

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*

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and
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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*

Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of
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Minister responsible for Human Rights
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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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Nunavut; Minister of Environment;
Minister responsible for Energy*

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)

*Minister of Finance; Minister
responsible for the Nunavut Housing
Corporation; Minister responsible for
the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis
Commission; Minister responsible for
the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis
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Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

*Minister of Health; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention;
Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

Solomon Malliki
(Aivilik)

*Deputy Chair, Committee
of the Whole*

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaernerker, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Mr. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Arreak Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, 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): *Ullaakkut*. Good afternoon.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kaernerker. Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 661 – 6(2): Workplace Health and Safety Training – Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an important workplace health and safety training initiative that is being offered by my department, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, commonly referred to as CPR, and the use of automated external defibrillators, commonly referred to as AEDs.

Mr. Speaker, CPR is a critical, life-saving ability. In an emergency, when every second counts, trained employees can truly be the difference between life and death. Whether it's a colleague, a fellow employee, or a community member, knowing how to properly administer CPR or use an AED makes all the difference.

Mr. Speaker, the two-day certification program equips Government of Nunavut employees with the practical knowledge, hands-on skills and confidence to respond effectively in emergency situations and stay calm and focused.

CPR training began this summer and will continue to be offered throughout the fall and winter months to staff in a number of communities across the territory. By the end of the fiscal year, Mr. Speaker, we expect nearly 200 employees to have completed this valuable program.

Mr. Speaker, by offering this type of training, we are not only strengthening the health and safety culture in the workplace but are also equipping our employees with life-saving skills that can contribute to community safety.

I encourage all Government of Nunavut employees to take part in this important program when it is available.

Qujanamiik, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 662 – 6(2): Strengthening Renewable Energy Partnership

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon to my colleagues and visitors in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, as we gather for the final sitting of this Assembly, I want to acknowledge the hard work of our communities and partners who are helping shape Nunavut's clean-energy future. Regardless of political transitions ahead, Qulliq Energy Corporation's commitment remains steady: to keep the lights on safely and reliably today, while preparing our systems for the renewable projects of tomorrow.

Across the territory, several important renewable initiatives, led by Inuit organizations, hamlets, and Nunavut residents, are advancing. While Qulliq Energy Corporation does not own these projects, we work closely with each proponent to plan safe, reliable interconnections to our local grids.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, with respect to the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link, Qulliq Energy Corporation has signalled its role as the primary electricity off-taker of the project. The proposed transmission and fibre corridor in the Kivalliq region aims to bring clean, affordable, renewable power and high-speed internet to the area.

Qulliq Energy Corporation's non-binding intent is to pursue a long-term, wholesale supply arrangement that would reduce our reliance on diesel, stabilize energy costs, and lower emissions. QEC looks forward to continuing to work closely with Nukik Corporation, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, and Sakku Investments Corporation to advance this nation-building project.

In addition to the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link, Qulliq Energy Corporation is also supporting the advancement of the Iqaluit Hydroelectric Project. Led by Nunavut Nukkiqsautiit Corporation, the Iqaluit Hydroelectric Project aims to replace diesel-generated electricity with renewable hydro power. The proposed facility is planned for development approximately 60 kilometres northeast of Iqaluit, along the Kuugaluk River, and is expected to generate between 15 and 30 megawatts of electricity. In July, Qulliq Energy Corporation allocated funding of \$495,000 from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada for utility studies in the development phase of the Iqaluit Nukkiqsautiit Project.

In Sanikiluaq, the Inuit-led wind and battery storage project is moving forward. It is expected to significantly reduce diesel use once operational. Solar-and-storage projects in Nauyas and Coral Harbour are moving through key development milestones, and wind-and-storage proposals in Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake are also in active development. Qulliq Energy Corporation is working with independent power producers on interconnection studies, protection settings, metering, and other technical requirements so that, when ready, these systems can be integrated safely into our grids.

Mr. Speaker, you have to bear with me; there's a lot going on with renewable energy in Nunavut, so I have a lot to say today. I apologize for that.

Residents and organizations are also participating directly in clean energy through Qulliq Energy Corporation's renewable energy programs. As of June 2025, Nunavut has twenty-one active Net Metering Program accounts in fourteen communities, twelve commercial and nine residential, demonstrating a strong uptake. As of August 7, 2025, our Commercial and Institutional Power Producer Program has twenty community projects, six completed, and the remainder progressing through stages such as study, verification, operations work, feasibility, paused, or exploratory. Over the same period, eight independent power producer projects are listed across the territory under study, in various stages, including design, applied, and exploratory.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first time Nunavut will see high levels of renewable generation on remote microgrids. Because these technologies are new to our territory, we are implementing clear interconnection standards, testing, and a step-by-step engineering approach to ensure that new loads are supported and costs remain fair for all customers. Qulliq Energy Corporation is not a barrier to progress; we are a partner in doing this right, ensuring that these transitions are safe, technically sound, and fair to all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, QEC will continue to strengthen relationships with communities and proponents, listen to local needs and concerns, and invest in the infrastructure necessary to integrate more renewable energy over time.

Together, we are laying the groundwork for a cleaner, more reliable, and affordable energy future, and we look forward to carrying this work forward with the next Assembly.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 663 – 6(2): Harvesting Season

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to wish harvesters a safe and productive harvesting season. With fall now here, many Nunavummiut are getting out on the land before winter settles in and enjoying our beautiful territory.

Knowing this, Mr. Speaker, we would like to remind harvesters that animals can and do get sick or injured. There are wildlife health testing and monitoring programs available in all regions to assist in identifying such cases.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we rely on our harvesters to provide samples so we can monitor animal health, and we work with other government departments and co-management partners to inform the public about any potential concerns or health issues.

Mr. Speaker, my department recently produced the *Nunavut Harvester Safety Guide*. It is available on the Department of Environment's website, through local hunters and trappers organizations, and in wildlife offices across the territory.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind everyone that if they observe any wildlife acting sick or strange, or notice disease or illness in harvested animals, do not consume that animal and please notify your local conservation officer.

Mr. Speaker let's all be safe while out harvesting and enjoy the country food our territory has to offer. Thank you to our harvesters in Nunavut.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 664 – 6(2): Legacy of the National Research and Education Network

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a historic milestone for Nunavut and Canada: the completion of the National Research and Education Network, which is now live in all 25 of our communities.

Through a 10-year partnership with Galaxy Broadband and InukNet, and with support from CANARIE, Nunavut Arctic College has established a high-speed, high-capacity network powered by Low Earth Orbit satellite technology. This work closes a long-standing digital divide, delivering internet speeds equivalent to those in southern Canada, and provides Nunavummiut with equitable access to digital tools for research, education, and innovation.

Through CANARIE, Nunavut is now part of Canada's National Research and Education Network, a dedicated, ultra-high-speed infrastructure connecting over 750 institutions across the country. More than just bandwidth, this network is a national federation of researchers, educators, and innovators which connects into a global research network of 125 countries across all continents. Our inclusion marks the first time that all Canadian jurisdictions are connected to this vital global system.

Mr. Speaker, this is not just about connectivity. This network infrastructure allows us to retain and manage research data in territory, supporting Inuit data sovereignty initiatives and strengthening local capacity for Inuit-led education, research, and innovation.

The College is now exploring community Wi-Fi pilots to support on-the-land research and has upcoming plans to be the first in the world to extend the infrastructure to a marine research vessel, the Government of Nunavut's Nuliajuk, furthering our global leadership in remote, networked research.

In 2023, the Prime Minister of Canada recognized this achievement as a national and global legacy. Because of this network, Nunavut is now a leader in overcoming geographic barriers and demonstrating what's possible when Inuit-led institutions and governments work together to shape the future.

I extend my thanks to our federal partners at CANARIE, our technical partners at Galaxy Broadband and InukNet, and the team at Nunavut Arctic College. Because of this project, future generations of Nunavummiut will learn, lead, and conduct research right here, right at home.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Minister's Statement 665 – 6(2): Canada-Nunavut Housing Benefit

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good afternoon, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker.

I am pleased to rise today to inform this House about an important milestone for housing in Nunavut. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has successfully negotiated an expansion of the Canada–Nunavut Housing Benefit, a program that will now provide broader and more meaningful support to Nunavummiut.

For too long, Mr. Speaker, this program has been limited to assisting private market renters. In Nunavut, where there is little private market housing, the program was not meeting the needs of our people.

