



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

6th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 43

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Pages 2812 – 2856

Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Tony Akoak, MLA

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)
*Minister of Economic Development
and Transportation; Minister of
Justice; Minister responsible for
Labour*

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)
*Premier; Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister
responsible for Immigration;
Minister responsible for Indigenous
Affairs; Minister responsible for the
Qulliq Energy Corporation*

Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)
*Deputy Premier; Minister of
Culture and Heritage; Minister of
Education; Minister of Languages;
Minister responsible for Seniors*

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the
Committee of the Whole*

Hon. David Joanasie
(South Baffin)
*Government House Leader;
Minister of Community and
Government Services; Minister
responsible for the Utility Rates
Review Council*

Joelie Kaernerck
(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the
Financial Management Board;
Minister responsible for the
Nunavut Housing Corporation*

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
*Minister of Health; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention*

Solomon Malliki
(Aivilik)
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)
*Minister of Family Services; Minister
responsible for Homelessness; Minister of
Human Resources;
Minister responsible for the Status of
Women; Minister responsible for the
Workers' Safety and Compensation
Commission*

Karen Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Joanna Quassa
(Aggu)
*Minister of Energy; Minister of
Environment; Minister responsible for
Nunavut Arctic College*

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
Michel Albert

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	2812
Ministers' Statements	2812
Members' Statements	2817
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	2823
Oral Questions	2823
Tabling of Documents	2854
First Reading of Bills	2854
Orders of the Day	2855

A.

Daily References

Thursday, May 25, 2023.....	2812
-----------------------------	------

B.

Ministers' Statements

220 – 6(2): 30th Anniversary of the Nunavut Agreement (Akeeagok, P).....	2812
221 – 6(2): Summer Student Employment Equity Program (Nakashuk).....	2813
222 – 6(2): National Nursing Week (Main)	2813
223 – 6(2): Nunavut Tourism Sector Training (Akeeagok, D)	2814
224 – 6(2): Aerial Drone Mapping in Nunavut Communities (Joanasie)	2815
225 – 6(2): Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq Wrap-up (Gross).....	2816
226 – 6(2): Increase to Income Assistance Rates (Nakashuk)	2816

C.

Members' Statements

284 – 6(2): Taloyoak Featured in Food Security Documentary (Quqqiaq).....	2817
285 – 6(2): Visitor Exchange with Greenland (Nutarak)	2817
286 – 6(2): 2023 Iqaluit Cod Derby (Akeeagok, P)	2818
287 – 6(2): The Use of Health Information (Brewster).....	2818
288 – 6(2): Invitations for Visits to Kugluktuk (Anavilok).....	2819
289 – 6(2): Successful Search and Rescue in Arviat and Fire in Whale Cove (Main).....	2819
290 – 6(2): Nunavut Sivuniksavut Graduates from Pangnirtung (Nakashuk).....	2820
291 – 6(2): Successful Search and Rescue in Cambridge Bay (Gross).....	2821
292 – 6(2): Igloolik High School Graduates (Quassa)	2821
293 – 6(2): Nunavut Sivuniksavut Graduates (Akeeagok, D).....	2822
294 – 6(2): Recent Fishing Derby in Constituency (Malliki).....	2822

D.

Oral Questions

433 – 6(2): Addressing the Issue of Tuberculosis (Hickes)	2823
434 – 6(2): Housing Allocations, Transfers and Conversions (Quqqiaq)	2826
435 – 6(2): School Bus for Sanikiluaq (Qavvik).....	2828
436 – 6(2): Use of Health Information (Tuberculosis) (Brewster).....	2829
437 – 6(2): Support for Programs in Amittuq (Kaernerker).....	2832
438 – 6(2): Status of Renovations to Coral Harbour School (Malliki).....	2834
439 – 6(2): Grays Bay Road and Port Project (Anavilok).....	2836
440 – 6(2): Federal Funding for Shelters (Sammurtok)	2838
441 – 6(2): Health Services in Language of Choice (Killiktee).....	2840
442 – 6(2): Kivalliq Hydro-fibre Link (Simailak).....	2842
443 – 6(2): Power Producing Programs (Savikataaq)	2843
444 – 6(2): Dealing with Tuberculosis Outbreaks (Nutarak)	2845
445 – 6(2): Financial Literacy Training (Hickes).....	2847
446 – 6(2): Remote Work (Lightstone).....	2849
447 – 6(2): Filling Social Worker Positions (Malliki)	2852

E.

Tabling of Documents

133 – 6(2): Sanirajak Marine Infrastructure Planning Study (Kaernerker).....	2854
134 – 6(2): Family Abuse Intervention Act Annual Report 2021-22 (Akeeagok, D).....	2854

F.

Bills

Bill 22 – An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act – First Reading	2854
Bill 23 – Nursing Professions Act – First Reading	2854

Bill 24 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2023-2024 –	
First Reading.....	2854
Bill 24 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2023-2024 – First Reading.....	2855

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, May 25, 2023**

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 Kaernerker, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 13:29*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak) (interpretation): Good day. Before we begin, Ms. Quassa, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome to the Assembly, people of Nunavut watching on TV and listening to the radio.

Before I continue, I would like to send condolences to the family of one of our interpreters and to the people of Cambridge Bay.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 220 – 6(2): 30th Anniversary of the Nunavut Agreement

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Good afternoon. Our thoughts are with the family that you mentioned.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, when we celebrate our territorial holiday this year, we will mark three decades since the *Nunavut Agreement Act* and the *Nunavut Act* passed in Parliament on July 9, 1993.

On that day, the Crown recognized Nunavut Inuit harvesting rights and land and resource management rights over 1.9 million square kilometres of Canada's Arctic. Canada also formally transferred ownership of 351,000 square kilometres of land to Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, our land claim is with us every day. It determines the acts of government, the relationship between government and Inuit, and the role we play in protecting our land, water, and wildlife.

Today I wish to recognize Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for its role in the creation of our territory and the implementation of the *Nunavut Agreement*. *Katujjiluta* celebrates the partnership of government and Inuit organizations.

Next year, on April 1, we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Nunavut as a territory with its own public government, a major key milestone for the *Nunavut Agreement* and Canada's constitutional history.

Mr. Speaker, this Nunavut Day, on the 30th anniversary of the historic signing of the *Nunavut Agreement*, I invite all Nunavummiut to join me in celebrating our culture, our languages, and the resilience of our communities.

We will remember the strong leaders who negotiated for our territory and look forward to a future time when our government has full authority over the administration of this land, our land, that we all call home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Minister's Statement 221 – 6(2):
Summer Student Employment
Equity Program**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on April 1, the Government of Nunavut officially kicked off its annual Summer Student Employment Equity Program. It runs until September 30.

Mr. Speaker, through paid work experience, students can explore various career paths, empowering them to broaden their skills and build networks for future employment opportunities, all while enhancing government services to Nunavummiut.

In support of the objectives of Article 23 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, Nunavut

Inuit students receive priority. To be eligible, a Nunavut student must be enrolled or accepted in a post-secondary or high school program, or a recent graduate from high school or a post-secondary institution in the current academic year.

Mr. Speaker, in the 2021-22 fiscal year, our government increased the Summer Student Employment Equity Program's budget by \$1.6 million, bringing the total budget to nearly \$2.6 million to create more opportunities for our youth. I want to thank all departments and public bodies working to make the most of this program. In 2022 the Government of Nunavut hired more than 200 students, 165 of whom were Inuit. Let us continue to build on these efforts and support our youth.

I ask my colleagues in this House to help us build on these efforts and encourage all current and future students in our constituencies to consider these opportunities. This program leads to rewarding and successful career opportunities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister for Health, Mr. Main.

**Minister's Statement 222 – 6(2):
National Nursing Week**

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to acknowledge the dedication, diligence, and resiliency of all nurses

and supporting health staff across Nunavut.

Our nurses play a critical role in maintaining positive health outcomes and providing access to inclusive patient care in all communities. Despite the unprecedented demands nurses face, they continue to persevere.

The theme of this year's Nurses Week is, (interpretation ends) "Our Nurses. Our Future." (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I could not think of a more fitting theme. I'm confident the next generation of nurses will provide meaningful change and lead health care services with fortitude.

Honouring this year's theme, the Department of Health recently announced the recipients of the annual Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship. This award is presented to the top Nunavut nursing students at Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, supporting, empowering, and training local nurses is a crucial component of the future generation of Nunavut's nurses. Training local nurses will not only contribute to relieving the nursing shortage, but it will also provide culturally informed nurses who have been raised in Nunavut the opportunity to give back to their community.

Congratulations to Hattie Pameolik, Evora Essoh, Charity Uche, Vayda Kaviok, and Nicole Boland. May this award speak volumes to your commitment and diligence to the nursing profession. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 223 – 6(2):
Nunavut Tourism Sector Training**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the tourism industry in Nunavut recovers and picks up post-pandemic, my department is working towards increasing local employment and training opportunities in the tourism sector.

(interpretation ends) In collaboration with Travel Nunavut, we delivered two Cruise Ready! workshops in Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay last year. For the upcoming cruise season, we will be delivering two more workshops in Gjoa Haven and Kinngait mid-June this year. As cruises return to our waters, we want to ensure Nunavummiut know what to expect and can maximize the benefits flowing into the community, especially through art sales and performances. Two Cruise Ready! workshops will be delivered each year based on demand.

