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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Tony Akoak, MLA

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

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

Hon. P.J. Akeegok
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)
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 Kaernerik
(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

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(Baker Lake)

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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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, June 1, 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 Joanase, Mr. Joelie Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, 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. Killiktee, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good day, my fellow MLAs. Welcome to those who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast.

(interpretation ends) I understand that our colleague from Hudson Bay is watching us on TV at the moment, so a big wave.

Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 255 – 6(2):
Update on Qulliq Energy
Corporation Cyber-attack**

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to my fellow MLAs and our colleague who is watching us online.

(interpretation ends) Today, Mr. Speaker, I stand here to extend thanks to my colleagues and counterparts, as well as the federal government and outside cybersecurity experts for their generous support and guidance in bringing most of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's information technology operations back to a functional state.

As many of us are aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation was hit with a cyber-attack in January 2023, shutting down access to critical data and applications. Mr. Speaker, in response, the QEC and the Government of Nunavut's Community and Government Services Information Management and Information Technology department immediately began restoring IT infrastructure and rebuilding a modern and secure network for the corporation.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank our customers, our vendors, and other stakeholders for their patience while interim IT solutions were put in place to continue providing a critical service to Nunavummiut. QEC employees worked diligently to continue day-to-day operations in an unexpected and challenging situation and were quick to implement contingency plans, while delivering on the corporation's mandate despite IT limitations.

Considerable collaboration and concerted efforts were required to successfully restore administrative functions. However, the QEC's ongoing IT needs are significant. Further investments are being planned to modernize and transform the entire network so that the corporation will be better equipped to protect important data and applications. These new investments will create one of the more secure environments going into the future. To complete the rebuild and sustain its operation, the decision has been made to transition the QEC's IT system to the Government of Nunavut's network on a permanent basis.

The GN adopting the QEC's IT systems is in the best interest of the territory in continuing the transformation required to build a more secure and modern IT infrastructure. The GN can now extend its established systems to help further improve critical services for our communities. Being part of the Government of Nunavut umbrella will benefit day-to-day operations and deliver on the QEC's mandate to supply safe and reliable electricity to the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 256 – 6(2):
Microsoft Translator User Guide**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to Nunavummiut and those here with us today. I would like to say "happy Pride Month" to those that are here with us

and to everyone else who is celebrating Pride Month.

Mr. Speaker, since 2020, the Department of Culture and Heritage and the Department of Community and Government Services have collaborated with Microsoft to have Inuktut as a select language on Microsoft's Bing Translator Tool. Since then, we have continued to improve this service by including Inuktitut in both syllabics and roman orthography as well as Inuinnaqtun.

Mr. Speaker, today I announce that a new Microsoft Translator user guide, *A Guide to Communicating in Inuktut at Work and Home using Microsoft Translator*, is now available on the Department of Culture and Heritage's website to help anyone who would like Inuktut translations on their devices, including computers and mobile devices.

Mr. Speaker, this step-by-step guide helps users navigate how to use Inuktut in Microsoft Translator in Microsoft's suite of software, including in Microsoft Word, Outlook, Teams, and the Edge and Safari browsers. It also guides mobile device users in how to download and use Microsoft Translator on Apple and Android devices.

Mr. Speaker, as Microsoft Translator is an artificial intelligence tool, it will continue learning Inuktut and will allow for better quality translation with each update.

Mr. Speaker, this collaboration is a successful example of Havaqatigiingniq in working toward improving the use and access of Inuktut in the workplace and at home, and I encourage all

Nunavummiut to use this language tool to learn, preserve, and revitalize our language. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 257 – 6(2):
Strengthening Health Staffing**

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

Mr. Speaker, health centres are important to the well-being of every Nunavut community. Health centres are where we turn for medical care, vital vaccinations, advice on mental health, and many other needs. To provide these services, we need staff, and recruiting and retaining registered nurses during the summer months is particularly challenging. This summer we may see temporary health centre closures throughout the territory as we continue to deal with the national shortage of nurses and other health professionals.

(interpretation ends) We have established a Health Centre Operations Task Force that is focused on addressing staff shortages. Last summer we boosted recruitment of locum staff, coordinated staff redistribution among health centres, and even had senior managers step up to work on the frontlines. Through these and other actions, we reduced closures in 2022 significantly and I am confident that we can do it again this year.

Health is committed to strengthening staff recruitment and has implemented several effective incentives, including

the Bring a Family Friend Initiative. It allows eligible nurses to bring a friend or family member to their assigned community during peak holiday times. It has helped us to secure additional staff during critical periods of shortage.

Health is dedicated to a comprehensive vision of health workforce development. With the approval of Bill 24, Health is bringing forward critical staffing measures aimed at stabilizing our staffing through a variety of recruitment and retention initiatives. Along with the Roadmap to Strengthen the Nunavut Nursing Workforce, these measures will boost staff resilience and retention by:

- Improving work environments to reduce staff burnout, while improving patient access to care;
- Offering flexible employment options and a competitive compensation package, especially for difficult-to-fill positions; and
- Creating opportunities to recruit health care students before they enter the workforce.

Uqaqtitsijii, ensuring that we have a skilled and sufficient health workforce is necessary to deliver essential health care services in all communities. Health plans to continue strengthening our staffing levels across Nunavut for the benefit of all Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 258 – 6(2):
Qulliq Energy Corporation –
Operating Model Going Forward**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on
January 15, 2023 a cyber-attack
compromised the QEC business
network, disabling access to critical
applications, including email, project
files, procurement, payroll, accounts
receivables and payables, and client
information. Community and
Government Services' Information
Management and Information
Technology has collaborated with Qulliq
Energy Corporation staff to lead the
recovery effort and signed a
memorandum of understanding on
January 27, 2023 to rebuild the Qulliq
Energy Corporation network and restore
services by March 31, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy
Corporation's information technology
infrastructure requires significant
modernization and transformation due to
deficits in various areas, such as
switches, servers, storage, and
bandwidth. These deficiencies pose a
risk to Qulliq Energy Corporation
operations.

Mr. Speaker, Community and
Government Services and the Qulliq
Energy Corporation will be creating
another memorandum of understanding
to provide information
management/information technology
services and funding arrangements. The
transition of Qulliq Energy Corporation
network operations to Community and
Government Services will include a

thorough analysis of organizational
design, housing, unions, location of
positions, among other considerations.
After this transition, Community and
Government Services will build a new
modern robust network and manage the
current and ongoing operations of the
Qulliq Energy Corporation's information
management/information technology on
a go-forward basis.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker,
Community and Government Services'
Information Management/Information
Technology managed an average of
7,097 threats per day, with the number
increasing each quarter. The need for
robust network security is genuine and
continuously growing and the potential
cost of cyber-attacks cannot be
underestimated.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to
commend the Community and
Government Services' Information
Management/Information Technology
incident response team, who have
worked diligently to ensure the Qulliq
Energy Corporation recovery is
completed securely and efficiently. On
behalf of the Government of Nunavut,
we thank them for their commitment.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon.
Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

**Minister's Statement 259 – 6(2):
Celebrating Nunavut's Graduates**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr.
Speaker. Today I would like to take the
opportunity to celebrate our high school
students who have persevered, despite

the challenges during their time in high school, and who have graduated or are on the path towards graduation.

Mr. Speaker, 249 students are expected to graduate this year. I want to recognize and commend these students for this significant accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, our graduation ceremonies looked a little different over the last couple of years. Graduates celebrated their success with their families and communities in a variety of creative ways, while continuing to follow public health measures and to ensure safety.

Mr. Speaker, this year graduation ceremonies have returned to in-person, which is very exciting. I know we all look forward to what this year's graduation ceremonies will bring.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of every one of our graduates. Their success is also a testament to the dedication of their teachers, as well as to the support of their families, friends, and communities. We wish them all the best as they follow and chase their dreams and pursue a higher education or enter the workforce. Please join me in congratulating our Nunavut high school graduating class of 2023. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Minister's Statement 260 – 6(2):
Safety Certificate Course for
Young Workers**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my fellow MLAs and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, through ongoing communication and relationships with employers, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission is proud to introduce the new positions of safety outreach representatives. Their role is to support employers in their understanding of occupational health and safety roles and responsibilities.

The three safety outreach representatives were hired; one in Iqaluit and two in Yellowknife. This improved service will be provided by reallocating existing resources. Employers will not incur additional costs and their rates will not increase because of this new resource.

Safety outreach representatives are not safety officers. They do not have the mandate to enforce regulations and laws and are not there to provide safety officers with information to conduct inspections.

Employers looking to improve health and safety in the workplace can contact the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission and request support from the safety outreach representatives. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Environment, Ms. Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 261 – 6(2):
Waste Oil Pilot Project: Arviat,
Cambridge Bay, and Pond Inlet**

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation):
Good day to Nunavummiut and my
colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House that the Department of Environment has implemented a waste oil pilot project to assess the feasibility of waste oil backhauling throughout the territory by targeting one community per region, for a total of three communities: Arviat, Cambridge Bay, and Pond Inlet. This pilot project was developed to provide estimates, training, and guidance to alleviate some of the burden seen from stockpiled waste oil barrels in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, my department recognizes that waste oil management is an issue in community landfills. Waste oil is one of the most produced types of hazardous waste in Nunavut. Lack of storage and waste management has been a long-standing challenge for Nunavut. Efforts are being made to properly manage waste drums to prevent spill and contamination.

Mr. Speaker, we have taken steps to demonstrate that legacy waste oils can be packed, stored, and disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner. This pilot project involved conducting a preliminary assessment and inventory of waste barrels in three community landfills.

Mr. Speaker, the project is on track. A drum inventory and assessment has been completed in three communities and will

be shipped south this sealift season: in Arviat an estimated total of 64,000 litres of waste, which includes 20 tote tanks and 187 drums; in Pond Inlet an estimated total of 51,000 litres, which will include 60 tote tanks, approximately 250 drums; and in Cambridge Bay an estimated total of 91,000 litres, which will include 46 tote tanks and approximately 225 drums.

Mr. Speaker, we are continuing to work with communities to ensure that the project addresses their needs and to reduce the impacts of waste oil across the territory. The pilot project will continue to be monitored and managed until its completion. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements.
Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 340 – 6(2):
Introducing RCMP Senior
Members**

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for recognizing me for this member's statement.

Before I start my member's statement, as I stated in my minister's statement yesterday, it's a huge day for Andrew Blackadar, our Commanding Officer, so I would like to take a quick opportunity to recognize Andrew and also the Commissioner of the RCMP, Mike Duheme; Roshan Pinto, Inspector-Executive Officer; Al McCambridge, Corporal Sergeant Major; and Andrew's

son, Colin, to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) today I wanted to speak to this event transpiring tomorrow, as we will be celebrating the Inuujaq School students graduating. There are two students who will be graduating, Nora Muckpa and Gamie Sebastian Oqallak. I will be able to make it up tomorrow and I will be speaking with community members and celebrating with the graduates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerik.

