

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)

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Minister of Human Resources;
Minister responsible for Nunavut
Business Credit Corporation; Minister
responsible for Nunavut Development
Corporation; Minister responsible for
Trade; Minister responsible for Mines;
Minister responsible for the Workers'
Safety and Compensation Commission*

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of
Culture and Heritage; Minister of
Indigenous Affairs; Minister of
Languages; Minister responsible for
Immigration; Minister responsible for
the Utility Rates Review Council;
Minister responsible for Seniors*

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Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of
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(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

*Deputy Speaker; Chair of the
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(South Baffin)

*Government House Leader; Minister
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Minister responsible for Energy*

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(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)

*Minister of Finance; Minister
responsible for the Nunavut Housing
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the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis
Commission; Minister responsible for
the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis
Board*

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(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

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(Pangnirtung)

*Minister of Family Services; Minister
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College; Minister responsible for
Homelessness; Minister responsible for
Status of Women; Minister responsible
for Poverty Reduction*

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Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

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(Aggu)

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. Tony Akoak) (interpretation): Good afternoon. Before we start proceedings, Ms. Quassa, please open with the prayer. I would like to ask Ms. Quassa to lead us in prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, people of Nunavut, and those listening in on the radio, please welcome to your House. Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 623– 6(2): 2025 Beverly Caribou Abundance Survey Results

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update on the research program that the Department of Environment led regarding the reassessment of the abundance of the Beverly Barren-ground Caribou Herd. I am happy to report that the Beverly herd has shown strong signs of recovery from a declining trend tracked between 1996 and 2018.

Mr. Speaker, our Wildlife Research Division has been carefully monitoring the abundance of the Beverly herd since declines were first reported from harvesters and later confirmed by our survey efforts. The survey estimates went from 276,000 caribou in June 1996, to an estimated 103,372 by June 2018.

In June 2023, our Research Division conducted an abundance survey of the Beverly herd, and the results showed an increase in abundance to an estimated 152,131 caribou. This supports a shift in trend toward increasing herd abundance.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to share that the survey employed 13 Inuit field technicians and observers from communities across the Beverly herd range. Additionally, this survey was the first of its kind to develop novel video-photographic field and analytical techniques that will provide an effective method for high precision assessments of population abundance. This new method has the potential to increase survey estimate accuracy and precision and is far more cost effective than standard photographic methods.

Mr. Speaker, It is through our commitment to the guiding principle of Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq and with the support of harvesters and our co-management partners, that we will ensure that Nunavut's Barren-ground Caribou herds will continue to thrive and provide sustenance to Inuit and other Indigenous peoples over the long-term.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 624 – 6(2): Supporting Health Workplace Stability Through Expansion of Memorandum of Understanding 15 and 16

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon, my colleagues, on our last day.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share an important update on our government's ongoing efforts to recruit and retain the health professionals Nunavut needs – the cabinet's approval of the request to expand and amend Memorandums of Understanding 15 and 16.

(interpretation ends) This is a much-needed boost to our recruitment and retention strategy to maintain a strong and resilient healthcare system. It will enable the Department of Health to offer enhanced financial incentives, more flexible job structures, and improved scheduling options.

Specifically:

- Memorandum of Understanding 15 includes increased financial bonuses such as an annual special allowance, a tiered premium for hard-to-fill positions, and improved recognition of prior experience.
- Memorandum of Understanding 16 establishes a job-sharing model that allows multiple employees to split a full-time role, often using a fly-in/fly-out schedule, to create greater work-life balance and flexibility.

These changes are supported by the continued implementation of the Bring a Friend or Family Initiative, which has been particularly well-received. This program permits

certain health staff to bring a loved one to Nunavut during the holiday season — a small but meaningful gesture that enhances morale and reduces burnout.

Together, these initiatives have already demonstrated a measurable impact on recruitment and retention. Community health centre closure days have been cut by more than half since 2022 after the introduction of the Bring a Friend or Family Initiative and Memorandums of Understanding 15 and 16 in August 2023. There were no closures during the winter holiday period in 2024-25.

The number of casual nurses has increased significantly since the introduction of the Bring a Friend or Family Initiative and Memorandums of Understanding 15 and 16, thus reducing reliance on agency paramedic services, other agency staff and out-of-territory laboratory testing. In fact, we are projecting net savings between \$3.5 million and \$5.2 million annually — all while strengthening our territorial health workforce.

Mr. Speaker, Health is proposing an amendment to Memorandum of Understanding 16 related to recruitment and retention bonuses. Like Memorandum of Understanding 15, Health is also requesting an extension of Memorandum of Understanding 16 to September 15, 2028.

Our territory relies on the expertise and commitment of approximately 300 health professionals, including nurses, laboratory and diagnostic imaging technologists, respiratory therapists, and rehabilitation specialists. These dedicated individuals form the backbone of our health system — and yet, like jurisdictions across Canada, we continue to face an unprecedented shortage of qualified health workers.

I cannot overemphasize the fact that competition for health professionals across the country has intensified, forcing employers to develop more competitive, flexible, and creative staffing strategies. We are committed to ensuring Nunavut has a sustainable, skilled, and stable health care workforce that meets the needs of our communities. The expansion and amendment of Memorandums of Understanding 15 and 16, alongside the Bring a Friend or Family Initiative, support that commitment.

Matna, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 625 – 6(2): 2025 Arctic Inspiration Prize Recipients

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to everyone here in the House with us today and across our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome two outstanding students from Quluaq School in Clyde River to the House today.

On May 13, Jojo Killiktee and Emily Palituq were awarded a \$90,000 Arctic Inspiration Prize for their Traditional Sewing and Beading Program.

Mr. Speaker, the Arctic Inspiration Prize celebrates Northern-led achievements in areas that matter deeply to Nunavummiut—such as culture, language, science, and traditional knowledge. This year, \$3.7 million was awarded to bold, community-driven projects across Inuit Nunangat, the territories, and the North.

Jojo and Emily received their prize in recognition of the creativity, leadership, and commitment they demonstrated through their sewing and beading workshops, which were guided by Elder Igah Hainnu.

Mr. Speaker, these workshops were designed to teach youth important life skills and strengthen cultural identity. Jojo and Emily's work inspires others and shows the powerful impact of youth leadership in our communities.

I also want to recognize Ms. Pamela Parks, who is chaperoning Jojo and Emily today. Ms. Parks is the Learning Coach at Quluaq School, who played an important role in supporting this initiative.

I would also like to acknowledge Elder Igah Hainnu, who served as the program's instructor, sharing her traditional knowledge and expertise.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in encouraging and congratulating Jojo Killiktee and Emily Palituq on their success. They have succeeded because of their vision, leadership, and commitment to ensuring traditional skills can thrive for future generations.

Quana, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 626 – 6(2): Partnership with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities on Solid Waste Initiatives in the Territory

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me once again.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that the Department of Environment has started the process of working in partnership with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities on initiatives to support and guide solid waste activities in the Territory. Partnering with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities will help municipalities determine how best to manage solid waste.

An advisory committee was struck in November 2024. The Solid Waste Solutions Initiative is co-chaired by Nunavut Association of Municipalities and the Department of Environment, and made up of Federal, Territorial and industry stakeholders who work together to support waste solutions for Nunavut. The Solid Waste Solutions Initiative has been successful in obtaining a grant from the Arctic Council to begin assessments for pilot projects that help support waste diversion initiatives in communities.

We are excited to work closely with stakeholders in both the Government of Nunavut and in the private sector. The Department of Environment will continue to work diligently to improve community solid waste management outcomes and looks forward to working collectively on solid waste initiatives for the betterment of Nunavut.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 627 – 6(2): Measles Situation in Nunavut

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me once again. Environment gets two statements; then I think Health should as well.

Mr. Speaker, currently, Nunavut is one of the few jurisdictions in Canada with no reported cases of measles. This is a testament to the diligent efforts of our healthcare professionals and the proactive measures taken by Nunavummiut to get vaccinated and prevent the spread of this highly contagious disease.

Mr. Speaker, measles may have not yet come to Nunavut, but the risk of infection entering our territory is high, especially during the spring travel season. As more residents travel outside the territory and return, the potential for measles to be introduced increases significantly.

Measles is one of the most transmissible and highly infectious diseases in the world. It can infect nine out of ten unvaccinated individuals who are exposed. It can cause serious health issues including blindness and death. Some of our most vulnerable family members to these risks are infants, young children, and Elders – who we all love dearly and all want to protect. While there is no cure for measles, it is a vaccine-preventable disease. Vaccination remains our strongest defence.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, let me repeat that: Vaccination is our strongest defence. In response to the increasing case counts, we have ramped up our communications efforts (interpretation ends) to raise awareness about measles, the importance of vaccination, and how to prevent infection. It is crucial that all Nunavummiut take steps to understand the risks around measles infection, the importance of vaccination, and the steps they can take to protect themselves and their families.

We are urging all residents to ensure their vaccinations are up to date, especially before travelling. Those who are not up to date can visit their health centre to receive a vaccine. We have measles vaccines available right now, right across Nunavut. They are safe, they are free, and they work.

Let us keep working to keep Nunavut measles-free and protect the health of our communities. If you have questions about measles vaccine or want to schedule a vaccination, please talk to a local health staff member and they will provide assistance.

Matna, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3, Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasilik, Mr. Hickes.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 846 – 6(2): Pride Flag Raising

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome, everyone, this afternoon. First I would like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for hosting the pride flag-raising outside the precinct this morning.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Pride Month, a time to honour the strength, diversity and resilience of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community across Nunavut, and Canada. Mr. Speaker, here in Nunavut, where community, identity, and tradition are deeply valued, Pride is also about embracing the fullness of who we are. It is about ensuring everyone, no matter their gender identity, sexual orientation or where they live, can feel safe, respected, and supported.

Mr. Speaker, we know that for many in the north and elsewhere living openly can still come with challenges. That is why Pride Month matters. It is time to uplift voices that have been marginalized, to affirm the right of all people to live with dignity, and reflect on how we, as leaders, can help build more inclusive communities.

A Member: Hear, hear.

Mr. Hickes: Mr. Speaker, pride is rooted in courage, the courage to be visible, to speak up, and to demand equality. We honour the elders, youth, activists and allies who continue to push for a Nunavut where everyone belongs.

Mr. Speaker, let us stand together this month and every month to support love, inclusion, and respect for all Nunavummiut. Happy Pride Month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 847 – 6(2): Clyde River Fishing Derby

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to everyone in Nunavut.

