report was for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The corporation's 2023-2024 annual report has not yet been tabled.

The standing committee further notes that an annual report and audited financial statements for the Nunavut Arctic College have not been tabled in the Legislative Assembly since November of 2023. This report was for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The college's 2023-2024 annual report has not yet been tabled.

During the standing committee's televised hearing of May 1, 2025, a number of questions were asked concerning a \$20.209 million "advance on contract" item identified in the 2023-2024 Public Accounts as a "non-financial asset."

¹² Backdoor Tabled

Note 11 to the 2023-2024 consolidated financial statements of the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that:

“During the year, the Corporation entered into a contract which required payment upon signing of \$20.209 million, which will be transferred to tangible capital assets in future years according to the progress of work completed.”

Standing Committee Recommendation #2:

The standing committee recommends that the Department of Finance’s publication titled *Public Accounts at a Glance* be updated on a regular basis to reflect such developments as the adoption of new accounting standards.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a detailed update on the status of the preparation of the outstanding annual reports of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Nunavut Development Corporation and Nunavut Arctic College.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a detailed description of the contract that is referenced in Note 11 to the 2023-2024 consolidated financial statements of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Issue: Accounts Receivable

The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Public Accounts* provided a detailed breakdown of \$315.517 million in accounts receivable for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The 2023-2024 Public Accounts indicates on pages 23 and 33 that there were \$573.767 million in accounts receivable at the end of the fiscal year.

The Department of Finance's recent business plans indicate that one of the Comptrollership Branch's priorities has been to "collaborate with all departments to develop a comprehensive Accounts Receivable Collection Strategy."

The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Public Accounts* indicated that:

"... the Accounts Receivable Working Group has not been active during the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The consensus from departments is that they simply do not have the resources to put into proper collections and accountable advance follow up. Resources are focused on serving vendors and processing grants and accountable advances to meet the mandates of the department. The Department

of Finance is considering options to bring forward to its Central Accountability Committee on next steps to more effectively conduct its efforts in collections.”

Standing Committee Recommendation #3:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report provide a detailed breakdown of accounts receivable in the 2023-2024 Public Accounts comparable to the Government of Nunavut’s response to the standing committee’s *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Public Accounts*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report provide a detailed update on the activities of the Accounts Receivable Working Group and the Department of Finance’s work to “consider options to bring forward to its Central Accountability Committee on next steps to more effectively conduct its efforts in collections.”

Issue: Internal Audits

The Government of Nunavut’s response to the standing committee’s *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Public Accounts* provided a listing of internal audits undertaken during the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 fiscal years. The audits concerned:

Compliance with *Financial Administration Manual Directive 810 - Honoraria*;
Foster Care Payments;
Compliance with *Financial Administration Manual Directive 802-1 - Financial Signing Authorities*;
Compliance with *Financial Administration Manual Directive 820-1 - Duty Travel*
Payroll Distribution Reports;
Advisory Review of the Legal Services Board of Nunavut Governance and Practices;
Day Care Programs Funding; and
Departmental Credit Cards.

Standing Committee Recommendation #4:

The standing committee that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include, as an appendix, a summary of significant actions undertaken in response to the findings of each internal audit listed on pages 26 and 27 of the Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Public Accounts*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed list of internal audits undertaken during the 2024-2025 fiscal year, and that this list include a summary of significant actions undertaken in response to the findings of each audit.