Mr. Speaker, my department has also restarted the Nalunaiqsijit Inuit Cruise Internship Program. Each year, we sponsor 12 Inuit to obtain training and experience working aboard expedition cruise ships visiting Nunavut. We had eight candidates this year who just completed phase 1 of the training. They will work on a cruise ship this summer before completing their training component this winter. There is a very high demand for Inuit to work on cruise ships visiting Nunavut and we want to provide the tools, skills, and knowledge for Inuit to take these jobs.

In addition, my department has just initiated the Inuit Tourism Business Mentorship Program. This program provides mentorship for five Inuit tourism businesses to improve and grow their skills, knowledge and professional capacity. The applications are now open, and we encourage eligible Nunavut Inuit tourism business owners to apply. For application details, please visit the economic development and transportation website.

Mr. Speaker, my department is committed to supporting Inuit in developing sustainable tourism in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

**Minister's Statement 224 – 6(2):
Aerial Drone Mapping in Nunavut
Communities**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Mr. Speaker, members, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to announce the launch of an exciting new initiative that will greatly benefit Nunavut. The Planning and Lands Division of the Department of Community and Government Services has initiated an aerial drone mapping project, which will provide visual-spectrum imagery and digital elevation modelling services for all Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, the drone data gathered from this initiative will be instrumental

in looking at the effects of climate change. Through this project, the department will collect data that will be used for community-based mapping, floodplain mapping, drainage planning, land use planning, and infrastructure planning.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the commitments of:

- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's (CIR-NAC) Climate Change Prevention in the North (CCPN), a commitment of \$500,000; and
- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation (CCMEO) has committed \$600,000.

Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize the importance of this project in improving base maps for Nunavut communities. Base maps are crucial for managing infrastructure, environment and social aspects of these communities. The inclusion of aerial drone imagery will enhance the accuracy of these maps, aiding in infrastructure planning and emergency response. By creating detailed maps of town sites, floodplains, and drainage systems, communities will be able to make informed decisions about the placement of buildings and infrastructure, manage flood risks, and protect their permafrost soils.

Mr. Speaker, by upholding the guiding principles of Pijitsirniq, Qanuqtuurniq, and Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq, we recognize the synchronicity of people and nature, the importance of stewardship, resourcefulness, and caring

for community and the land.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Gross.

**Minister's Statement 225 – 6(2):
Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq
Wrap-up**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everyone who is here with us and Nunavummiut who are listening.

Mr. Speaker, Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq was celebrated this past April across the territory. This year's Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq theme was 'Qulliq.'

Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight some initiatives the Department of Culture and Heritage undertook to promote and encourage the use of Inuktut. The Qilaut Concert was held in Iqaluit and featured Qilaut Contest winners from across Nunavut who showcased their winning original Inuktut songs. Through social media, we held the "Qulliq Challenge" for Nunavummiut to share their qulliq-lighting experience in a photo, drawing, or video.

Mr. Speaker, we have begun sharing videos on the Government of Nunavut social media pages of 102-year-old Elder Qaapik Attagutsiak of Arctic Bay who shares memories of her life and reinforces the strength and resilience of our ancestors. We also shared education videos featuring Elder Leah Kalluk of

Arctic Bay who demonstrates the lighting of qulliq.

Mr. Speaker, Inuktut is an integral piece of preserving Inuit culture. It holds traditional knowledge that is unique to each of our communities. When we speak Inuktut, we are keeping alive the spirit of our ancestors and our culture.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank everyone who participated in this year's events and to other organizations that held their own language month activities. We look forward to working together for next year's celebrations.

Mr. Speaker, although Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq has officially ended for this year, I encourage Nunavummiut to continue practising and speaking Inuktut every day. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Minister's Statement 226 – 6(2):
Increase to Income Assistance
Rates**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Family Services administers the Income Assistance Program that supports vulnerable Nunavummiut who cannot meet their basic needs. The system is meant to help Nunavummiut move toward independence and self-sufficiency. On average, approximately 40 percent of Nunavummiut access financial support provided by income

assistance to cover the basic costs of living each year.

Mr. Speaker I am very pleased to announce that as of April 1, 2023, the department was successful in increasing the income assistance allowance rates in all categories by 34.5 percent. This significant increase will benefit the lives of individuals and families who are supported through the department's Income Assistance Program.

As the cost of living in Nunavut and across Canada rises, we continue to review, adjust, and amend our support programs for Nunavummiut who need it most. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements.
Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 284 – 6(2): Taloyoak Featured in Food Security Documentary

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize two filmmakers, Malaya Qaunirq-Chapman and Marie-Helene Cousineau, for choosing to feature Taloyoak in a documentary about food security in the North.

Mr. Speaker, the two filmmakers arrived to Taloyoak in April of this year for two weeks to research and document a number of Inuit-led projects and initiatives in the community.

Mr. Speaker, one of those initiatives includes the Niqihaqut project, which was awarded the 2020 Arctic Inspiration

Prize of \$451,000. This project details the development of a country food economy to create opportunities for employment and help address food insecurity in Taloyoak.

The project that will be included in the documentary also includes a sustainable and monitored harvest and a cut-and-wrap facility to collect, prepare and distribute food to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to Malaya, Marie, and their producer, the National Film Board, for highlighting the strengths of Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to reviewing this important documentary in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 285 – 6(2): Visitor Exchange with Greenland

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Pond Inlet and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, a period of 23 years passed before residents of Pond Inlet and the Greenland community of Qaanaaq residents exchanged visitors again. There were 17 Canadian Inuit with passports along with Greenlandic Inuit who had passports to travel to Canada, so this exchange finally occurred.

The local recreation committee ensured this exchange included a week-long

series of games, dances and other festivities like a community feast.

Mr. Speaker, the Inuit of Pond Inlet and Qaanaaq share relations as descendants of both sides of Inuit who partook in the last great Inuit expedition of Qillaq, known as Qitdlarssuaq by Greenlanders. We rekindled our ties to our other relatives by getting together and learning how we were related.

I wish to especially thank Jimmy Merkosak and Valerie Idlout for setting up the exchange program between the two communities and taking care of the flight scheduling. We also thank the Qikiqtani Inuit Association for providing funds. The recreation committee held festivities in celebration and Pond Inlet residents were quite receptive and welcoming to their relatives from Greenland. I thank them very much.

I anticipate seeing this exchange occurring many more times to Qaanaaq, Greenland, and to strengthen our ties as relatives. That is my expectation now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 286 – 6(2): 2023
Iqaluit Cod Derby**

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as I would like to take the opportunity to thank the incredible volunteers who tirelessly gave their time and commitment as well as their dedication to organizing the 2023 Iqaluit Cod Derby. The volunteers

consisted of Malaiya Lucassie, Meda Baines, Ben Kovic, Joseph Curley, and Emily Hanson-Akavak. The amazing work of the volunteers brought our beautiful community together over the long weekend.

I would like to take the opportunity and thank all the winners, which I believe all the families who got to spend time together over the long weekend were all the winners. I just wanted to mention that and that I am already looking forward to next year's cod derby and I really encourage all the businesses and organizations to ensure they continue to support these local community events that really bring our communities together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

**Member's Statement 287 – 6(2): The
Use of Health Information**

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to echo those thanks to the organizers and participants of the cod derby here this weekend, as well as to acknowledge the community of Iqaluktuuttiaq in their recent loss. I send my condolences and my thoughts are with you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns regarding decisions on whether or not to make health information public.

Mr. Speaker, at our last sitting, the Minister of Health indicated that he would not be releasing tuberculosis data for Nunavut due to privacy issues. He

also indicated that some health data was held by the researchers who collected it.

Mr. Speaker, population-based health surveillance is an important epidemiological tool to monitor the disease burden on a population.

Following the epidemiology of diseases can help to identify new pathogens and be better prepared for outbreaks.

The sharing and dissemination of health data is a critical step in planning and carrying out public health activities.

Awareness is a key component in disease prevention, early detection, targeted therapy, and effective treatment. Being aware of a disease and its symptoms leads to people taking preventative action, going for screening, tests and checkups.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's Information and Privacy Commissioner has been quite clear in expressing his view that there were very few circumstances in which health data should be suppressed.

The commissioner wrote in his report respecting an applicant's request for tuberculosis statistics that:

"Nunavummiut deserve to know if their government is making the right choices about tuberculosis. Is it directing the right resources to the right places at the right time?"

Mr. Speaker, this speaks to accountability. We cannot address what our government is doing to address this disease if the government withholds relevant information, including the relevant statistics.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

**Member's Statement 288 – 6(2):
Invitations for Visits to Kugluktuk**

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish a "good day" to the residents of Kugluktuk and to my colleagues here in this House.

I wish to express my appreciation to the people of Kugluktuk for forwarding their concerns and issues they want voiced by sharing them with me and our office. I also appreciate the visit to Kugluktuk from our leaders, especially our Premier and several other ministers such as Health and CG&S for the hamlet. I am very grateful for their visit to Kugluktuk as I had previously invited them.

I really appreciate that our ministers took the time to visit our communities and I thank them again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Arviat-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Member's Statement 289 – 6(2):
Successful Search and Rescue in
Arviat and Fire in Whale Cove**

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish the people in Arviat and Whale Cove a good day today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my appreciation and to acknowledge the many volunteers who provide essential services and help in many different areas. The coordinators who volunteer for the cod derby is a good example, as this was also visible during the successful derby here in Iqaluit.