Mr. Speaker, under the newly expanded design, the Nunavut Housing Corporation will for the first time deliver a new Homeowner Support Benefit of \$600 per month, or \$7,200 per year. This non-taxable assistance will help Nunavummiut manage the high costs of owning and maintaining a home in our territory.

A Member: Hear, hear.

>> *Applause*

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: This will ensure that eligible families can access meaningful relief with the day-to-day costs of keeping their homes safe and stable.

To qualify, applicants must own and live in their home as their principal residence, not exceed the maximum household income threshold, and not already be receiving the Government of Nunavut housing allowance. We anticipate that up to 300 households will be eligible in the first year, with more supported as the program grows.

Overall, approximately \$14 million in funding is available through to 2028, helping families manage housing-related expenses and stay securely in their homes.

Mr. Speaker, applications for the monthly Homeowner Support Benefit will soon be available through the Nunavut Housing Corporation's website. Intake staff will work directly with applicants to confirm eligibility and ensure families can access support as quickly as possible. Further details will be available on NHC's website soon.

The expanded Canada–Nunavut Housing Benefit aligns with the goals of Nunavut 3000: not only building more homes, but keeping Nunavummiut securely housed. By removing barriers and creating flexible supports, we are helping families stay in their homes, reducing pressures on public housing, and strengthening our communities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 666 – 6(2): RCMP Cultural Awareness Training

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to everyone here with us today and listening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an important step in strengthening the relationship between law enforcement and Nunavummiut.

From September 8 to 12, detachment commanders and senior leaders of the RCMP took part in a new, in-person Inuit Cultural Awareness Training program. This is the start of a sustained, mandatory initiative that will also be delivered virtually to all RCMP officers now serving or preparing to transfer to Nunavut.

This Inuit-led training will help RCMP officers take a trauma-informed approach to policing, with a focus on cultural respect and community engagement. Presenters developed a three-day program rooted in lived experience and community voices. It includes modules on Inuit history and culture, and the impacts of intergenerational trauma such as colonization, residential schools and the tuberculosis epidemic, and the collapse of the seal industry.

Mr. Speaker, the program also goes beyond the classroom. It reinforces for each RCMP member the importance of engaging with elders and taking part in local events that celebrate Inuit culture and promote community wellness. These outreach efforts demonstrate respect, foster deeper understanding, and help build meaningful relationships.

I commend the RCMP for embracing this initiative and thank the Inuit facilitators who are guiding this work. Greater cultural awareness and understanding among law enforcement helps build safer, stronger communities across our territory.

Quana, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister responsible for Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 667 – 6(2): Workers' Safety Awareness Campaign

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce an upcoming awareness campaign being launched by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission on the topic of worker rights and responsibilities. The campaign's core message is: Work safely. It's everybody's job, and will feature recognizable scenarios that can be found in workplaces across Nunavut.

There are three basic rights that every worker should fully understand when it comes to workplace safety. This is:

- The right to know how to do their job safely
- The right to participate and be involved at work, making Nunavut workplaces safer; and finally,
- The right to refuse, which means always saying no to work or tasks that feel unsafe.

The campaign, which includes comic style illustrations and music by Nunavut artists –

Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek consent to conclude my minister's statement.

Speaker: Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his ministerial statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, my colleagues, for this.

The campaign, which includes comic style illustrations and music by Nunavut artists, will be launched at the Nunavut Trade Show in Iqaluit on September 15th, and also brought to Rankin Inlet for the Kivalliq Trade Show. To celebrate the launch and help spread information to workers in a fun engaging way, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission is running a "Safety Dance" video contest, and I encourage you to try.

I encourage everyone to look out for the contest information on Facebook, and of course to help spread this important safety message to help ensure everyone arrives home safely at the end of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 3, Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 908 – 6(2): Remembering Taukie Tai Taukie

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with love and respect that I rise today. My apologies.

This is with love and respect that I rise today to recognize a friend and public servant who passed away in May of this year. Taukie Tai Taukie was born and raised in Kinngait and she was the youngest daughter of Rebecca and the late Joe Taukie.

Mr. Speaker, Taukie moved back to Iqaluit in 2017 upon accepting her job at the Department of Justice. Iqalummiut may recall that for a period of time her colleagues bestowed the great honour of lowering the flags at the Nunavut Court of Justice building, prior to her funeral. This honour speaks to the impact that Taukie Taukie had on her colleagues and the good friends that she made in Iqaluit.

She was loved deeply by her family and friends, and Mr. Speaker, in my mind's eye when I picture her, I see her fresh face flushed by exercise. She loved her time playing in the Iqaluit slow pitch league and her team, the Bad Pitches. In return, they named a tournament this summer for her, the triple T.

I'm humbled to recognize her family who are here with us today. Mr. Speaker, Taukie's son, Hunter Taukie is here. Her Anana, Rebecca Taukie is here, her brothers Daniel Taukie and Ashevak Taukie are here, and her sisters Mary Taukie and Josie Taukie are here.

Mr. Speaker and members, I hope that you will join me in honouring Taukie Tai Taukie for her incredible contributions in life to her family and friends, as well as importantly to the public service of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 909 – 6(2): Thank you to Family and Constituency Assistant for Support

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to the communities that I represent, and welcome to the people in the gallery.

I would like to thank the people in my riding and the people that work with me, my parents, my wife, and my children. They have supported me fully and they give me advice when I need it. I would like to extend my thank you to the people of Coral Harbour and Repulse Bay. The people who nominated me are no longer here, but I thank them from the bottom of my heart. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 910 – 6(2): King Charles III Award Recipients

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today. A few days ago, I was informed just recently there will be some recognition of two individuals in my community. They will be awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal. Alex Itimangyak Junior will be recognized, and I have known and publicly thanked him. He has supported the hockey teams in our community and I thank him very, very much, because he deserves that recognition.

(Indiscernible) who is very well known in the House, he will also be awarded the King Charles III medal. He is a very nice individual and I thank him on a daily basis and he supports the community, and I have known him for a very long time. I thank him. They will be awarded the King Charles III coronation medal.

I thank King Charles III and also the federal government, and also the leaders. I also thank the Commissioner, Alex Eetamangnaq (ph), and Emellia Nukingout (ph). Let's congratulate them today.

And I'm sure that the celebration will be coming along shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 911 – 6(2): Thank Staff

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to see and I extend my condolences and my compassion to the Taukie family. We miss Joe greatly and myself (indiscernible) and had been with me for the past six years. Coreena Nuyalia does excellent work. They give us a lot of support and make sure that everything is ready. And I would like to thank her very much for her excellent work that she provides for our office.

And Elisapee Nowdluk who does a lot of work also and also deals with the correspondence coming and going. And even when she was on holidays, I missed her greatly when I needed work done. They have done a great work.

And Mathewsie Onalik, who worked with me for a whole year, I would like to extend my gratitude and, and Joeli Qamanirq, in Arctic Bay, Joeli Qamanirq who had been working for me for a long time and makes sure that I'm up to date on the activities in the Arctic Bay.

Only with great staff do you do your work, and also keep up with correspondence and also the departments and the agencies. I thank all the staff because the responses have to go through that department. And correspondence, whatever is prepared I'm kept up to date by myself.

I extend my gratitude to everyone from the receptionist to the deputy ministers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 912 – 6(2): National Film Board

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say good afternoon to everyone in Kimmirut and I have you in my thoughts as you've lost a loved one.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today. The National Film Board of Canada has 58 films made by 13 Inuit film makers at a 1972 work shop in Kinngait, then known as Cape Dorset, on Baffin Island in Nunavut. These films have been retrieved, restored, digitized and made available for free on the National Film Board website, and was recently highlighted to celebrate National Indigenous Heritage Month this past June.

Mr. Speaker, the reels also serve to showcase Nunavut's artistic community at the time, as they include films by local carvers, painters and lithographers, sculptors, and photographers and also musicians.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the list of artists who participated in the Arctic Animation Workshop that were held in Cape Dorset, and they were produced and supervised by the National Film Board between 1972 and 1975, along with the filmography, each developed at the Sikusilarmiut animation studio in Nunavut. Audla Pudlat (ph), Ainia Pinguaqtuq (ph), Ittulu Itidlui (ph), Isuqanngittuq Ettunga (ph), Itee Putuguq (ph), Kanajuq Putuguq (ph), Matthew Joanasie, my late father, Okpik Pitsiulak (ph), Papiara Pudlalik (ph), Peter Pitsiulak (ph), Petaloosie Saila (ph).

Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous extent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker: Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleagues.