I rise today because I was notified by someone in Clyde River the Nammautaq HTO is going to hold a fishing derby and also a cod fishing derby this coming weekend. I would like to thank the community for planning this great activity. They are going to have real good prizes, from what we've heard. They are in the planning stage right now for the weekend. I just wanted to advertise this, because at the end of the week the fishing Arctic char and cod derbies are happening for everybody that can take part. I thank the people of Clyde River. That's why I rose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 848 – 6(2): Igloolik Fishing Derby Winners

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everyone here and everyone in Nunavut.

On May 29 I announced that in Igloolik that on May 30 to June 1 they were going to Aqtuatsik (ph), and they had winners announced yesterday, and there is quite a number them: Bailey Nutarariaq, David Jr. Hauli, Jeela Alorut, Cassidy Satuqsi, Sebastien Kopak, Marina Nutarariaq, Sally Qayaqjuaq, Marlene Pauloosie, Teresa Tulugardjuk, Martha Qattalik, Enoki Irqittuq, Damien Angutiqjuaq, Basil Nutarariaq, and the three who caught the biggest fish, Ina Pikujak won a 10 by 12 tent, and Tiffany Maliki wins an ATV, all terrain vehicle and a 25-foot Silver Dolphin aluminum boat, Malaiya Idlout won that one. I congratulate all of them and we thank the organizers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 849 – 6(2): Last Day of Sitting

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, all, and welcome to everyone that's here today.

Mr. Speaker, spring is here and now today is the last day of our Spring Sitting. Those of us that do not live here will be heading home tomorrow, and I would like to thank my two daughters, Lilly and Maggie, for spending the last two weeks with me, and also to the speaker and to the staff for giving them the opportunity to work. This is the first job in their lives. Their social insurance numbers finally arrived in the mail the day before we left Baker Lake, so thank you, Mr. Speaker and to the staff for giving them a chance to work.

Once we get home tomorrow, our family will be whole again. Marilyn (ph), Dominic (ph), Brad (ph), Aqarnuk (ph), and Inngnutuk (ph), Riley (ph), they are all waiting for us. Inngnutuk (ph) is the youngest. She is our toddler, but is the boss of the house so she will be bossing us around.

I hope you all have a safe and wonderful spring and summer, and we'll see you all in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 850 – 6(2): Respect for Elders

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on our last day of Spring Sitting, and a reminder to Nunavummiut to please respect our elders. So Mr. Speaker, here is goes.

Elders are tired of alcohol and drugs. They should be taken care of. They don't need to worry about anyone else. If you are living with an elder, don't bring drugs around. Don't give them hard times. They are living their last day of their life. No more broken elders. No more crying elders. Elders should be treated like queens and kings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 851 – 6(2): Sanikiluaq Graduates

Mr. Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Hudson Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate. On June 13 in Sanikiluaq, they will have a graduation and I would like to say their names: Miranda Quluiluk (ph), Hazel Autainuk (ph), Sarah Tukuluk (ph), Carula Ootik (ph), and Serena Qappik (ph).

So Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud of these students that will be graduating from high school this coming month, and I hope that they have great success in their lives, no matter where or what they do within Nunavut or in Canada. They will have opportunities, and hopefully they will go for the opportunities they can find.

Mr. Speaker, with my colleagues here, I would like to celebrate with them the graduates from our high school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 852 – 6(2): Pond Inlet Schools Need More Space

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to congratulate the students that are graduating grade 12 in Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address requests made by my Pond Inlet District Education Authority to increase the amount of space available for students in the schools.

Mr. Speaker, the Pond Inlet District Education Authority recently passed two motions. The first is to increase the size of the Nasiviik High School Gymnasium. It is my understanding that a number of years ago, when the gymnasium was being built, some of the funding was transferred to another school project.

Mr. Speaker, with the growth of the student population, the gym is no longer safe for the number of students who need to use it. This is a major project that should be included in the department's next capital plan.

Mr. Speaker, Pond Inlet's Ulaajuk School is reaching its maximum capacity. The district education authority is concerned that there no longer is enough classroom space to provide proper instruction. The school has to use its computer lab rooms and the library as classrooms. The addition of a portable classroom would be very welcome to alleviate the problem due to lack of space.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Pond Inlet District Education motion.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Minister of Education to work with her department officials to address the school space needs in Nunavut's communities.

I respectfully ask that the requests for a larger gymnasium at the Nasivvik High School and for a portable classroom for the Ulaajuk School be included in the Department of Education's upcoming capital plan.

Mr. Speaker, all of Nunavut's students deserve a safe and comfortable environment in which to learn and thrive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Member's Statement 853 – 6(2): Arnaqjuaq High School Graduates

Mr. Kaernerck: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, people of Amittuq and Nunavut.

Today I rise to express my pride for the Arnaqjuaq high school graduates. This is the highest number we've had in graduates: Ben Arnaqjuaq, Albert Piela Miqi (ph), Angeline Piela (ph) Pitseola Piela (ph), John Morgan (ph), Colby Akituq (ph), Julia Akituq (ph), Russell Akeearuk (ph), Dale Qammanik (ph), Josephine Curley (ph), Kunuk Morgan (ph), my mother, Joshua Arnaqjuak (ph), Salla Qyakjuak (ph), Bernadette Gibbons (ph), Renee Qittuq (ph), Nasim Piela (ph), Stanley Curley (ph), and Devon Anguilanuq (ph). Thank you to all their parents for encouraging your children to go to school and complete their schooling. I'm very proud of you.

And even though they have graduated from high school, four of them are pursuing higher education. Albert Piela Miqi, Colby Akituq, Julia Akituq and Russell Akeearuk will be going on to college. Even though they have finished high school, they are keeping going.

So young people, don't give up. Even though some things can be embarrassing, if you try hard, things that look hard are not really hard, once you do them. Let's be very proud of all of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 854 – 6(2): Passing of Brother

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Kugluktukmiut and Nunavummiut. Today I rise to inform the public about the decease in a year that we have lost a few. My younger brother has now passed on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 855 – 6(2): Reflecting the Years as Member of the Legislative Assembly

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time there's a search and rescue in Arctic Bay. There was a person coming from Igloolik and there's people from Arctic Bay and Igloolik doing search and rescue for the individual in Arctic Bay. Please make sure that you see the individuals.

Mr. Speaker, since our last day of our Sixth Session of the Legislative Assembly, we will have one more session left before. I didn't realize how eight years has passed, and so quickly. And also I have humbled myself, and also I'm very proud that I have been selected and elected to represent Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, and Arctic Bay. The constituency name is Quttiktuq, high Arctic. I'm very proud of the individuals and my family, and they are surrounding me today.

With that, when I have to represent high Arctic, I worked very hard, and my staff have been so helpful to me. I'm very grateful for many years that they have been working with me.

Since this is the last as a member of the Legislative Assembly for Quttiktuq, I was given this gift and I have agreed to work to the best of my ability and to represent the community and I worked to the best of my ability.

The words are not even enough to express my gratitude to my constituency for electing me. There were eight candidates at the time, and that really humbled me when they elected me back in the year 2021. Then my wife and I, we realized one time that my wife and I, that there's not going to be any other people running for the high Arctic, so I ran again and they elected me again.

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

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, my colleagues, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the year 2021 there were no other candidates. I was humbled again as to how I was elected again. With that, I worked very hard as Member of the Legislative Assembly, as a cabinet minister and also as a father and as a grandfather. And also I thank my constituents for their great patience, even though at times I don't respond to their questions right away, and it takes me forever to visit them. So they have been very good to me.

Twice I have been a member of the cabinet and I was selected by my colleagues and to the previous assemblies. I'm privileged to sit here as a member of the cabinet.

And I want to represent Nunavut to the best of my ability, and I have worked very hard to represent them. As the minister we had three leaders, and I have been given different mandates and portfolios, and I've agreed to them and I work very hard, and I thank my colleagues at the cabinet. At times, it's unbelievable. I slap myself to make sure it's real and it's reality when that happens. I thank the people of Nunavut very much as their representative.

When I first started becoming a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I spoke with to my wife and spoke to my family, and I wanted to segregate business and personal businesses so it will be the best for our family as a Member of the Legislative Assembly and also a member of the cabinet. So I worked very hard to separate those three, even though COVID came and it had an impact on us. And even though COVID has passed on, it's very hard for me to leave my family for quite some time for a length of period of time.

I have become friends with individuals since then. I have good friends, so it's very hard to leave them behind. As I was running for the high Arctic, I told them that I'm not moving to the high Arctic and they believed in me and they had the confidence in me, so I thank them. Having to work closely together and having a good working relationship and also staying within the family relations, that's my foundation.

In the upcoming election, I will not be running for high Arctic again. This will be my third term, but because I want to be with my family and I want to have a good foundation as a member of the Legislative Assembly and also as a cabinet member.

I want the high Arctic people to be represented properly, so therefore I inform them that I will not be running again for the high Arctic so that some people who would like to run, or who are interested, can prepare. We will have our last session in the fall session, and I will join the fall session and I will work diligently to make sure that I do my responsibility for the last time, for the last session we will also state what we want to do. And at the time we'll be able to tell who will be candidates for the general election in September. So therefore it's quite hard to exactly know what to do during the September session.

I have a better idea as to what I would like to do, but I'll have to be with my family and talk to my family first before I decide.

I would like to extend my appreciation to my family who are in the gallery, and also to my family who are watching the proceedings, and my colleagues. Thank you for giving extension to my member's statement, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for allowing me to complete my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 842 – 6(2): Honouring Kane Tologanak

Hon. Pamela Gross: Quana, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to everyone who's listening.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honour the life of Kane Tologanak, a man of the land, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and a quiet leader whose legacy continues to inspire.

Kane was born on April 22, 1950, in the West Arm near Cambridge Bay. His mother, travelling with his father John on an RCMP dog team patrol, had planned to give birth in town, but nature had other plans. The officer who assisted him named him after Arctic explorer Elisha Kane -- a name that reflected his future: Strong, resilient, and committed to serving others.

The eldest of ten, Kane was raised in a family deeply tied to the north. His parents worked for the RCMP and at the DEW Line sites, such as Fox Main near Sanirajak. He often spoke of those early years, eating walrus meat and travelling the tundra, and shared many stories rooted in our culture and a connection to the land.

That connection shaped his leadership. As a settlement manager with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Kane worked alongside his father on key land claim negotiations. His calm, steady voice helped define the future of Inuit governance.

In 1979, Kane was elected to the Northwest Territories Legislature, part of a new generation of Indigenous leaders. He helped form the "Nunavut caucus", which laid the groundwork for the creation of Nunavut, challenging the status quo and pushing for Inuit leadership.