However, I also wanted to speak to this matter relating to local and regional emergency management volunteers and our SAR groups who work tirelessly. My fellow MLA for Arviat, Mr. Savikataaq, provided a great synopsis of what occurred in our community. It was quite stressful to Arviat residents when an extended search occurred for a local elder.

I wish to express my gratitude to the search and rescue group of Arviat, and I hold you on a pedestal for your capabilities and dedication. They are very committed to conducting searches even when it seems impossible. Though they are a volunteer group, they use their own equipment to participate in these searches, including either their snowmobiles, qamutiks, or other equipment.

The end result of this search turned out for the better, and I express my thanks to the many volunteers who were part of the search party, and other volunteers who provided assistance locally.

I would like to start by acknowledging the local Chairperson, Daniel Alariak, along with the local Hamlet of Arviat and other local bodies that provided assistance to the searchers. This includes the coordinators from CGS who provide coordination.

Further, I have people to thank in Whale Cove as there was a fire at a local hotel, and the firefighting crew composed of volunteers also responded quickly. Although there was damage, they were able to extinguish the fire, resulting in no injuries or fatalities and this is a cause for celebration. I also highly admire the firefighters in Whale Cove for their commitment, as well as Chair, Mike E. Adjuk.

I wanted to voice my gratefulness to these groups, Mr. Speaker, for their commitment and dedication as they are not paid given, they are volunteers, but they always come out to assist their fellow residents and community by ensuring the safety of their local communities and infrastructure. I believe this is extremely important for local communities, so I wanted to acknowledge and voice my appreciation to them all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 290 – 6(2):
Nunavut Sivuniksavut Graduates
from Pangnirtung**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise to voice my gratitude and to share my appreciation with my colleagues as many of us have gone to Nunavut Sivuniksavut and the students for this year just celebrated their 2023 graduation.

This is very gratifying. There were 22 graduates of the program, and they just had their graduation event last week in

Ottawa. I wanted to especially acknowledge the students from Pangnirtung who also graduated: Grace Metuq, Janice Nakashuk, Doreen Mike and Tia Qaqasiq.

I know they are very happy and eager to continue learning now that they have completed this course that shows them how to become more independent by leaving their homes as young people, and I know they have learned a lot. It also allows them to continue their education as they now know what it takes to leave home for higher education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

**Member's Statement 291 – 6(2):
Successful Search and Rescue in
Cambridge Bay**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. My thoughts are with those who are affected in Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk on the recent passing of my actual namesake's nephew and my thoughts are with the whole family.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and pay special thanks to our local search and rescue that helped recently, horrifically, bring a young man from Cambridge Bay to Kugluktuk who was stranded. He recently returned to Kugluktuk yesterday. I would like to share my appreciation to all of those who were involved in this recent search and rescue. I have a list of names here, Mr. Speaker, so please bear with me. I have:

- Angulalik Pedersen
- Mabel Angohiatok
- Bobby Greenly
- Darcy Evetalegak
- Shawn Marriott
- Jimmy Evalik
- Colton Otokiak
- Patty Kaomayok
- Lawrence Dreger
- Jen Angohiatok
- Jamie Taipana
- Derek Elias
- Brian Wilson
- Philip Brough
- Nuka Olsen-Hakongak
- Naikak Hakongak
- Beverly Maksagak

Also, the teams that were involved in the line with Kenn Borek, Mike and Matt, the DEW line helicopter pilots, also Air Tindi, the RCMP, the Municipality of Cambridge Bay, and the Department of Community and Government Services for their efforts to bring this young man back home safely. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

**Member's Statement 292 – 6(2):
Igloolik High School Graduates**

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my pride in the youth in Igloolik who will be celebrating their graduation on June 1, upon the completion of their high school studies.

They worked hard to complete their studies, and because of their dedication and commitment, they were able to

finish their education. I would like to acknowledge them by stating their names. They are:

- Randy Angilirq
- Charlotte Angugatsiaq
- Dion Angutimarik
- Hayden Angutimarik
- Hazyl Arnatsiaq
- Alexa Ivalu
- Rhonda Ivalu
- Numa Maliki
- Jamal Nutarariaq
- Sherina Qaunaq
- John Qulaut
- Kyle Ungalaaq

I am proud of these individuals who have completed their secondary education, however, it's just the beginning of their own lives. I am proud of them all and I am grateful. I'm also proud of their parents, who supported them to ensure our students succeeded in their education. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 293 – 6(2):
Nunavut Sivuniksavut Graduates**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just this past week, the Nunavut Sivuniksavut program students completed their yearlong course, and there was one student from Grise Fiord. I wanted to voice my immense pride in her accomplishment as she just completed the (interpretation ends) second-year (interpretation) program.

I am very proud of Emily Kakkik for working hard on her own to attend this program and for being able to complete this two-year program. Her parents tried to time their travel down to Ottawa, however, due to weather delays and flight logjams, they were unable to attend to the graduation.

They are now in Ottawa at least accompanying their daughter. I am quite proud of this young woman as she is always on the go and always active. I urge her to continue her hard work and to continue her education. Though she has passed this program, I urge her to continue her studies. I am very proud of Ms. Emily Kakkik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

**Member's Statement 294 – 6(2):
Recent Fishing Derby in
Constituency**

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my constituents in Coral Harbour and Naujaat as well as my colleagues.

I, too, rise to voice my appreciation, as both of my constituent communities were able to hold local derbies, with a cod fishing derby in Coral Harbour and a sculpin fishing derby in Naujaat, in addition to other kinds of fish. There were no incidents at either derby and it allowed families to share in this wonderful activity.

There was a loss of a local person in Coral Harbour, which delayed the derby

to show respect to the family, but the family told the community to proceed, so they continued with their plans. Our thoughts today are with the family that lost their loved one, and we also remember the family in Cambridge Bay who lost a loved one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerker.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Kaernerker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I rarely have an opportunity to recognize people in the gallery, but I recognize several Inuit from Igloodik and from my constituency of Amittuq who are here in the House with us today.

First of all, I would like to recognize the husband of the Member for Aggu; Simon Quassa. Also, there are people who have come here for the first time and they are Jacob Malliki and Judy Malliki, so please welcome them as this is their first ever visit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. I know one of you wears a nice looking cap when you're out of the House.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. No more names. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought I was invisible as you couldn't seem to notice me.

I, too, wish to recognize the visitors from our area, Judy Malliki and Jake Malliki, and some of you may already recognize Simon Quassa, however I wanted to welcome them all here. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. I have no more names for Item 5. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 433 – 6(2): Addressing the Issue of Tuberculosis

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question today to the Minister of Health regarding the issue of tuberculosis.

Mr. Speaker, during the Committee of the Whole appearance that the minister had on February 27 earlier this year, the minister had mentioned that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated had received \$27.5 million from the federal government to combat TB or eliminate TB in Nunavut.

At that time, Mr. Speaker, the minister had mentioned that the Department of Health had accessed only \$2 million of those funds and that they had received approximately \$1 million through the Territorial Health Investment Fund on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, recent media coverage has quoted the chief public health officer as publicly stating that he will be requesting federal aid to help deal with tuberculosis.

Mr. Speaker, my first question to the minister is: what funding shortfalls have been identified that the Government of Nunavut's Department of Health is unable to provide to support the chief public health officer in his actions to combat tuberculosis? Thank you.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Tuberculosis is a difficult issue that we are treating as a serious matter. As we know, there are now three communities experiencing an outbreak within Nunavut. Currently, funding restrictions are not what we face here, as we have applied for further assistance from the federal government; primarily, for nurses to assist in this endeavour.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the requests to our federal partners have been for nursing support and human resource support; they have not been financial in nature. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to seeing action on that as well. It does concern me that these funds were committed by the federal government in 2018. That's over five

years ago, yet less than 10 percent of the funds have been utilized.

Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut Tunngavik's Executive Summary on *The Nunavut Regional Action Plan for Tuberculosis Elimination*, it states that "The Nunavut Tuberculosis Elimination Action Plan 2020-2023 was created through the collaborative process led by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), in partnership with the Government of Nunavut..." in its first in a set of action plans.

Mr. Speaker, also with the goal to eliminate tuberculosis in Nunavut, the TB action plan describes what will be done in "Nunavut over the next 3 years to build relationships, programs and knowledge, and to secure the long-term commitments and substantial investments needed to achieve and sustain TB elimination."

Mr. Speaker, when I look at what we have been doing to combat tuberculosis across the territory, this action plan is now at the tail end of its existence or its useful life; -its intended life, 2020-23. So my next question is: when will the next plan be released and what will be included or targeted within it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. (interpretation ends) In terms of the next version of the elimination plan, that is something that we're currently working on with NTI in terms of developing it. It's not something that I can speak to in terms of specific targets that will be identified

within that plan until it has been ratified and finalized.

A major step forward for the department in terms of our work with NTI is the signing of our information sharing agreement with that organization. We are committed to working very closely with Nunavut Tunngavik. It's a key issue for them, I believe, as well as us. In light of the historical trauma that has been associated with TB treatment in Nunavut in decades past, it's very important for the Department of Health to approach things in a different way, in a culturally sensitive way, and a way that's appropriate for Inuit. That's something that we place a very high value on and we really appreciate Nunavut Tunngavik being such willing partners to work alongside us.