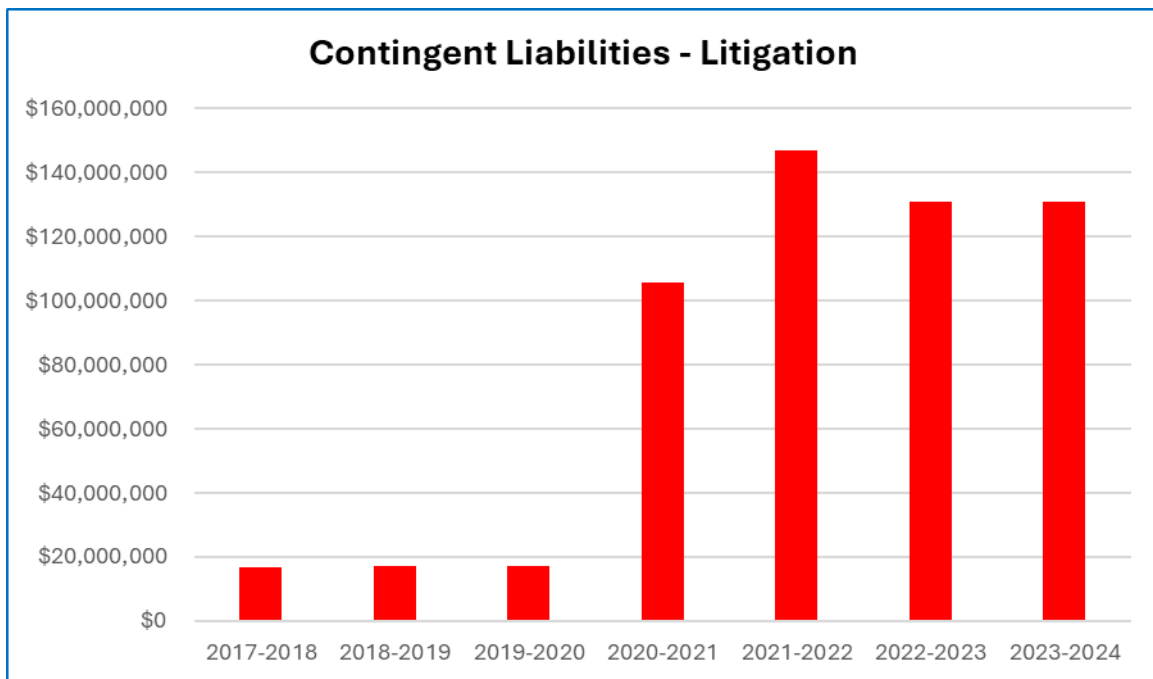
Issue: Contingent Liabilities

Note 24 on page 41 of the 2023-2024 *Public Accounts of Nunavut* indicates that:

“There are a number of claims and threatened litigation cases outstanding against the Government for which the outcomes are not determinable, including a number of cases where an amount is not specified. The nature of these claims includes wrongful dismissal, breach of policy, personal injury, sexual abuse, negligence, wrongful arrest and assault. Where it is likely that there will be a future payment and a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made, the Government has recognized a liability. For those pending cases, where the outcome is not determinable and a reasonable estimate of the claim can be made as at March 31, the total amount of those claims is estimated at \$130.958 million (2023 - \$130.958 million). No liability has been recorded for these claims as the outcome of these cases is not determinable.”

This amount has increased significantly over time and there is little public disclosure concerning the specific matters.

The standing committee recognizes that the annual Public Accounts did not include a specific dollar value for this category of liability until the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The amount has changed as follows:



During the standing committee's televised hearing of September 21, 2023, Government of Nunavut witness testimony indicated that:

"It's a tricky balance between disclosure and not putting information out there that could be harmful to the government when it comes to litigation. Obviously, we can't list individual claims and what were estimated as liabilities because that would give parties on the other side an idea of what we think our risk exposure is. While I appreciate that jurisdictions such as Ontario do into these categories break down a little bit further, they may have hundreds of thousands of litigations in there, whereas if I started to break some of ours down and do four or five categories, I might have one or two litigations in a category. I guess the risk is if we get too specific because of the limited number of claims we might have in a category. We could still be disclosing information we don't want to, to other parties to the litigation just by virtue of the limited number of claims we have.

It's certainly something we could discuss with the Department of Justice as far as how much additional disclosure we could give without compromising our legal position. That's certainly a discussion item that we would be willing to have, but I do know one or two contracts that might be in dispute could have a significant impact on our balance. While amounts may look like they're growing, it may not be that there is tons of additional litigation; it could just be one or two large contracts that are impacting our liabilities. It's certainly something that we would be willing to look at and discuss with Justice, but I would caution that there's only so far we can go just because of the limited number of cases we may have at any one time."

The standing committee subsequently recommended in its *Report on the Review of the 2021-2022 Public Accounts of Nunavut*, which was presented to the House at its sitting of March 5, 2024, that the government:

"... provide a detailed update on the status of the review undertaken by the Department of Finance and the Department of Justice concerning the disclosure of contingent liabilities in the annual Public Accounts."

The government's response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2021-2022 Public Accounts of Nunavut* indicated that the Department of Finance has:

"... discussed additional disclosure with the Department of Justice related to legal contingent liabilities. On the advice of Justice, the Government of Nunavut should not provide legal contingent liability assessments on individual matters within the disclosure."