Member's Statement 341 – 6(2): High School Graduates in Constituency

Mr. Kaernerik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to the visitors in the gallery. Good day to the people of Amittuq.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to rise today to express my congratulations to both of my constituency communities of Igloolik and Sanirajak, who will celebrate the students graduating from high school.

In Igloolik, the graduates are:

- Randy Angilirq
- Charlotte Anguratsiaq
- Dion Angutimarik
- Hayden Angutimarik
- Hazyl Arnatsiaq
- Alexie Ivalu
- Numa Malliki
- Jamal Nutarariaq

- Sherina Qaunaq
- John Qulaut
- Kyle Ungalak

They will hold the graduation ceremony in Igloolik on June 2.

In Sanirajak, the graduates are:

- Brenda Qamukaq
- Gloria Nangmalik
- Julia Rose Issigaitok
- Kim Morgan
- Paul Uttak

They will hold their graduation ceremony on June 30 or 31, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Member's Statement 342 – 6(2): Safe Spring Fishing and Hunting

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my fellow residents of Baker Lake and my grandchild who is watching the proceedings, which delights me. Grandchild, I will see you in a few more days.

Mr. Speaker, this is my advice to my fellow Baker Lake residents as springtime is here, bringing beautiful weather. Many people will be spending most days outside and fishing in the melt holes, but I ask everyone to be very careful and not to take chances and be prepared for any emergencies, especially if you are going near a river, as we love

to catch fish by jigging. However, I urge everyone to be aware at all times, keep away from thin areas, and ensure that you bring extra clothing, okay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 343 – 6(2):
Recognizing Elder Levi Illuitok**

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize and congratulate elder Levi Illuitok of Kugaaruk for recently publishing a children's book.

Mr. Speaker, Illuitok is 82 years old and he shares the stories he was told as a child growing up. His new book is titled "*The Little Folk*" and tells the story of a young boy adopted by little people known as the *Inugarullit*.

Mr. Speaker, this is not Illuitok's first book. He has previously published two books, *Ahiahia the Orphan* and *The Amajurkjuk*.

Mr. Speaker, elders are our respected knowledge keepers and storytelling has always been an important way of life for Inuit. It is how we have kept our culture and traditions alive for many generations.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud elder Levi Illuitok for sharing his stories with us and kindly encourage him to continue writing.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today that on the date of April 24 to 29, 2023, Kugaaruk

hosted a drum dance festival. I want to greatly acknowledge the communities of Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Nauyasat, and Rankin Inlet, who sent drum dancers and singers. (interpretation) It's very gratifying. (interpretation ends) I want to greatly thank the community of Kugaaruk for always being so welcoming.

Mr. Speaker, I want to greatly acknowledge and thank Chris Tungilik, Rosa Oogark, Alice Inuksaq, Sabina Nartok, Richard Kakkianun, and George Ningark for volunteering their time to make sure it was a successful event. Mr. Speaker, it is held annually but was on hold for a couple of years due to the COVID pandemic. This year it was held in Kugaaruk and next year, 2024, Rankin Inlet will be hosting it as it is an annual event to have the drum dance festival.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support these types of events and each year is an Inuit ancestral way of life to keep the *pihiq* songs going for future generations to keep our culture and traditions alive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 344 – 6(2):
Chesterfield Inlet Concerns**

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Good day, Nunavummiut and my fellow MLAs.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address a

concern that has been raised in the community of Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education recently announced the full-day kindergarten pilot project for the community of Chesterfield Inlet. While I support the intent of giving our children and youth the best educational opportunities possible, I note that this initiative may present some challenges for educators and administrators.

Mr. Speaker, the Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority has already raised concerns about whether the department will be able to fill the necessary teaching positions, including support teacher positions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to invite the Premier, the ministers of Education, Community and Government Services, and Economic Development and Transportation, as well as the Minister responsible for Housing to visit the community of Chesterfield Inlet at the earliest opportunity to see for themselves the challenges and barriers faced by the community and its residents. I hope that they will be able to visit after the spring sitting is over.

Mr. Speaker, the population of Chesterfield Inlet is approximately 400 people. For a small community, its residents are very active and I would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the community's leaders. I look forward to welcoming the Premier and the ministers to Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 345 – 6(2): Safe Spring Travels

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ensure that safety is practised at all outings in any of the communities this spring. People will be going everywhere, without any clocks to keep an eye on after school break arrives, and they will be travelling to their favourite spots. I ask that they let their families know where they are going and bring a (interpretation ends) SPOT (interpretation) or a VHF radio in case of a mishap or an accident as we prefer that everyone is safe.

Further, when we get to the appropriate item, I will be asking the Minister of Community and Government Services questions about search and rescue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 346 – 6(2): Congratulations to Graduates

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Pond Inlet, Daniel, who is watching the proceedings, and the people of Nunavut, I send my regards. There will be a graduation ceremony in our community tomorrow at 5 p.m. The grade 12

students from Nasivvik High School will be graduating. The graduates are:

- Marissa Idlout
- Tasha Inootik
- Grace Simonee
- Susie Simonee
- J.J. Simonee
- Joanasie Aglak
- Enookie Kiyoapik
- Jeff Simonee
- Joey Saunders

We are very proud of these graduates and I ask the members to join me in congratulating these individuals. I am happy that we will be able to attend the graduation ceremony.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, as this is the last day, I wish all of my colleagues a beautiful spring and summer. We will see you again during the fall sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Member's Statement 347 – 6(2): Clyde River Kindergarten Completion

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm excited to go fishing with my friends and family when I return tomorrow, if possible, and I would like to go camping right away. Good day to the residents of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq.

I would like to congratulate the following individuals from Clyde River. There will be a kindergarten graduation ceremony. There are 27 students who

attend morning and afternoon classes. The graduates are:

- Abby-Joe Aipellee
- Tavvi Angnetsiak
- Brandon Enuaraq
- Boss Iqalukjuak
- Jedidiah Iqalukjuak
- Joshua Iqalukjuak
- Ed Ron Kautuq
- Celin Natanine
- Pia Palituq
- Ataguttaalu Palluq
- Piujulia Qillaq
- Siara Tassugat
- Joe Jack Aipellee
- Bethany Angutikjuak
- Eva Apak
- Laakuluk Aiden Enuaraq
- Carmen Iqalukjuak
- Tatania Iqalukjuak
- Caitlin Joanas
- Justin Killiktee
- Jay Nookiguak
- Tatania Palluq
- Gabriel Palituq
- Piujuq Alexandra Palituq
- Jordin Qillaq
- Lori Anne Tassugat
- Roxanne Wilton

Those are the 27 kindergarten graduates in Clyde River. I ask the House to join me in congratulating these individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 348 – 6(2):
Mental Health**

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Nunavut and my colleagues, have a great day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the concern of mental health and suicide prevention in our communities across Nunavut. We are all affected by suicide and we all deal with mental health within and by the people around us; friends and family members, and most of all, in our communities.

We as Members of the Legislative Assembly raise the issues and voice our constituents' concerns. Even our administrators and public servants that help move the concerns and try to make what we want a reality to stop suicide and make our communities healthy, like all the issues they help to get completed, mental health and suicide prevention seem to need more push from the government. We try to find solutions by just raising the issues, but we never see the investment in it, not just with funds but with resources we have in front of us in our communities, like the government invests in fibre optics, housing, and everything else.

An Inuk is going to get the best help from another Inuk, an elder, an individual that has more life experience than the person that's having issues with self-harm and mental health, because an Inuk understands another Inuk more clearly than an individual from the south. Hearing this from an Inuk mental health representative was very powerful for me. We need to seek help from our communities for the best chance of

helping and lowering the suicide rate we have today in Nunavut.

I want to acknowledge the regional mental health team in Cambridge Bay that has travelled to other Kitikmeot communities to raise issues on suicide prevention and mental health. I especially want to recognize Harry Maksagak, who is very proactive with what he does in helping communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude my statement. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, my fellow MLAs.

(interpretation ends) I especially want to recognize Harry Maksagak, who is very proactive with what he does in helping communities with dealing with suicide and mental health, and I would like the ministers of the appropriate departments to deal with mental health and suicide prevention to seek or include individuals from all communities in their efforts to help Nunavummiut from each community to work with people with great knowledge in all Nunavut communities.

Lastly, we need to invest more in groups or societies to travel to and from all Nunavut communities to collaborate in different ways of the communities on helping and raising suicide prevention and mental health issues in their communities. God bless you all. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

**Member's Statement 349 – 6(2):
Celebrating Pride Month**

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take a little step back in time to a little over nine years ago here in this House. Mr. Speaker, at that time, there were a number of Pride activities around the city and around the country and some people were for or against it, and a lot of people felt unclear or uncomfortable stating which side they were on. So many people still to this day don't feel totally comfortable living in their own skin publicly. I just wanted to stress how important it was for me at that time to pick a side and to make very public my stance on my appreciation of people's individuality and life choices.

Mr. Speaker, in March 2014, I had asked Carol Tootoo to make me this tie that I wore yesterday and today, and it means a lot to me that she was able to provide it. She stayed up late that night and I wore it the next day in the House and I made a very public statement on celebrating our individuality and uniqueness.

Mr. Speaker, fast forward a few years later here in this House, Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act*, which added gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds for discrimination in Nunavut, was passed in this House. The sponsoring minister, Keith Peterson, actually asked me to borrow this tie that day so he could wear it and I very, very gratefully gave it to him to wear that day, again, to publicly

show his position and comfort level in celebrating people's individuality.

Mr. Speaker, we need to celebrate our individuality and keep our hearts and minds open to all people, regardless of their different beliefs and lifestyles. Mr. Speaker, more and more today I see not just youth but people of all demographics being more and more comfortable of living their best lives in their skin, not wearing a mask of conformity.

I just want to take this time to publicly celebrate June being Pride Month and I am very happy that society is becoming more and more open and inclusive to people of all beliefs and backgrounds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 350 – 6(2):
Tribute to Sammy Koneak of
Kuujjuaq**

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the members beside me for those important words. As many people know, I didn't pick a side. I like both sides and all sides as a queer member of the Assembly. Happy Pride Month to everybody who is watching today and Pride is really suicide prevention. Let's love everybody and love ourselves.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the former Mayor of Kuujjuaq, Sammy Koneak, my brother-in-law. We lost Sammy to cancer on May 6 after a

two-year battle which he fought with the unwavering support of his family, his children, and my beautiful sister, Sheila Gordon. Mr. Speaker, he was predeceased by my niece, Pamela Minnie Gordon, when she was 17 in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, it would be impossible for me to describe the impact that Sammy had on Kuujjuaq, on Nunavik, and on our family in this brief time that I have. He was a leader in governance, infrastructure, tourism, sport, and healthy family activities. He was a huge proponent for Aqpik Jam.