On a final note, Mr. Speaker, with regard to Nunavut Tunngavik, they are a key partner as we work towards a community-wide screening clinic in Pangnirtung this fall. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since these funds were announced by the federal government in 2018, we've now had three communities with tuberculosis outbreaks. I'm very concerned at even just the perceived lack of action that's being done to address tuberculosis across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, from the Committee of the Whole *Hansard*, I have also read that the minister stated that "We have been working on a regional action plan with Nunavut Tunngavik. However, we have

moved on from that work." Now that they have the information sharing agreement in place, they now have an easier working relationship with Nunavut Tunngavik when it comes to tuberculosis outbreaks and tackling them.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the minister has mentioned the upcoming screening activities in Pangnirtung, but when we're looking at tackling tuberculosis, screening is just one component of it. It's the treatment that needs to be undertaken within the communities across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to get more clarity on what the department's action plan is to move forward to actually achieving the goal of eliminating tuberculosis in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the action plan and the elimination plan, the regional action plan was an item that was difficult for us to come to a consensus on in terms of our work with Nunavut Tunngavik and so we made the decision to focus on the information sharing agreement.

Right now, in terms of the collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik regarding community-level outbreaks, it is a very working level relationship. It's on a case-by-case basis. As I mentioned with Pangnirtung, Nunavut Tunngavik is there. They're in active support of us. They have a strong focus on food security, which I think is supported by

the evidence in terms of health outcomes.

In terms of the member's question, it's difficult to answer until the latest version of the elimination plan has been finalized. I don't want to commit to things or speak to things that won't necessarily be in the final agreement, but I do look forward to providing further information on this topic once that latest version of the elimination plan has been finalized. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet... . Sorry. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Question 434 – 6(2): Housing Allocations, Transfers and Conversions

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and they concern the issue of housing allocations, transfers, and conversions.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is very important that public housing allocations be made in a consistent, fair and transparent manner and I am very confident that the minister shares my position on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's current business plan indicates that it has "...engaged a consulting firm to produce a report on Local Housing Organization governance models to see how the public housing allocation process and

organizational structure can be improved."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate what specific changes to the public housing allocation process are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are different issues of people who need housing. Actually, in relation to which communities will be allocated housing and the number of units is being planned out with the development of the guidelines. However, once the details have been identified, then we can announce them in this House. However, Mr. Speaker, the work is still ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, there are a number of communities in the territory which there are Government of Nunavut staff housing units that have been vacant for years.

Mr. Speaker, it is to my understanding that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has, in some cases, transferred vacant staff units to local housing organizations for use as much-needed public housing.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, it has recently been reported that 15 staff housing units in Cambridge Bay are being transferred to the community's

local housing organization for use as much-needed public housing.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to having the Nunavut Housing Corporation work with the local housing organizations in Taloyoak and Kugaaruk to identify similar transfer opportunities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are more than happy to work with any local housing association to deal with the severe housing shortage we do have. Where there are cases that the Nunavut Housing Corporation can transfer staff housing units into public housing units, we will work with the local housing associations in order to be able to do that. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly, a number of my colleagues raised concerns about long-term Inuit employees of the Government of Nunavut who face homelessness upon retirement.

Mr. Speaker, in a number of cases, the employees are at retirement age and are living in staff housing. However, because there are no available public housing units or private market units available in the community, they feel trapped and are unable to retire.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware of a number of these situations in my constituency of Netsilik.

Mr. Speaker, it has been suggested that consideration be given in these circumstances to converting staff housing units into public housing units.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate what specific actions the Nunavut Housing Corporation has been taking in partnership with the Department of Human Resources to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very difficult issue to try to resolve as in some cases we have situations where there are government employees that are ready to retire, but they don't have a home to move into, and if one is allocated to them by the local housing association, it would mean jumping the queue in front of people who have been on some wait-list for over two to three or four years. It becomes a very tough situation for the local housing association and the government to deal with.

We are looking at options and one of those options is exactly what my colleague refers to in terms of maybe transferring, where possible, staff housing into public housing units. Even that would raise some questions, Mr. Speaker. We recently had a very productive workshop in Repulse Bay where we were able to work with some regular members and I appreciate their

participation. This was one of the topics that we touched on, Mr. Speaker.

We will continue to work with the Human Resources department and other avenues to see how we can deal with, in this particular case, those employees who are getting close to retirement and going to end up in a situation where they may end up homeless, Mr. Speaker. It is one of the items on our plate that we are currently working on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 435 – 6(2): School Bus for Sanikiluaq

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I wrote to her last February in support of the Sanikiluaq District Education Authority's request for a new school bus.

I was very happy to see that the request for tender document came out shortly thereafter. I note that a number of bids to provide a new school bus for Sanikiluaq have been received.

Can the minister provide an update on when the final decision will be made to purchase the school bus and get it on the sealift ship this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question about school buses. There are a number of communities that have requested school buses and the department is working outside to look for extra funds because we do have a significant amount of requests that have come forward over the past couple of years.

Typically, the department has budgeted for two school buses annually to be sent throughout our Nunavut communities who do request. However, I'm happy to say that the department has gone above and beyond to increase the number of buses for our communities that are requesting because we do have such a large volume of requests.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the member's constituency community will be receiving a bus this coming fall. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's very good news to the people and the students of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, the minister will probably also recall that attached to my letter were a couple of photographs showing the sad state of the current school bus, with seats and panels held together with duct tape.

Can the minister clarify whether additional funding is available for

ongoing repairs to school buses which are already in the community but need proper maintenance to make them safer and more comfortable for the school children to use? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. For the particulars of the constituency community and the bus, we will be shipping a brand-new bus and for the old bus, we can work with the district education authority to see if we can work to repair the second bus and look for funds within the department to see if we can do that. I can't give a timeline on when that would be, if it could be this fiscal year or hopefully next fiscal year, but we will look into that situation. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister and her staff for addressing Sanikiluaq's need for a new school bus. The district education authority worked hard to make their needs known. It is always reassuring when the government responds to these types of requests.

When we first started addressing the need for a new school bus, there was some confusion about how to request one. While I was happy to support the district education authority in this matter, it seems there was a lack of information about the process to follow.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that all district education authorities are made aware of how to raise their concerns about school busing issues before the start of the next school year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. It's a great one to raise and that's an area where, when I do meet with the local district education authorities, I do express that they can channel requests through the department and go through the Department of Education or send letters to me or to the MLA, which is typically the avenue that people have been sending requests in for buses.

Yes, we can make sure that we keep sharing that information on how to get a bus for the community if they do need one, and I thank the member for advocating for that on behalf of his community with the district education authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 436 – 6(2): Use of Health Information (Tuberculosis)

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also express my gratitude to the nurses that work so hard for our communities here in Nunavut during National Nursing Week and throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, on May 8 the government, in collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, announced that community-wide screening for tuberculosis would be carried out in the community of Pangnirtung, as we've heard here today, from September through November 2023.

Can the minister provide an update on what steps will be taken to ensure that as many community residents as possible undergo this screening? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking the question on that matter. Yes, this announcement was released just prior to the screening tests in Pangnirtung where family members were encouraged, especially if the majority were tested amongst families as this would assist the overall findings. We are encouraging everyone to take this community-wide screening.

We have been working with the Hamlet of Pangnirtung. We meet together and update one another every two weeks via the CPHO. They update us (interpretation ends) every two weeks (interpretation) on what the community is talking about or what their needs are at the community level, or what else is missing.

(interpretation ends) In terms of encouraging participation, it's all about building trust between our department and our partners and community members, creating awareness around TB, the fact that TB can be treated at the

community level in community in most cases, and just a really close collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik around food security aspects, around cultural safety aspects.

We also have partners in the Public Health Agency of Canada as well as Indigenous Services Canada in terms of preparing for that community-wide screen.

If any Pangnirtung residents have questions, we are always available and willing to speak to them privately if they have any questions about TB treatment, screening around the clinic, or around the disease itself. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to strongly encourage members of the community of Pangnirtung, and any community that is undergoing screening, to take part in that screening because the sooner you know that you're impacted, the sooner you can protect your own health and the health of those around you.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed community-wide tuberculosis screening in Pangnirtung was the subject of a recent article in the *Globe and Mail* newspaper. The article indicated that results from the 2018 community-wide screening in the community of Qikiqtarjuaq were only obtained through an access to information request.

It would seem that sharing detailed information about the spread of disease within our communities would help

efforts to contain or curb rates of infection.

Will the minister commit to making all of the results of Nunavut community-wide tuberculosis screening activities publicly available, including those from the 2018-19 activities in Kinngait, Qikiqtarjuaq, Whale Cove, as well as in Pangnirtung? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That's not something I'm going to commit to today. In terms of releasing data, Health has to balance the public health needs alongside the needs for privacy and the rights to privacy in terms of Nunavummiut, in terms of communities.

In order to release information around communicable diseases, the first thing is that the information must be a public benefit. That's the first thing that's looked at. The second thing that's looked at is the information must not cause harm or increased stigma on individuals or communities.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned earlier that building trust is really important to the Department of Health. We don't want to create a negative feedback loop where we release too much information and then we create distrust of the Department of Health, which works against our desire to see more people get screened and more people get treated. We want Nunavummiut to trust that their privacy will be taken seriously and that we will not overshare data on communicable diseases.

We are committed to following best practices in this area. We look nationally, we look across Inuit Nunangat and we are following best practices as well as always being open to changing practices, whether it's clinical or regionally based. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate that individual privacy must be respected and confidentiality regarding personal health information absolutely must be protected. I also appreciate that there are concerns regarding stigmatization. At the same time, we must ensure that we are doing everything within our means to help protect the residents of our communities and our territory.