During the standing committee's televised hearing of September 19, 2024, Government of Nunavut witness testimony indicated that:

"... we will work with the Department of Justice and see if there's any way we can provide more information without giving away too much sensitive information. Part of the issue, just so all the listeners are aware, is that a lot of the contingent liabilities that we record have to do with whether or not we think we're in a strong position and how much we might have to pay out if we were to lose those challenges. The obvious problem with giving that information out is that it shows our position publicly to someone who might be challenging us in court. With respect to the number or the total value of the contingent liability growing, I can confirm that that is not necessarily reflective of the volume of challenges. There are some large ones in there that are really skewing the total pot, and once those are dealt with I suspect that it will return to levels that we've seen in the past."

The government's response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Public Accounts of Nunavut* indicated that the Department of Finance has:

"... discussed additional disclosure with the Department of Justice related to legal contingent liabilities. On the advice of Justice, the Government of Nunavut should not provide legal contingent liability assessments on individual matters within the disclosure."

Standing Committee Recommendation #5:

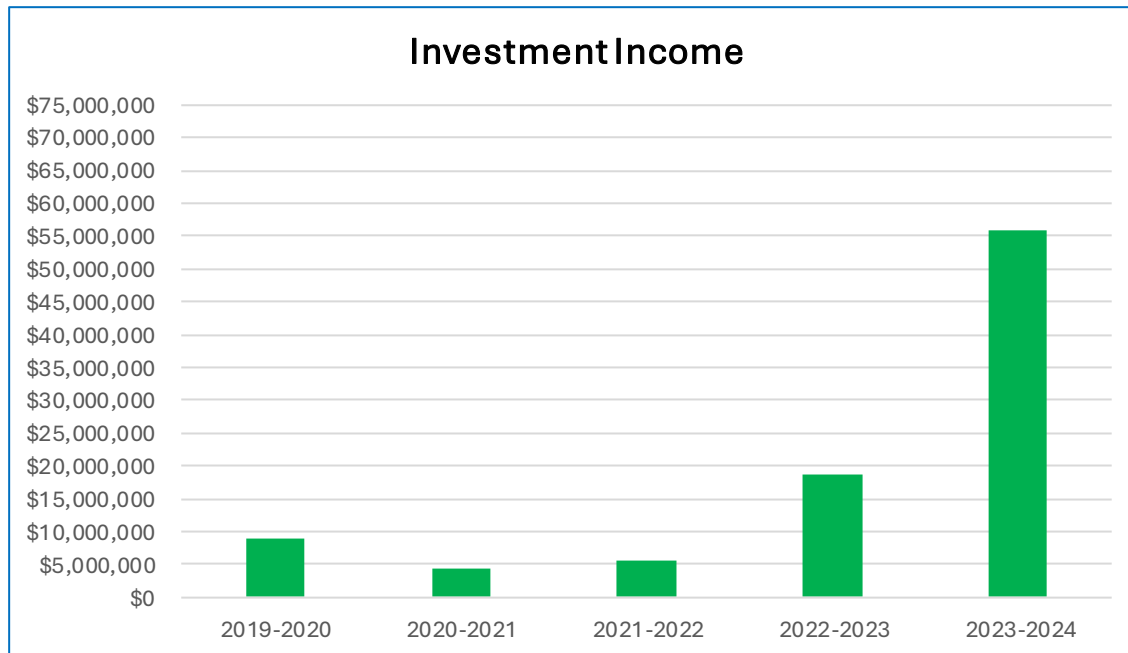
The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed description of how the amount of \$130.958 million that is referenced in Note 24 on page 41 of the 2023-2024 *Public Accounts of Nunavut* was calculated.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed rationale for its decision to "not provide legal contingent liability assessments on individual matters within the disclosure."

Issue: Investment Strategy

The 2023-2024 Public Accounts indicate that the Government of Nunavut's investment income increased from \$18.815 million for the 2022-2023 fiscal year to \$56.033 million for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This was an increase of 197.8%. Over the past five fiscal years, the government's revenue from investment income has increased by 523.2%.

The amount has changed as follows:



The Government of Nunavut's *Investment Regulations* made under the *Financial Administration Act* were most recently amended in February of 2025. The Government of Nunavut's *Investment Policy* was most recently revised in February of 2024 and sunsets in March of 2028.