So Peterloosie Saila (ph), Salamonie Jay Pootoogook, Timoon Alariaq (ph), and Pia Pootoogook (ph).

Mr. Speaker, may their artistic expressions live on through these films and the inspiration they have created. I encourage constituents and Nunavummiut to find the reels on the film board website at www.nfb.ca.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to Camillo Martin Flourez (ph), who has written about the events, and it's called The Creators' Perspective, commemorating these artists from Kinngait. This has progressed very well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 913 – 6(2): Appreciation to Constituency Assistants and Staff

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our final sessions, as we are reaching the end, I would like to express our gratitude. I have been very grateful and thankful to my staff and people I have worked with, especially four individuals.

First of all, Jenny Qiyuk from Tikirarjuaq. I have been working with Jenny for a while now, and it's great to work with her. She always keeps me informed about what's happening in Whale Cove. If I need to talk to anybody or if I have to help somebody, she always keeps me informed. She's a mother and works full time, and also with the Canadian Rangers. Jenny, I believe you are very able. Thank you very much.

And in Arviat, Lynn Ishalook, you have been working for quite a while now, too, Lynn, and you are a mother as well, and you hold a lot of responsibilities. Her husband works at a mine, and sometimes Lynn has to go through hardship, but I know she's quite able and she always keeps on working and being a good mother. Thank you very much, Lynn. I believe you are very good at what you do.

The person that is here right now, right behind me, I would like to thank them as well. Let me not look at them or I might get teary, Suzie Alainga. (interpretation ends) The good thing about Suzie is that she doesn't suffer fools, and so she tells me when I am being a fool. Thank you for that.

Ron Elliott needs no introduction. Ron, you're the best, okay?

And Suzie, thank you for keeping me from getting lost in the halls of Centre Block, or wherever we were, trying to chase after federal money. Without you, I would probably be lost somewhere in the basement to this day.

(interpretation) Thank you very much to all the staff that work for me. I believe you are very good at that you do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 914 – 6(2): Recognize and Thank Constituency and Staff

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker, and first of all I just want to say my condolences to the Taukie family. I hold you all in my thoughts, and thank you to your daughter for her service to Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I too would like to recognize my colleagues that I've been fortunate to work with along the way. It's crazy how fast time can fly.

At home in Cambridge Bay I would really like to pay a special thank you to Nancy Angualik who is the constituency assistant in the community. She does a phenomenal job keeping the office running and is always there to hear on people's concerns. I greatly appreciate you, Nancy, for being there.

I also had Julie Minilgak who was working in the constituency office, and found herself to be moving back down south. I thank you, Julie, as well, for the hard work that you did to keep the office going and I appreciate you as well.

Here, Mr. Speaker, in the House, I am too fortunate to have one of my colleagues down here in the House with us, the wonderful Annie Akoak, who has been keeping a position like this for such a long time, 25 years she's been doing the work. I'm so grateful for her

for her smooth sailing that she does. She has everything acknowledged and done in record time, I think, because she just is so familiar with the work. So thank you, Annie, for all of your hard work that you've done over the years.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate to also work with Nick Pashkoski. I know he is not here in the House with us because he's a little camera shy, but thank you, Nick. I know you're watching from upstairs. Thank you for being that sounding board and being such a phenomenal person to work with. I really appreciate you, as well.

Last but not least, Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege to work with Melissa Erwin. She's back home in Rankin Inlet because she welcomed a new grandson around the same time that I had my little girl. So, Melissa, thank you as well from the bottom of my heart for all the hard work that you did as we navigated this process together in the beginning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 915 – 6(2): Thank Constituency Assistant and Staff

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I agree with my colleagues it's really hard to kind of talk about the amazing people that I've been working with as well.

I do agree, Mr. Main, Suzie is probably the best, but I also have the best Suzie behind me. I have to thank Suzie for her amazing hard work throughout the years.

Four years has flown very quickly, and in the last term I was one year working with her. I've been very fortunate to have been able to work with some amazing women, Kerry McCluskey, I thank you. McCluskey, I think we get work can be tough, but when you have a team like we have on the second floor, they are tougher, and they really do help us to get through.

I also want to thank my staff in Pang. I've been very fortunate to have worked with Rosetina Alivaktuk for a number of years. I know she's not there any more, but Debbie, Linda, Ayla, and Simona. I've been very fortunate, like I said, to have been working with some powerful women throughout my term, so thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 916 – 6(2): Thank you and Recognize Staff

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me as well. The precious family of the people across the room, we have you in our hearts and thoughts and we love you.

I rise today, too, this afternoon, because I have a lot of gratitude in my mind right now. We get really humbled when we get help in all aspects, and these people have helped keep me up. We have big responsibilities and many responsibilities, and sometimes we have to be away from our family because of our responsibilities.

The people behind me have helped me a great deal. I've travelled with them and have held heavy issues with them and also celebrated with them. And whenever the work that we are doing, whenever we are completing it, it's great. So, I really humble myself to them and I would like to recognize them Mr. Speaker.

First of all, Joe Kunuk, thank you very much. Ever since we worked together at the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, we've been able to work together here on behalf of Nunavummiut. So I thank Joe a great deal.

And Sima Zerehi, thank you very much. I believe I travelled the most with that person, and she seems to know what my thoughts are before I even think about them. And she is extremely able at what she does and has worked real hard. So never forget that we're here on behalf of Nunavummiut. I thank her a lot because she has worked a lot for us too.

And also the biggest thank you to this person, and I've learned the most from that person is Kerri Tattuine-Wong. She just became a mother and she reminded us why we're here. We really feel things like that from people who have worked real hard.

I would like unanimous consent from my colleagues to conclude my statement.

Speaker: Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker and to my colleagues. Now, Kerri has helped me a lot and, I've also learned how to be a good person from her. So thank you very much, because she has she is also always there for me.

This person is new but has made great changes: Haley. I know she's going to have a great future and I believe she may sit where we're sitting in the future, because she has done great work in our office and we've really felt it. So thank you very much for that.

Thank you everyone that has helped us, and especially the ones in my office. I thank everyone. And sometimes we seem to be alone as MLAs and as elected MLAs. We know we're not alone but sometimes we feel that way, and these staff have really helped keep me humble and pointed in the right way for the people of Nunavut. I thank them all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Justice, Ms. Gross.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 1360 - 6(2): Legal Aid in the Kitikmeot Region

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer provided to MLA Bobby Anavilok on September 9, 2025, on issues related to Legal Aid court workers in the Kitikmeot region.

The Legal Services Board of Nunavut and its regional clinic, the Kitikmeot Law Centre, confirms that five court workers, full-time and part-time, are currently serving at the Kitikmeot region with representation in all five communities of Kugluktuk, Taloyoak, Kugaaruk, Cambridge Bay, and most recently Gjoa Haven. Further, the office manager at the Kitikmeot Law Centre in Cambridge Bay is a trained court worker.

Additionally, the Legal Services Board provided the following summary of key activities undertaken by court workers in the Kitikmeot region during the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Throughout the year, court workers:

- participated in community information sessions, in a collaboration clinic, staff, lawyers, and occasionally Law Society of Nunavut representatives;
- supported community members in accessing summary legal services across the criminal, family, and civil law practice areas offered by the Legal Services Board;
- Assisted clients and applicants in completing legal aid forms and navigating application requirements;
- Facilitated communication with potential clients and helped gather documentation to assess legal aid eligibility;
- Connected individuals to appropriate regional services and personnel, including community corrections officers, community justice outreach workers, and the Public Prosecution Service of Canada;
- Coordinated with legal aid lawyers to arrange client meetings, contact witnesses, and ensure communities were informed in advance of circuits;

- Provided notary public services for free to the public in Cambridge Bay; and lastly, Mr. Speaker,
- Participated in territorial, multi-day, in-person training sessions in Iqaluit, followed by online training that focused on enhancing their knowledge of legal aid procedures, court processes, and core court worker skills.

Quana, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Main.