Making information available means the public is better informed and better empowered to make good lifestyle decisions and choices.

Our access to information legislation does not seem to provide adequate guidance when it comes to accessing or protecting health-related information.

Can the minister confirm whether he will be introducing health-specific privacy legislation during the term of this Sixth Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the health-specific privacy legislation, it is something that we have identified as a need. It's something that

we're currently working on. We're currently at the pre-consultation activity phase and then we would move into the public consultation phase from there and into the drafting stage of legislation.

In terms of the specific timeline around that, it's going to depend on other legislative priorities. We have targeted 2024-25 for the introduction of legislation. I don't want to speak for my colleague at the Department of Justice, but there is limited capacity in terms of legislative drafting within the government. When we look at other items that might come down the pipe that might take priority, we have to take those into consideration, but our target is 2024-25.

We know that the health-specific privacy legislation is an important project for the department. It's something that we are committed to undertaking and bringing forward in order to strengthen the framework around health information in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 437 – 6(2): Support for Programs in Amittuq

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Arctic College. I will try to show some wisdom in this area.

Mr. Speaker, this past winter I spoke about the matter of Arctic College programming, such as local sewing courses, qamutik making courses, harpoon and harpoon head making

courses, since this is more prevalent in our smaller communities because we try to keep our cultural traditions alive.

This past winter, I asked the minister responsible for the college about how best to spread out our scarce resources. We all know about the Piquqsilirivvik Cultural School in Clyde River. It's very popular with students and the capacity is reached right away. I asked the minister if she would support spreading out some of the programs to the Amittuq region, such as sewing courses. The fall session is already approaching and you have approximately four months to deliberate on this issue.

Would the minister be in support of spreading out certain cultural programs, not just at Piquqsilirivvik in Clyde River, but if you can spread the programs out to the Amittuq region in Sanirajak and Igloodik? Can the Minister responsible for Arctic College also support this type of program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking the question and seeking clarification. I do agree to providing more support, however, the barrier we face are qualified instructors in the communities who can teach the programs as they are in demand, and sometimes they are not available.

When they are available, then cultural programs are offered locally, especially the traditional Inuit tool making courses. It can be run locally but the lack of qualified instructors is what is slowing

this down, and further, there is a lot of paperwork required to request programs locally.

There needs to be prior work to identify the programs they want offered locally, and for that reason, skin flensing and skin preparation courses are the ones with the most prior work done outlining what skills will be taught, and this is why this course is easier to offer. Again, to reiterate; the lack of qualified instructors is what causes the barriers locally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That should not be a reason because I believe that there are many available instructors in the community. They should offer these courses as options because our culture is quite alive and well in our communities.

Now, with regard to this matter, a local instructor in Sanirajak did their own research on how to develop this program or course locally. The community supported this idea very well, and I am happy the minister supports this idea.

Now, I ask if your verbal support can lead to actual courses that teach traditional clothing skills and if she can accelerate this process to get more instructors for this fall even, if they can find instructors for these courses, without any caveats included?

Here is the course option, requiring these resources and the outlined plans for offering the course. I sent you fully prepared documentation towards this idea just recently asking if they would

commit to offering this course. Can the minister provide a definite commitment to accelerate this option so courses can be offered this fall, or even for the winter? We need to have our youth observe actual practices. Can you speed up this process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank our colleague for raising this matter. Yes, there are individuals who can provide instruction, Inuit who can teach are available, but again, any course offering requires funding and due to the lack of funding. When outside funding is acquired, then certain courses are made available.

Due to the myriad of challenges, funding restrictions are part of the problem in getting instructors who can properly teach these courses, and sometimes the paperwork is what prohibits certain courses as funding is needed to offer them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, finances and funding restrictions are usually insufficient and easy to point out, although credit seems readily available.

Mr. Speaker, I now want to speak to this matter, as the Department of Culture and Heritage was approached to see if a coordinator was available, by turning to Jukeepa Hainnu, who is a director in the department.

Mr. Speaker, this was during the research into ways to finance this locally developed course and to see how best to fund this course. The group was advised that the two communities could work together via internet interaction such as Zoom used in Igloolik and Arviat.

I wonder if you can stretch those limited dollars by offering a remotely offered course with an instructor teaching any student with distance learning in light of your limited funding? I wonder if a pilot program can be offered here? Especially for traditional clothing or qamutik building, and if this is a financially easier way to offer a remote learning course via the internet, like they offer in Igloolik and Arviat? Can this be a start? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for your resourcefulness and innovative ideas that you have forwarded to my attention. Yes, we can look into various methods that can provide a means to move ahead, and we continually search for ways to offer programming. Indeed, these can be looked into as a pilot project to determine its feasibility and how best to offer this to interested people. However, I am grateful that he has provided thought provoking ideas to resolve this challenge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 438 – 6(2): Status of Renovations to Coral Harbour School

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is in regard the status of renovations to Coral Harbour's Sakku School and it is directed to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) the community of Coral Harbour has waited a long time to have its concerns about school infrastructure addressed. The final decision was to renovate the current Sakku School and specifically to address the ground water problems under the school.

Can the minister provide an update on the current status of the renovations to Coral Harbour's Sakku School? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member, first of all, for his invitation to his constituency of Coral Harbour. It was a pleasure to go to Coral Harbour last month and be there with our fellow colleague and meet the community and go to the various locations involved, including the school, the daycare, preschool, and meet with the local hamlet.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education had a tender out for the Sakku School renovation and it closed this past February. I can say that the tender was awarded to Arctic Fresh and the construction of the renovation will be starting this fall. We anticipate that the renovation to the Sakku School will be

completed in '25-26. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. I would also like to add additional thanks to the minister for taking the time to accept my invitation to visit Coral Harbour, which she was able to do, but one of the more important areas I wanted her to observe was not accessible, so I apologize for that.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I noted, the ground water under the school has been a serious issue over many years. During our discussions regarding the government's capital budget, we learned that a new technology using a substance like "kitty litter," would be used to absorb and redirect the water going under the school. By now there should have been opportunities to test out the effectiveness of this technology.

Can the minister provide me with some assurance that the new technology is proving effective in addressing the drainage and waterproofing of the crawl space under Sakku School?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for raising that question. I know it has been a concern for the school for a very long time. The department has worked closely with the engineering firm and they have gone into the community when they were in the design phase to hear from the

community and understand what the concerns are to the school and the impacts.

The department can say that with the engineering firm, the process has been done before. It's a technology that is newer technology and there are other measures to ensure that the problem will be resolved and that the ground water will be absorbed in the material that the member was speaking about, but also, additional infrastructure creations like ditching to the side of the school and putting culverts in have also been considered and are going to be incorporated into the plan and the design and construction of the renovation of the school to work to mediate the measures that have been impacting the current situation.

I fully trust that the engineers and those that have worked very hard to ensure those needs are being met will be followed through and the problem will be resolved with the new technology and the new work to renovate the school. Basically the renovation will be from the bones, the construction will go right down to the studs, and the school will basically be a brand-new school but just using the steel frame that is there currently to build it and make it a brand-new, renovated, healthy school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying that in the House.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the fate of Coral Harbour's school

infrastructure has been up in the air for many years. It is very good that the government is finally moving forward on this project.

Can the minister confirm that the project is still within budget and on time with a scheduled completion date of 2026? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* again to the member for the question. I can confirm that the project is on time, it is on schedule, and I know the firm is anticipating and excited for the work to proceed. We look forward to the work to be underway this fall, as I mentioned, and we really look forward to the brand-new school in Coral Harbour that will have an additional two other resources for the community incorporated in the Sakku School that will also be a daycare facility as well as an own Nunavut Arctic College attached. Not attached, but in the same area as the school lot. The community will benefit with additional resources, not just with the school, but other infrastructure as well, incorporated into this tender and project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 439 – 6(2): Grays Bay Road and Port Project

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions concern the Grays Bay Road and Port Project. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Economic

Development and Transportation and they concern the Grays Bay Road and Port Project.

As the minister is aware, the goal of this project is to construct an all-weather road in the Kitikmeot region that will connect mineral-rich areas with a deep water port.

When I last raised this issue during our recent winter sitting, I expressed my strong support for the project which has the potential to bring many benefits to the communities of the region.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, Minister Akeeagok and Premier Akeeagok both participated in a high-level meeting at the United States embassy in Ottawa to discuss the Grays Bay Road and Port Project. Can the minister update the House today on the outcomes of the meeting? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Kitikmeot Inuit Association, along with the US embassy, invited a number of key potential partners that would advance the Grays Bay port and road. That meeting went really well in terms of the presentations and the willingness of people that want to work, right from the Kitikmeot Inuit, right to the United States firms, in terms of trying to see how we can advance this project. I think as a result of that, we're going to see a lot of good progress because that's also the connection to the south and also to the resources that are

available that are identified in that area.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I want to apologize for calling you the Chair before in the last statement.

(interpretation) Thank you for the response. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there has been discussion in the House about the importance of critical minerals. These are minerals that are essential to developing clean technologies, such as electric vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, the three northern premiers met last week in Inuvik. The official announcement from this meeting addressed the issue of critical minerals, stating that “strategic investments in infrastructure will also support the territories to get these vital resources to market.”

Can the minister confirm what financial commitments the federal government has made to support the strategic Grays Bay Road and Port Project?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, they have secured funds through the National Trade Corridors Fund to do the environmental assessment of that project. That continues to be secured to do that work for potential partners.