The Government of Nunavut's *Investment Policy* indicates the Financial Management Board "may endorse an investment strategy to further develop the Government of Nunavut's approach to investing."

Information published on page 10 of the 2023-2024 public accounts indicates that one of the most significant "risks and uncertainties" to which the Government of Nunavut is exposed is "exposure to interest rate, market and credit risk." The Government of Nunavut's *Investment Policy* indicates that "purchase of investments denominated in United States dollars must be authorized by the Comptroller General."

Standing Committee Recommendation #6:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed explanation for the increase in investment revenue between the 2019-2020 and 2023-2024 fiscal years.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed description of the extent to which unspent funds resulting from capital carryovers and lapsed operations and maintenance

appropriations have been used to make investments under the authority of the *Investment Regulations* and *Investment Policy*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed description of its investment strategy as provided for under the *Investment Policy*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed description of its current investment portfolio holdings.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed description of its cash (and cash equivalent) management policies and practices, including a detailed description of how the government determines what constitutes "surplus funds" within the meaning of the *Investment Regulations* and *Investment Policy*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed description of its debt management policies and practices, including management of debt incurred by public agencies and territorial corporations.

Issue: Climate Change and Activities of the Contaminated Sites Liabilities Working Group

The 2023-2024 Public Accounts indicates that one of the most "significant risks and uncertainties" to which the Government of Nunavut is exposed are the:

“Unknown effects of climate change (e.g. infrastructure damage, natural resource development, water shortages, etc.).”

The government’s response to the standing committee’s *Report on the Review of the 2021-2022 Public Accounts of Nunavut* indicated that:

“In 2018, the Auditor General of Canada found that the Government of Nunavut had identified potential climate-related risks but had not ranked or analyzed risks based on their impacts. The [Climate Change] Secretariat is about to commence the 3rd year of our GN-wide Risk and Resiliency Assessment. This project is a direct result of the recommendations made by the Auditor General. We anticipate this work to wrap up in this current fiscal year. We will then be working more directly with each GN department to help them address gaps identified in our assessment.

This work is imperative to develop a Nunavut adaptation action plan as we move forward. To address these challenges, the Secretariat is developing a method of assessing climate change risks and building resilience. This multi-year project aims to improve the management of climate-related risks within the Government of Nunavut and integrate the findings into existing and new government management and planning processes, including risk management and emergency protocols.”

The government’s response to the standing committee’s *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Public Accounts of Nunavut* indicated that:

“While the quantification of climate change risks and uncertainties for the purposes of including a dollar value in public accounts is not currently required by accounting standards, various other governments around the world have taken steps towards integrating climate-related financial information into their public accounts. This process is still evolving, and approaches vary depending on national priorities, regional regulations, and the maturity of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

For example, governments in the European Union, the United Kingdom, and some provinces in Canada have started to incorporate climate-related financial disclosures, often following frameworks such as the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

These governments are quantifying potential risks and uncertainties - such as extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and other climate-related impacts - using various methodologies that attempt to assign financial values to these risks.

These approaches, however, are still in the developmental phase, with many governments opting for a conservative approach given the uncertainties surrounding long-term climate change impacts.

In the context of the Government of Nunavut, we are currently finalizing our government-wide climate change risk and resiliency assessment. This critical initiative aims to provide a clear and actionable framework for understanding the risks and opportunities associated with climate change across government departments and agencies.

The primary goal of this assessment is not only to assess the risks but also to actively encourage departments and agencies to champion the identified opportunities for climate action. This effort will allow for a more coordinated, proactive response to climate change, embedding climate resilience and mitigation strategies into our operations and budgeting processes.

As part of this process, each government department and agency would be well served to conduct its own risk and resiliency assessments, focusing on the specific challenges they face, and the potential operational costs or savings associated with climate action.

While we are not yet at a point where a standardized dollar value for climate risks is included in our public accounts, the findings from these assessments will be critical in shaping the government's approach to budgeting, policy-making, and long-term planning for climate resilience.”

Canada's National Adaptation Strategy respecting climate change was launched in June of 2023. The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Public Accounts* indicated that:

“... it would be beneficial to having professionals such as climate scientists and permafrost scientists in government departments to better assist with understanding these associated risks of climate change over the long term. This is something that we will be addressing in the proposed bilateral agreements with the federal government as part of the National Adaptation Strategy.”