As the first cabinet minister from the Kitikmeot, he secured the region's own administrative centre in Cambridge Bay. Before then, communities were managed from

Fort Smith. As Minister of Supply and Services, he introduced the north's first Business Incentive Policy -- a precursor to today's NNI policy. Later, as Minister of Health, he convinced -- sorry, Mr. Speaker. I ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

Later, as Minister of Health, he convinced federal officials to allow Baffin Regional Hospital to be governed locally -- a vital step towards northern control of health services.

But Kane's contributions weren't just in government. He helped lead and support community events like the Northern Games, Billy Joss Golf Tournament, Kingalik Jamboree, and the Omingmak Frolics. He was a natural emcee, auctioneer, and organizer, always bringing people together.

At home, Kane's wife Elik created a space of warmth and welcome. Their children Jessie, Calvin, Lynn, and John Paul, and to many others saw them as "mom and dad."

Kane mentored many, offering quiet guidance and a steady hand.

Kane passed away on March 24 in Gjoa Haven at the age of 75. He leaves behind Elik, their children, and seven grandchildren who carry his legacy.

To those who knew him, Kane as a builder, protector and guide. He lived with humility, respect, and purpose, and helped build a future where Inuit voices and communities were supported.

Rest peacefully. Your journey continues through all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I share those words from his nephew Jason. As I read them, I think of his loved ones, many of whom are tuned in and listening. Quana, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 857 – 6(2): Nancy Karetak-Lindell

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Happy Pride Month, everybody. The statement is tied to Pride, but it's mostly a statement about our new senator, Nancy Karetak-Lindell.

(interpretation) I would like to congratulate Nancy Karetak-Lindell. I rise today to congratulate her as a member. She was a Member of Parliament previously, and she was elected when I was young person to the Parliament, and I knew her and her sons were my friends, and we would visit them. My older brother and I would visit them every day. We didn't know just before she became elected Member of Parliament.

(interpretation ends) Nancy, I learned a lot from Nancy in terms of leadership, and what it means to be a leader. She's been an amazing representative for what was originally Northwest Territories and then Nunavut, and she's been an amazing representative for Arviat. And I am so proud to be able to call her senator now.

I remember at one point in the 2000s there was a big debate in Canada around same-sex marriage, and whether or not same-sex marriage should be allowed, and there were strong view points on either side of the issue. Nancy had a hard decision to make, and she chose to support.

And when she did that, I learned from her something about leadership: That being a leader is not always easy. It's not always about doing what's popular, but it's about doing what you believe is right.

(interpretation) For that I thank so much, Nancy, our senator. I've learned a lot from you through this and I'm really proud that you will now represent Nunavummiut at the senate chamber. As we perhaps say in Inuktitut, tusiviq. Again, I am very proud of you that you are now at the senate, and I celebrate with you. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 858 – 6(2): Harvesting in Nunavut

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon, South Baffin constituents.

Mr. Speaker, we have a beautiful country, a country where you don't want to sleep at night. This spring and summer we will have a lot of hope in our two communities I represent for fishermen, harvesters. While they are out on the land, they will experience.

In Dorset, for example, just this previous month that was fishing derby, and many community members were parting enjoying the great outdoors and it was great to hear.

This past weekend in Kimmirut they were harvesting about 16 beluga whales, and it was great to hear for community of Kimmirut.

Mr. Speaker, this spring we have students finishing our schools, and celebrations will take place. But obviously this coming weekend we will have our graduations as well for students. This will be some of the activities in our communities. And I welcome everyone to also participate in spring events.

As we have our last day in our spring session, we'll be able to extend our wishes as the day passes. Again, I would like to express my gratitude to the two communities that I represent for their hospitality, and likewise as I represent our constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

Member's Statement 859 – 6(2): Pride for Daughter in University and the Residents of Pangnirtung

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I expect the sentiments of my colleagues here, and those who are not here, Lorne, Janet, as we sit on our last day in the spring session, early spring.

I also wish to express my pride to my daughter, who's having her convocation at Trent University. She was one of the top students on the Dean's list, as she has been in the university for two years now. I'm so proud of my daughter, that one, and the other being in Pangnirtung today.

The RCMP worked to have their opening, but had to cancel their opening due to weather. The RCMP were to go up to recognize Peter Kanayok, who were RCMP constables for years serving the RCMP, back when individuals were appointed for corporal positions. I'm proud for the service they provide in our communities and completed their service.

Today there will be a fishing derby in our community for Kanayok, and really good prizes the organizers have been able to put together. I would like to thank the organizers, John Kilabuk and Ina Kilabuk. These individuals, who are volunteers, have done so much in our community and they enjoy hosting events and they always also consider individuals who can't go fishing, and they include those individuals in community events while fishing derbies go on outside. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 1290 – 6(2): Number of Bear Skins at North Bay Auction House

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my response is to question number 1290 -- 6(2), question being by the Hudson Bay MLA on May 29, 2025 concerning number of bear skins at North Bay Auction House.

Mr. Speaker, the document is quite lengthy, and I would like to include it. I will table them in the House, or have them read. I believe he mentioned that.

Speaker: Tabled as read? I missed something here. Can you repeat?

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The return is quite detailed, and I filed it with the clerk for transcribing into Hansard for the public record and for distribution to all members. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of individuals I would like to acknowledge. My family members first, being my sister, who is visiting, this town, Lena Akeeagok, welcome.

I'm always proud that my cousin is always here as well, and she's no stranger to my colleagues. Carol Akeeagok, my wife. I love my children all the same, but sometimes I treat them differently. First being my baby, Amy Kalluk.

>> *Applause*

My father, Gamaliel Kalluk.

>> *Applause*

(Interpretation): My favourite daughter of them all, Pelina Akeeagok.

>> *Applause*

Who I will have a granddaughter from in seven more weeks, I believe, Christine Akeeagok.

>> *Applause*

And who's next? Did I miss anyone? My son, Samson Akeeagok.

>> *Applause*

I don't often call them by names. Hope Akeeagok.

>> *Applause*

And my grandchildren, Destiny Akeeagok, Faith Kalluk, the princess of the princesses, Darla Kalluk, (interpretation) my tatika (ph), my dependent, Rachel.

>> *Applause*

These are my family members I wanted to acknowledge and recognize, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Quana, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask all of my colleagues to join me in welcoming some very special guests from Quluaq School in Clyde River, who are making a real difference in our territory. Please stand when I say your name. Jojo Kiliktee.

>> *Applause*

Jojo is a grade 12 student. She is already gaining recognition for her traditional sewing practices and leadership. Her dedication to Inuit knowledge and culture is inspiring to us all.

We also have Emily Palituq.

>> *Applause*

Emily's creativity and beadwork reflect both her skill and cultural pride. She is an inspiration to all of our youth.

We also have Lucy Palituq joining us today.

>> *Applause*

Lucy is Emily's aunt, and she's also a dedicated elementary teacher who plays an important role in shaping young minds.

Also with them is Pamela Parks.

>> *Applause*

Pamela serves as a learning coach, who supports both teachers and students helping to strengthen the school's success every day.

Also today with us in the House we have our ADM, Bill Cooper.

>> *Applause*

Also joining Bill is our communications manager, John Mansell.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, we're grateful for all of their work and contributions and we're proud of their recent success and welcome them to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I also see somebody that I want to acknowledge and recognize in the House today and that's Arlene Alagalak, from Rankin Inlet, but she has ties to the west. I welcomed her to Cambridge Bay last summer, and it was a privilege to get to know her and share with her family, being teachers and having roots both in Rankin and Tuktoyaktuk, the connection that her parents had with my aunts going to residential school. It's nice to see you here, Arlene. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to recognize my son, who's been here with me since day one, since we got here to Iqaluit. Her name is Clarence Taylor Quqqiaq. My son is a very, very talented guitar player. My dad taught him when he was three, four years old. He knows how to tune the guitar by ear. So if there's any bands in Nunavut that need a lead guitar player, or a rhythm guitar player, or a bass player or accordion player, give a call, that's my son. He has a very rare talent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to recognize from Rankin Inlet, Arlene Alagalak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great event that we are having right now, which is special.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, very proud. Who is named after Steven who passed away, but this individual was just a baby for him, and he became our family member.

Emily Palituq, who has been very close, who my brother raised also. I'm proud of you for the effort you have succeeded in, and not just sit around and stay ill.

I also represent Clyde River community. Jojo as well, I'm very proud of you. Killiktee, I didn't know you were also a Killiktee. Carry on.

And Pamela Parks, for your diligent leadership, raising spirits, and even though they may not be original community members, they work hard in helping them. And in raising spirit, Lucy Palituq is one person that does, and I recognize you totally. Welcome here.

These individuals and the talent they show, and I'm very proud to express, so thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6, Oral Questions.

Just letting you know that the Member for Aivilik and the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa are not here today, due to personal reasons. And today is our last day of this sitting, and that does not mean you have to finish the clock.

>>*Laughter*

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 1318 – 6(2): Alternative Energy Agreement

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I would like to thank the minister for providing a timely response in regards to the Return to Oral Question that I made on May 29.

Mr. Speaker, my first question within the response, and I will quote from the Qulliq Energy Corporation's response:

"The Qulliq Energy Corporation has entered into a 25-year energy purchase agreement with the Nunavut Nukkiqsautiit Corporation to procure renewable energy in Sanikiluaq."

I would like to ask the minister if he can commit to getting a copy of the purchase agreement to my office and to the municipality of Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for his question in regards to wind turbine and looking at alternative energy. It's something that is going to be very pleasant to see. We're looking into the future.

In terms of the agreement that he's referring to, (interpretation ends) I will have to verify whether or not that agreement can be shared. As with many agreements tied to business dealings, it may or may not be confidential, but I'll certainly consult with my officials in terms of whether we can share a redacted version of that agreement. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will quote directly from the response again:

"Under this agreement, Qulliq Energy Corporation will purchase as much electricity as can be safely and reliably integrated from Nunavut Nukkiqsautiit Corporation's one-megawatt wind turbine generator and battery storage system into the existing Sanikiluaq electrical grid. The agreement ensures that the energy integration will not compromise the stability or reliability of the local power supply. Every kilowatt-hour of wind energy purchased through this agreement will directly offset the use of diesel fuel in generating electricity, contributing to a cleaner energy future for the community."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister whether the number of litres purchased and the impacts on 2025 resupply will have an impact to this... I lost my train of thought. Let me repeat my question.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister the number of litres -- where am I going -- the number of litres purchased by the government, will it have an impact on this year's resupply season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Oh, my.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I think I knew where the member was trying to go, but I appreciate the clarification.