I have been meeting with Minister Wilkinson, who holds the critical minerals file within the federal government, which they have a large amount of funds. Within these discussions and with President Biden’s visit to Canada, they further announced that United States funds, if they are leading towards critical minerals, could help use those infrastructures. We’re trying to find how we can tap into those.

Those are the critical ones that I’m working very closely with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association president in terms of seeing how we can align all this to ensure that investments can come to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I noted earlier, Minister Akeeagok and Premier Akeeagok recently participated in a high-level meeting at the United States embassy in Ottawa to discuss the Grays Bay Road and Port Project.

Nunavut’s Senator was also present at the meeting, and I thank him for publicly speaking in Parliament in support of the Grays Bay Road and Port Project.

Can the minister confirm whether or not Nunavut’s Member of Parliament participated in the recent meeting in Ottawa, and can he confirm if her office has formally expressed support for the Grays Bay Road and Port Project?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the event, the Member of Parliament was there and was given the opportunity to have a speaking opportunity and she expressed support in terms of where any investment towards infrastructure could come through this.

Also, there were a number of key partners that were there, such as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and my ministerial colleague to my right, Minister Gross, was also there, and our Premier spoke very eloquently about the project too. There's a lot of willingness to see something come in terms of getting those critical minerals that will need to be used in order to be "greener" in this world. I think a lot of good, positive willingness to work and collaborate was there and I'm very hopeful.

It is going to take time, but I will be working very closely with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association in trying to advance some of these because it's going to require a number of investments throughout to build a road of this nature. It will require a large amount of investment, which we definitely will be looking for and something that I'm looking forward to working with everybody and also with my Northwest Territories counterpart, who is looking to build a road from Yellowknife up to the Nunavut border for their critical minerals strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 440 – 6(2): Federal Funding for Shelters

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Good day to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Nunavummiut.

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

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to note the recent federal announcement regarding funding for indigenous shelters and transitional housing.

I congratulate my colleague from the Hudson's Bay Company...

>> *Laughter*

...Hudson Bay for the community of Sanikiluaq being selected to receive a shelter under this federal program.

Can the minister clarify how she and her officials work with their federal counterparts to identify Nunavut communities with needs for shelters and transitional housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking that question. Now, when we heard that announcement from the federal government about this funding to

be allocated, we were ecstatic as many communities request funding for this type of facility, and to date, the Government of Nunavut has had to work with outside agencies, such as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, on communities that were previously identified as needing shelters.

Nonetheless, with this new announcement, we now need to research how the federal government provides this financial outlaying. What I can say is that there are other means of providing support aside from financial support and how these can be adapted towards Nunavut's needs. We need to (interpretation ends) advocate (interpretation) for the support of communities who wish to develop shelters by receiving more assistance towards their goals here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many communities struggle with administrative and preparatory work necessary to getting a shelter project off the ground.

As the minister will recall, on February 28 of this year, I tabled a request from Chesterfield Inlet for a safe place facility in the community.

Can the minister provide an update on how her department has been working to support the community of Chesterfield Inlet in opening a shelter or safe place facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking those questions. We look at the communities that have made requests for a shelter or a safe place facility, or if a community needs more help getting more things like that. We look at different things like the location of the request. If the hamlet is going to be administering it, we work with the hamlets to do the planning along with the budget for the place.

Nonetheless, to date, in looking at the requests, they seem quite contrary to one another and different as each community operates in a faster manner than others, while others move more slowly in reviewing their proposals. Some of them are almost completed, such as the shelter in Pond Inlet, which has been largely completed.

They receive assistance in various areas depending on how we structure the collaborative measures, so in looking at it, sometimes we work with the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, along with the Department of Family Services, as well as the appropriate federal department. So each case requires a different set of parameters based on the proposal. As for Chesterfield Inlet, I cannot address that as I can't speak to the details at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the Government of Nunavut does not always have the funds to build new facilities in every community. However, funding opportunities do become available under

such programs as the recently announced federal funding initiative.

Will the minister commit to working with the community of Chesterfield Inlet to identify potential funding sources to build this much-needed shelter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking those questions. I can look into that. As I stated earlier, we get different requests from different communities and when the hamlet is pushing for a new shelter or other services that are needed in the community, they can request for funding from Family Services for the operation of them.

However, what you said is true, that some shelter buildings are not all operated by Family Services. I can look into this matter some more to see the status of that situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 441 – 6(2): Health Services in Language of Choice

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Nunavut.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. This is about the language of choice. Perhaps I should start by saying that people have to receive services in the language that they

are comfortable in, including French, when it comes to health services. I wanted to talk about this some more here. There is a need for people to have services that they are comfortable with. I have a question I would like to ask the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, the minister may recall that on March 14, during our winter sitting in this House, I asked questions about his department's compliance with Nunavut's laws regarding medical travel patients, where if they are unilingual in Inuktitut or French and they don't understand English, I rose and asked about that here. Can the minister give me an update? At that time the minister answered me by saying that official languages have to be recognized and it's Inuktitut, English and French.

Can the minister explain what work has been done in his department to develop the services that need to be made better for Inuktitut speakers who go to hospitals or health centres? We know that there is a need to improve things and the need for interpretation. I would like to know if there have been any positive developments in this area to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to my colleague for asking those questions about language. Language is extremely important in Nunavut and we know as the Department of Health, whenever we are working we always include languages. We try to involve people with different languages in the communities.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the provision of services in Nunavut's official languages is really important to us, whether it's at the health centre-level, whether it's a regional facility, such as Qikiqtani General Hospital, whether it's at a boarding home, whether it's during medical travel in terms of dealing with the airline, whether it's in terms of submitting complaints to the department through the Office of Patient Relations.

Throughout all of our services and programs, whether it's public health information about diseases like tuberculosis or other communicable diseases, we aim to have language embedded, and particularly Inuit language, embedded within all of our programs and services. When there are gaps, we do take action to fill them. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that explanation. It's true that the Department of Health, people who go to hospitals, go through very difficult situations. They also have a health problem and then they hear bad news about their health in the hospital, so they have to use the languages very properly. I consider the language spoken to be very important, where people need to understand things.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in March, the minister noted some action items that the department had initiated to improve language services in the delivery of healthcare, including increased clerk interpreting positions and increases in virtual care with a new 24/7 phone-based interpreting service across

Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister improve and provide an update on the new 24/7 phone-based virtual care interpreter service to tell us how this initiative has been running since it began? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The initiative that the member mentioned, that's something that we're working towards. It's something that is on the horizon. It's not yet in place across Nunavut, but it is something that's really exciting in terms of allowing Nunavummiut access to more information in the language of their choice. It's something that is on the horizon, it's in the planning stages, but it's not yet been implemented.

I apologize if there was any confusion in terms of that previous statement that I had made. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, with regard to that 24/7 virtual phone-based interpreter service so that patients can access interpretation services that can during the day and evening, I know that his response is quite confusing, but I would urge you to make sure that this goes ahead. I would be very interested in hearing about it in the future to see what progress is made on this.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is not clear to me how clients are made aware of the phone-based interpreting service and if they are given phone numbers, and as you said, it's still in the process, but to access the service whenever they need it.

Mr. Speaker, I'll push for this again and ask you this question: can the minister clarify whether this phone service will be an on-going part of his department's budget, and are there any plans to work towards establishing permanent Inuktitut specialist positions in the Department of Health? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When the service is ready for rollout, we will make sure that it's communicated properly to Nunavummiut and that patients will be made aware that here's the resource. It's something, as I mentioned, that's really exciting and stands to make improvements for Nunavummiut in terms of accessing health services.

The suggestion around Inuktitut interpreting specialists; that's an interesting one that I'm willing to look into further. We do currently have a strong relationship with Nunavut Arctic College when it comes to our clerk interpreters who work across Nunavut. They are able to access training through Nunavut Arctic College, and specifically, their medical interpreting courses. So that's a resource that is important. We have 50 staff who have accessed that training to date. It's something that continues.

My understanding is that the Inuktitut terminology around things like anatomy, physiology, diseases, ailments, and mental health, it's very complex. So it's a very specialized skill set. We really do appreciate Nunavut Arctic College supporting our staff in strengthening their Inuktitut language skills. I'm sure they know all kinds of words, Mr. Speaker, that I have yet to learn, but I really wanted to express my appreciation for Nunavut Arctic College as well as all of our dedicated clerk interpreters across Nunavut. Thank you for the question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 442 – 6(2): Kivalliq Hydro-fibre Link

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon all. (Interpretation) First of all, I am thinking of Baker Lake residents. My thoughts are with you today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today my questions are again for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. As the minister is very much aware, I have been a strong and vocal supporter of the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link project, which promises to achieve transformative change in our region of the territory.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is also aware, the Kivalliq Inuit Association is leading this project through the Nukik Corporation and I pay tribute today to the association's leadership.

Can the minister provide an update today on his department's role in this project

and its relationship with the Kivalliq Inter-community Road Study that is currently underway? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking [about a] really transformative project I think we're all very supportive of. I've actually had a meeting with the President of the Kivalliq Inuit Association just the past two days ago to get an update on this very nation-building project. We've been meeting regularly over the past year and a half as the project is advancing.

I've had the opportunity to go down to Ottawa as well, with the invitation of President Tattuinee, to do a lobby before the federal budget. During my most recent meeting just the other day, I think we all shared the frustration that we didn't see the investments in the federal budget. That is something that the Nukik board, as well as President Tattuinee, were advocating for, for quite some time.