Note 14 on page 35 of the 2023-2024 Public Accounts indicates that:

“The Government recognizes that there are costs related to the remediation of environmentally contaminated sites for which it is responsible. As of March 31, 2024, there were 4 sites (2023 - 6), 1 storage tank farm (2023 - 2) and 3 waste sites (2023 - 4) identified as requiring environmental remediation. In addition to the number of sites disclosed above, Nunavut Housing Corporation has also

recognized costs related to the remediation of 5 sites (2023 - 3) contaminated as a result of oil spills. Qulliq Energy Corporation has recognized costs related to 3 sites (2023 - 3) resulting from oil spills at the Corporation's power plants.

For those sites where the Government of Nunavut expects to give up future economic benefits due to a legal order or plans to remediate contamination (e.g., due to human health risks), is responsible for or has accepted responsibility for remediation and a reasonable estimate can be determined for remediation costs, a liability has been recognized in these consolidated financial statements. Where remediation costs have been estimated and a liability has been recognized, the methodology used to estimate the liability is either based on third party analysis or extrapolated from costs previously incurred to remediate, monitor, and/or manage sites of similar size and contamination.”

The Department of Environment is responsible for the administration of the government’s *Contaminated Sites Policy*. The policy provides that:

“The Government of Nunavut prepares its financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for Governments as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board of Canada. *PS 3260 – Liability for Contaminated Sites* provides guidance on the recognition and measurement of liabilities for contaminated sites.”

The policy establishes a Contaminated Sites Liabilities Working Group, as well as providing for management of the Government of Nunavut Contaminated Sites Database.

The Government of Nunavut’s response to the standing committee’s *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Public Accounts* indicated that one of the ongoing activities of the Contaminated Sites Liability Working Group has been to undertake a “contaminated sites database update.”

The Government of Nunavut’s response to the standing committee’s *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Public Accounts* indicated that one of the ongoing activities of the Contaminated Sites Liability Working Group has been to develop a “responsibility matrix”, which is described as being “a tool to provide a defensible way to accept or reject responsibility for liabilities.”

The Government of Nunavut’s response to the standing committee’s *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Public Accounts* indicated that Contaminated Sites Liability Working Group is “working on developing a relationship with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to discuss issues related to contaminated sites at a local level.”

The Government of Nunavut’s response to the standing committee’s *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Public Accounts* indicated that “the Devolution Agreement contains a list of sites that will be remediated by the federal government before they are

transferred to the Government of Nunavut. The Government of Nunavut can request that sites not currently listed be added to the list.”

Standing Committee Recommendation #7:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report provides a detailed update on the Department of Finance and the Department of Environment’s work to date to address the issue of risks associated with the impact of climate change, including work to quantify the financial impact of climate change for the purpose of including a dollar value in the annual Public Accounts.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report provides a detailed update on the status of the “proposed bilateral agreements with the federal government as part of the National Adaptation Strategy.”

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report provide a detailed update on the activities of the Contaminated Sites Liabilities Working Group for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 (to date) fiscal years.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report provide a detailed update on the timeline for making the Government of Nunavut Contaminated Sites Database accessible to the public.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report provide a detailed update on its work to working “develop a relationship with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to discuss issues related to contaminated sites at a local level.”

Issue: New Accounting Standards

Information provided by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada indicates that:

“We wish to highlight the following new accounting standards, which could affect the government’s consolidated financial statements in future years:

PS 3450-Financial Instruments (effective April 1, 2022)
PS 3280-Asset Retirement Obligations (effective April 1, 2022)
PS 3400-Revenue (effective April 1, 2023)”

Information provided by the Office also indicates that “PS 3160-Public Private Partnerships became effective on April 1, 2023.”

The 2022-2023 Public Accounts indicated that a new accounting standard concerning Financial Statement Presentation “will be effective as of April 1, 2026.” The 2023-2024 Public Accounts indicates that the standard:

“... was issued by the Public Sector Accounting Board of Canada but is not yet effective. PS 1202 defines how financial statement information is presented. Key changes include the removal of the statement of change in net financial assets or net debt, the addition of a new statement of net assets or net liabilities, and guidance on how this amount is determined. The Government of Nunavut is continuing its assessment of the impact that the new standard will have on its consolidated financial statements and will adopt this new standard on its effective date.”