Return to Oral Question 1364 - 6(2): Utility Rates

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) I rise today to supplement my answer given to Oral Question 1364 – 6(2), Utility Rates, raised by MLA Hickes on September 10, 2025. The topic of the question was on the recent request of the Utility Rates Review Council on the standby power rate application made to me by Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the return is quite detailed. I would like to request it be entered into the record as read. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister is seeking the question as read. Member is seeking the answer as read. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It's agreed. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and recognize my son Andy Malliki who has given me a lot of support as he grew up, and I always work with him. My wife and I feel he's our biggest helper, and he also guides and instructs his younger siblings. I'm very grateful to him, my son.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know the benches have cleared out pretty good, and I want to acknowledge the former colleagues and people that I worked

with in this building, friends, constituents, and former constituents, and the current constituents, I will look forward to talking to you at your door in the coming weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the chief operator officer and vice president of business development for Nation North Insurance. Mr. Speaker, I met this gentleman a couple of years ago through introduction of a friend of my wife's family, and through discussions we've become – I'm going to say friends ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize John Rayaz. He is a former MLA in the Manitoba government, nearly eight years, and served as Minister of Labour, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration. I can assure all members that we have had very interesting discussions as recently as this morning on how to work to solve capacity issues across numerous sectors.

Just for the record, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize John Rayaz. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize again the members of the Taukie family. We'll start with Daniel Taukie. Please rise, if you can. Welcome to your House, Daniel. Josie Taukie. Hunter Taukie. Rebecca Taukie. Mary Taukie.

Mr. Speaker, originally I was going to make this statement in June, but my own circumstances meant that I couldn't, and what it means is that Ashevak Taukie is here with us today. I'm glad you were able to come today. Welcome to your house Ashevak.

Mr. Speaker, behind me is my elder, Daniel Qavak, who I first started working with in 2002 when I started at the Department of Health. He was my boss and then I became his boss. And then he became my boss and then I became his boss. And now he's my boss again. And Anyap (ph) has kept me so connected with our community, and particularly with our elders.

And I am so lucky to have on Anyap Qappa (ph) as my constituency assistant and as my mentor, my friend, and one of my biggest supporters. Welcome to your house. I'm happy you're here.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my nephew is here. I'm very appreciative that he's here, Mark. I am able to say welcome to the House.

Yesterday I met for the first time and was automatically a friend of mine speaking with him last night, John Rayaz. We learned what he has done and what further support he may provide. And respect for a while last evening. Evening came quick, though. Solomon, his son, is also here. Solomon's son and his family is very supportive of him and he supports his family, a son, but he is very capable individual. Very proud he is here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

Hon. P.J. Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to recognize first an elder I'm lucky enough to be in my constituent.

(interpretation) Welcome to this House and thank you for much support needed. And we have seen the benefits of your help and your family. Welcome.

And my young brother, Mark Akeegok who is visiting Nunavut at this time. Always proud of him and grateful for his support. He provides me in many areas. He's home for a short time in Nunavut, and I would like to welcome him and that he is able to come to this House once again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to recognize the Taukie family who are here, Becky and children, all of them. I grew up with them, Mr. Speaker, and the two brothers, I've sung with them on occasion. But they sing very powerful songs. I would like to welcome them here.

And in my ministerial post, I've worked with Mary Taukie. I would like to acknowledge and recognize her and thank you for her help in Nunavut.

Behind me is also my aide, Beckie Kilabuk, originally from Pangnirtung, but she has taken Nunavut Sivuniasavut program and taken environmental technical program. A very capable individual that I also would like to recognize here in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He is leaving. I want to recognize him.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Ron Elliott, who needs no introduction. He served as an MLA quite some years ago, and he has worked for successive ministers from Arviat. He's travelled all over the place, and I just feel so lucky to have his assistance. Without him I would be lost on a daily basis. So thanks a lot, Ron.

For the record, it is my job to get his suitcase off the carousel when we arrive into airports. My job, and I apologize if I have not done that job properly. Enjoy the Philippines, Ron. Hopefully he'll get some well served rest soon in the Philippines. I hope you enjoy that. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your House. Item 6, Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 1421 – 6(2): How Many Housing for Naujaat and Coral Harbour 2025

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation. My constituents in Naujaat and Salliq, I would like him to inform us how many units will be constructed in those communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Member, for asking the question.

For 2025 for his constituency communities, 2026, in Coral 2025 there will be no public housing units. And also in Naujaat, let me find that. For 2026 they will have ten units constructed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for your response. For Coral Harbour, Salliq, they have not seen new units constructed for quite some time. I was wondering if you could speed up the process for them to receive their units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, some communities they have not seen constructed units in communities. They built 12 units in 2024 in Coral Harbour, and also in upcoming years if the plan does not change, they will build 16 units in 2028. But these plans do change. As I stated yesterday, we will given funding by the federal government. As I reported, South Baffin. It's going to be used for 700 units. And it's evident that once these are being implemented that what I just said could be changed.

We will not forget the community and we'll work hard for all the communities, to make sure that they receive their units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. My constituents, the waiting list is over 100 people on the waiting list, and also in regards to 700 units that you just mentioned, how many units will my constituency communities receive? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal government's funding to support, as it was reported by the prime minister, and we were very pleased with his report today.

It has only been couple days ago since he made a report, and we haven't met with the officials from the federal government officials, but in the upcoming days we'll have a meeting with them. Once we have had a meeting, we'll have a better idea how many units will be made available and as to how they will be constructed. Once we know that, we will have a better idea as to which communities will be receiving units.

Once we get to know the details, I will inform my colleagues and also Nunavummiut residents, once we start working on the details of this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1422 – 6(2): Nunavut Household Allowance

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance, although it is housing-related, on the topic of the Nunavut household allowance.

Mr. Speaker, I'll forego the bulk of my preamble, as the minister could likely recite it back to me at this point. It has been a couple years I have been asking this question.

Mr. Speaker, it appears to me now, that instead of when will the minister recognize Government of Nunavut staff and non-staff housing equitably, it appears it is time to ask the minister why he hasn't recognized staff that are spending well above the minimum threshold to qualify every month for the Nunavut Household Allowance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is something that goes back to even when my colleague was the Minister of Finance, and what we have been doing within finance to date is to ensure that we help all Nunavummiut who are in housing crisis and financial difficulties to maintain the houses they may be renting and/or own, Mr. Speaker.

There are some hiccups, I might say, for lack of a better term, in terms of to ensure that it benefits everybody equally. We're trying to work through those different parameters to ensure that the funds that are allocated are distributed evenly across all eligible applicants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad the minister brought up the fact that this apparently was an issue under my term as the finance minister, but I was not made aware of it at that time. For two years now I've made the minister aware that this is an issue of having staff treated non-equitably.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of people that are spending close to \$3,000 a month to cover their housing expenses, when the minimum requirement is 2,200. When will the minister recognize that those expenses, fuel, power, water, garbage, other municipal expenses that are sometimes included in people's leases are part of the formula that should be used to provide approval for this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, some of the announcements that I made today refers to helping those that are in private home ownership, and also those who are renting from the private market. I'm hopeful that some of that will alleviate some of the issues my colleague is talking about. But that work continues.

The department is working with the corporation and other entities to see how and where we could better help screening of the government and non-government employees to be able to maintain a home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the staff housing review was committed to a number of years ago. My next question is: Will it be tabled before the end of the sitting and if not, why not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if it will be able to tabled at this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1423 – 6(2): Airport Infrastructure

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, during yesterday's question period I looked to the ocean and asked the Minister of Transportation a number of questions regarding marine infrastructure. Today I will look to the skies and ask him some questions about airport infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, Sanikiluaq integrated community building plan identifies a number of issues with the community's current airport infrastructure. There have been a number of incidents at the airport over the past decade, and there are concerns that the current east-west orientation of the airport's runway posing safety concerns. The community's integrated community sustainability plan indicates that a new runway which is oriented in a north-south direction would address these concerns, given the community's prevailing winds.

When I raised this issue earlier in the life of this Assembly, the minister of the day did not have a timeline for this work. I would like to ask the minister if he can provide an update today on how his department is addressing this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my department continues to plug away at different capital priorities. And the department did conduct a 20-year capital assessment looking at the entire territory, air terminal buildings, runway lengths and widths and size, and equipment. We are continuing to use this planning document to help us match our priorities prioritizing projects, but also within the available funding that we're working with.