Mr. Speaker, importantly, Sammy was a terrific family member and he was one of the few people that I trusted to send my little baby to, Miles. He would take Miles out fishing for salmon, mussels, and taught him much about the land and sea ocean around Kuujjuaq and about life. I sure do miss the rock power hour and wish all the Koneak's and my family strength, and I appreciate Sammy Koneak for everything he did for the world around him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 351 – 6(2): 2023
Arviat High School Graduates**

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is that time of year, graduation season, and in Arviat, (interpretation) there will be some graduates from the John Arnalukjuaq High School in the next

couple of days. There are potential grads, (interpretation) of which there are 37 in total. I will state all their names and I share in celebrating this event with them and I thank their parents and all of their teachers. (interpretation ends) The potential grads in Arviat are:

- Holden Aggark
- J.J. Aggark
- Jonathan Ahmak
- Peter Akammak
- Charlotte Aliktiluk
- Mary Rose Anayuinak
- Jayden Angalik
- Malla Anoe
- Peter Aulatjut
- Rosanna Arnarauyak
- Johnathan Campbell
- Jaime Copland
- Christian Curley
- Hunter Curley
- Neason Curley
- Casey Hapanak
- Destiny Ikakhik
- Maya Illnik
- Moses Illungiyok
- Caroline Ishalook
- Keenan Issakiark
- Peter Ivunirjuk
- Quentin Kablutisak
- Jacob Karlak
- Daniel Kigusiutnak
- Irena Komak
- Thayer Komakjuak
- Ryan Koomak
- Brad Kritaqliluk
- Arnaluk Manik
- Jocelyn Nagiyak
- Garreth Qanatsiaq
- Ann-Marie Shamee
- Batista Sinnisiak
- Colin Jr. Suluk
- Stella Suluk, and last but not least,

- Brayden Sulurayok

(interpretation) I share in celebrating these potential graduates with all of Arviat, starting with thanking their parents, and I hope that even when celebrating your passage from grade 12 that is a life event full of joy as a youth, you consider pursuing post-secondary education, as there are many possibilities to undertake higher education, either outside of Arviat or even within Arviat itself, within Nunavut or even outside, with many fields of higher education available. I encourage these youth to look at their options as higher education can provide many tangible benefits in life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I hope they will have a wonderful celebration.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 352 – 6(2):
Igloolik Fishing Derby**

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to firstly voice my gratitude to the recreation committee members from Igloolik, along with the alcohol education committee. They organized an event for June 2 to 5, namely, a fishing derby to catch the largest fish. I am envious of the people preparing for this event and the people who stated they are leaving to go fishing. Currently, I believe it is almost impossible to catch this event due to the complete absence of any seats on flights going up to Igloolik.

I wish all participants in the derby a safe time, to always be aware of your surroundings, and to have a wonderful

time. I know for a fact that the people attending the derby will enjoy it. For residents unable to travel to the fishing lake, the recreation committee will also have a localized cod fishing derby around our island. Our recreation committee is very innovative and organize very good events, so I voice my appreciation for their consistent hard work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

**Member's Statement 353 – 6(2): Safe
Spring Travels**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of South Baffin.

Mr. Speaker, since today is our final day of this session, I encourage people to be prepared and aware of their surroundings as springtime is one of the most wonderful times to enjoy the land. It is the best time of year, as good weather and the animals are all about, and I recall the song that recalls that particular time.

Mr. Speaker, with people in Kinngait and Kimmirut hunting beluga and geese, fishing, and enjoying the land and with many families heading out on the land, it clearly shows that working together and helping each other makes any trip easier. However, there are always risks associated with ice breaking up and the snow will soften into slush very rapidly. I urge everyone to be constantly aware of this and to look out for one another. Also, whenever people note an area becoming unsafe, they should pass that on to all of their fellow travellers.

Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, being on the land is enjoyable, except when trash is left there, so I ask that all the people bring their garbage back to their communities to ensure that our land remains pristine. Seeing garbage on the land spoils the enjoyment of the beauty of being on the land. To everyone who is planning to head out on the land, ensure that you bring all of your garbage to your community and I encourage every one of our fellow residents and throughout Nunavut to do so. Even though this happens year-round, I just wanted to say that as a reminder.

Again, I look forward to being on the land this spring, continuing to summer, as this is another one of our enjoyable seasons. To my colleagues and everyone in Nunavut, I wish you a great spring and summer and have a good day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. I have no more names. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

**Member's Statement 354 – 6(2):
Cambridge Bay High School
Graduates**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad I got to sneak in there as I had my hand up.

I am happy to announce and celebrate the Kiilnik High School in Cambridge Bay will be having their graduation on June 10, which is earlier this year than normal. They're usually in August, Mr. Speaker, so I know the students are getting very anxious for their graduation, and the community as well, as we

celebrate some very special individuals who have gone to graduation and we look forward to their big day.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and say congratulations to the following individuals:

- Kiana Ekpakohak
- Reagan Evetalegak
- Tori Evalik
- Makaia Haviojak
- Averi Kaiyogana
- Amik Kapolak
- Aiden Klengenberg
- Kristen McCullum
- Annica Otokiak
- Paiden Otokiak
- Nicolas Tologanak
- Avi (Alex) Maksagak

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge that we have a large number of students who are going to post-secondary or waiting to hear back from post-secondary, but I would like to wish them all the best.

We have Kiana Ekpakohak, who has been accepted to the University of Alberta for the transition program. Congratulations, Kiana.

We also have Reagan Evetalegak. Mr. Speaker, she is going to be going to the depot youth camp for the RCMP, as she really wants to become an RCMP member, and she will be starting that journey this summer. I'm wishing Reagan all the best as she goes forward this summer, but she has also applied to Nunavut Sivuniksavut and is waiting to hear back.

We also have Tori Evalik, who has been accepted to the University of Lethbridge

in the Indigenous Studies Program. All the best, Tori, in your future endeavours.

Aiden Klengenberg has also applied to Nunavut Sivuniksavut.

And finally, we have Kristen McCullum, who has been accepted to Lethbridge College for early childhood education. I'm wishing her all the best as she goes forward in early childhood.

Mr. Speaker, can I ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement?

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would finally like to say a special thank you to everyone who has played a helping hand into these young lives and to getting them to where they are today, including their teachers, school administrators, parents and guardians, family and friends, and the community of Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't pay special personal congratulations to my sister-in-law, Averi Kaiyogana, who is graduating from high school, along with my in-law's... I guess you would call her a "Tiguaqti" as well. Her name is Reagan Evetalegak, and I wish both of them all the best as they graduate.

I have known all of these students since they were young and as I worked in the school when I was coming back from university and seeing them when they

were in kindergarten and now graduating is so amazing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 471 – 6(2): Problems with Adoption Process

Return to Oral Question 477 – 6(2): Issues with Adoption Process

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm returning to oral questions asked on May 29, 2023 and May 30, 2023, asked by Ms. Killiktee, MLA for Uqqummiut, on the problems with the adoption process and issues with the adoption process. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement answers I provided on those days.

The communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, Kimmirut, Kinngait, and Grise Fiord are currently without custom adoption commissioners.

The Department of Family Services assists in the administration of custom adoptions, which includes appointing custom adoption commissioners, payments, and maintaining the adoption registry.

Family Services is working with Nunavut Tunngavik to improve the custom adoptions process. Family Services is working with Nunavut Tunngavik to make proposed changes to

the *Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act*.

Delays in custom adoptions are caused when births take place outside of Nunavut or when births are not registered by the birth parent. This documentation is required in the jurisdiction in which the child is born before the custom adoption process can be finalized. Family Services plans to increase the team of adoptions staff to increase efficiency. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Returns to Oral Questions.
Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

**Return to Oral Question 474 – 6(2):
Court-ordered Fuel Spill Cleanups**

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to respond to a question asked by the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa on May 30, 2023. The member requested an update on how often school facility components, such as fuel systems, air ventilation systems, fire alarms, and fire suppression systems, are assessed for code compliance.

Mr. Speaker, Community and Government Services maintains Government of Nunavut facilities, including schools. Trained community and government services staff and contract resources carry out scheduled inspections to ensure Government of Nunavut facilities meet legislative requirements.

To address items in the question directly:

- Fuel systems over 2,500 litres that are on Commissioner's Land are

inspected monthly as per federal regulations.

- Fire alarms are inspected annually.
- Air handling units and heating systems are inspected daily.
- Fire suppression systems are inspected annually.

Mr. Speaker, through routine inspection, preventative maintenance plans, and record keeping, Community and Government Services is working to ensure that Government of Nunavut buildings are safe and productive environments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Returns to Oral Questions.
Hon. Minister of Environment, Ms. Quassa.

**Return to Oral Question 487 – 6(2):
Contaminated Sites**

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have a Return to Oral Question 487 – 6(2), asked by the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa on May 30, 2023, concerning contaminated sites.

Mr. Speaker, this return is quite detailed. I have filed it with the Clerk for transcribing into *Hansard* for the public record and for distribution to all members.

Question:

Mr. Speaker, it was just over a year ago that the minister's predecessor informed this House that the contaminated sites working group was undertaking such initiatives as "a desktop risk assessment of the sites that have been identified as potential responsibilities of the Government of Nunavut."

Can the new minister update the House today on what progress has been made over the past 12 months by the contaminated sites working group? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Response:

The responsibility to conduct desktop studies, fieldwork, and risk assessments is the Department of Environment's responsibility. The work that the department does informs the discussions at the working group and those discussions help direct the work that our department does. Over the past 12 months, the department has completed one desktop analysis, two field investigations, and two risk assessments. An additional field investigation is planned for this summer.

The working group facilitated information sharing between departments on contaminated sites issues and finalized the newly approved Contaminated Sites Policy.

Question:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was great to have the Auditor General of Canada in Nunavut this week. As the minister is aware, the most recent territorial Public Accounts indicates that "...the Government [of Nunavut] acquired ownership of sites and activities associated with airports, tank farms and power plants on the creation of the Territory on April 1, 1999. The contamination of certain sites occurred when other parties were responsible for the use of, and/or held tenure to, the sites."

As the minister is also aware, her department's current business plan indicates that one of the specific priorities of the contaminated sites working group is to "support the GN in delineating liabilities under the direction of the Federal Auditor General [of Canada]."