On this particular project, we meet very regularly and the updates are there and we're very supportive of this Inuit-led, Inuit-driven project that would really bring transformative changes not only to Nunavut, but to Canada, as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 443 – 6(2): Power Producing Programs

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Arviat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to question the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, too. Mr. Speaker, I have a question on the independent power producers.

As the House is well aware, I have been advocating for the Hamlet of Arviat's project ever since we had our elections. They have a proposal to provide 50 percent of the community's power with wind turbines and solar panels, and they have millions of dollars that have been committed by the federal government, but they can't access those funds until the Qulliq Energy Corporation signs a power purchase agreement with the Hamlet of Arviat.

I would like to ask the minister: why has the Qulliq Energy Corporation still not signed the power purchase agreement with the Hamlet of Arviat? Thank you.

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for being a very strong advocate for the particular project in Arviat that I had the pleasure of actually seeing myself. Again, I would like to thank the mayor, Mr. Savikataaq, for allowing me to see the site itself of where they're hoping to see the particular project, which is being pushed with NRStor project on that front.

Mr. Speaker, I have actually connected with the corporation and we did reach out to the hamlet to guide them through the process. Right now there's an interim policy that allows proponents to be able to apply through the program we do have. To date, to the best of my knowledge, we have reached out to the hamlet as well as the company leading it to guide them through the next steps. Really, the next steps rest with them in terms of providing the application to the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For clarity then, because I will be contacting the hamlet to see if they have done anything, just for clarification then: the reason there has been no power purchase agreement signed between the Hamlet of Arviat and the Qulliq Energy Corporation is because the Hamlet of Arviat has not made an application and it's not because the Qulliq Energy Corporation doesn't have an agreement for them to sign. Just a clarification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member across. Yes, the application hasn't been submitted to the QEC, to the Qulliq Energy Corporation, as we note. We've reached out to the proponents to allow that opportunity to ensure that they're aware in terms of the steps that are required, but to the best of my knowledge, the application hasn't been submitted by the proponent to date,

although there is an interim policy that allows submissions to be made to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Staying on the same subject, to the best of my knowledge, the hamlet was offered the cost of selling the power to the Qulliq Energy Corporation at the avoidable cost of diesel, and at that time, it was 26 cents per kilowatt. That's the total amount that the Qulliq Energy Corporation was willing to buy power from the Hamlet of Arviat; was 26 cents per kilowatt. Currently an Arviat residential person, like myself, pays 62 cents per kilowatt, so there's quite a difference. I know that there are other added fixed costs.

My question to the minister then is: if the Qulliq Energy Corporation is only willing to pay 26 cents per kilowatt for renewable energy from the Hamlet of Arviat, the project that my colleague, Mr. Simailak, just mentioned, which I support too, the hydro line from Manitoba to the Kivalliq; will the Qulliq Energy Corporation only be willing to pay 26 cents per kilowatt from the Nukik Corporation too? Thank you.

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank my colleague for showing an interest on this particular point. The interim policy is very clear in terms of the power rates that are identified there. As we're looking to provide an actual independent power

purchasing program, we are looking to bringing the formal program through the Executive Council hopefully before the end of this year to formalize the actual program as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period... . Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to extend question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There is none. Question period is extended for another 30 minutes.

>> *Applause*

Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Question 444 – 6(2): Dealing with Tuberculosis Outbreaks

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

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Prior to asking my question to the minister, our local medical personnel in Pond Inlet are tireless workers who continually surpass their scheduled hours of work and I thank all staff who work at the health centre, including the administrative workers, who work at the office.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, Nunavut's Chief Public Health Officer was interviewed in the media regarding the recent outbreaks of tuberculosis across Nunavut communities. The story states that the chief public health officer will be requesting federal aid to deal with the outbreak.

Can the minister clarify whether the federal aid being requested will be in addition to the \$16.2 million committed by the Government of Canada in its Budget 2023 for "interventions to reduce rates of tuberculosis in Inuit communities"? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking that question regarding tuberculosis. Indeed, the nurses located in Pond Inlet have a reputation that is well known for their dedication, so when we had the chance, we visited the local health centre in Pond Inlet and expressed our gratitude to the staff at the health centre. I thank the MLA for being welcoming.

We haven't requested funds for this from the federal government, but rather we requested more nursing personnel. (interpretation ends) The request to our federal partners in terms of Pond Inlet has been for access to some of their surge capacity nursing resources.

Mr. Speaker, to date we have one nurse that's been deployed to Pond Inlet and my understanding is that, thanks to the support of our federal partners, there will be three additional nurses deployed to

Pond Inlet in June next month. That's all to support the ongoing response to the tuberculosis outbreak, which is around testing, tracing and treating. I really appreciate the support of the community, including the hamlet, in dealing with the situation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very grateful that you and your staff were able to visit our community, which was very helpful.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as noted by Nunavut's Chief Public Health Officer, tuberculosis contact tracing and treatment is currently ongoing in the affected communities. A number of my constituents have raised concern about not receiving tuberculosis testing when they have requested them. The chief public health officer also indicated that community-wide screening could be initiated if the community supports it.

Can the minister clarify whether community-wide screening could be initiated in a community if it's requested? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member. (interpretation ends) In terms of community-wide screening clinics, in terms of the information that has been provided to me by the chief public health officer, initially in terms of the outbreak in Pond Inlet, robust contact tracing and case treatment can be very effective in

terms of controlling TB clusters and preventing outbreaks, but community-wide screening operations can be helpful under certain conditions if these measures are not being effective, if the outbreak continues or is not being brought under control.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding from the chief public health officer is that community-wide screening in Pond Inlet is not yet warranted, and that's based on the contact tracing and the number of cases, but it's something that the chief public health officer is monitoring very closely in terms of following the epidemiology and following what's happening at the community level, and if it appears that community-wide screening would be the next tool to deploy, that's something that we will certainly be looking at very closely. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, yesterday on May 24 while we were sitting in the House, the Department of Health issued a news release indicating that the chief public health officer will be on leave for a few weeks and replaced by Dr. Patterson, the famous Dr. Patterson...

>> *Laughter*

...the former Chief Public Health Officer.

Can the minister clarify how the chief public health officer's absence will impact ongoing activities and planning

for addressing the tuberculosis situation in our community? (interpretation) Thank you, not Mr. Chairman, but Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. (interpretation ends) There should be very minimal impact in terms of the acting assignment. We're very thankful to Dr. Patterson to be able to fill in on an interim basis. Obviously he is no stranger to the role and he brings all his experience with him.

In terms of the on-the-ground activities in Mittimatalik, in Pond Inlet, there should be very minimal impact from that absence from the role. It's very important to the department that we continue to test, trace, and treat. It's important in terms of containing outbreaks and responding in a timely manner that meets the community's needs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 445 – 6(2): Financial Literacy Training

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services today on the minister's statement on March 10 regarding financial literacy.

Mr. Speaker, in the minister's statement on that date, the minister mentioned that the Consumer Affairs Division has

joined a federal campaign about managing money and with a focus on debt.

Mr. Speaker, today I looked again to get some information on the Government of Nunavut's website and I had difficulty locating the recommendations or the information that the minister spoke of in his minister's statement.

I would just like to get an update from the minister on when that information will be included on the Government of Nunavut's website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, our department's Consumer Affairs Division, we have different information presented around consumers and payday loans, for example. It's within the department's Consumer Affairs Division, gov.nu.ca/information/consumer-affairs. That website contains quite a bit of information, but if there's anything further that my department can provide for Nunavummiut, feel free to contact me or any of our staff for further details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did see some information on fraud and how to avoid certain circumstances on that.

Within the information and in the minister's statement, it speaks to

financial literacy and obviously maybe my computer literacy could use a little bit of work, but within financial literacy I have always been a strong proponent to educate the public on different financial matters. In my previous life, I was a financial advisor, so I can understand the importance.

Mr. Speaker, is the department looking at bringing further information packages or information programs to Nunavummiut on investing, retirement, estate planning, the importance of wills, or other financial literacy components that would help educate and better the lives of Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, we do have a lot of information there, but I think having as much information out there serves good for the public.

I do recall, I think it was through Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, there was information or draft wills, for example, that the GLOs had on hand for Nunavummiut that wanted to pursue those types of information. We're continuing to build on those and also, there are new things that are happening online; activities, for example. We're trying to be on top of everything.

I know throughout the COVID pandemic and other financial hardships that people have experienced, we want to equip them with as much tools as they can to keep on top of their finances, and I think, yes, providing financial literacy tools.

We will work with other departments if they do have information available and making sure that Nunavummiut have it available at hand and easily accessible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister has a knack for reading my mind. I'm glad the minister brought up the information about the wills that is available through the Department of EIA, and it has been coordinated with the Public Trustee's division as well.

I can't stress enough how important wills and estate planning is in making sure that your family is left secure and no questions are left outstanding on who owns what or who is entitled to what, especially when property is involved. It can be a very challenging time for families and surviving spouses on where and how to access remaining funds.

Mr. Speaker, it goes to the point that I want to bring up next is a centralized location to have this type of information. I know it's not necessarily a consumer affairs issue, and this is a segue or an opportunity that I had to bring forward this information, but I think it's a very important initiative that the government should take a look at to find some centralized location similar to like a seniors' handbook, a financial handbook, to help with some easy financial literacy issues that can be mitigated at very introductory levels, including into our education system.