In terms of the impact to the diesel fuel requirements for Sanikiluaq, that is something that is a bit too early to tell, whether the Petroleum Products Division would be able to reduce the amount of fuel they have to bring in for annual resupply.

We are still working towards the final step in the process, in terms of the design and the technical aspects of the interconnection of the wind battery system with our power plant.

And so as the member mentioned, reliability is key, and we don't want to compromise reliability. In a similar vein, we want to make sure that we always have enough fuel there for our power plant to continue providing that 24-7 power to Sanikiluaq residents.

So it's a bit too early to tell, but in theory, maybe a few years down the road, we could see a scenario where Sanikiluaq's refuel requirements could come down, if we're burning less fuel at the power plant. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the minister.

Mr. Speaker, I'll quote directly from the response again:

"The wind turbine generator is anticipated to produce approximately 3.7 gigawatt-hours, or 3,662,000 kilowatt-hours, of renewable electricity annually."

I would like to ask the minister: Will this have have an impact on the power rates for Sanikiluaq residents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It shouldn't have an impact. The Independent Power Producer Program has been designed in a manner where, although we want to integrate cleaner energy, we also want to protect our customers. And so that's where we've had the cap on the price that we can pay for power produced from renewable sources to the avoided cost of diesel. So we do want to integrate renewables, but we also want to keep power as cheap as possible. So there should be no impact in terms of an increase to power rates.

What we would like to see, Mr. Speaker, if anything, is a reduction in power rates, if we can find a way to produce power cheaper than diesel. That's not speaking necessarily Sanikiluaq, but for the whole territory in terms of renewables. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1319 – 6(2): Pond Inlet Infrastructure

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, the Pond Inlet District Education Authority has passed two motions requesting additional infrastructure for the community school. Can the minister clarify how her department responds to when district education authorities express the need for infrastructure to deliver programs in the schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. In regards to hearing from district education authorities, we appreciate when we do hear if them, because we can gain an understanding of supports and services that they may require.

In terms of the member and what was raised earlier by the motions that were addressed in the House, that was the first time our department has heard of them, so we'll wait for those motions to come forward through the channels with the Department of Education, and from there we'll work with our capital team to see where we can support those needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister's response.

Mr. Speaker, it has been suggested that to alleviate the overcrowding at Ulaajuk School in Pond Inlet, having a portable classroom installed could really help right now. The school has to use other spaces as classrooms.

Can the minister describe what steps her department can take to acquire a portable classroom for the community, and whether this can be covered under her capital small budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. We'll have to wait for those motions to come forward and have the capital team review the motions, in terms of what is being asked for with the increase for the high school gym and more portable space, and determine from there what assistance can be made through the capital process, either through small capital or through the large capital cycle.

But the capital planning will review and assess what is requested upon us with the Department of Education for the schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Minister. Mr. Speaker, both the district education authority and the hamlet of Pond Inlet have passed motions respecting the need for the gymnasium to be expanded at the Pond Inlet Nasivvik High School. It is not even possible to hold a sports tournament in the community, because the gym is too small.

Will the minister agree to providing a space for adequate physical fitness programs as part of her department's mandate, and as such, will she commit to allocating capital funds to expand the gymnasium at the Nasivvik High School. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. I can't commit for the department at this point in time, but I can say that the department is committed to looking into the matters, and we'll see what plans we can come up with in terms of supporting the requests.

It does take capital infrastructure, and it has to go through the capital process in one shape or form. So once we receive the motions and the team has time to prepare and look at it, we'll be back in touch with this DEA. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Oral Question 1320 – 6(2): Marine Infrastructure for Sanirajak

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure on our last sitting day.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, it was over two years ago which I tabled a copy of the Marine Infrastructure Planning Study that the municipality of Sanirajak commissioned, which was 200 pages.

Mr. Speaker, this important initiative provided a number of options to improve marine infrastructure for the community of Sanirajak.

As the minister is aware, the community's existing marine infrastructure is no longer adequate for its needs. Can the minister tell me today what actions his department has taken in response to the report I tabled two years ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague following up on these items.

We have undergone through a realignment, but also with that, we are wanting to make things, our processes more efficient around our capital planning and/or things of this nature.

Mr. Speaker, regarding any major projects that we would like to see in our territory, it will require a significant infusion of funding and investments, and we're going to continue to lobby on behalf of Nunavut.

As for the particular case in Sanirajak, I'll have to get back to the member on the particulars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be expecting that report. It's been two years now, so I believe it is ready to be read.

Mr. Speaker, in October 2019, the Government of Nunavut issued a request for proposal for a "comprehensive marine infrastructure scoping study."

During last month's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, my colleagues from the Rankin Inlet North Chesterfield asked the minister to confirm when this important report will finally be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

At that time the minister indicated that he would look into this matter. Can the minister tell us today, this long awaited report will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll consider providing my colleagues around some studies. For example, they might be 100 pages and quite technical in nature, and we don't want to overburden our processes here, but I'll commit to bringing some form of information on the scoping studies to my colleagues.

We do try to advance these projects, to be ready for when there's advancements to be made in Nunavut, we want to ensure that the landscapes and all our communities are ready for that. We try to undertake those studies and assessments in advance to ensure that they are backed up for substantiation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I can ask direct this for an statement. I'm just kidding. We will be expecting that report.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, the federal Department of Transportation recently announced \$44.7 million in funding for projects in Nunavut, under the Safety and Equipment Basic Marine Infrastructure in Northern Communities Initiatives, and one of those projects is for sealift area improvements in a number of communities, including Igloolik, Sanikiluaq, Kimmirut, and Taloyoak.

Can the minister confirm what project in Sanirajak will be funded through this recent amount. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I can appreciate my colleague would like to get some further details on it. Mr. Speaker, we are continuing on that funding project through Oceans Protection Canada. Specifically for Sanirajak, I'll have to get the further details outlined.

And we are trying to ensure that the communities, and I'll use Kinngait as an example, the municipality of Kinngait tapped into that fund, and was able to get a project that saw a very large laydown area for the sealift supplies to be safely transported through.

Mr. Speaker, this funding will also, it's around safety to ensure that when we're bringing in fuel, for example, that those systems are in place to pump the fuel on land and things of that nature. So regarding Sanikiluaq specifically, or I'm sorry, Sanirajak, I will have to get back to the member. Thank you.

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

Oral Question 1321 – 6(2): Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have some more questions today for the Minister of Environment concerning the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan. Mr. Speaker, the draft plan was submitted to the federal Minister of Northern Affairs, the territorial Minister of Environment, and the president of Nunavut Tunngavik back in June 2023, two years ago.

Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue with the minister last month, the minister informed the Legislative Assembly that a third-party facilitator has been supporting the three parties. Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm who this third-party facilitator is, and can he clearly describe their role in the review process.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand to be corrected, but I believe the company is DPRA, and they organize tri-party meetings and record consensus positions and solutions as they arise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, although new leadership is now in place at Nunavut Tunngavik and at the federal level, our current Legislative Assembly will be dissolving just a few months from now.

When I raised this issue, the minister indicated that the technical working group has been meeting on a weekly basis. Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate if the draft land use plan will be approved before our Assembly is dissolved and the next territorial election is held.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a decision to approve the recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan can only be made jointly by all three parties, the Government of Canada, Government of Nunavut, and Nunavut Tunngavik. Parties may choose to reject the recommended land use plan either jointly or individually, but they must provide a written reason for those and for the Nunavut Planning Commission to consider.

So with that, we are still going through the technical and the legal review process, and as mentioned, there's weekly meetings happening, but I can't speak whether or not this plan would be approved at the end of this Assembly or not.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know that constituents from Netsilik who are active with the hunters and trappers organizations worked hard to help develop this plan.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm the extent to which hunters and trappers' organizations and other external parties are currently involved in the review process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as far as I understand, the consultations have been completed and are with the tri-parties at this point. They are taking into account all that has been said through the consultation process and all the stakeholders involved.

Mr. Speaker, further to that, my department, it is anticipated that this will come to a conclusion to come to a final recommendation. When that is I can't say, but I do anticipate that it's coming. I know it has been anticipated by many, and I want to thank all those that have been involved throughout the consultation process to provide their input, their viewpoints at the local level and all the levels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1322 – 6(2): Property Taxes

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have some more questions today for the Minister of Environment concerning the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan. Mr. Speaker, the draft plan was submitted to the federal Minister of Northern Affairs, the

territorial Minister of Environment, and the president of Nunavut Tunngavik back in June 2023, two years ago.

Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue with the minister last month, the minister informed the Legislative Assembly that a third-party facilitator has been supporting the three parties. Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm who this third-party facilitator is, and can he clearly describe their role in the review process.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand to be corrected, but I believe the company is DPRA, and they organize tri-party meetings and record consensus positions and solutions as they arise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, although new leadership is now in place at Nunavut Tunngavik and at the federal level, our current Legislative Assembly will be dissolving just a few months from now.

When I raised this issue, the minister indicated that the technical working group has been meeting on a weekly basis. Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate if the draft land use plan will be approved before our Assembly is dissolved and the next territorial election is held.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a decision to approve the recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan can only be made jointly by all three parties, the Government of Canada, Government of Nunavut, and Nunavut Tunngavik. Parties may choose to reject the recommended land use plan either jointly or individually, but they must provide a written reason for those and for the Nunavut Planning Commission to consider.

So with that, we are still going through the technical and the legal review process, and as mentioned, there's weekly meetings happening, but I can't speak whether or not this plan would be approved at the end of this Assembly or not.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know that constituents from Netsilik who are active with the hunters and trappers organizations worked hard to help develop this plan.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm the extent to which hunters and trappers' organizations and other external parties are currently involved in the review process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as far as I understand, the consultations have been completed and are with the tri-parties at this point. They are taking into account all that has been said through the consultation process and all the stakeholders involved.

Mr. Speaker, further to that, my department, it is anticipated that this will come to a conclusion to come to a final recommendation. When that is I can't say, but I do anticipate that it's coming. I know it has been anticipated by many, and I want to thank all those that have been involved throughout the consultation process to provide their input, their viewpoints at the local level and all the levels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Acting Minister of Finance, and they concern the issue of property taxes. As the minister will recall, the 2024 mill rate established an order under the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* was published in the September edition, part 2, of the Nunavut Gazette.

Mr. Speaker, the 2024 property tax rate for residential properties in Nunavut communities outside of Iqaluit decreased from 6.15 mills to 5.59 mills. That was a decrease of approximately 9 per cent from the 2023 rate.