Can the minister indicate how frequently the members of the contaminated sites working group meet with officials from the Office of the Auditor General? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Response:

The working group meets with the OAG as requested.

Based on the 1999 Division of Assets and Liabilities Agreement, the GN accepts that it may have sole or shared liability for contaminated sites that meet all the following criteria:

- The site is in the territory of Nunavut;
- The activities at the site that resulted in contamination were conducted by the GNWT or an agent of the GNWT prior to the GN taking possession under the 1999 agreement on assets and liabilities;
- The site is no longer in productive use;
- Where there is a demonstrable risk to human health and/or the environment; and
- The activities at the site were permitted by the GNWT and the original polluter cannot be pursued.

Each contaminated site requires specific assessment of ownership and history to determine each party's portion of total

liability associated with the contamination. In most cases, the parties include the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the Government of Nunavut. However, reasonable efforts will be made to ensure other responsible parties are also identified and included in all proceedings.

Question:

Mr. Speaker, I recognize and understand that the territorial government has been involved in what have been described as “protracted discussions” with the federal government concerning responsibility for a number of contaminated sites in Nunavut, and I recognize and understand that it takes two parties to come to an agreement.

Can the minister indicate what discussions she has had with her federal counterparts concerning this issue?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Response:

Responsibility for contamination as well as associated financial liability at each site is determined on a case-by-case basis. Responsibility for contamination of a given site may be shared amongst two or more parties.

The GN will pursue further discussions with the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and other parties as required to ensure that the necessary resources are secured for appropriate risk management measures at each contaminated site.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Returns to Oral Questions.
Hon. Minister responsible for Seniors,
Ms. Gross.

**Return to Oral Question 493 – 6(2):
Supports for Seniors**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to supplement my response to Oral Question 493 – 6(2), asked on Wednesday, May 31, by the Member for Netsilik.

Mr. Speaker, it is a regrettable reality that some of our elders experience abuse. This is unacceptable. Elder abuse is an issue we can all do something about. If you or someone you know is experiencing elder abuse, help is available.

The *Family Abuse Intervention Act* assists elders who are experiencing abuse by providing access to emergency protection orders and community intervention orders.

Mr. Speaker, community justice outreach workers are dedicated to helping Nunavummiut who are experiencing abuse through the *Family Abuse Interventions Act* process. If Nunavummiut would like more information about the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, please contact your local community justice outreach worker.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to communicate to Nunavummiut that the Family Wellness Division within the Department of Family Services is also available to assist elders and families that are experiencing family violence and abuse.

Anyone experiencing family violence and abuse can call the community social services worker or family wellness offices for support and referral to counselling. This may include referral to other services and transportation to a safe location.

Community social service workers and community justice outreach workers can accompany those fleeing violence to the nearest place of safety, including family violence shelters and safe homes.

Mr. Speaker, elders are the foundation of our society and our territory. We need to honour them and treat them with respect. Everyone has a role to play to ensure our elders are not experiencing violence and abuse. Through Inuuqatigiitsiarniq, Ikajuqtigiinni, and Piliriqatigiinni, we can all work to ensure that our elders are aging with dignity. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The last two returns to oral questions are in English only and we will be expecting them in Inuktitut when they come in. Thank you.

Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 502 – 6(2): Amaruq Gold Project Closure

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, all. Today I'll make it a 'three-peat' and ask the Premier a question for the third day in a row. It's regarding Agnico Eagle.

Agnico Eagle has been operating a gold mine just northeast of Baker Lake for

number of years now. It has actually been over a decade now and it has been very successful, especially with a number of my constituents working up there.

I'm wondering: does the Premier know when the Amarok project for Agnico Eagle is projected to close, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues for asking his 'three-peat' on me, but the question is best answered by the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation. Through you, I would like to defer that to the appropriate minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Premier is deferring the question to the Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for questioning this. I know I have the information here; I just don't have the actual dates of when it will be closing, but it is an active mine at this point, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping that the response would stay with the Premier as this affects the whole region, but anyway, I'll give the answer to my own question. It is three years. They're projected to close in three

years. This affects my whole community; it affects the whole region of Kivalliq. Agnico Eagle began announcing this a week and a half ago. I'm surprised that the government doesn't know this, which is very sad.

I'm wondering: what is the department or the whole cabinet doing to prepare for the mine closure for Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do apologize for not knowing the exact year, but I do know that each of the mine sites have their lifecycles. For Agnico Eagle, they have been very active, not just mining the ones that they do know. They are continually looking for more through that area and through other regions. They are a very proactive mine and I'm confident that they will continue to do some wonderful work within our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll keep my last supplementary question very simple. Can I get a commitment from this government for a closer working relationship with Agnico Eagle? Agnico Eagle, as I said, has been very beneficial for Baker Lake, for the whole region, and I would like to ensure that this government will work with Agnico Eagle to help to possibly extend the mine life, if there is anything the government can do. Can I get a commitment from this government to

have a closer working relationship with Agnico Eagle? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have a very strong working relationship with Agnico Eagle Mines and we have MOUs for each of the mine sites and we work very closely with them. My department is very active with Agnico and we have been having very fortunate times meeting with the Agnico board as late as our mine symposium. Also, any opportunity I have to get a chance to meet with them, I meet with them.

For this particular mine, the life expectancy for the mine is three years, unless they find more within that area. They have had that success before and I'm confident that they will be able to do that again and I continue to encourage Agnico as a very good mine operator that we have a good working relationship with. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 503 – 6(2): Status of Processing Transcripts for Students

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question today to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, last year the minister told this House that the Maplewood program had been replaced with Edsembli, new software that at that time was still having

some programming issues that the minister stated had been resolved.

Can the minister update the House today on the status of the processing of student transcripts? What assurance can the minister give our students applying at post-secondary institutions that some of the previous issues that delayed applications, where in some cases forced students to remove their applications, will not occur again this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for that question. We use the Nunavut Student Information System and the department recognizes the importance of having quality data to provide reports and raw data on enrolment, attendance, and achievement, for example. We also use this to capture the student enrolment, attendance, and achievement in all of our schools so that we're able to collect and use that data accurately and safely across Nunavut. This system allows for us to be up to date and also to have a comprehensive source of data to be able to evaluate school and program performance at all grade levels.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that we did replace that system in January 2022 and that was when we had the short delay of the transcript processing which the member was speaking about. I can say that we did, in the earlier part of 2022, work diligently to make sure that we were caught up with all the transcript requests and they were all administered over, I think it was, three months we had

caught up and after the new system was in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that assurance. I'm sure that if any students out there that do run into any challenges, they can contact the minister's office or the transcripts division.

Mr. Speaker, students here in Iqaluit are just a few weeks away from their final exams and they're focused on finishing off the school year and grad activities, but I just want to take a moment to remind them that the deadline for FANS is also about a month and a half away, to get started on that process as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is often spoken that one of the biggest hindrances of FANS applications is lack of information and the back and forth to make sure forms are filled out properly.

Mr. Speaker, what steps have been taken to streamline and track applications so students are notified immediately if information is missing and they can follow up with requests to the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students office to make sure that their applications are received on time and that the paperwork is processed to give them the ability to attend their programming this fall? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, in terms, I just

would like to touch back on the transcript information and share that this year we're working to ensure that our students in high school from grade 9 to grade 12, twice a year in June and in December, they will be receiving their student information with the courses that they have taken so far, what they have been enrolled with, and their grades. That will be enhancing the students' knowledge and the families' knowledge to where the student is and to help them through their career pathing, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of FANS, we are currently working on the FANS review and I look forward to the recommendations coming forward in August of this year. Even though that review will be completed, there have been a number of initiatives that we have been working on to support and enhance the FANS program.

Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest things that we're working on is to support a new database for FANS to improve the FANS program overall, as that database has been around since Nunavut was created and it has been very aged. We do need to have a better scope of using a program that will fully meet the needs of our students.

Mr. Speaker, in the interim measures for FANS, I can say that we have been able to hire additional staff to the FANS department on a casual basis. We have hired seven staff into the department and I'm hoping that through the recommendations, these positions will become permanent.

Mr. Speaker, we have also included that we are able to have each of those staff members that are now case officers, so

they work directly with the student and they have case files. They check up on the students every couple of weeks to make sure everything is going smoothly and going well. We also have automated information that goes forward directly to the students and we are checking up on those applications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One improvement of FANS I didn't hear is what I would like to talk about next, but before I say that, I would like to... . Hopefully the minister and the department have hired summer students, as I recommended last year, as those students have hands-on knowledge of the FANS system and would be able to greatly contribute to the good operations of that office.

Mr. Speaker, last year I also raised the issue that the applications for courses at post-secondary institutions often come with a fee. At the time, I had asked if there was any appetite or any discussions for the Department of Education to assist, even if it was on an income threshold basis, to help students with fee recovery for those applications.

Mr. Speaker, at the time, the minister had stated, "In terms of paying for application processes, I know that support is one of those areas where we can really review that process when we are doing the FANS review and we will take it into great consideration to help support our students in that early stage of applying and applying to places within Nunavut, but all over Canada and work to support their fees." Finally, the

minister stated, “Hopefully I can come back with some positive news for our member and the colleagues here, and Nunavummiut on that process.”

Mr. Speaker, I would like to get an update on that process as I still haven’t heard that good news yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for that question. I did state earlier that we are still completing the review of the FANS program and once all of those very detailed and compiled recommendations come forward from many stakeholders, including past FANS recipients, to parents, the college, and other entities that support students, including Nunavut Tunngavik and others, have all been consulted by the FANS department and there is a very large number of additional recommendations, including the one that we had spoken about that the member was asking a question about. I can say that that has been included in the recommendations. When that report does come out in August, I look forward to updating the member and the members in the fall sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 504 – 6(2): Igloolik Airport Terminal

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic

Development and Transportation regarding the Igloolik airport terminal.