These standards are approved by the Public Sector Accounting Board, which is an “independent body created to serve the public interest by developing accounting standards for the public sector.”¹³

During the standing committee’s televised hearing of May 1, 2025, the Auditor General’s opening statement indicated that:

“I also want to update the committee on two concerns we raised last year ... the second concern was the government’s implementation of the new accounting standard for Asset Retirement Obligations, or AROs. I am happy to report that this year, the government made several improvements in response to the findings in our previous year’s report. We expect the government will continue to review and revise the estimated ARO liability as new information becomes available.”

The Auditor General’s opening statement also indicated that:

¹³ <https://www.frascanada.ca/en/psab/about>

“... another important accounting change is coming. The Public Sector Accounting Board has revised its Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting in the Public Sector, including a new reporting model, which will take effect on April 1, 2026. The new reporting model involves significant changes to how information is presented in the financial statements, including a new statement of net financial assets or liabilities. We strongly encourage the Comptroller General to start assessing the impact of the new reporting model on the government's financial reporting, as updates to financial systems and processes may be needed.”

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 its work to implement new accounting standards that have been approved by the Public Sector Accounting Board and which came into effect, or are scheduled to come into effect, on or after April 1, 2022.

Issue: Comptrollership Branch Priorities and Activities

The Department of Finance's annual business plans indicate that the Financial Reporting and Controls Division of the Comptrollership Branch is "accountable for the preparation and publication of the annual Public Accounts, as required by the *Financial Administration Act*."

Testimony provided by the Office of the Auditor General during the standing committee's televised hearing of September 21, 2023, indicated that:

"Our office has noticed that certain government departments and territorial corporations have experienced high levels of employee turnover and vacancies in key positions, which further increased during the pandemic. As a result, the high level of vacancies inherently increases the risk of fraud or error as it can lead to deficiencies within the internal control environment and have an impact on the successful delivery of programs. We believe this is an important root cause underlying many observations we also reported in our recent performance audits. Governmental representatives have indicated that challenges in securing staff housing can have a significant impact on the ability to attract potential candidates."

Testimony provided by the Office of the Auditor General during the standing committee's televised hearing of September 19, 2024, indicated that:

"We continue to notice that certain government departments and territorial corporations have experienced high levels of employee turnover and vacancies in key positions. The high level of vacancies inherently increases the risk of errors in financial reporting because it can lead to deficiencies in the internal control environment."

The standing committee shares this concern. The Government of Nunavut's most recently-published quarterly employment report indicated that there was a government-wide vacancy rate of 35.6% as of December 30, 2024. The Department of Finance's vacancy rate was 39.7%.

During the standing committee's televised hearing of May 1, 2025, the Auditor General's opening statement indicated that:

"The historic *Nunavut Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement* was signed in January 2024. The government plans to assess the accounting treatment for the transferred public lands and rights in respect of waters, including royalty revenues and any post-transfer environmental obligations. Given the transfer is expected to take place on April 1, 2027, the government must ensure that it has the people, skills, and time to undertake this work."

The standing committee recognizes that the Department of Human Resources' annual business plans have indicated that one of its priorities has been to finalize a new *Human Resource Strategy*. The *2019-2023 Human Resource Strategy* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 3, 2020.

The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Public Accounts* indicated that:

"The development of the *2024-2028 Human Resource Strategy* (led by the Department of Human Resources) has been delayed due to the need to align it with other key initiatives such as Devolution, Inuit Pre-Employment Training Framework, the 2024-2034 Nunavut Agreement Implementation Contract, the Master Inuit Employment Plan, and the Enterprise Resource Planning System (Fusion Cloud)."

The Department of Finance's annual business plans indicate that its priorities for the 2022-2023 fiscal year were to:

"Collaborate with all departments to develop a comprehensive Accounts Receivable collection strategy;

In collaboration with the Department of Health, develop an employee survey for employee medical travel to help improve effective delivery of the benefit and to reduce controllable expenses;

Roll out the Financial Management Development Program;

Procure an Enterprise Resource Planning system;

Implement an electronic signature system for the Government of Nunavut;

Review and revise the Government of Nunavut's approach to honoraria payments under Financial Administration Manual Directive 810: Honoraria;

Update the Government of Nunavut's approach to grants and contributions, through a review of Financial Administration Manual Directive 801: Grants and Contributions; and

Conduct an operational review of the Internal Audit Division and its functions."