Can the acting minister confirm when the 2024 mill rates establishment orders will be published, and can he indicate if the property taxes for homeowners outside of Iqaluit will be decreasing, increasing, or remaining the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Acting Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll take that as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Question taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Oral Question 1323 – 6(2): Support for Apprenticeships

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of Human Resources for tabling the public service annual report yesterday. I would like to give recognition where recognition is due: I was happy to note that over 75 per cent of Government of Nunavut employees on education leave were Inuit. This is a remarkable, significant increase to the 35 per cent when I first raised this issue back in 2018.

To move on to my questions, Mr. Speaker, the topic of which will be apprenticeships. A very important aspect of the Government of Nunavut's training and development public service employees is apprenticeships. Unfortunately, the public service annual report does not include any information on this specific aspect of training and development, so I would like to ask why there is no information in the apprenticeships in the public service annual report, and will be minister commit to including it in the next annual report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our public service may have apprenticeships through some of the departments, but the apprenticeship program is administered under the Department of Family Services. Therefore, we have not included that in the public service annual report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very happy to note Qulliq Energy Corporation has very advanced Inuit employment plans, which does include a specific category for apprenticeships for Iqaluit employees, which I think the Department of Human Resources could learn a few things from.

I would like to ask what specific supports does the Government of Nunavut offer to support apprentices at work within the GN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the apprentices, that's a different category, in terms of trying to get their own respective seals. So that's a program that's done rigorously with another department.

Our departments often sometimes do hire apprentices, and those would be, if we go that route, for example, one of the departments has two apprentices at this point and they are hired through the casual staffing action. Any of those benefits through the casual staffing

action, those employees would have those, whatever benefits that's under our human resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the Winter Sitting the Minister of Family Services provided information to the committee, and at that time there was a total of 105 apprentices across the territory. As the minister had indicated, two of which were employed by the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I'm a little bit concerned and disappointed that these two apprentices that are employed by the government are hired through casual staffing actions. Mr. Speaker, again I give kudos to Qulliq Energy Corporation for creating an apprenticeship program under their own Inuit employment plans. I would like to ask the minister if he would commit to discussing the possibility of creating a similar program for Inuit employees across the GN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that's something that I can definitely look to commit, what the Qulliq Energy Corporation has done and what are the ways we can advance, especially our Inuit employment. That's something we continue to challenge our departments and ourselves as government as a whole in terms of how we can attract more. I really appreciate your line of questioning. It's something that we'll take into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1324 – 6(2): Kivalliq Intercommunity Road

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my questions are for the new Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut.

As the minister is aware, I have been a strong and consistent supporter of the proposed Kivalliq Intercommunity Road Project, which has significant strategic implications for the communities of the region.

Mr. Speaker, looking forward it gives an opportunity for our kids, our grandkids to have quick weekend tournaments with neighbouring communities and help prepare them for bigger tournaments down the road, so this is a great initiative. It's a great project to work on.

Mr. Speaker, information published by the government indicates that “the Kivalliq Intercommunity Road study is complete. Next steps are being considered and will be communicated to stakeholders and the public in 2025.”

Last week a letter from the minister was tabled in the Legislative Assembly concerning this project and other initiatives. The letter indicated that “an initial review of the concept generally indicates positive feedback from the public. However, the study is robust. It requires further internal review and deliberation before I am able to speak to conclusions and recommendations.”

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify what he meant when he described the study is robust and requires further internal review and deliberation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with this initiative, and as I mentioned that we have conducted studies of various nature, and this one I think has been pretty well-received around Kivalliq.

And regarding the question how this study is robust and requires further internal review, the study is well done, and we want to continue to have a good dialogue with our stakeholders involved and see where this goes.

Mr. Speaker, this will be something that I know my colleague has pressed on before, and we’ll continue to share new information that interests our colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last year the former Department of Economic Development and Transportation held consultations in Baker Lake and other communities concerning the project. I was pleased to note that the minister’s letter indicated feedback from the public was generally positive.

Can the minister indicate what major concerns, if any, were raised during the public consultation process, and has the minister directed the department to begin on how they can alleviate some of those concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Concerns around intercommunity road system that we are studying here in the Kivalliq, it does entail a lot of, I guess one would

be for financial concerns, how much it will cost, how much it would maintain on a year-round basis or however long. There's that.

But also there's planning, there's environmental and/or wildlife impacts that have been raised, and these have been documented as part of the study. We'll continue to evaluate and consider throughout the scope of this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue during our recent Fall Sitting, I noted that one of the government's recent updates on the Kivalliq Intercommunity Road Project indicated that the initial route corridor was determined by considering a number of factors, including the Nunavut Planning Commission's recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan.

At that time I asked the minister to provide a clear update on what position his department had taken regarding the impact of the draft land use plan on the Kivalliq proposed Kivalliq Intercommunity Road Project. I'm curious, would the minister and his department approve it or reject it? That is what was going through my head.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very confident that the new Minister of Transportation and infrastructure works closely with the Minister of Environment, so I will ask again for a clear update on this issue from the point of view of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that minister works within the same minister, but also I work with my other colleagues on this matter as well as others. We do try to approach things on a whole-of-government approach when they impact Nunavut on a larger scale.

But, Mr. Speaker, the Kivalliq intercommunity road study, it is vast. A road network would be 718 kilometres in total, including 61 bridges, bridge crossings, and 177 culvert stream crossings. So this is quite a big undertaking that it would take to link these communities together.

Again, we are working together as a government, myself included with the other Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1325 – 6(2): Emergency Management and Search and Rescue

Ms. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the minister of the new Department of Community Services, which has responsibility for emergency management and search and rescue.

Mr. Speaker, it will soon be boating season, and I encourage everyone in my community to be fully prepared and to take all necessary precautions when going out on the water.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, his new department is now responsible for the government's community-based search and rescue contribution policy. This policy was last updated in the year 2017 and sunsetted in the year 2022. Can the minister indicate when the policy will be renewed, and can he indicate what specific changes to the policy are being actively considered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the new department was amalgamated into one, there are a number of policies that are outdated, and one that I've given directions to my staff to ensure that all those policies that are outdated be updated. That's something that I'll continue to do.

In terms of what changes to be needed, those would be part of the policy review, and for any Nunavut emergency management for the community to get, those dialogues are continuing and is something that we continue to search for, whether if it's for resources or funding. And I think a lot of good work has taken place, especially on the search and rescue side.

The roundtable that took place last spring has helped inspire a lot of our departments to try and find ways and find partnerships. And I think those are critical to search and rescue at the local level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. As the minister will recall, Nunavut's *Emergency Measures Act* was passed in the Legislative Assembly in 2007, almost two decades ago. Sections 529 of the legislation provides for the preparation of emergency management programs on the part of government institutions and municipal councils; however, these sections of the legislations have not yet been brought into force.

What is the government's current timetable for bringing these sections of the *Emergency Measures Act* into force? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are two outstanding departments for the emergency plans. Once we receive that, our plan is to get that part of the legislation into effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. When I last raised this topic during our Winter Sitting, the minister's predecessor indicated that the government's emergency management division had "partnered with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to support the development of a community safety liaison pilot program. This funding was approved to support the piloting of seven community liaison positions."

Can the new minister provide an update on this initiative. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know I have that document in here, but I don't have it... with those seven positions, I was briefed on it, and for the likes of me, I can't tell how many were filled. It's something that I'll commit to providing that to my colleague.

But that work between the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and our department is crucial, and I think that step is one step that we're all looking forward to. I thank my member colleague for raising it in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1326 – 6(2): Importance of Language to Inuit Culture

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

(interpretation ends) Yesterday the Minister of Justice had a Minister's Statement, Recognition of Inuktitut-speaking RCMP officers. I'm glad that we have Inuktitut speaking officers. It would be nice to get more.

But something that caught my attention in the Minister's Statement on the bottom of the last page says:

"Mr. Speaker, Inuktitut is more than a language; it is the foundation of Inuit identity."

When a minister made the statement it doesn't go against policy, it doesn't, it cannot go against the government policy. And it's a statement from the government on their position.

So (interpretation) when she states that Inuit who cannot speak Inuktitut are less Inuktitut, because they say Inuktitut is the foundation of being Inuk, (interpretation ends) I would like to ask whether the Minister of Languages agrees with the Minister of Justice that it appears to state that Inuit that do not speak Inuktitut or less Inuit than Inuit that do, because it is the foundation of their identity. Identity is important. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The question is geared towards the Hon. Minister of Languages, and with him not being here, is the Deputy Premier prepared to answer the question? Hon. Deputy Premier, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the member for raising that point. I think you can see in ways of interpreting something and hearing that our language is a part of us. It is a part of us inherently. It's who we identify with as people.

Our language is connected to our world view, our values. It comes from our ancestors. And as somebody who's learning my language, I'm so proud to see people who do speak their language. So thankful for teachers that we have that pass on our language.

And I know this feels emotional for me, because it's something that was out of our control in different parts of the territory, where we don't speak our language. I don't want this to be about emotion or anything, but it is tied to emotion.

Saying that in the statement, Mr. Speaker, is something that we feel proud of with our Indigenous identity as Inuit that it connects us to our people and our culture.

But, Mr. Speaker, I'll have to take that question as notice. Thank you.

Speaker: Question taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Oral Question 1327 – 6(2): Fox Trapping Education Program

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment, and it concerns his statement on Friday of last week. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear the minister announcing that his department continues to work on developing a fox-trapping education program for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, skills such as trapping are important to pass down to the younger generation. We must strive to do everything we can to support hunters and seamstresses.

Can the minister clarify as to the extent in which his department's new program will target youth in our schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the MLA for raising another question on trapping program. As Environment, we are just releasing this program, and as the program proceeds, as part of the program we have modules in schools where we have also included a program at our high school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be great news at the schools that this will be realized. Mr. Speaker, we know that Inuit hunters and trappers have suffered because of misinformation spread by antihunting extremists, antihunting extremists from the south and other countries.

Following our traditional hunting and trapping practices, we do so humanely and respectfully. Can the minister indicate what initiatives the government is working on to promote our sustainably harvested fur products to a global market, and increase fur prices that our hunters receive from the furs and pelts that they harvest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think as an example, Mr. Speaker, the program we have put together, we will start identifying which communities we will start developing this program and the inclusion in our schools that we will do with collaboration with the Department of Education.