The minister knows, as he often visits the community of Igloolik, that when elders or people with disabilities who need wheel chairs arrive in the community, they literally have to be carried to the terminal. I would like to ask the minister what plans the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has on upgrading or replacing the airport terminal in Igloolik. I would like to hear about that from the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is unfortunate that many of the terminal buildings that were built in the past were not built with a ramp. For that reason, during the upgrade process, we do include the ramps now. That is the situation at the moment. Today, Igloolik’s terminal is slated for upgrades. What needs to be rectified is very much part of the designs now. That is the current situation, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fall is coming soon and during this time when the government is preparing, as you know, many of the airport terminals don’t have such upgrades. When will the renovations take place? Will it be this coming fall or the following year? Can the minister indicate what the

completion date is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through this House, during our capital planning process, MLAs provide approval and input, including any upgrades or improvements, in expending the funding. This is how the funds to be used in Igloolik were approved. During the planning for this project, the (interpretation ends) ramp (interpretation) was allocated funding approval via the changes to the preapproved capital budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He didn't indicate the date I asked for in my question. Is the upgrade beginning in the fall? At least I suspect that is the time frame here. Since he didn't provide an answer, does this mean it will begin next fiscal year? In the next 20 years? When are you anticipating this upgrading work? I would like to get a time frame from the minister. Please provide a numeric answer as to when. When is it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot provide an actual day or date at this time

due to the fact that when the capital budget is approved, we then provide them to our employees, along with required changes. When additional items are added, from what I was informed about, the planned upgrade for Igloolik revolves around the ramp and the design is already produced. I anticipate or expect that if the project staff have the design drawings, then it should begin fairly soon with work commencing. I can state that is how the process usually plays out. However, I am unable to provide a firm date of the actual date, but once I get it, I will provide it directly to the member, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 505 – 6(2): Legal Aid in the Kitikmeot

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice and they concern the issue of legal aid in the Kitikmeot region.

Mr. Speaker, I understand and recognize that the Legal Services Board operates at arm's length from the department and is responsible for providing eligible Nunavummiut with legal aid and other related services.

Mr. Speaker, the Legal Services Board oversees the operation of the three regional clinics in Cambridge Bay, Iqaluit, and Rankin Inlet.

One of the board's responsibilities is to "develop and coordinate territorial and local programs aimed at...increasing knowledge of the law, legal processes, administration of justice and providing

public education and outreach with respect to human rights.”

Can the minister clearly explain how the Legal Services Board partners up with communities, including Kugluktuk, to increase awareness and knowledge of legal education? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Legal Services Board is composed of the three regions and each of those regions has representation from the board. They actively try to promote the work that they do have with all regions, in particular for the Kitikmeot, through public service announcements that are used in terms of identifying what programs and projects that they are doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. (interpretation ends) On May 26, 2023, the 2020-21 Annual Report of the Legal Services Board was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The report highlights the board’s successful delivery of the Inuit Court Worker Program and indicated that the board employed 24 full-time and part-time Inuit court workers across the territory in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. These positions help provide many services, including client intake, translation, community outreach, and more.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the boards’ efforts to hire, train, and support Inuit frontline workers.

Can the minister indicate how many Inuit court workers were employed in the 2022-23 fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member stated, the Legal Services Board is an arm’s-length organization and for their staff and the complements, I don’t have the breakdown of how many are Inuit, but I will commit to the member to provide that information once I get it from the Legal Services Board. It’s one that I don’t have direct information from an arm’s-length board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anavilok: Mr. Speaker, as you are well aware, a fire in Gjoa Haven back in March 2022 burned down the government building where the Legal Services Board had its headquarters. Mr. Speaker, it has now been just over a year and three months since the unfortunate fire.

Can the minister provide a clear update on how his department has been accommodating the employees in Gjoa Haven and can he clearly indicate what long-term plans are in place for this office? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was a very unfortunate event that took place and our department right away assisted the legal services in terms of getting the equipment that they need and also to ensure that they will be able to get back to work. From what I understand currently, they are working out of home right now and looking for space. For the long term, working closely with my colleague from Community and Government Services, that building will be replaced and that's the long-term goal is to get our staff and their staff into buildings that are functional. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 506 – 6(2): Fuel Shortage in Kugaaruk

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, and they concern the current fuel shortage situation in Kugaaruk. Mr. Speaker, it is also affecting my constituency community of Taloyoak when it comes to flights.

Mr. Speaker, it recently came to my attention that the community of Kugaaruk has been facing a shortage of jet fuel that may impact flight movements into and out of the community. Mr. Speaker, when I became aware of these concerns, I immediately contacted the minister responsible to make him aware of the situation. Mr. Speaker, I want to

acknowledge and thank the minister for his quick response to me.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my constituents and the general public, can the minister provide an update on his department's response to the fuel situation in Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to Kugaaruk, I believe it's pertaining to a NOTAM (Notice to Air Missions) that was issued for the community, and that was as a result of a low inventory of Jet A fuel. Mr. Speaker, the Petroleum Products Division has been monitoring and verifying inventory within the community and will be doing that up until resupply.

Mr. Speaker, initiating NOTAM is to prevent the shortage before the ships arrive with more fuel. We are in regular communications with the hamlet through the senior administrative officer, who is no stranger to this House. We are trying to mitigate the impacts to Kugaaruk at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the current shortage of Jet A-1 is the result of higher-than-normal volumes having been sold this past winter. Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate how his department will ensure that this year's fuel resupply to the community takes

this situation into account? That's for clarification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Petroleum Products Division, of course, on an annual cycle, we look at what the fuel levels are before the resupply ships come in for every community. Mr. Speaker, it's going to be an ongoing thing each year where we try to meet the demands. Some communities are experiencing fluctuations on consumption of different types of fuel, but we're trying to closely monitor this on an ongoing basis to reduce or mitigate any impact around shortages. We want to minimize any kind of impact for all communities and their fuel if they're undergoing shortages or NOTAMs in this case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important that fuel distribution infrastructure in the community is in good working order. Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify what upgrades are planned for Kugaaruk in the coming year with respect to its fuel distribution infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Kugaaruk, I'm not aware of any specific fuel distribution infrastructure spending that the Petroleum Products Division will be undertaking. However, if there are any

communities experiencing difficulties or issues, for example, with their pumping station, they should immediately contact the local contractor and the Petroleum Products Division would be very responsive in making sure those issues are rectified in a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 507 – 6(2): Enforcement of Smoking Legislation in Public and Staff Housing

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for my phone, but I was trying to get prepared and I would like to apologize for that before I begin.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the territory-wide ban on smoking in public housing units and Government of Nunavut staff housing units came into effect yesterday. As that is the case, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we all want a healthy future for our children and we are all aware of the dangers of smoking.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the capacity of local housing organizations in smaller communities like Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River to enforce the ban. Can the minister indicate what specific training and resources have been provided to local housing organizations? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member. (interpretation) With regard to the ban on smoking in public housing units and government staff housing units, the local housing organizations' units, or even privately rented housing, you are banned from smoking within the unit and have to keep a certain distance away from the unit. At the beginning, the housing corporation will work on communicating the smoking ban and provide support and training. We will have training on the new rules. We have no watchdogs to look at who is smoking in units or not keeping the distance. There will be communications and training on the smoking ban, and I'm sure that there will be work to figure out how to deal with people who are not following the rules. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for explaining the process. Under the new rules, repeat violators may be fined or evicted from their public housing units. Mr. Speaker, my question based on that is: in circumstances where an individual is evicted from the public housing unit for smoking, will their spouse and children also be evicted? That's a concern of mine and I'm interested in hearing the answer to that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to apply the rules to everyone. We're currently looking at what processes will be taken if there should be an eviction or if there are going to be fines imposed on the individual. We are currently looking at the process that will be applied, the training programs that will be provided, and what action will be taken should an individual keep smoking in the unit, which can include eviction. That's what we are currently looking at and we will make sure that all the information is made available to the tenants of public housing and government staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that they're currently exercising the new rules on the tenants of public housing and government staff housing. That's how I understand it.

Mr. Speaker, when we make changes, there are often consequences that we do not foresee. Should a law be applied? I think we're just saying yes and following the rules.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) the intent of the new rules is to make smokers and vapers go outside. In order to reduce the amount of garbage like cigarette butts that accumulate on the ground, there should be resources provided to local housing organizations to help them ensure that adequate

numbers of receptacles are placed in high-traffic areas. By saying that, can the minister indicate if these resources are being provided? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People who smoke carry their cigarette packs around and they're not supposed to throw their cigarette butts on the ground. People should take their own initiative and not just rely on the government or the local housing organizations. There has to be proper disposal of cigarette butts, like carrying their own ashtrays and so on. They can start this on their own, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Some responsibility has to be borne by the smoker to ensure that their cigarettes are discarded properly so that children can't get at them, so that other people can't get at them. When we talk about tuberculosis and other diseases being spread, some of that is spread by taking somebody else's cigarettes and picking up cigarette butts. I think there has to be responsibility by smokers to dispose of their cigarettes properly, and I encourage that and would love to hear maybe some incentives on making that happen.

The goal here is to make sure that there is no more smoking in public housing or government-operated buildings or rental units to make them a safer place and a healthier place for everybody in which to live, especially the public housing units, where people get moved from one house to another. If you're a non-smoker and

you move into a smoker's house, it's very difficult to breathe properly. It costs a lot of money to renovate smoke damage from cigarette smoke itself, so I encourage people to listen and make sure that if you are butting your cigarette, you're doing it into a proper place to dispose of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 508 – 6(2): Harm Reduction Initiatives

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions today for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission concerning the issue of harm reduction.

Mr. Speaker, many constituents in Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet have told me that the government needs to take immediate action to address the problem of individuals ordering and importing large quantities of high-alcohol spirits. This is an issue that has been identified as contributing to the bootlegging problem.

As the minister is aware, his department's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "implement changes related to the sale of liquor import permits, including new territorial daily limits..." Can the minister confirm when these changes will be made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear what my colleague is talking about. The liquor commission is looking at the limits put on some orders as some people are able to order as much alcohol as they want. This can cause issues for other customers who order alcohol. Mr. Speaker, we have spoken to many communities, the RCMP, and Nunavut Tunngavik as to how we can correct the present situation. We would like to see a maximum limit on orders of seven litres of alcohol at a time. We are looking at making amendments to the regulations in the coming months or years to include liquor orders, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. During our recent winter sitting, my colleague from Iqaluit-Sinaa asked important questions about how the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission helps Nunavummiut make informed choices about the use of alcohol.

As the minister is aware, the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction has published new "Guidance on Alcohol and Health," which the organization indicates is intended to replace Canada's "Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines."

Can the minister confirm if and when the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission's harm reduction publications will reflect the new guidelines? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. I will update the response that I made to the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa. It is very important to be aware of how much alcohol people can consume daily without getting into danger. The guidelines were updated this past winter.

Mr. Speaker, we will be completing this work soon and we are working with the communications division. As soon as the guidelines are ready in Inuktitut, English, and Inuinnaqtun, we will be able to distribute them to the communities and there will be radio announcements and television commercials about it. In particular, we need to target young people, so we will be using the online process as well. We will be using different means to inform people.

Not too many weeks from now, during the summer, we will be able to bring the guidelines out. It's close to completion and we want to make sure that we distribute the guidelines properly for adults and youth as well. That's what we are working on right now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the Legislative Assembly recently passed the new *Liquor Tax Act*.