Mr. Speaker, there are some communities that are wishing to pave their runways or extend them or relocate them all together, and for the case of Sanikiluaq I do note that it is a concern that has been brought up before and we'll continue to see how we can move forward and addressing those challenges within the resources that we do have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister may recall the Nunavut Airport 20-Year Capital Plan Needs Assessment update was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in March 2023. The document identifies a number of potential improvements to the existing airport infrastructure, and I would like to ask the minister if he can indicate what projects are currently planned to take place during the current 2025-2026 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through the Airport Capital Assistance Program my department had submitted proposals back in 2024 towards Qikiqtarjuaq and Sanikiluaq, and so we are continuing to move forward on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister may also be aware that Sanikiluaq has faced challenges in recent years with respect to the frequency of air service to and from the community. I would like to ask the minister if he can indicate what concerns have been raised with his department by air carriers that serve the community with respect to the current airport infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department works with the air carriers Canadian North and Calm Air in providing duty travel and medical travel services for Nunavummiut, and we do have an ongoing working relationship with various

issues, community-specific. Those get brought up time and again. There are mechanisms in place to flag issues at the community level and bring it forward to our attention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1424 – 6(2): Water Infrastructure

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to the people of Nunavut and listening on the radio and also the people of Uqqummiut.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of water infrastructure in Qikiqtarjuaq.

As the minister will recall, I asked him a number of questions last week about the status of water infrastructure in Qikiqtarjuaq following the boil-water advisory that was issued last month as a result of contamination in the water reservoir and the reported discontinuation of cartridge filtration.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to note that the boil-water advisory was lifted yesterday. With that Mr. Speaker, can the minister industry what actions were taken to address the issues of contamination and filtration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. David Joanase.

Hon. David Joanase (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the water infrastructure in any of the communities or boil-water advisories, usually we work with the hamlet council and the staff all every day. They take water samples every day to make sure that it's good for drinking water and should there be a requirement for the hamlets to get help, we usually provide that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He didn't respond to my question about what actions we're taking to address the issue of contamination and filtration.

(interpretation ends) In May of this year the minister's department issued a request for proposals to develop a business case for replacement of Qikiqtarjuaq's existing water treatment plant with a new facility. Mr. Speaker, the department's request for proposals closed on June 13 of this year, and it is three months ago.

Information published by the government indicates that five companies submitted proposals. Can the minister clearly indicate when his department expects to award the contract for this important work. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasic: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just to respect the procurement process, it is a review, and then once there's a compliant bid with an approved budget, that's when it will be tendered to the winning contractor, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that information to my question.

For my last question, I recognize and understand that it will take time for the community's new water treatment plant to be constructed, and especially with the water booster.

With that, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) can the minister indicate how his department will be working with the municipality to reduce the number of boiling-water advisories. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasic: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my department and our sister department I suppose in this area, with Community Service, works closely with municipalities when it is a municipally owned asset, but we do continue to work with municipalities in this regard on making sure if there are filtrations that need to be replaced and log books need to be up to date, we'll continue to maintain these with the municipalities. We want to reduce boil-water advisories across the territory and part of it is making these investments to upgrade treatment plants, or building new ones but also in the meantime we are continuing to work with municipalities to ensure that our drinking water remains safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1425 – 6(2): Nunavut Lands and Development Agreement

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to the people of Arviat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask questions of the premier on the Nunavut Lands and Resource Development Agreement, which was signed almost two years ago, on January 18, 2024.

Clause 4.3 states:

“The Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated acknowledge a difference exists between them concerning the amendments to the territory’s *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*, (PATA) agreement brought into force May 27, 2022. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated filed a lawsuit on August 10, 2022 challenging the GN’s PATA amendment. The GN and NTI are committed to resolving the difference between them concerning the PATA amendment within two years of the signing of this agreement.”

Mr. Speaker, that two years is coming up fairly quickly. It is roughly three or four months away. My first question is, the working group that was formed to hash this out to come to agreement, who’s the government representative today and how many meetings have been had by this working group? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my colleague for his question as well as his hard work to have signed the AIP of the Devolution Agreement. He really did some really good work around bringing that forward as well in his previous role I want to recognize that.

With the member’s question, we have been making some really good progress in terms of the working groups. I know that the members between NTI as well as GN have met. I don’t have the level of detail in terms of how many engagements, who has been there with me, but I could commit to getting back to the member of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand the premier might not know the level of detail of how many meetings have been had because there might have been lots in the last two years. I would think who’s representing the GN in the working group should be common knowledge.

Mr. Speaker, when we had televised hearings back in May, one of the government officials stated that the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*, the amount owed by Baffinland Iron Mines and the arrears at Qulliq Energy Corporation totalled \$20 million.

Mr. Speaker, \$20 million is quite a bit, especially since yesterday during our Committee of the Whole we were informed that deficit for this government being passed onto the next government is \$130 million. So 20 million in back taxes would greatly help.

My next question is, from the \$20 million owed, is interest being charged on that amount that is owed in taxes? Because, Mr. Speaker, if I owe taxes to the Canada Revenue Agency, they charge me taxes from the day I was supposed to hand it in. So I would like to know if the government is applying interest on the tax arrears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I want to thank my colleague for his question. The representative that sits on that, I did share previously as well, is our chief, Steve Mansell, who has met numerous times. I did look into it quickly and I was advised they have met four times since the signing. So there has been some really great progress in terms of engagements that we have with NTI.

Mr. Speaker, specific to the member's question, this is something that is before the courts in terms of the interpretation. The conversation we are having is really non-binding specifically to that. It is something that we had committed to having those conversations there.

I will get back to the member as well, specific to the technical question. That said, I don't have it with me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was a two-years timeline put to work out a deal, and there's a lot of progress been made, according to the premier but there's only four months left for the negotiations to be concluded and to finalize an agreement. I know these negotiations are confidential, so I won't ask anything about where they are at in the negotiations because it clearly states that it is confidential.

But I will ask the premier, if there is no agreement, the government must have a plan for what the next step is. If there's no agreement, what is the next step in terms of that back taxes that is owed by Baffinland Mines? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I still remain hopeful that we will be able to resolve the differences between the two parties here, and I don't want to go into a

hypothetical at this point, because I still believe in the process in terms of the conversation that is we both agreed to.

Mr. Speaker, going back to the member's question, the interest is being compounded, based on the notes that I got from my colleague here to the previous question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1426 – 6(2): Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall the Legislative Assembly passed a new *Liquor Tax Act* in November 2022, almost three years ago, and we were looking forward to revenues being used for important programs and services for Nunavummiut. However, it's now 2025 and the legislation is not yet in force and there have been no regulations published to implement its provisions.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clearly explain why the government has not implemented legislation that we as a legislature passed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of steps that happen once an act is passed, and one of the issues that we have at Finance in terms of dealing with this is staff and people to begin the implementation of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to compliment you on your ability not to bring up the capacity issue. But it does concern me that there are so many issues put forward that are hindered by capacity issues.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident in saying that all Iqaluit MLAs have been hearing concerns in recent weeks about the issue of recycling aluminum beverage cans sold by the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, and now that the private entity has withdrawn from providing this service cans are piling up with nowhere to go but the dump or on the side of the road.

I also want to say that we know that the recycling program provided an opportunity for a number of residents to earn some small cash income, which was important to them.

And as the minister will be aware, in January 2022 the government issued a request for expressions of interest concerning the beverage recycling program, and I would like to know what are the commission's next steps to restart the program and what is its current practice charging of deposit fees on beverages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important topic in Canada, keeping our communities clean. This is something that's being brought up, even in Rankin Inlet and here in Iqaluit.

The Commission is taking continuing to charge recycling fee. The hope is that we will keep the empties until such time as the commission is able to find a different contractor. They are looking out to see if there's any interest within the community to take over the recycling program.

Secondly, the Commission is meeting with the city of Iqaluit to see how and where the city might be interested in a recycling program, especially with the development of their new recycling station.

The commission in previous years has spent \$300,000 to support this program. There is quite a bit of money that people can receive by recycling their cans. The commission is meeting with the city of Iqaluit and also in discussions with the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet to see if they could provide some recycling services for the commission.

And on top of that, Mr. Speaker, the commission is also looking to see if the commission itself cannot get into recycling, and for that purpose the commission is holding onto some empty sea cans after this shipping season to see if the commission cannot receive the empties back into the commission, and this way we have a sea can to store it to.

It's a long-winded answer, but it covers all parameters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm also curious, Minister, to hear more about the harm reduction activities that were part of that act, and how those harm reduction activities have progressed, and whether or not there are measurable results from that commitment to educate Nunavummiut on safer consumption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The harm reduction portion of that, Mr. Speaker, is very important also. The commission is putting out ads and information through different media to make more aware of the harms that could be caused by consumption and abuse of alcohol and cannabis.

They are also running sober graduation programs in the high schools across Nunavut. The high schools could apply for funding to host a sober graduation party. There are those programs and they are being taken advantage of, which is good to see.