With respect to the furs and pelts, bear skins as we know are some of the highest quality and are best suited for clothing. Today we have these made in fashions and are displayed in fashion shows, or in use of earrings. There's an increased demand in usage, so we want to encourage Nunavummiut to ensure sustainability and to use whatever part of an animal that you can have, use for earrings and so forth, and that is something that we want to continue as Department of Environment. We will continue to do so by other means. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In your response I didn't hear all the details on areas of prices and so forth on furs. As the minister is aware, the Department of Environment is responsible for the government's seal purchasing program policy, and the Department of Community Services is responsible for the government's seal and fur program policy. Mr. Speaker, both of these policies sunsetted in March of this year.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is can he indicate what specific changes to his department's policy are being considered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the Department of Environment we are responsible for skins and furs and the economy that goes with it. We will continue with local communities.

Concerning the policy, we constantly review on occasion when they become outdated. Similarly, we will continue in working with the community on areas of furs and skins, selling these products. We will continue to review them and any programs that may survive we'll continue to focus on them as we renew our policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1328 – 6(2): New Terminal in Kugluktuk

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, and this concerns the new terminal in Kugluktuk that's about to be completed.

My first question is: Is there any specific date it will be in use? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the question. Mr. Speaker, my department, we are anticipating to open the Kugluktuk new air terminal building this month. I don't have a specific date, but this month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I also want to ask the minister if he knows of any positions that might be or will be created. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, not at this time. Mr. Speaker, these new air terminal buildings have increased in size; however, the people that manage them and the operations and maintenance, they will remain the same.

We will continue to evaluate whether or not we need additional person-years for the management of these new air terminal buildings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) With the new terminal that's going to be being used finally this summer, I would like to ask the minister, when does he anticipate the grand opening ceremony for the new terminal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are looking at and we have a few other air terminal buildings that have just been completed recently. We're looking at the week of June 16 to visit some of these communities; Kugluktuk, Nauyasat, Whale Cove, among others.

Mr. Speaker, with that I'll keep my colleagues informed when the specific dates and logistics for when we do arrive, and also including the mayors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1329 – 6(2): Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment, and it as well is on the topic of the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Land Use Plan is a legal requirement under the Nunavut agreement to guide and direct short-term and long-term development in the Nunavut settlement area, and it aims to promote environmental sustainability while laying the groundwork for economic development.

Mr. Speaker, in a statement from the government in June 2023, it was stated in there that:

“The important work of reviewing the plan will happen over the next several months as approval authorities collaborate to make sure it protects and promotes the existing and future well-being of Inuit and Nunavummiut.”

Mr. Speaker, in March I had asked what I thought was a very simple question to the minister, why he was not clearly able to explain the specific reasons in the long delay in approving the plan.

Mr. Speaker, at that time the minister stated that the work is ongoing and that his department is planning to meet with the tri-parties later that month, and to sort out those challenges to date. Mr. Speaker, that was three months ago.

Mr. Speaker, as to the specifics, and sorry, just to continue the quotation for the minister’s response of that day, “as to the specifics, perhaps I’ll commit to bringing that to my colleagues in an agreeable forum.”

Mr. Speaker, we’re just finishing our Spring Sitting, where we had many opportunities in our agenda and calendars to be updated in an agreeable forum.

Mr. Speaker, my first question is: When are we going to find out the timeline for the Nunavut Land Use Plan approval or denial? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate and hear the frustrations of my colleagues around this topic.

Mr. Speaker, I am preparing and my department is preparing for the sequencing of that, when the decision to come forward through. Again, Mr. Speaker, I did commit to bringing information to my colleagues beforehand, and again I have to point to the technical work that is still ongoing.

It is with considerable effort that we are trying to balance the needs of different stakeholders involved, and when there are issues that are arising that they are assessing, we need to determine whether or not these issues are significant enough to warrant a plan rejection, for example, if that’s the way it’s going to go.

But those are the considerations being discussed here. So it’s quite going deep into this, but there’s a lot of work going into this area. But again I’ll commit to bringing forward information as and when it’s readily available to my colleagues, and I anticipate that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, while I do appreciate there's an enormous amount of technical information to go through by the Department of Environment staff and across other departments as well too, this has been two years, Mr. Speaker, and three months since the minister stated that he would keep us up to date on this project. And continually we are having to ask again a number of questions.

Again, going back, I'm going to go to just last week to a response that the minister had with one of my colleagues here that where you say:

"Although I won't get into the fine detailed specific issues that are still being worked out at the technical level, I'll state there are also legal considerations."

Mr. Speaker, also back in March when I had asked the question, the minister had stated that he's not at liberty to say yes or no to whether the plan will be approved or not, but he did state:

"I'm looking forward to bringing a recommendation based on the work that my department has done as well as again there's meetings that are prepared for later this month", same March 2025.

"At that time I think we'll have a better indication of where things stand."

Can the minister describe to us today where things stand? What issues are slowing down the approval or non-approval of the Draft Land Use Plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of the Environment, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been a huge amount of work put into this, and we aren't taking it very lightly.

And Mr. Speaker, there has also been other events that are not within the government's control, but the technical working group is still going through the motions of going through each issue.

Mr. Speaker, I did indicate that, and this was the advice that I had at the time, which we did anticipate some roadmap of the next steps that we'll take from the work that has taken place, and we thought this was going to be this month in June. However, there's still work that's ongoing, which I need to respect.

I am again relying and wanting the technical working group as well as the legal review from all parties to go through with that. Once that review has taken place, and when a final recommendation comes through, I'm planning to keep my colleagues informed ahead of time. That has been my commitment to date, and it still remains. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the work that the minister and his department are doing on this, but at that same time, Mr. Speaker, we're in a very sensitive time. Nunavut Tunngavik just recently had an election; the federal government just had an election, and ours again is looming in the very near future. This to me looks like again it's just going to get pushed to another down-the-road decision to be made. But I digress, Mr. Speaker. I will look forward to being keeping up to date on that specific topic.

Also related to the Draft Land Use Plan, Mr. Speaker, the minister provided a Return to Oral Question March 11 earlier this year, where it was stated that the Canadian critical mineral strategy that was published in 2022 allocated approximately \$40 million to "support northern regulatory processes in reviewing and permitting critical mineral projects."

Mr. Speaker, hopefully the minister will indulge me a little bit that I'm going to try and sneak two questions in, that the Canadian critical more than strategy, the Northern component to it includes all three territories. As well, has Nunavut accessed any of that \$40 million to date?

And what kind of impact? When the minister said there was no direct bearing on the current review of the land use plan, I struggle to make that work in my head, when the land use plan has specific components to identify regulatory processes and taking steps.

I would like to get the minister's response, as much as he is willing or able to today. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the first part of his question, not that I'm aware of. For the second part of his question, I suppose since the recommended land use plan, I suppose it would be the roadmap to how any mineral development project proceeds.

The plan doesn't specifically outline for any project in particular, but it would be in a more broader sense of every project that goes through the land use plan or the Nunavut Planning Commission would use that specific, would use the general plan. My response

to that was that for the purpose of any project, mineral project that we're looking at now, it's something that we'll continue to review and see where we can take it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1330 – 6(2): Inuit Games Included in the Olympics

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my next question to the new Department of Community Services, specifically to the Sports and Recreation Division of that department.

Mr. Speaker, last fall I raised the idea -- I thought it was a great idea -- of Nunavut introducing the idea of Inuit sports at the bigger stage at the international level, of introducing Inuit sports at the Olympic level. We already have Olympic sports at an international level through the Arctic Winter Games, where we have Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Alaska, Greenland, and before the war we had Russians challenging us in Inuit sports. I thought it would be a great idea if we can get Inuit sports into the Olympics.

Mr. Speaker, what would it take to get Inuit games introduced in the Olympics? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Canada is part of the International Olympic Committee, and that body determines which sports go into it.

For example, where they are hosting, whoever is hosting the Olympic games, they tend to have specific to their countries. And so one way would be, if Canada ever hosts the Olympics here, we could ask to have Inuit games, either as a demonstration or as a sport. But it's something that it's a very world-wide way of doing this. The last Olympics that we held was in Vancouver. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering, will the minister commit to having discussions with the Canadian Olympic Committee in conjunction with the United States Olympic Committee, and perhaps Greenland-Denmark, to see about seeking support so that we can see if we can get Inuit sports, Inuit games introduced into the Olympics.

As we all know, when we're watching two-foot high-kick competitions, one-foot high-kick competitions, they have three chances, and when the first two chances they just miss out on it, and on the third kick they are successful, and it's very exciting. So it would be great to see that on the world stage.

Will the minister commit to having discussions as soon as possible with the Canadian Olympic Committee and the United States Olympic Committee, and perhaps Denmark to see if they can help us out with that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague who held the portfolio previously reminded me that in 2010, Vancouver, there were demonstration of Inuit games. It's something that we'll continue to advocate for.

I don't have a scheduled meeting for the Canada Olympics meetings, but the next event that I'll be attending is the Canada Summer Games. Maybe through that venue I'll be very happy to raise it.

I really enjoy for Inuit to be predominantly showcased in the world, and that's something that I will, I share your enthusiasm in terms of showcasing Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1331 – 6(2): Tank Farm in Arviat – Update

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am thankful that you're a providing a second time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the infrastructure, and this pertains to the tank farm that's planned for Arviat. If I can get an update for Arviummiut as to where we are in the planning of the tank farm, or if it's being built this summer. Just an update. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a formal site recommendation presentation is expected to be delivered to municipal council this summer, 2025. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to hear that because summer starts in 19 days, so I'll expect the recommendations 19 days from now, and we'll go from there.

I'll ask the minister, I know there was plans to sell jet fuel in the tank farm too, and I'd like, since we're at the beginning of constructing this tank farm, I've been after the minister many times and on many occasions about selling bulk propane in Arviat; 100-pound bottles and 20-pound bottles.

Can I get the minister to notify Arviammiut whether there's any plans to start selling propane with this new tank farm as it's just being planned, so it's very feasible, very doable, very practical, and very economical, because it's the very beginning of it to sell propane in Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague has been pressing on this matter, and it may be very doable, very practicable and all that, but we do know that there is a private company that currently provides for this. Mr. Speaker, it is something that my department will continue to explore opportunities around in the future, when the Petroleum Products Division, we are looking at potentially bolstering our staffing complement. If it's around propane that we want to see more of in the communities, it might be that, but we're still in the exploratory stages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know the minister has stated that they don't want to interfere with market processes selling propane, but I live in Arviat. Mr. Speaker, I can inform the minister that these retail outlets in Arviat sell naphtha and the government sells naphtha, so the minister's argument is kind of moot in terms of if they don't want to compete against local retailers. The local retailers sell naphtha and the government sells naphtha.

For the information of the minister, there is no propane right now, because the retailer that sold propane ran out, and it would have been very handy for the Arviamuit who need propane to go out on the land, and some people who need propane for their stoves in their residence would have had a place to buy it.