Some of the revenues that the government generates from the sale of alcohol are supposed to be used for social responsibility campaigns, as provided for by section 59.1 of the *Liquor Act*.

Can the minister confirm when the new *Liquor Act* will come into force and can he indicate approximately how much new revenue is expected to be generated under the new Act? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We worked on that this past winter. As soon as we put in the details and regulations under the Act, I envision the tax revenue to not increase very much.

However, we have money available right now that we can use to help the communities for alcohol awareness and education. All communities can request up to \$25,000 for alcohol safety and awareness education. Only one community requested that funding last year, which is unfortunate, so I encourage the communities to submit proposals for the funding that we have available.

We have heard about the graduates this week and there will be numerous students graduating. We want to make sure they can have an alcohol-free graduation celebration and we have funding available for that purpose. I encourage them to request that funding so they will have a great celebration

without alcohol. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 509 – 6(2): Affordable Housing Plans for Arviat

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Housing. We will keep the minister just going up and down today on the last day.

Mr. Speaker, on November 30, I asked the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation if tenders had been issued and awarded for the 20 affordable units in Arviat, and the response I got was that we have 20 units scheduled to be built in Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, my first question is: has the Nunavut Housing Corporation applied for land in Arviat for the 20 affordable housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those houses that are going to be built in Arviat are not going to be built by the housing corporation. Like I stated, some of the units will be constructed by the Nunavut Construction Company and some of them may be built privately by interested individuals. We have seen applications that have been submitted to date.

As for the affordable housing units, we will need to put up subsidies for them. We will be able to help them with the cost to construct those units that will be available for purchase or renting at an affordable rate. They will be responsible for acquiring the lots and construction materials, not the housing corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These affordable housing units seem to be quite confusing. I do not understand it fully. The Nunavut Housing Corporation says that the Nunavut Construction Company may be building some, the private sector may be building some, and private individuals may be building some. Just for clarity then, is there a budget from the Nunavut Housing Corporation slotted for Arviat for the 20 affordable unit houses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut affordable housing subsidy incentive that we are working on is that NCC will not be the builder of these units, Mr. Speaker. It will provide a contribution to other builders to develop these units. Specifically, the NHC is currently developing a new Nunavut affordable housing supply incentive, Mr. Speaker.

We encourage companies just like NCC and other interested companies that would like to participate in the affordable housing incentive to approach

us and to work with the housing corporation. Some of the projects and proponents are likely to include for-profit corporations, not-for-profit corporations, community housing providers, and individuals, Mr. Speaker.

For 2023, the incentive is being tested on a pilot project basis through the project. We're looking at contributions of up to \$150,000 for each affordable housing unit that is rented or sold at a rate considered to be affordable within the market. Mr. Speaker, that is just an estimate at this point and we're trying to tighten up the figures so that it can be beneficial to Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is June 1. Sealift is upon us and the minister just stated that they're working on a policy for affordable housing. Part of the Nunavut 3000, a good portion of it, is for affordable housing. In total, we're supposed to get 20 units and, at the end of the Nunavut 3000, 90 affordable housing units are supposed to be built in Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, the minister just stated that up to \$150,000 will be slotted for affordable housing. Can the minister confirm that \$150,000 times 20, which is the number that's targeted for Arviat...? What's that in my math there? It is \$3 million, I believe, if my math is correct. Is that how much budget is for affordable housing for Arviat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, if we have 20 affordable housing units go in there at those rates, then that's the amount of money we would spend.

Mr. Speaker, I realize it's June 1 today. There are many opportunities, unlike the government who tenders contracts and supplies need to be there, there might be existing infrastructure in Arviat that might fit this category. This is not necessarily all new build, Mr. Speaker. There might be infrastructure that they would like to turn into that. We are also looking at transitional units.

We're finalizing the numbers and policies regarding this, Mr. Speaker. This is something that's happening as we speak. It's very exciting times. We have a huge challenge in front of us and I really appreciate the support that we have been getting from this House, nothing but positive support in terms of trying to get as many houses out there so that we have fewer homeless Nunavummiut and people who should be able to afford rental from the private and public market. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 510 – 6(2): Search and Rescue

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to...

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I have raised the

issue of search and rescue on a number of occasions in this House. I again pay tribute to all the search and rescue volunteers in Nauyasat, Coral Harbour, and Nunavut.

I have more questions today for the Minister of Community and Government Services concerning the department's responses to resolutions that were adopted by the Nunavut Association of Municipalities at its 2022 annual general meeting.

Mr. Speaker, the department's response indicates that "Nunavut Emergency Management is currently reviewing the Community-Based Search and Rescue Contributions Policy." Can the minister indicate what specific improvements to the policy are being considered? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to commend all of the local search and rescue people that participate in these unfortunate situations.

In terms of the policy that we're reviewing, the search and rescue policy, we are trying to get feedback from local volunteer groups but also the Nunavut Association of Municipalities on those details. I can't specify what exactly we will be coming out with, but it's through these engagements that we're anticipating amendments to the policy to better suit the needs and to better serve the local search and rescue volunteer groups. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that their search and rescue team always works very hard. I would like to see improvements to the policy under review.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the department's response to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities also indicates that "...another Search and Rescue model that is being discussed is the creation of a Search and Rescue Association." Can the minister indicate the timeline for establishing this new organization? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a specific timeline around what the member asks for, but once those details are ready and available, I would be more than happy to share it with my colleagues here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask that this be done in an expedient manner as emergencies can happen at any time.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the department's response to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities also indicates that it is working to address the issue of delays in reimbursing community-based search and rescue organizations for costs incurred during

operations. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have a grants and contributions program for local search and rescue organizations every year. This fiscal year we have \$620,000, but with this, we are trying to exactly do that, trying to make it more efficient for local search and rescue operations to occur and for the claims process and reimbursement to ensure that that happens in a very timely manner. I hope that it will be well received by all stakeholders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 511 – 6(2): Enforcement of Smoking Legislation in Public and Staff Housing

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation as well.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, yesterday was the day that the provisions in the territorial *Tobacco and Smoking Act* came into force that prohibit the smoking of tobacco, cannabis, and vaping products in all public housing units in Nunavut and all the government staff housing.

Mr. Speaker, information published by the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that offenders will be subject to a range of penalties, including monetary

finances and eviction from their homes, as we have heard earlier.

Mr. Speaker, these provisions are not merely helpful suggestions or polite requests. They are legal requirements with potentially severe consequences for those who breach them.

Consequently, the Nunavut Housing Corporation needs to have the capacity to enforce the legislation in all 25 communities, including Iqaluit.

As the minister is aware, section 38 of the legislation allows for by-law officers who are appointed under the *Hamlets Act* or the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* to be “requested” to enforce the Act and its regulations.

Can the minister confirm which municipalities in Nunavut, if any, have formally agreed to allow their by-law officers to assist in enforcing the legislation in respect to public housing units and staff housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The enforcement of the legislation that took into effect yesterday, there are a number of key proponents in that. As of now, I do not have details in terms of what communities will have which enforcement officers, but at this time, our main objective with the corporation is to ensure that the local housing associations are actively promoting the new Act that says they’re not allowed to be smoking in their house and at their

homes. I understand that the details in terms of enforcement and who, what, when, where, and the details and those particular numbers are being worked on as we speak, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, I’m as well concerned that there may be children evicted from their homes due to the fact out of their control that family or parents may be smoking in their homes. I’m really concerned about that and it made me think about whether or not there will be additional consequences to both GN employees and to public housing tenants after the eviction.

Has the minister’s team spoken to the Department of Human Resources to discuss whether or not there would be additional disciplinary action to employees who are evicted and whether or not they would be able to reapply for a GN staff housing unit if they’re evicted and, on the other end, if somebody is evicted from public housing, do we know whether or not they will be barred for a period of time from reapplying for a public housing unit or could they be banned for life? I would like to hear from the minister on those questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think or c, all of the above are very possible, but we’re not at that stage yet, Mr. Speaker. We’re working on informing and giving the tenants of all

levels that are in public and/or government-assisted housing that have to follow these rules, at this time we're working on education and adhering to the rules.

In fact, the housing corporation is working with the Department of Health and other departments to ensure that the public is well informed. I think, at the end of the day, the tenants want to follow the rules and obey them. It will have a big impact on it if they do positively. For example, the Department of Health is purchasing 1,500 aluminum signs to affix on multi-unit dwellings to remind people that these are the rules and please abide by them. We will continue to work to put information out there. I believe that in the coming days and weeks, we will put information out there on what happens if you don't and it could be very severe in terms of losing your unit or paying fines. Mr. Speaker, those are all very possible.

At the end of the day, we need to ensure that the housing that is provided is safe for everybody in the unit and everybody in the unit has the responsibility to ensure that it is a safe home, especially in terms of no tobacco use. It keeps people healthier and also reduces the chance for fires and unnecessary damage to units, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, just for the record, I agree with the idea of banning smoking in all of these units for the good of every tenant and anybody who has to visit those units.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the minister will agree with me when I say that it is important that we as legislators be able to evaluate the extent to which provisions such as the ones we have been discussing today are being enforced, and even given the fact that the minister has indicated that the big next step will be about communicating about this ban.

I would like to know: will the minister commit to reporting back to this House a year from now with detailed information concerning the actual number of complaints, investigations, and enforcement actions that have been undertaken by local housing organizations and the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question. I think it's imperative that we put out those numbers and let the public know how effective it is or ineffective it is. I would be more than happy to report whatever details I can provide strictly through the housing corporation in terms of what kind of action has been taken and how effective it has been. I have no issue with providing that information as it becomes available. It might be available in less than a year, but when we start getting that information, I would be more than happy to share it with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 512 – 6(2): Commercial and Institutional Power Producer Program

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation and are regarding the Commercial and Institutional Power Producer Program.

As the minister is aware, I'm a strong and vocal proponent of alternative and renewable energy initiatives necessary to decarbonize our territory, our country, and our planet.

Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy Corporation launched the Commercial and Institutional Power Producer Program in 2021. The program is designed to allow existing customers to generate electricity using renewable energy systems and sell it to the corporation at a rate equal to the avoided cost of diesel.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the corporation that it is imperative that all power producer programs remain cost-neutral to customers, but it is also equally important to make the program attractive enough to encourage Nunavummiut to make the investment.

Mr. Speaker, where my position diverges from the corporation is that I do not agree that the cost of diesel should be the sole determinant of an alternative pricing structure and neither does the Utility Rates Review Council.