I think it's important for the commission to continue to do that and to continue to seek ways that there could be alcohol harm reduction programs. And if there are people out there with some ideas, we would love to hear them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1427 – 6(2): Recycle Program Options

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's perfect timing, because my question is also for the Minister of Finance and it is in supplement to my colleague Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's responses and the alternative avenues for restarting the bottle recycling program. Mr. Speaker, I had actually e-mailed the minister about this earlier in the summer, and the response that was received had indicated that alternative avenue for being considered.

So my next question and follow-up to Ms. Brewster's is how close is the minister in seeking or finalizing an alternative option for recycling here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know how close it is at this point, but we are talking with the city, in terms of seeing if they would be able to and would like to entertain running the recycle program right at the recycling site, or right at the dump, for lack of a better term, to see if that would happen. Those discussions are still ongoing. I really hope they bear fruit.

On the other hand, if that doesn't happen, the backup plan of using our current empty sea cans to start taking some of those or all of those recyclables, beer cans, is very real.

I can't give you an exact timeline, but one of the two will definitely happen, hopefully before winter sets in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the minister's response, and I do hope that the department is successful in negotiating an agreement with the municipalities. It would be an excellent revenue stream.

In the minister's response to Ms. Brewster's questions, the department is hoping that individuals will be able to retain their empties in hopes of returning them at a later date, which does seem feasible for individuals, but is not possible for large vendors, such as liquor establishments.

For my next question: Has there been any discussions between the liquor commission and liquor establishments on a means to reimburse those bottle deposits that they were unable to return? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not as updated on those issues, maybe, as I should be. I'll have to take a look to see if there has been any discussion, in terms of where they are in the drinking establishments in Rankin Inlet or Iqaluit to see if they could set up some kind of agreement to either take the beer cans away or to be refunded. I'll have to take a look at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1428 – 6(2): Kivalliq Intercommunity Road

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, and they concern the status of the Kivalliq Intercommunity Road Project.

The minister will recall I have raised this issue on a number of occasions during the current Legislative Assembly.

In May of this year the minister sent correspondence which indicated that:

“An initial review of the Kivalliq Intercommunity Road study generally indicates positive feedback from the public. However, the study is robust and requires further internal review and deliberation before I am able to speak to conclusions and recommendations.

Concerning the timeline for release, once my department has concluded internal deliberations a summary report will be published. I am eager to get the report out to the public and the department is able to make the summary report available before the end of the 6th Assembly.”

Mr. Speaker, that’s now two days away. Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to tabling the summary report in the House before the end of our current Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for the response.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, last week’s federal announcement about major projects identified the “Port of Churchill plus” project as being initiative that is “at an earlier stage and requires further development.”

Information published by the federal government indicates that this project will “upgrade the Port of Churchill and expand trade corridors with an all-weather road, an upgraded rail line, a new energy corridor and marine ice-breaking capacity. The approach will prioritize Indigenous equity ownership in developing the project’s needed to turn the Port of Churchill into a major four-season and dual-use gateway for the region. Expanded export capacity in the north through Hudson Bay will contribute to increased and diversified trade with Europe and other partners, while more strongly linking Churchill to the rest of Canada.”

As the minister is well aware, Churchill is neighbouring community to the Kivalliq region. Can the minister describe the extent to which the Churchill proposal to develop an all-weather road will connect to the Kivalliq intercommunity project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my knowledge, the scope of work of this study does not bring a road from other jurisdictions to Nunavut, and it is linking five communities between each other. That’s the extent to which I know this study is looking at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for your response, and I'm hoping the minister will give direction to the department to begin looking at linking it to Churchill. It would help the region greatly, I believe.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize and understand that the government's 2026-2027 capital estimates will not be introduced until the 7th Legislative Assembly has taken office.

Can the minister indicate approximately what percentage of the Kivalliq Intercommunity Road Project's cost will be paid by the territorial government and what percentage will be paid by the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Kivalliq Intercommunity Road study was funded under the National Trades Corridor fund with 75 per cent federal contribution, and it was total budget of \$2 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1429 – 6(2): Dust Suppression

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Community Services.

Mr. Speaker, the summer is near its end and winter is near. The minister may recall, as I asked, I normally ask him during spring sitting concerning the issue of dust suppression in Nunavut communities. I would like to take this opportunity today to ask the minister to provide an update on what actions and initiatives the department undertook during the recent suppression season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Association of Municipalities works with our staff to look at what are the best dust suppression tools, and have undertaken the study. And three have been identified that the communities may use. And that's the situation today, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Part of my question is answered (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I raised this issue with the minister during the recent

spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly, he indicated that his department has been working, as he just did, with Nunavut Association of Municipalities.

Can the minister describe what specific resources the association has requested from the government to help enhance dust suppression activities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the part that was being worked on was to decide which of the dust suppressants, to determine that, and as I indicated, they have identified three and have communicated to our municipalities those that are readily available within the country. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we know, the residents of Iqaluit are privileged to live in a community where many roads are paved. The dust problem here is significantly less than communities like Igloolik or Arctic Bay.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes you would ponder paving our roads is ideal solution to significantly reduce dust in our communities.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister provide an update on what work his department has done to develop detailed cost estimates for new road paving programs in communities outside of the capital city. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: It's always nice when the impression gets disappeared. Minister of Community Services, Mr. David Akeeagok.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. David Akeeagok: Mr. Speaker, sorry, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know this is a very serious matter. I could stand to be corrected, but I don't think there has been any work done towards putting pavement into any of our communities yet. We know the cost-prohibitiveness of that kind of program. But that's something that is always in our area of interest, but it's the cost that puts a lot of huge factor in not doing paving of any of the roads for other communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1430 – 6(2): Inuinnaqtun Dialect

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Languages, and they concern the Inuinnaqtun dialect.

Mr. Speaker, as member of Legislative Assembly representing my constituency of Kugluktuk, I've been a strong advocate for promotion and revitalization of Inuinnaqtun dialect.

Mr. Speaker, during the Legislative Assembly sitting on Tuesday, the minister tabled Minister of Languages 2023-2024 Annual Report. Mr. Speaker, the report indicates "of the 52.9 per cent of Nunavummiut who reported Inuktitut language as their sole mother tongue, 52.2 spoke Inuktitut and 0.6 per cent spoke Inuinnaqtun. The territory continues to face an alarming language loss situation."

Can the minister provide the House with an update on what specific actions his department will undertake to address Inuinnaqtun language loss. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Languages, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I want to thank my colleague for his continued advocacy in relation to Inuinnaqtun revitalization.

Mr. Speaker, specifically to what we're doing in Kugluktuk, I first want to thank the incredible public service, the interpreter translators I had the privilege of meeting personally when I went to Kugluktuk numerous times. So I want to say how lucky we are to have them to do such critical work, in terms of not only providing that service, but also revitalizing it.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, being said, we are exploring options to create a language revitalization unit in Kugluktuk. That's something that I know continues to be explored by the department. We are currently in the process of looking at hiring a revitalization officer right in Kugluktuk as we speak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the report also highlights a number of programs and initiatives which receive funding from the department to create new learning resources and programs in Inuinnaqtun.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Department of Culture and Heritage, non-profit organizations and every individual who played a role in preserving and promoting Inuinnaqtun.

Mr. Speaker, the department's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2025 is to "plan and delivery grants and contributions information session in the Kivalliq community."

Can the minister confirm when his department will deliver a grants and contribution session in the Kitikmeot region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Languages, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I want to thank my colleague for his question. I don't have the breakdown of exactly what community is next. I know we have been going to the communities providing an opportunity for community members to understand just how accessible these grants and contributions are, and how significant they are, in terms of what community members or not-for-profits are able to do.

To the member's question, I will check in with the department to see if they are scheduled to go not only to Kugluktuk, but to the Kitikmeot overall, specifically in relation to Inuinnaqtun being the question here. I will be glad to get back directly to the member once I have that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Third and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I look forward to getting the information.

Mr. Speaker, the department's current business plan indicates that one of the objectives for the language branch is to "provide translation services in all Nunavut's official languages to Government of Nunavut departments, corporations, and agencies. For Inuinnaqtun, maintain a focus on public-facing information and revitalization resources."

Can the minister provide a clear update on the status of this important work. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Languages, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, as I noted earlier, we are looking and continually exploring options of what we could do to bring the language revitalization unit in Kugluktuk. We realize that we will put more resources, in terms of

that revitalization, but it does not mean that we will slow down or stop the translations and the important work that they do.

So right now that has been the focus, and that will remain the focus of the department, to ensure that we put more resources there.