I think there are a lot of different avenues that the Government of Nunavut... steps that can be taken to

help improve the lives and the financial planning and the financial wellbeing of Nunavummiut. I'll leave that as a comment. I'm sure all cabinet are listening and hopefully there will be some coordination on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: It's just a comment. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Question 446 – 6(2): Remote Work

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Human Resources.

As I noted in my member's statement yesterday, I believe that our government must be more employee oriented in order to address our staggering vacancy rate and enhance the quality of services provided to Nunavummiut.

Prior to the pandemic, Government of Nunavut employees worked almost exclusively from government worksites. The early stages of the pandemic saw a shift with many Government of Nunavut employees required to work remotely. This has proven that certain jobs in Nunavut can be done remotely and government employees have the capability to work remotely. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the Government of Nunavut has stalled and even digressed in this area.

Nunavut is the only jurisdiction in Canada which does not have a formal remote work policy in practice and is requiring all employees to work from a designated government office. Mr. Speaker, the world of work is not going back to the way it was in 2019 and

neither should the Government of Nunavut. The era of remote work and hybrid work is here and the government must allow for it or risk losing more employees.

Yesterday the Minister of Human Resources spoke to a Flexible Workplace Policy that would allow employees to work anywhere in Nunavut as long as they work from a GN office. Requiring employees to be in an office shows a controlled-based approach and is not consistent with the employer of choice mentality.

I would like to ask the minister to explain the rationale for prioritizing the Flexible Workplace Policy, which requires employees to work in a designated government workplace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. (interpretation ends) I'm glad you asked that question. We have, like I had stated, the Flexible Workplace Policy that's coming out fairly soon and it's something very new to the government. I do understand the issues that some people are saying that they have to work in a GN office. We also have to take into consideration that with some of the decentralized GN offices, some of those offices are not in full capacity. So we have to take that into consideration.

Also, when we talk about the Remote Work Policy, that's another thing we have to take in, thinking of how

decentralized offices are functioning as well. We also have to think about how employees are working in capacity in terms of their performance, how well are they working outside of the office. Those are things that we have to keep in mind. We are reviewing the Remote Work Policy as well, but we have to take different aspects into it in terms of how successful this could be in the smaller communities, in homes. Those are things that we have to think about.

With the Flexible Workplace Policy, I think it's a pretty good start in how the GN is trying to ensure that we have GN positions filled in communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response. The proposed flexible work policy is a starting point, but I hope that we will soon see, in rapid succession, more comprehensive remote work policies being made available.

Mr. Speaker, in response to the pandemic, many organizations are adopting to a new model of work where management is embracing remote and hybrid work. Today's labour market is so tight that employers risk losing potential talent if they do not offer flexible and remote work options.

Recent research from LinkedIn shows that remote positions make up merely 15 percent of listings but receive an outsized 50 percent of submitted job applications.

Mr. Speaker, the professionals we need for hard-to-fill positions want to work for forward-thinking companies and can easily find companies and organizations with flexible working arrangements which they prefer.

Mr. Speaker, our government is operating at nearly 60 percent capacity, which has a negative impact on our employees, our services, and all of Nunavut.

I would like to ask: does the minister recognize that restricting remote and hybrid work models, a clear desire among job applicants as well as current Government of Nunavut employees, hinders our recruitment efforts and our ability to deliver services and programming for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that follow-up question. It is not that I do not support this initiative. Nonetheless, as I stated previously, they are working under this new mandate of working outside of the office environment in a community.

We have to keep this in mind as well, because as you stated earlier, jobs that can't be filled or (interpretation ends) hard-to-fill positions, as you had mentioned; that's another area where we have difficulty filling positions, but we also have to take into consideration (interpretation) the manner in which we can implement positive changes within the existing work environment.

To include this fact, as a government, we have to think about (interpretation ends) decentralization, (interpretation) as I stated. We have to consider including Article 23 to ensure that we fulfill our obligations as a government, and to see if we are following the requirements in that regard. If we have all sorts of other ideas, it's good, but then we have a capacity problem and we have to take that into consideration as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I do appreciate the minister's response, but again, I would like to emphasize the seriousness of our government's capacity situation. I understand that the number of filled positions will fluctuate from year to year, but for the first time ever, the Government of Nunavut is seeing a situation where we are seeing three consecutive years where the government's filled positions have actually declined.

Mr. Speaker, over the span of the three years, our capacity has reduced by nearly 10 percent and for the first time ever, we have a department operating at below 50 percent capacity. Half of the positions in the department are not filled or are vacant. Mr. Speaker, this goes to show that we are losing employees at an alarming rate.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that we need to be more employee-oriented and that's what other governments in the provinces and territories are doing, including the federal government.

They're embracing the new work model and have opted for a hybrid work model.

I would like to ask the minister: can the minister confirm whether or not the Government of Nunavut supports the principle of adopting a hybrid model of work in the territorial public service where employees would be permitted to work from home for part of the workweek? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for those points. (interpretation ends) I think you have made a good point with the number of losses we have in terms of losing a lot of employees. I think we also have to take into consideration the number of employees that are going because of retirement. Those are one of the major things that we have to think about in terms of how we fill them.

Another thing I had mentioned is our capacity within HR. We are having capacity issues within our own department, and we're trying to find different ways to try to fill positions within our department as well as other departments within the government. Also, like I had mentioned, in order to think about how do I support this hybrid work outside of the GN, that's something I can't answer at this time because we are still trying to see how this flexible workplace is going to work. We can't rush things too quickly. We have to take into consideration what we're facing right now.

As I had mentioned, we have positions that have not been filled for many years. We have to concentrate on what we can fill at this time and we can take other ideas, and great ideas, definitely, but at this time we can't do that.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 447 – 6(2): Filling Social Worker Positions

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. I would like to direct my question to (interpretation ends) Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will know, social workers play an important role in our communities, providing support and assistance to some of our most vulnerable residents.

Can the minister provide an update on the number of social worker positions that are currently vacant across Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. There are 47 funded positions in total right now. We have 26 social workers and 21 still vacant, some of which are held by casual workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, both of my constituency communities have vacant social worker positions. It is important that these kinds of positions be filled on a permanent basis so that relationships of trust and understanding can develop.

Can the minister inform this House when she plans to have full-time social workers in the communities of Coral Harbour and Nauyasat? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. I know that in some communities they have casual staff conducting these reviews, or workers from outside the community undertake the reviews. However, I concur with your assessment that we are indeed facing a shortfall of social workers throughout our territory. It's not just in Nunavut, as there are also capacity issues elsewhere in Canada. So we are quite worried about files that need to be handled quickly or those requiring a comprehensive review. This results in some of them falling through the cracks, and this is a common concern for the Department of Family Services.

I can look into the present situation of the social workers in Coral Harbour and Nauyasat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for stating that she will look into the matter and I do want the minister to look into the matter because my constituency communities don't have a social worker right now.

(interpretation ends) I appreciate that the Department of Family Services cannot just hire anybody to fill social worker positions. Training and certification are important to ensure that services are delivered in the right way.

Nunavut Arctic College delivers programs to train and certify social workers. Can the minister describe how her department works with the college to recruit, train, and hire social workers to work in our communities?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that supplementary question. This indeed is an issue that causes us concerns, especially with social workers who work alone as some communities only have one social worker.

We are indeed quite concerned about the workload because of potentially overworking them and burning them out. Some of them are on call for (interpretation ends) 24 hours a day (interpretation) and this can tire out anybody, and other issues that exacerbate that is the lack of office space and a place to do their work. This also includes the lack of staff housing as well

as the overall number of clients they handle.

This is on top of their many other responsibilities of their job. These are some of the barriers we face with this situation, however, I like your question because through the adult education branches, we have provided social workers courses locally and in this past year, several students completed their courses in Cambridge Bay where we had six graduates who received their (interpretation ends) Bachelors of Social Work. (interpretation) It was quite a moving experience that they completed their education and went on to graduate.

We continue to work with our community learning centres, and we have more plans to have Inuit students who will take this course from our communities, and to look at areas that can provide more work support while they are completing their course activities. We have plans to address that, but to date, in 2023, there were 17 graduates that completed the first year.

There were five actual graduates who completed the social work program courses in 2022-23. Five also graduated with their Bachelors of Social Work. Five of them got their Bachelors and six are going to be taking that course. We work with community learning centres to see how we can expand this training into the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to

Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 133 – 6(2): Sanirajak Marine Infrastructure Planning Study

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table marine infrastructure planning for Sanirajak, and I encourage all members to review it with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Tabled Document 134 – 6(2): Family Abuse Intervention Act Annual Report 2021-22

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. As the (interpretation ends) justice minister, (interpretation) I am very pleased to table the (interpretation ends) *Family Abuse Intervention Act* 2021-20 22 (interpretation) Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, justice minister. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 22 – An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act – First Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 22, *An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act*, be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Bill 23 – Nursing Professions Act – First Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South again, that Bill 23, *Nursing Professions Act*, be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Bill 24 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2023- 2024 – First Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 24, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2023-2024*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Bill 24 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
2, 2023-2024 – First Reading**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2023-2024*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. There are no items in the committee. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. There is no report. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. There are none. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Ms. Weaver.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Ms. Weaver: *Orders of the Day* for May 26, 2023:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions

7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 17 – 6(2)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 22
 - Bill 23
 - Bill 24
 - Bill 25
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

>> *Applause*

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Friday, May 26, at 9 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:04*