Mr. Speaker, upon review of the report I tabled yesterday, titled, "Specialized Pricing Strategy for Renewable Energy Suppliers to the Qulliq Energy

Corporation," the InterGroup Consultants painted a much more complete picture of the true cost savings that renewable energy provides to Nunavut, including the avoided cost of diesel, non-fuel operating costs, capital costs, such as asset life extension, and the avoided cost of diesel generation outside of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the consultants also provide a much more realistic price in the range of approximately 40 cents a kilowatt-hour for the purchase of renewable energy.

Mr. Speaker, my first question to the minister is: does he agree that the Qulliq Energy Corporation should be providing a much more realistic price for commercial and institutional power producers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my colleague for bringing forward and continuing to bring forward a very important subject. The member is right that the Qulliq Energy Corporation continues its effort to reduce Nunavut's reliance on diesel power by developing programs, such as the CIPP, the Commercial and Institutional Power Producer Program.

The member did table the report, which is very extensive and really outlines and it allowed the corporation to look at potential structures where we could provide the different supports. As such, as I indicated previously through this group, I am intending to bring forward

an incentive to the Executive Council to see what other programs and services we could provide through these.

As the report concluded, at this point in time, with Nunavut having the highest power rates that we do have in the whole country, any new subsidy program would have to come either from the government itself or the federal government without putting direct harm to the small consumers we do have. With that in mind, I am working with my colleagues here and will hope to have a pricing structure that addresses the potential opportunities through the CIPP and aiming towards the end of this fiscal year, 2023. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the minister's response. Mr. Speaker, last year I posed questions to the former Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation on June 6 at last year's spring sitting.

Mr. Speaker, at that time, I had indicated that of the corporation's \$130 million in power sales, the GN departments and corporations paid \$60 million, or roughly 50 percent. Mr. Speaker, with the recent changes to the general rate application, the GRA, which saw government power rates increased, that ratio and those millions of dollars are only going to increase.

Mr. Speaker, getting to the point, last year, I had asked the Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation if he had discussions with other GN departments and territorial corporations on utilizing

the Commercial and Institutional Power Producer Program.

Again, I would like to ask the new Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation if he would be able to update the House on discussions between the corporation and GN departments and territorial corporations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank my colleague for asking that question. The member is right; when we did bring forward a general rate application and standardized it, it has made a huge impact directly to the communities and the small communities in particular.

On that note, before the GRA, I would just like to use an example of Whale Cove, where we saw electricity rates at 112.86 cents per kilowatt and now with the general rate application, that community alone sees a standard 51 cents per kilowatt. That in itself is a huge investment that our government made and that is directly from the government's incentive to provide a general rate application throughout the whole territory.

To that note, Mr. Speaker, we do continue to communicate interdepartmentally. Specifically, we communicate with the Nunavut Housing Corporation as well as Community and Government Services on all opportunities surrounding this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I do appreciate the government's approach in the most recent general rate application amendments to the power rates and the impact that the government is having on taking the brunt of the increased costs.

Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of the Fifth Assembly, I have been raising these concerns with the Government of Nunavut, encouraging the government to take on a greener approach, especially when it comes to major infrastructure projects, which have projected annual power consumption in excess of half a million dollars a year.

Mr. Speaker, looking at the Nunavut Arctic College Nunatta Campus expansion, which was completed in June 2019, four years ago, that expansion to the campus included a substantial amount of solar panels and, as far as I know, is still unconnected and just collecting snow and dust.

Mr. Speaker, it has been six years since I have been raising these issues and concerns, and I just want to put it on record that I expect some change in the upcoming capital estimates in the fall sitting.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at these \$100 million projects with half-million-dollar power bills every single year, I think it is imperative that we do what we can and in addition, all governments have fundamental responsibility to be effective stewards of taxpayer money. Mr. Speaker, stewardship is a

responsible allocation, management and oversight of public funds to create long-term value for money.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have a last question. I just wanted to make the comment that it has been a long six years and I expect some changes going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: That was just a comment. 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 are none. Question period is extended to another 30 minutes.

Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Ms. Nutarak.

Question 513 – 6(2): Regulation of Monopolies

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Solomon, for extending question period.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. My questions will be on "food for thought."

Mr. Speaker, one of the major concerns that my constituents in Pond Inlet have been raising with me is the increasingly high cost of living in Nunavut, including the price of food.

Mr. Speaker, I asked some questions earlier in our sitting about the Canadian North merger. At that time, I voiced concerns about what happens when monopolies control an essential sector, such as airline travel.

Mr. Speaker, communities face a similar situation when it comes to food retailers. Some of our communities are served by only one store.

What is the Minister of Economic Development's position when it comes to monopolies in the food retailing sector? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for questioning on this and I have always been advocating that our airline transportation system in Nunavut is split up so much that it is not as functional as it should be.

As you know, through Nutrition North, the subsidy went directly to the stores, not to the airlines, and that made an opportunity for Arctic Co-ops Ltd. having their own planes to fly their own products. The same goes with Northern Stores of doing that, and then that leaves Canadian North, who is our passenger and cargo, for general cargo for doing that.

It's very hard to pinpoint as to why food prices are going high. Is it as a result of air transportation or is it the inflation throughout the world? There has been some huge inflation that has taken place in this world that has caused a lot of

food prices, which translates to a cascading effect that as Nunavummiut, we are the farthest and we get impacted the most. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. One of the terms and conditions that Canadian North and the Government of Canada have agreed to as part of the airline merger is a "profit cap."

The federal announcement concerning this agreement indicated that this "profit cap" will "allow the airline to adjust fare and routes to remain viable without cutting off communities or placing a significant financial burden on Northern travellers."

Mr. Speaker, the same logic could apply to the sale of food.

Mr. Speaker, hearings have been held in Parliament concerning the grocery sector in Canada and there are concerns that major retailers have been making excessive profits.

What is the Minister of Economic Development's position concerning the idea of imposing a profit cap on major food retailers in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I believe, just last month or a few months ago, the Canadian Parliament did a hearing

specifically on major suppliers in terms of gouging and making profits and the food retailers were justifying that they aren't. It's very hard to see when they aren't published of how much profit the food retailers are. It's a concern throughout all of Canada and I share that concern.

How that gets regulated would be very hard for us as a government to do, but I'm trying to work very closely with my transportation counterpart who is the regulator for airlines to ensure that our consumers and our people are protected if there is going to be a continued monopoly and, for those retailers, that Nutrition North is no secret. We have been advocating that things need to change. Those are the very areas that we are trying to combat as a government, not necessarily trying to make new regulations but to try to find ways to improve. We need to find those problems and find the solutions for those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. I recognize and understand that this is a complex issue and I recognize and understand that income assistance rates in Nunavut have recently been increased to help Nunavummiut with the high cost of living. I would like to add that my constituent did some research and for a family of seven to eat two times a day for a month, with inflation, it costs \$11,000 in Pond Inlet.

Can the minister indicate how often he and his officials meet with members of the Nutrition North Canada Advisory

Board to discuss ways of making food more affordable in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not met with the Nutrition North Advisory Board, but we do have an active role and continue to advocate that it needs to change and we do that through ways of correspondence and through forums like this. I applaud you for raising this. You have been a very strong advocate for the transportation side and having written letters to the Senator and the Member of Parliament. It's something that all members should be doing here, and to the Nutrition North Advisory Board too. We need to have that same voice. Like my member has been advocating for her community and for her riding, I want to encourage everyone to do that and I applaud her for leading that. With that, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 514 – 6(2): Policing Contract with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, almost seven months ago, the minister of the day stated in the House that the current funding formula of 70 percent, 30 percent, 70 percent being Government of Nunavut funding, would be modified to a more equitable

split of 52-48, using an agreement under the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program.

Can the minister update the House today on why we haven't seen a further announcement finalizing this agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for giving me an opportunity to give an update. The update is that the agreement that needed to be signed between our government and Public Safety has been done now, and now I have instructed my department and I have just met with the commissioner this morning that we need to roll these out as soon as possible. Those are the next steps for the First Nations and Inuit Policing that we will be rolling out for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very happy to hear that. I know some former ministers have put in years of work to get that agreement to where it is today.

Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of supplementary appropriations over the years for the Department of Justice to help address fiscal shortages within the policing contract with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I do recognize that this increase in federal investment into policing in Nunavut or at least I'm hoping that it will have a dramatic impact. What is the Department

of Justice's plan with their share that they are currently paying? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the First Nations and Inuit Policing starts to roll out for the seven communities that will be rolling out, one of the works that my department will be leading is to get a memorandum of understanding with each of those communities with the RCMP and ourselves as to what the community wants to see in terms of Inuit policing. That is going to be our role, is the coordination role, and ensuring that the rollout is good and that it is what the communities need and something that is going to help with policing in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the minister's statement from about seven months ago, it was stated that the focus of this program is on community engagement, crime prevention, and community safety. This means that Nunavut will have more to say in how policing is conducted in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, what is the current request for additional members that the RCMP has made and how will that be impacted when the new funding agreement is completed and funded? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's one that through our partnership and through our agreements, those will continue to get implemented. Right now, our focus is on trying to get those seven communities staffed, and through that and through the number of principles that are there, the next step will be to go to those communities and to reach an agreement in order for the successful rollout and for the communities to get what they have been asking for in terms of Inuit policing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 515 – 6(2): New School for Sanirajak

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education in regard to a capital project for a new school in the community of Sanirajak.

As the minister is aware, in our fall and winter sittings, I made member's statements in regard to the much-needed capital project with a new school. With my first question, what is the current status of a new school project for the community of Sanirajak and when will we see it in the capital planning? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. In terms of a new school for Sanirajak, there are a lot of communities that are ahead of Sanirajak in terms of

the ranking of the school. However, after visiting the community last month with the member, we did hear the concerns from the community, the DEA, and the teachers about wanting a new school to separate and have the high school grades not be included within the same vicinity as the K to 6 portion.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have a definite timeline on when the community will receive either a renovated school, much like what we are going to be doing for Sakku School in Coral Harbour, kind of separating the K to 6 and then grades 7 to 12 in a different location; in the same school, but separate hallways, for example.

I can say that we have heard the community and it is a long process to go through the capital planning process. It does take time to go through the preplanning phase and whatnot, but right now the school in Sanirajak is at 61 percent, so it is fairly on the lower end of capacity in terms of the school size and how many students are there.

I can assure the member that we really did hear the concerns and when the department is working through all of the other schools ahead of Sanirajak, I hope that one day it can be on the future plans, but there are a number of schools at this point that are ahead of the community of Sanirajak. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How unfortunate to hear that. As usual, we are listed way at the bottom of preplanning stages when it comes to capital planning and capital projects.

Now, with regard to the minister's statement on the full-day kindergarten pilot project in five schools, I'm sure the government will like the pilot project in these five schools that were chosen, and I'm sure it will expand to all of the communities in Nunavut. As the minister has just stated, our school is so small that there are limited spaces and if they introduce the full-day kindergarten, we will see about that.