I do encourage more Inuinnaqtun speakers to go to the Nunavut Arctic College and take the interpreter-translator program. What an incredible opportunity it is for you to participate and be involved directly, in terms of revitalizing the language.

We would welcome as many of those that do go through the Nunavut Arctic College program to the department, and look forward to working with them. It starts with people, and I am confident that those that are interested will pursue that as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1431 – 6(2): Wills Act

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Justice, and they concern the *Wills Act*. Mr. Speaker, the correspondence raised a number of concerns regarding barriers faced by Nunavummiut in preparing their wills, especially for those living in communities without local notaries or lawyers. Yet the document indicated:

“Under the current *Wills Act*, last amended in 2005, there is an explicit provision allowing remote witnessing of wills. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Nunavut introduced temporary provisions to permit remote witnessing by videoconference.”

Can the minister confirm if her department is considering resuming the practice of allowing remote witnessing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. I do know that the Department of Justice is looking into the matter.

In terms of remote witnessing, that is an area that we are exploring at this moment, and I can get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the department has previously developed home will kits. Mr. Speaker, the letter that I tabled last week also highlighted the need for more local notaries in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice current approved business plans indicate that Legal Registry Division is responsible for maintaining registries for notaries and commissioners of oaths. Can the minister describe what work the department is doing to encourage more Nunavummiut to become commissioners of oaths? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. We are looking for interested people to come, and if they do want to become commissioners of oath, we also hold workshops in various communities.

The Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee held public workshops in Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay. We also have the Nunavut Legal Aid who offers resources to the public on wills and estates.

We are working to provide Nunavummiut with information and guidance on preparing wills and help support them in managing their affairs with clarity, confidence, and peace of mind. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the correspondence that I tabled highlighted a number of obstacles that individuals face when wanting to prepare a will, including additional costs for interpreter-translator services and travel costs and delays.

Mr. Speaker, the correspondence also suggested some potential solution to help address these issues. The proposed solution includes “amend the *Wills Act* to allow remote witnessing by videoconference, to allow electronic signatures, adapt a flexible standard for court revitalization, and to include a provision for remote commissions by notaries and commissioners of oaths for interpreter verification.”

Can the minister commit to have her department review these potential amendments to the *Wills Act* during the next Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that question. Yes, the Department of Justice will review the issue of any decisions that will pursue, and the legislative amendments will be for the next government to consider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1432 – 6(2): Kugaaruk Power Plant

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of Kugaaruk's new power plant.

As the minister is aware the community's current power plant is over 50 years old. That's over half a century. Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy Corporation's current business plan indicates that the construction of a new power plant for Kugaaruk is a priority.

During the Legislative Assembly's spring sitting the minister stated that "land acquisition efforts for a new power plant in Kugaaruk are underway."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update today on the status of this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. (interpretation ends) So the land acquisition is still in process. Selection and acquisition is still in process. There is a turbulence and emissions study that has been completed for the Nunavut Airport Authority, and so currently the new power plant for Kugaaruk is one that's on our radar. It is a priority for Qulliq Energy Corporation. That's the latest information that I have. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the minister for a great response, as I believe there's going to be progress on this one now.

As the minister will recall, the Qulliq Energy Corporation submitted a number of items to the Nunavut Impact Review Board last year concerning its proposal to construct a new power plant in Kugaaruk. Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update today on the status of his efforts to secure additional federal funding to allow this essential project to go ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. The efforts to work with our federal partners are ongoing. It's a case of first of all educating our federal partners around the realities of power generation in Nunavut, educating them around the history of power generation, where we have inherited some assets that are quite aged, and where there is an urgent need to continue building new power plants in Nunavut.

We're at a really exciting time. Soon we'll have four power plants moving forward, new power plants. But we know there's communities like Kugaaruk, like Chesterfield Inlet, like Arviat, like Rankin, like Resolute Bay that are waiting and that need improved generation capacity as well as reliability.

We're going to continue working with multiple federal agencies looking for opportunities to access federal funds. Right now the Arctic Energy Fund is almost depleted, and so we urgently need those additional federal funds if we're going to keep building more capacity and power plants in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the Legislative Assembly's recent spring sitting, the minister stated that "progress continues on generation set replacements" in a number of communities, including Kugaaruk.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update today on the status of this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) the status of the G1 genset replacement in Kugaaruk, which is a 500 kilowatt unit, the design has been completed and installation was set to begin at the end of August. That's the latest information that I have.

I hope that the installation has commenced, but I can follow up further with the member for a real time update once I receive it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1433 – 6(2): Benefits for Seniors

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my questions to the premier, Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister responsible for Seniors.

Mr. Speaker, members have been raising a number of concerns respecting the loss of federal funding which provided support for Inuit children and youth.

Today I wish to raise a concern with respect to financial support for Nunavut's elders. Mr. Speaker, the Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement are all federal programs which Nunavut elders may be eligible for.

I recognize that the territory has no say in how these benefits are calculated and allocated. The government's 2025-2026 include funding for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs new Elders Secretariat Division. Can the premier clarify whether his department's Elders Secretariat works on issues related to the financial stability of Nunavut's elders, and whether the amount provided in the various senior benefits are sufficient to meet the cost of living in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my colleague for her question. The primary function of that secretariat is to provide a coordinated response from a whole of government and strategy around important work that we are undertaking, in terms of the programs that are within the realm of the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, that secretariat won't be responsible for federal programs that are being administered through the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the premier. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that low income elders in Nunavut can also receive the Nunavut Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit of \$300. According to the government's website, Nunavut has an agreement with the federal government to automatically include this supplementary benefit with the monthly Old Age Security cheque.

Can the premier clarify who determines the amount of \$300 in the Nunavut Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I want to thank my colleague for her question. I will have to consult with my finance department in particular, or others as well. I'm not aware exactly which department would lead that, but I could connect with the member directly once I do have that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Premier. Mr. Speaker, just as low income families with children are finding it increasingly difficult to afford food to feed their children, many elders on limited income are struggling to manage with the high cost of living in the north.

Can the premier provide an update on what efforts, if any, have been made to increase the amount of the Nunavut Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit or any other benefits that low income seniors in Nunavut may be eligible for, as costs continue to rise in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my colleague for her question. I was just in Ottawa yesterday, Mr. Speaker. I had the opportunity to have discussions with several key federal ministers, including the Minister of Finance, Minister of National Resources, as well as the Minister of National Defence about what we can do to bring affordability, especially in the Arctic, to the forefront. It requires significant investments, and it was through those conversations I was able to share some of those.

Mr. Speaker, specifically to the member's question, I did mention I will inquire specifically to that. So I will commit again to consult with my colleagues on this side and get back directly to the member once I do have that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 1434 – 6(2): Water Infrastructure

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community Services pertaining to water reservoirs and water plants. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, just this spring I was up in Igloolik. Quite a few of us represent two communities. I believe there's four of us that represent two communities.

I will have one question, but it applies to both communities, in the two communities that I represent. When there was a shuffling of the departments within the cabinet, the

Transportation and Infrastructure and Community Services has been applied to the hamlets.

I will direct my question to the infrastructure and transportation. I represent Sanirajak and Igloolik. What is happening with Sanirajak and Igloolik and the water infrastructure?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the two communities that you represent, they are owned by the hamlets. Our staff provide support to the hamlet council to assist the staff, and we will keep supporting them. That's the information that I'm getting from my document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll use an example. One is out of water and the other one can have ongoing water. There's also a filtration system. One of the community's has never been improved, and the water is turbid. One is turbid in the water reservoir, and the other community...

Or maybe if I rephrase my question. Is the filtration system going to be set up in the other community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are different needs in the communities, and there are differences in the water quality. We try to make sure that there's proper water in each community. The federal government also provides water, which we are very grateful for, so that we can keep the water clean and drinkable.

In Igloolik, we are planning how we can set up these systems in regards to the water reservoir. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you ahead of time. In Igloolik there is room for improvement in the water reservoir, because it's not set up properly.

In regards to the water treatment, can you help Sanikiluaq get a water filtration system at the water plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2023-2024 we recognized that there was work needed at the water leak. There is ongoing money provided to the hamlet council, and we in turn get the money from the federal government. Water quality is very important in Nunavut and in Canada, so there will always be an ongoing dialogue about the water system in all the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members be aware the time allotted for question period is now over. We got everybody in. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Return 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. I recognize the Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation, Ms. Brewster.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 76, *An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act* has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 67(6) and have Bill 76 immediately be moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member has asked for unanimous consent to have Bill 76 immediately go into Committee of the Whole. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: It is agreed, and the bill has been moved into Committee of the Whole.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 452 – 6(2): 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth

Speaker: Item 13, Tabling of Documents. I have one. I have one document to table today, which is the 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth.

Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Tabled Document 453 – 6(2): 2024-2025 Annual Report of Administration of Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Administration of Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 454 – 6(2): Medical Travel Policy Review: What We Heard Report

Tabled Document 455 – 6(2): 2024-2025 Annual Report on the Operation of the Medical Care Plan

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm pleased to table two reports, the Medical Travel Policy Review: What We Heard Report and the 2024-2025 Annual Report on the Operation of the Medical Care Plan. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 456 – 6(2): Sanatujut: A Strategy for Arts in Nunavut

Tabled Document 457 – 6(2): 2024 Northern Employees Benefit Services Pension Plan Annual Report

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table two reports, the Sanatujut, A Strategy For Arts in Nunavut, and the 2024 Northern Employees Benefit Services Pension Plan Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 458 – 6(2): 2024-2025 Cannabis Licensing Annual Report

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the 2024-2025 Cannabis Licensing Annual Report. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any samples. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Tabled Document 459 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Taloyoak Housing Authority

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to table today a copy of correspondence that the chairperson of the Taloyoak Housing Authority recently wrote to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation concerning the important issue of home ownership programs for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to review the document with care, and I will have questions for the minister concerning this subject during our sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motion 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, Bill 73 and 76, with Mr. Hickes in the chair.

Before we proceed with Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.
Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 16:00 and Committee commenced at 16:25*

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

Chairman (Mr. George Hickes): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following matters to deal with: Bills 73 and 76. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Mr. Chairman, we wish to commence with review of Bill 73. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Is everybody in agreement we first deal with Bill 73?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 73 – Planning Act – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok, do you have officials you would like to have appear before the committee with you?

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to have witnesses appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them in. Minister, you can introduce your officials and proceed to your opening comments, please.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the Standing Committee on Legislation to discuss Bill 73, *Planning Act*. Appearing with me today are, on my right, Thomas Ahlfors, (interpretation ends) chief legislative counsel, (interpretation) and on my left, (interpretation ends) William Patch, Director of Planning and Lands.

Mr. Chair, the *Planning Act* is a key piece of territorial legislation that provides the guiding framework for land use planning and development activities in municipalities. Bill 73 repeals the existing *Planning Act*, which was originally enacted in the Northwest Territories in 1974, and replaces it with a new, made-in-Nunavut Planning Act that:

- Complies with Article 11 of the Nunavut Agreement;
- Aligns with Inuit Societal Values and Inuit cultural norms;
- Promotes public participation in community planning processes; and
- Offers municipalities various tools to conduct land use planning in an efficient, accessible, and transparent manner.

Mr. Chair, Bill 73 is reflective of input received at each stage of the legislative process, including in-person and online consultations with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the three regional Inuit associations, municipal councils and staff, community members, technical experts, and both elders and youth.

The result of these collaborative efforts is a new *Planning Act* that reflects the context of Nunavut's communities and their needs.

I thank the members for their consideration of this bill, and I welcome questions from the Committee.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have opening comments to proceed? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 73, *Planning Act*.

The standing committee recognizes the overall purpose of the Bill, which the minister described in his opening comments.

I note for the record that six motions to amend the Bill were adopted during the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee to undertake clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. These amendments:

- Added a statutory requirement for the Minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the Planning Act, thereby strengthening transparency and accountability;
- Removed the requirement for certain types of by-laws to receive approval by the director of planning under defined circumstances;
- Clarified a number of definitions and terms in the legislation; and
- Clarified transitional provisions related to members of development appeal boards.

I also wish to take this opportunity thank His Worship Solomon Awa, Mayor of Iqaluit and President of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, for his thoughtful submissions on the Bill on behalf of both entities.

This concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Are there any other general comments to the opening comments? Seeing none, before us we have Bill 73, *Planning Act*. Clause 1, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3.1, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11, Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: There's a few pages between some of these. Clause 13, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 16, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 17, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 18, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 19, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 20, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 22, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 23, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 24, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 25, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 26, agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 27, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 28, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 29, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 30, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 31, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 32, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 33, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 34, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 35, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 36, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 37, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 38, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 39, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 40, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 41, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 42, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 43, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 44, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 45, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 46, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 47, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 48, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 49, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 50, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 51, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 52, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 53, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 54, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 55, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 56, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 57, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 73 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree Bill 73 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Much awaited by our municipality, so I'm really happy that we were able to pass this *Planning Act* and be able to comply with the Nunavut agreement now. I thank each of you for a very thorough review over the last few years which has made this into what it is now.

I want to thank my minister colleague for first introducing it, and with the transition, of me to be at this table. I really wanted to thank the minister for leading and carrying on the brunt of this and allowing for it to happen.

Also, a lot of staff have put time and effort into this. I want to single out our Director of Planning, William Patch, and Katrina Crow that's in the stand that worked on this over three years, from consultations to seeing it finalized up to now, for the third reading. So a lot of people that have put a lot of effort into this. I really appreciate it.

This is something that we should all of us as MLAs should be very proud that legislation like this is passed, which allows our municipalities to do the work that they do very well, and it's something that I'm sure they will continue with great input from the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, and the chairman said, the city of Iqaluit also had very good input into this, so really going around this have made it to a wonderful bill that was just passed.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, for giving us this time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I want to acknowledge all the work that goes on behind the scenes is very much appreciated. The minister's witnesses can be excused. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that we report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. There's a motion on the floor to report progress subject to debate. All those in favour. Motion carried. I'll now rise to report progress to the speaker.

>>*Committee recessed and House resumed at 16:40*

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 73, and I would like to report that Bill 73 is immediately ready for third reading, as amended, pursuant to rule 73. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you.

Speaker: Is there a seconder? Ms. Nutarak.

Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Akeeagok.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 73 – Planning Act – Third Reading

Hon. David Akeeagok: I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that Bill 73, *Planning Act* be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried, and Bill 73 has been read for the third time and is ready for assent.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Item 22, Orders of the Day. Deputy Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Deputy Clerk: Standing Committee on Legislation at 10 a.m. tomorrow. Orders of the Day, for Wednesday 17, 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 Wednesday, September 17 at 1:30 p.m.
Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:42*

Appendix, September 16, 2025



Return to Oral Question

Asked by: MLA George Hickes

Asked of: Hon. John Main, Minister responsible
for Qulliq Energy Corporation

Number: Question 1364 – 6(2)

Date: September 10, 2025

Subject: Utility Rates

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement my answer given to Oral Question 1364 – 6(2): Utility Rates raised by MLA Hickes on September 10, 2025. The topic of the question was on the recent request of the Utility Rates Review Council (URRC) on the standby power rate application made to me by the Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC).

Summary of Proposed Standby Service Rate Structure

The standby rate does not apply to Independent Power Producer (IPP) Program, Commercial and Institutional Power Producer (CIPP) Program, or Net Metering Program customers. It is only intended for customers who wish to be connected to the QEC grid solely as a backup source when they are unable to generate their own power.

- **Charges Applied**

Demand Charge: \$48/kW applied to the customer's nominated standby load (e.g., 100 kW = \$4,800/month).

Energy Charge: Same as baseload customers – 62.08¢/kWh for non-government customers. Charged only when QEC supplies back-up power (e.g., 15,000 kWh = \$9,312).

- **Comparison to Baseload Customers**

Energy rate (kWh): Identical at 62.08¢/kWh.

Demand rate (kW): Higher for standby (\$48/kW) vs baseload (\$16/kW).

- No “14¢/kWh” difference between standby and baseload rates; the only difference is the higher standby demand charge.

- **Rationale for Higher Demand Charge**

- Standby customers typically self-generate (often via renewable sources) and purchase minimal energy from QEC.
- QEC must still maintain sufficient generation capacity to meet its full demand when its systems are down.
- The demand charge ensures standby customers contribute fairly to cost recovery for capacity planning, genset replacements, and maintenance.

- **Customer Savings**

- Not through QEC rates (which are subsidized by baseload customers), but through self-generation and reduced reliance on QEC.
- Customers recover capital costs of self-generation by offsetting the amount of power they avoid purchasing from QEC.

- **Policy Alignment**

- The proposed standby rate mirrors the Northwest Territory Power Corporation (NTPC) approach:
 - Higher demand charges, identical energy charges.
 - Each standby application is assessed case-by-case for connection feasibility, but rates are standardized once approved.