I'll ask the minister again: Will the minister consider with this new tank farm about selling bulk propane in Arviat as a pilot project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point we don't plan to have a pilot propane program, PPP, but I'll take his comments on notice that if and when the Petroleum Products Division does want to get into this business of providing propane to Nunavummiut, we'll highly consider Arviat as one of the pilot communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members be aware time allotted for question period is now over. Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committee on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Hickes.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present the Report of the Standing Committee on the Review of the 2025 Report of the Auditor General of Canada: Follow-up on Child and Family Services in Nunavut.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing on the representative's 2023-2024 annual report on April 29 and 30, 2025.

Mr. Speaker and members, the Standing Committee's hearing was held in the chamber of the Legislative Assembly. It was televised live across the territory. The hearing was open to the public and news media to observe from the visitors gallery, and livestreamed on the Legislative Assembly's website. Transcripts from the Standing Committee's hearing is available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

Mr. Speaker, witnesses appearing before the Standing Committee included senior officials from the Office of the Auditor General of Canada and the Government of Nunavut's Departments of Family Services, Human Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, as well as Nunavut Arctic College and Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The standing committee extends its appreciation to the witnesses for their contributions to the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's 2025 report follows three previous reports by the Auditor General on the same subject which were tabled in 2011, 2014, and 2023 respectively.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's report contains seven formal recommendations directed to the Government of Nunavut which cover a number of thematic areas that were addressed during our televised hearing, including whole-of-government approach; root causes; case management; and the Ilagiitsiarniq Family Wellness Strategic Plan.

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

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

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 414 – 6(2): Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission 2025 Corporate Plan

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's 2025 Corporate Plan*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Hon. Government House Leader, Mr. Joanasie.

Tabled Document 415 – 6(2): 2024 Utility Rate Review Council Annual Report

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the premier, I'm pleased to table the *2024 Utility Rates Review Council Annual Report*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Ms. Nutarak.

Tabled Document 416 – 6(2): Pond Inlet Community Motions Respecting the Need for Additional Space

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table three documents today respecting the needs for additional school infrastructure in the community of Pond Inlet.

One document is a motion from the Pond Inlet District Education Authority requesting an extra classroom at Ulaajuk School. The other two documents are motions from the Pond Inlet District Education Authority and the hamlet of Pond Inlet respecting the need for a

larger gymnasium at the high school, a project that was approved in the past but never followed through.

The community cannot hold a proper sports tournament because the gymnasium is too small. I ask the government to give these documents full consideration during the next capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 417 – 6(2): List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. I have one document to table today, which is a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. Thank you.

Item 14, Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills.

Mr. Clerk, please ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the chambers to give assent to bills.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Aariak (interpretation): As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following bills:

Bill 66, *Early Learning and Child Care Act*;

Bill 74, *Pharmacy Professions Act*;

Bill 75, *An Act to Amend the Legislation Act and Other Acts Respecting the Nunavut Gazette*;

Bill 77, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*;

and Bill 80, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2025-2026*.

Those are the short bills. I know that you worked very hard in working on them.

In recent weeks I have had the honour of participating in a number of ceremonies to present King Charles III Coronation Medals to Nunavummiut who have made significant contributions to Canada and Nunavut, and I'm very happy that my representatives are able to do this when I'm not able to.

I congratulate all recipients for their contributions to our territory and nations. Have a very good summer, and we'll see you all again.

(Commissioner exits)

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. We have had a very good, productive couple of weeks of meetings in the House. Have a safe journey home. Thank you very much. I appreciate and thank the Commissioner very much for assenting our bills.

As well we don't forget our interpreters; thank you very much for your contributions to make our Nunavummiut understand in our languages, in Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut. As well my in-law, Tatulik (ph).

(interpretation ends) Personally I loved him very much. We have a translator, his name is Takulik as well, behind the Inuktitut glass there, window. Thank you.

As well we have some pages to thank, keep us from getting thirsty. One of them is not here at the moment, but he was here most times. His name was CJ Vincent Wolfe. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: And Darren Ingunik (ph).

>> *Applause*

Speaker: And Lilly Ukpatiku.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Maggie Ukpatiku.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you very much to keep us from not getting thirsty.

I would like to thank as well to all the people in the Legislative Assembly who work behind the scenes, keeping all the paperwork up to date.

I wanted to thank the two people in front of me, who keep me well-informed. Kooyoo, thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: And a special thank you to the clerk in front of me, who helped us out during this sitting, Mr. Bell.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: We have other people to thank. I probably missed out a lot of people, but I hope you enjoy your spring and summer. Enjoy it. Look after yourself. Look after your family. They are so important. Keep them healthy. And I hope you have a good flight home. (interpretation) Thank you very much.

(interpretation ends) Item 22, *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of the Management and Services Board in the Tuktu Room, following adjournment of the House today. *Orders of the Day* for Monday, September 8, 2025 at 1: 30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to the Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

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

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. *Orders of the Day*.

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Monday, September 8, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.
Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:11*

Subject: Number of Bear Skins at North Bay Auction House

In the most recent auction held in March 2025, a total of 104 polar bear hides were offered for sale. Of those, 16 hides were sold, generating a total revenue of \$22,864.00. The highest price obtained for a single hide was \$3,920.00, and the average price across all hides was \$1,429.00.

I would also like to comment that it is only through the processes established under the *Nunavut Agreement* that changes to Nunavut's polar bear management can occur. We continue to engage with our co-management partners on polar bear management at various working groups including the Polar Bear Administrative Committee, Polar Bear Technical Committee, the Polar Bear Range States and regularly participate in meetings with neighboring jurisdictions such as the Nunavik and Eeyou Marine Regions. We have successfully demonstrated the effectiveness of our **Made in Nunavut for Nunavut** polar bear management system locally, nationally and internationally for many years to ensure that Nunavummiut can continue to exercise their constitutionally protected harvesting rights.

There are no current plans to significantly modify our management system, however we are committed to refining our management system to address concerns and will make submissions to NWMB as appropriate.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts

Report on the Review of the 2025 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut: Follow-up on Child and Family Services in Nunavut

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

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George Hickes

Co-Chairperson

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Members

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

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Introduction

The Office of the Auditor General of Canada's *2025 Follow Up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut Services* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 5, 2025.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing on the Auditor General's 2025 Report on April 29 and 30, 2025. Transcripts from the hearing are available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

Witnesses appearing before the standing committee included senior officials from the Office of the Auditor General of Canada and the Government of Nunavut's departments of Family Services, Human Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, as well as Nunavut Arctic College and the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Standing Committee extends its appreciation to the witnesses for their contributions to the proceedings.

The Auditor General's 2025 Report follows three previous reports by the Auditor General on this same subject, which were tabled in 2011, 2014 and 2023.

The first two reports from 2011 and 2014 contained a number of recommendations including the need to address staffing, training, compliance with standards, the collection of information and community and parental engagement.

The Auditor General of Canada's *2023 Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut* again focused on the provision of services to protect and support the well-being of vulnerable children, youth and their families in accordance with legislation, policy and program requirements. The report did not contain any specific recommendations as it was determined that the recommendations from the first two reports had not been addressed.

The opening lines of the 2023 report stated:

"This audit report describes a crisis. It is a call for change. We are urging the Government of Nunavut to take immediate action to protect the vulnerable children and youth of the territory."

The 2023 report stressed that to resolve the ongoing failures would take a "whole-of-government" approach.

The Auditor General of Canada's *2025 Follow-up on Child and Family Services in Nunavut* is a "status update" on actions taken to address the findings in the Auditor General's three previous reports.

Rather than considering the 2025 report as a fourth audit on the same topic, the committee recognizes that it is the first in a series of monitoring audits by the Auditor General of Canada to ensure the Government of Nunavut's ongoing accountability for addressing the findings of its previous audits.

Whole-of-Government approach

One of the key findings in the Auditor General's *2023 Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut* focused on 'root causes'. The report noted:

"We found that the Department of Family Services' inability to meet its responsibilities to Nunavut's at-risk children and youth is linked to many intertwined root causes that have contributed to this persistent and chronic crisis."

"These interlinked root causes will need to be addressed through interdepartmental collaboration. That will require the government to oversee a whole-of-government approach."

On May 30, the Premier issued a news release which stated:

"Our response must be swift. With the full support of Cabinet, the government is unlocking the resources necessary to enable the Departments of Family Services, Health, and Human Resources to respond financially and with increased human capacity. The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA) will establish a Government of Nunavut (GN) audit and support function and develop a performance accountability framework. Taking a whole-of-government approach, EIA will provide oversight across departments for services related to the wellbeing of children, youth, and families."

During the hearing, when questioned on the government's progress this issue the Department Executive and Intergovernmental Services witness responded:

"So following the statement that was made, and as we looked to start this work and identifying the scope of responsibilities for this internal audit function, we found that there was a lot of alignment with an existing audit division within the Department of Finance. I alluded to that this morning, and that we continue to explore expanding the scope of responsibilities for Finance to potentially include some of the audit responsibilities linked to overall performance and accountability as referenced in this statement."

"With respect to the development of a performance accountability framework, I did mention this morning that this work has not begun. We are still determining, at least from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, as it relates to this internal audit function. As soon as we are able to solidify the scope of responsibilities for what this will look like and where it will be housed, we will look to finalize an accountability framework."

A committee member noted that the "swift" response committed to by the Premier on May 30, 2023, "is now 23 months in the making."

Following its review of the Auditor General's 2023 Report which was tabled on November 1, 2023, the Standing Committee had recommended the following:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut provide updates to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the status and progress of every specific task(s) assigned to each department which are directly linked to the root causes which affect the provision of services related to the wellbeing of children, youth and families in Nunavut.

The standing committee further recommends that these updates be tabled on the first day of every sitting of the Legislative Assembly on an ongoing basis.

The lack of action on the part of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has been noticeable with the absence of any such updates in response to the committee's recommendations.

The Standing Committee has noted, however, that the Department of Family Services has made considerable effort to collaborate with other departments to address a number of issues identified by the Auditor General which do not fall under the direct purview of Family Services. Input provided by witnesses from the departments of Human Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Nunavut Arctic College and the Nunavut Housing Corporation further demonstrated significant effort on the part of those departments to support Family Services in addressing such underlying cross-government issues impacting the delivery of Family Wellness services as staff recruitment, training, housing, office space and providing various supports for staff.

However, the Standing Committee notes the ongoing lack of a dedicated whole-of-government approach to ensuring performance and accountability in addressing the ongoing and systemic issues which are impacting the delivery of services to Nunavut's most vulnerable children and youth.