The department's annual business plans indicate that its priorities for the 2023-2024 fiscal year were to:

"Develop a strategy to link existing public service training with financial management training activities;

In consultation with the Department of Health, develop an employee survey for employee medical travel to guide improvements in program delivery;

Initiate GN-wide review of Specimen Signature records;

Develop a program to support professional finance and accounting designations for new and existing employees across government; and

Roll out the Enterprise Resource Planning system with increasing focus on training, testing, design, and implementation.”

The department’s annual business plans indicate that its priorities for the 2024-2025 fiscal year were to:

Implement core modules and priority functions of the Enterprise Resource Planning platform, and begin transition towards long-term operations (“sustainment”); and

Explore opportunities to expand e-commerce and payment methods.

The department’s annual business plans indicate that its priorities for the 2025-2026 fiscal year (prior to dissolution of the 6th Legislative Assembly) are to:

Implement pay-related modules and functions of the Government’s new system, and other remaining modules and functions; and

Undertake an internal assessment of improvements to the Government of Nunavut’s overall financial capacity since the implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning platform.

On July 24, 2023, the Department of Finance issued *Request for Proposals 2023-42: Financial Reporting and Auditing Services - Assistance with the Public Accounts and Internal Audits*. The RFP closed on August 25, 2023. On December 8, 2023, the department issued its Award List, which included four proponents.

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 the Comptrollership Branch's work to implement business plan priorities for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 (to date) fiscal years.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed update on the status of the development of the *2024-2028 Human Resource Strategy* in respect to the recruitment and retention of financial management professionals.

Issue: Activities of the Qulliq Energy Corporation

During the standing committee's televised hearing of May 1, 2025, the Auditor General's opening statement indicated that:

"I also want to update the committee on two concerns we raised last year. The first was the inadequate inventory management practices and significant control deficiencies for spare parts and lubricants at the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Though we found some improvements, significant shortcomings remain. This matters because the incomplete information on these inventories prevented us from concluding on whether they were accurately recorded and valued."

The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Public Accounts* indicated that the Qulliq Energy Corporation:

"... remains committed to addressing the observations made by the Office of the Auditor General and has taken significant steps to enhance inventory management and financial oversight. Through collaboration between the Finance and Operations teams, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has implemented key measures to improve the accuracy, organization, and accountability of inventory processes."

During the Legislative Assembly's sitting of March 10, 2025, the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation announced that the corporation is:

"... advocating for additional federal capital investment to ensure the continued provision of safe, reliable, and affordable electricity for Nunavummiut, who already face some of the highest energy costs in the country. Any additional federal support would go towards our long list of infrastructure needs. Our estimated cost to replace 10 aging diesel power plants is \$478.0 million, and we have also requested a federal takeover of Qulliq Energy Corporation's historical debt to alleviate financial strain."

Standing Committee Recommendation #10:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed update on the status of work to address the Office of the Auditor General's observations concerning the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report provide a detailed description of how the amount of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's "historical debt" has been calculated.

Looking Ahead

The dissolution of the 6th Legislative Assembly will occur in September of 2025, followed by the 7th territorial general election. 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 2024-2025 Public Accounts during the spring of 2026.

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

The government's response to the standing committee's report on the review of the 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Public Accounts;

Progress made in addressing concerns raised in prior years by the Office of the Auditor General in respect to the Qulliq Energy Corporation's management of its spare parts and lubricants inventories;

Delays in tabling the annual reports and audited financial statements of a number of public agencies, including the Nunavut Arctic College, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation;

Transparency in financial reporting;

Budgetary and financial management sustainability and flexibility;

Changes in accounting standards that have been issued by the Public Sector Accounting Board of Canada;

The status of comptrollership branch priorities and initiatives that are contained in the Department of Finance's current business plan;

Administration of the government's and *Investment Regulations and Investment Policy*;

Human resources capacity and recruitment strategies to address vacant financial management positions in the Government of Nunavut;

Results of audits of the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund and the Petroleum Products Stabilization Fund;

Enhancement of transparency in respect to reporting of territorial tax revenues associated with the natural resources extractive sector;

Work towards the quantification of climate change risks and uncertainties;

Risks and uncertainties, including "liabilities related to contaminated sites and the use of estimates to determine potential remediation costs";

Impact of the recently-signed *Nunavut Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement* on reporting of territorial royalty revenues and liabilities in respect to contaminated sites; and

Administration of departmental grants and contributions, including updates to *Financial Administration Manual Directive 801*.