Now, can the minister commit to the House that, as the minister has mentioned that when it comes to the education ratio, we're at 61 percent, but can the minister commit to the House that at least we will be put into, let's say, number two? Can the minister agree with me if they can at least put it up there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for that question. The Department of Education does have a lot of capital projects that are underway and I can say that we have the Trois-Soleils school here in Iqaluit that is getting expanded and renovated this year and should be ready by the next fall school year and opening around Labour Day.

Mr. Speaker, we also have the school in Coral Harbour which will be getting renovated and the plans are in place for Taloyoak to receive a new high school. The department has two plans for future consideration, including Kimmirut and Kugluktuk High School addition, and then further down the line, we have plans for Iqaluit's Nakasuk School to be getting renovated as well as Arctic Bay

also on the list for those renovations. Those are the current plans for schools that are either being renovated or going to be renovated in the future.

In terms of commitment, I can say that we did hear the community and we do have a lot of other schools that are in a similar situation. The member stated that they're at the bottom of the list. They're not at the bottom of the list, Mr.

Speaker. They are heard and they are being looked into. I can say that it is our plan to get to those communities and to make sure that all of these capital projects are being worked on. It does take time and infrastructure funding and money to allocate that.

Each year we can't do too many schools. We try to do as many as we can, but they do cost a lot to the government and we're very thankful that we do have schools going forward and to get them renovated is a top priority and to create new schools across our territory is a very big part of the Department of Education's support that we want to support our communities with to expand education in our communities.

I can't give a definite yes to the member on that particular question, but we have heard the member and the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't ask for the detailed information with these other schools that are getting renovated or they will see an expansion.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should be more persistent when it comes to the capital planning for the community of Sanirajak and I'll still be persistent too. I want a commitment and for the record, can the minister talk to the officials from the Department of Education that when it comes to addition, let me put it that way, addition, expansion, brand-new school, but addition, can there at least be some kind of planning when it comes to an expansion to the Arnaqjuaq School in Sanirajak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member. The Department of Education doesn't do this alone, Mr. Speaker. There is GN-wide capital project planning work that does happen for all the capital projects and we really do advocate for our schools and want them to be going forward and want them to be built or renovated and expanded on. We do monitor every school in Nunavut and we have criteria that we use to check the utilization rate of the school.

All I can say is that we have definitely heard the member and his constituency of Sanirajak and the want and desire for an addition to the school and to have that in the thoughts. I just can't give a definite timeline of when that will come forward, but I know eventually, Mr. Speaker, it will. I hope that is sooner, but I just can't give a definite timeline of when that is going to start on the capital process, but I will advocate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 516 – 6(2): Contaminated Sites

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the community of Baker Lake there are known historical fuel spills on the Qulliq Energy Corporation property. It has been known for decades now.

I want to direct my question to the new Minister of Environment. I'm wondering: does the Department of Environment monitor these known historical fuel spills? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you to my colleague for asking that question. The department maintains an inventory of contaminated sites on Commissioner's Land in Nunavut. Most contaminated sites pre-date the establishment of the territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. Mr. Speaker, these known historical spills have for years now been actually leeching into our fresh water lake, Baker Lake. For a time there, the Qulliq Energy Corporation had installed what is called a "Waterloo Emitter," but I have noticed it is no longer there in place anymore, so I assume it was taken out.

I'm wondering: does the Department of Environment have a plan in place to have these known fuel spills cleaned up,

especially within hamlet boundaries?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. The Department of Environment has a newly approved contaminated sites policy which will address the assignment of liability for contaminated sites that the Government of Nunavut is responsible for. This policy certainly will help with the contaminated sites in regard to dealing with them. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad there seems to be some movement with trying to get some of these spills worked on. I had another question in mind, but will the minister commit to coming to Baker Lake, to visiting Baker Lake, seeing the sites for herself and meeting with the hamlet council to explain what work has been done or what work is trying to be done in the future to help remediate some of these sites? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) If and when there is time that I can go up there, certainly I can commit myself to go and see, but the Department of Environment is planning site investigations for the 2023 field season

and it is in different locations.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 517 – 6(2): Plans for Elder Care

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for recognizing me again. My question is regarding long-term care for elders.

Long-term care is being developed in Nunavut and a facility is being built in Rankin Inlet and there are plans for the larger communities. However, there are no plans for the smaller communities, although there is a need for it because we want our elders to stay home in the community in a peaceful way. I would like to know what plans there are for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I'm just making sure; are you asking the Minister responsible for Seniors or Health? Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. Right now, there is an elder care facility being built in Rankin Inlet and we have announced that we will be building two more facilities. In our mandate, there will be a facility in Iqaluit and another facility in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, we do have elder homes in smaller communities, three of which are located in Arviat, Gjoa Haven, and Igloolik. The facilities in Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay would be new elder facilities. Once they are built, we will

look to see where else we have to build them. We have no plans along those lines yet, but if there is a request and if the Assembly and the government of the day agree to it, perhaps the Department of Health would have to listen to that. This will be done in future years.

We know that it is important that elders be able to age in their home communities. That is always brought up here and it has been brought up in the past, and it will be probably brought up again in future governments and they will have to do something about it, in my view. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The communities that the minister mentioned all have elder facilities. Now I'm asking about the communities that don't have any elder facilities at all. There needs to be more attention on this. I know Iqaluit has an elder facility, Cambridge Bay has an elder facility, and they are building an elder facility in Rankin Inlet.

The smaller communities that he mentioned, Arviat, Igloolik, and Gjoa Haven, I believe those are larger than the communities that I'm referring to. I'm talking about smaller, (interpretation ends) non-decentralized communities. (interpretation) I'm asking if they can be included in the plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for bring that topic up. We can make

considerations about it, but if we are going to be putting up an actual plan, (interpretation ends) in terms of future capital projects, they would have to be put forward through the capital planning process, and Members of this House do have the ability to advocate for what they would like to see, for what they feel are priorities.

I would encourage the member to continue raising this need. I know that as a regular member, it can sometimes feel that you're not being heard, having sat on that side of the House, but I can assure the member that when regular members speak, departments such as Health do listen and we do try to incorporate the feedback and the needs that are identified by regular members.

We have identified Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay as being the next communities to receive new facilities capable of providing dementia care, but as the member has mentioned, we don't have a clear plan for beyond those facilities. I look forward to helping or working collaboratively to define a plan as to what the next steps would be in terms of infrastructure around long-term care. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for responding and listening. Mr. Speaker, there is no government visible in the smaller communities. I don't even know how to describe that more. There is just no presence of the government in the smaller communities. They only provide basic services.

All communities are growing in population and they have many children who will all need jobs. I want the entire government to hear this. Our descendants will need jobs, so we have to start thinking about them because they will have to take care of the elders. I would like more thought to be put into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: It's just a comment. Wait. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for raising the issue around labour force. In terms of long-term care, the member is correct that considerations around who is going to staff and who is going to care for residents at long-term care facilities, that is an important element. If we look at the existing continuing care centres and elders' homes, there are 123 jobs across Nunavut supported through the existing facilities. When we look at Rankin Inlet opening up, it's going to be additional 50 jobs, roughly, in terms of the system.

I should mention that long-term care and providing for seniors is not just about facilities; it's also about what we do to support elders before they come into our facilities in terms of home care and in terms of the different supports that can be provided. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs' work on a senior strategy, which is long overdue, which was something that was pushed for in the previous government, the previous government did not act on it. Our government has agreed to start that work and there is a lot of potential to make improvements to elders' lives and to help them stay in their own homes for longer through the work of that strategy.

It's quite exciting and the Department of Health is engaging with Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs on that.

I encourage the member to continue raising this important issue around elders' long-term care right across the territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The time allotted for question period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 005 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut Funding Proposals Submitted to the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Human Resources and they concern the subject of funding proposals submitted by the Government of Nunavut to the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. What funding proposals were submitted to the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation by the Government of Nunavut's departments, public agencies, and territorial corporations during each of the following fiscal years:
 - a. 2016-17;
 - b. 2017-18;
 - c. 2018-19;

- d. 2019-2020;
 - e. 2020-21;
 - f. 2021-22;
 - g. 2022-23; and
 - h. 2023-24 (to date)?
2. What was the stated purpose of each funding proposal listed in response to question #1?
 3. What was the amount requested in each funding proposal listed in response to question #1?
 4. Which funding proposals were approved, in whole or in part, by the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation's board of directors?
 5. Which funding proposals were rejected by the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation's board of directors?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 153 – 6(2): Director's 2021-22 Annual Report on Family Wellness

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Director's 2021-22 Annual Report on Family Wellness. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I have two documents to table today.

Tabled Document 154 – 6(2): Report of Members' Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Tabled Document 155 – 6(2): Speaker's List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements

The first document is the Report of Members' Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

The second document is a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. Thank you.

Members, I thank the Government House Leader, the Hon. David Joanase, for the orderly tabling of ministerial documents.

>> *Applause*

Item 14. Notices of Motions. I recognize the Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 14: Notices of Motions**Motion 019 – 6(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice**

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 5, 2023, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until October 18, 2023.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. I recognize the Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 16: Motions

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

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Malliki.

Motion 019 – 6(2): Extended Adjournment

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until October 18, 2023.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion.

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Speaker: Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. 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*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for October 18, 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

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

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

20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members, first of all, I thank
our interpreters for the excellent
services...

>> *Applause*

...that they provided to us here in the
House and in committee and caucus
meetings. Thank you very much.

Secondly, thank you to our Sergeant-at-
Arms for providing the necessary
services to all of us.

>> *Applause*

Thirdly, I would like to say “thank you”
to Alexis Vincent-Wolfe and Cameron
Ipeelie...

>> *Applause*

...the two pages who were assigned to
us. Thank you to them.

And a much-appreciated thank you to
Ms. Katie Weaver...

>> *Applause*

...from the NWT Assembly for assisting
us during the spring sitting.

I would also like to thank my staff in
front of me, who made sure I didn’t
make too many mistakes. Thank you
very much.

>> *Applause*

To the people behind the scenes who are
looking after the Legislative Assembly
and all the paperwork that has been
done, thank you as well.

>> *Applause*

To all the members, thank you. You did
well. Some days we didn’t agree, but
thank you for coming to work for
Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) As members return
home, I wish you all a safe flight home.
(interpretation ends) That doesn’t mean
you trying to fly by yourself, but make
sure you’re on the plane, inside.

>> *Laughter*

Enjoy the flight home, have a good spring, and we will see you when we get back. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until October 18 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:36*