During the hearing, the Deputy Auditor General noted:

"Just in terms of central oversight, one of the challenges with the government systems that we have in Canada and in the territory, in particular, is that accountability is assigned to particular portfolios or agencies. And while that is good from the perspective of being able to identify who should answer and inform the public about what's happening, sometimes it does lead to siloed thinking and this is a place where central agency leadership and oversight can help break down those barriers to improve services for the people of the territory."

The Standing Committee is of the view that that the Government of Nunavut's central agency, the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, has a key role to

play in ensuring that the issues plaguing the delivery of child and family services are effectively addressed.

The Standing Committee recommends:

1. That the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs immediately establish a performance and accountability framework respecting the role and activities of each government department to address root causes impacting the provision of services related to the wellbeing of children, youth and families in Nunavut.

The Standing Committee further recommends:

2. That the performance and accountability framework established by the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs be tabled in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut prior to the dissolution of this Assembly to serve as a guidepost to the Seventh Assembly of Nunavut.

Root Causes

The Auditor General's 2023 Report identified a number of underlying issues which impacted the Department of Family Services' ability to meet its responsibilities for Nunavut's children and youth including staffing, staff training, staff housing, and office space. The Auditor General's 2025 Follow-up Report audited causes of deficiency in the delivery of services for vulnerable children and youth.

While the report found that Family Services had successfully increased capacity in staffing many frontline service positions, it noted that the number of permanent Inuit community social services workers had not increased since 2023. The committee notes, however, that all Family Resource Worker positions are currently staffed by Inuit and commends the department on its efforts to ensure that its services are culturally relevant and responsive to the unique needs of Nunavummiut. The committee appreciated receiving additional information on the combined efforts of the Department of Family Services and Nunavut Arctic College to strengthen training and employment pathways for Inuit students and graduates of the College's Social Worker program. Supports are provided in the form of mentorships, supervised child protection work experience and targeted development opportunities.

Testimony from the witness representing Nunavut Arctic College provided an optimistic view with respect to the future recruitment and training of candidates into Nunavut's social work field.

"Now, what the college is doing itself to help bring more people through these important programs is the college is working to diversify its delivery model. So I believe it was in 2022-2023 the college received approved funding from this House to dedicate supports to put our social service worker program diploma into an online model. We've been doing that work, and from what I understand, we should have an online model completed by this

summer. Rollout of that program may not happen until next year, just to make sure that we have all the support resources and everything ready, but the college hopes that in addition to our in-person delivery that an online delivery model will allow students who don't wish to travel to take part in that. And it's our hope that we'll be able to catch more students and encourage them to take this program."

The committee notes, however that a number of social worker positions remain unfilled. Casual staff and contracted staff currently provide services in a number of communities. Additional information provided by the Department of Family Services following the hearing indicated that 77 staff appointed under the *Child and Family Services Act* are working under letters of authority. Hiring staff remains a significant challenge for Family Services.

The witness for the Department of Human Resources described a number of initiatives to staff social worker positions:

"We have streamlined our staffing of these positions into one office as opposed to across four different offices, so we have one staffing consultant who's responsible. We can do mass competitions that are open until filled so that we can continually assess, and candidates coming in as opposed to having set times where a competition is run. We are using LinkedIn and specific advertising on social work specific places.

Our salary review that we conducted last year with a 9 per cent increase actually positioned our social workers to some of the highest paid in the country, so that does impact our recruitment of positions. We have been supporting Family Services direct-appointing casual social workers into position and allowing them to stay in staff housing in transient housing, while we await staff housing units becoming available at the community level."

The Standing Committee recommends:

3. That the Department of Family Services work with the Department of Human Resources to establish additional recruitment incentives for social work positions.

The Auditor General's 2025 report demonstrated that such external factors as the lack of staff housing and the need for adequate office space also have a direct impact on staff recruitment and retention. Witnesses for the Nunavut Housing Corporation described a number of initiatives with respect to increasing staff housing options, however, given the competition for staff housing across all areas of government, it was unclear that any prioritization initiatives respecting Family Services staff are currently under consideration.

Additional information provided by the department following the hearing indicated that, despite the lack of staff housing being identified as a key factor impacting employment into the field, Family Services does not currently have any statistics on which of its

employees occupy staff housing units and has difficulties in determining which vacant positions will require staff housing in the future.

The Standing Committee recommends:

4. That the Department of Family Services determines the current housing status of all Family Wellness employees and renew its efforts to work with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to address the availability of units to meet housing requirements for frontline staff as a priority.

The witness for the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut described a number of initiatives currently underway to address Family Services office space needs:

“A really great first step that has been taken is identifying a position for a capital planner to do the assessment on space configurations.

Our role as a department is to manage the requests that come in from client departments, including Family Services, to make sure that the space is, firstly, available and, secondly, suitable for their programming needs. In the case of Family Services there’s been an extensive amount of work that has been happening over the last 12 to 18 months to advance their space needs as a highest priority, starting with reconfiguring spaces to make sure they are safe and functional, so minor upgrades like doors and access ways and to make sure that it is readily accessible by their clientele.”

The committee has noted a positive development in the number of recent requests for proposals to renovate such existing community infrastructure as portable classrooms and surplus buildings into Family Services office space.

The Auditor General’s 2025 Report acknowledged that the Department of Family Services has taken actions to better support the health, safety and well-being of its employees. The committee was pleased to note such departmental initiatives as the increase in supervision and mentoring activities, the provision of counselling for frontline workers, greater attention to workload allocation and ensuring access to respite and rest. Committee members remain concerned, however, about reports of threats to the safety and security of frontline staff.

The Standing Committee recommends:

5. That the Department of Family Services establish a framework to ensure that all health and safety incidents reported by employees can be tracked, reviewed and responded to in a timely manner.

Case Management

The Auditor General's 2025 Follow-up Report states that the Department of Family Services had improved its response to reports of child abuse, harm and neglect. While the Standing Committee appreciates that much work remains to be done to fully ensure that children and youth receive the protection they are entitled to and deserve, members recognize that significant efforts have been made over the past two years to address the findings in the Auditor General's earlier reports on Child and Family Services in Nunavut.

The committee anticipates that the department will soon be finalizing a number of standards and procedures in addition to the ones that have already been completed. Once the review of *Surusint Ikajuqtigiit, Nunavut's Child Abuse and Neglect Response Agreement*, is finalized, members hope to see improvements in responses to child abuse and neglect disclosures.

The committee was disappointed to learn that despite a number of training activities and directives to staff, the department's new Matrix case management system is still not fully implemented and operational. As the Deputy Auditor General and witnesses agreed, the collection, analysis and accuracy of data is critical to ensuring effective service delivery. During the hearing, members also explored a number of issues respecting information-sharing between government departments to address systemic issues as well as personal situations while ensuring that privacy considerations are taken into account.

Ilagiitsiarniq Family Wellness Strategic Action Plan

Following the Auditor General's 2023 *Report on Child and Family Wellness in Nunavut*, the Standing Committee's report on its review of the Auditor General's report included the following recommendations.

The standing committee recommends that the Department of Family Services' Strategic Plan in response to the Auditor General's report be provided to the Standing Committee at the earliest opportunity and tabled no later than the Winter sitting of 2024.

The standing committee further recommends that the commitments established in the Department of Family Services' Strategic Plan are clear and concise, that the expected results related to each of those commitments are straight-forward and measurable, and that each commitment and its expected results have specified timelines and accountabilities for achieving those timelines.

The standing committee further recommends that a comprehensive evaluation framework be established as a component of the Strategic Plan.

Since May of 2023, the Department of Family Services has introduced a Family Wellness Strategic Framework, a number of progress reports on the Framework and the

Ilagiitsiarniq Family Wellness Strategic Action Plan which includes 80 actions under 7 priority areas. The Standing Committee notes that its recommendations following the Auditor General's 2023 report were not fully addressed.

This is also observed in the Auditor General's 2025 Follow-up Report:

"The plan contained actions to be taken and related indicators. However, it lacked targets and baselines needed to measure progress, specific timelines, and clear accountabilities. The plan presented key components of what would be in an evaluation framework, such as developing key performance indicators and conducting regular audits of services to ensure compliance with the department's standards and procedures."

"To focus its efforts and strengthen accountability, the department needs to prioritize actions with clear timelines for measuring progress."

At the start of the committee's hearing, the Deputy Auditor General stated:

"In October 2024, the department presented an 80-item strategic action plan to the Assembly outlining actions intended to enhance protection and support services for children, youth, and families. While the department's strategic action plan is far-reaching, it lacks targets and baselines, clear accountabilities, and specific timelines to measure progress. The department must prioritize its actions that will result in concrete outcomes."

During the hearing, the witness for the Department of Family Services responded to a question on which actions in the action plan they felt should be prioritized:

"I would tend to, in my personal and professional opinion, suggest that the biggest priority right now is compliance with standards to ensure better outcomes for people coming into contact with the child welfare system; recruitment and retention, and that includes ensuring adequate office space and housing is available. I would say probably those are my top two, and if I were going to go a little further, ensuring the appropriate implementation of the data management system so that we can properly assess the efficacy of the programs being delivered."

Members of the Standing Committee shared the concerns of the Auditor General that the *Ilagiitsiarniq Family Wellness Strategic Action Plan* was very broad in scope and lacked specific timelines, accountabilities and a means to track and measure progress. The committee recognizes that the Department of Family Services is committed to addressing all aspects of a system which is facing numerous challenges and deficiencies, however it is important that the immediate focus be on what can be realistically achieved with the resources that are currently allocated.

During the hearing, the witness for the Department of Family Services expressed their intent to table a revised and prioritized Action Plan during the spring sitting.

The Standing Committee recommends:

6. That the Department of Family Services bring forward a revised *Ilagiitsiarniq Family Wellness Strategic Action Plan* with targets, baselines, clear accountabilities and specific timelines and those actions be prioritized with a view to what can be realistically achieved within the timelines.

The Standing Committee further recommends:

7. That Family Services's revised *Ilagiitsiarniq Family Wellness Strategic Action Plan* be tabled in the House prior to the end of the term of the Sixth Assembly.

In conclusion, the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts thanks the witnesses at the hearing for their contributions in addressing issues raised in the Auditor General of Canada's 2025 Follow-up Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut.

Committee members would further like to acknowledge Nunavut's front-line community social services workers and family resource workers, staff of the Family Wellness division of the Department of Family Services and, indeed, all members of the public service who work to ensure that Nunavut's children, youth and their families receive the support and services to which they are entitled.

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