

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. David Joanasié

(South Baffin)

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. David Akeagok
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College

Hannah Angootealuk
(Aivilik)

Edward Attagutaluk
(Aggu)

Hon. Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

Hon. George Hickee
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Deputy Premier of Nunavut; Minister of Justice; Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut; Minister responsible for the Labour Standards Board; Minister responsible for the Human Rights Tribunal

Jamie Kablutsiak
(Arviat South)

Gordon Kautuk
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Brian Koonoo
(Tununiq)

Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister of Environment; Minister of Energy

Simon Kuliktana
(Kugluktuk)

Hon. Cecile Nelvana Lyall
(Netsilik)

Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Hon. John Main

(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of Finance; Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council; Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Board

Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)

Fred Pedersen
(Cambridge Bay)

David Porter
(Gjoa Haven)

Abraham Qammanié
(Amittuq)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

Minister of Community Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation; Minister responsible for Mines; Minister responsible for Trade

Hon. Annie Tattuinee
(Rankin Inlet South)

Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 9, 2026

Members Present:

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok, Ms. Hannah Angootealuk, Mr. Edward Attagutaluk, Hon. Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Gordon Kautuk, Hon. Brian Koonoo, Mr. Simon Kuliktana, Hon. Cecile Nelvana Lyall, Hon. John Main, Mr. Johnny Mike, Mr. Fred Pedersen, Mr. David Porter, Mr. Abraham Qammaniq, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Steven Taqtu, Hon. Annie Tattuinee.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. David Joanasie) (interpretation): Please be seated. Before we start the session, can the Member for Pangnirtung open us in prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. *Orders of the Day*. Number 2, Minister's Statements. Premier Main.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 9 – 7(1): Nunavut on the Hill

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues. I'm very glad that you all arrived to the session.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recap an important trip my Cabinet colleagues and I took in late January to Canada's capital. For a week, Nunavut's Executive Council was in Ottawa to advocate for Nunavummiut, and build long-term relationships and create alignment between our goals, needs, new mandate, and the federal budget.

(interpretation ends) It's rare that all of Cabinet travels together, but in these first months of our government, it was vital that we showcase our unity and passion with our federal counterparts and partners. Our goal was simple: Highlight that investments in Nunavut need to start with improving quality of life and opportunities for Nunavummiut, and that we need active partnerships for a strong, safe and thriving territory.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) we held over 30 meetings in four days, including with Prime Minister Mark Carney, Nunavut Senator Nancy Karetak-Lindell, and our Member of Parliament Lori Idlout, as well as the federal ministers of Northern

and Arctic Affairs; Crown-Indigenous Relations; Indigenous Services; Health; Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada; Transport; Intergovernmental Affairs; and National Defence. Now we continue this work, to build on these initial meetings and create lasting, long-term investments to improve services and programs for Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) our government is committed to working hard for the people of our territory and supporting a thriving and distinct Nunavut. I look forward to providing updates on the collaborative relationships we have built, and on the progress we make in achieving our goals. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): And thank you to you as well. (interpretation ends) I skipped ahead. Acting Government House Leader, Minister Hickee.

Minister's Statement 10 – 7(1): Ministers Absent from the House

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome to all my colleagues. Welcome back to Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Hon. Craig Simailak will be absent from the House from Monday, March 9 to Tuesday, March 10, 2026, to attend the Arctic Winter Games ceremonies. In his absence, I will be acting for the following portfolios: Minister of Community Services, Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Minister responsible for Nunavut Development Corporation, Minister responsible for Mines, and Minister responsible for Trade.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to advise members that the Hon. David Akeeagok will be absent from the House from Monday, March 9 to Friday March 13, 2026, due to family reasons.

During Minister Akeeagok's absence the following Ministers will be acting for the following portfolios: I will be Acting Government House Leader; Premier Main will be Acting Minister of Education; and Minister Healey Akearok will be Acting Minister of Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Healey Akearok.

Minister's Statement 11 – 7(1): Positive Week in Ottawa

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back to all of my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to share with my colleagues the very positive meetings I participated in during the Nunavut on the Hill junket last month. Accompanied by my cabinet colleagues, I participated in a group meeting with Northern and Arctic Affairs Minister the Hon. Rebecca Chartrand. I was also fortunate enough to have a one-on-one meeting with Minister Chartrand to discuss the pressing needs of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

During our meeting, I conveyed to Minister Chartrand that Nunavut's power plants are decades beyond their original lifecycle. These aging systems are increasingly unreliable, creating significant operational and safety risks to essential services, livelihoods, and community stability, energy security, and Arctic and Canadian sovereignty. Delaying critical replacements only increases costs and risks.

Mr. Speaker, it was a whirlwind trip representing my portfolios and my constituents, but I left Ottawa feeling energized and hopeful. I was particularly encouraged by Prime Minister Mark Carney's statement at the conclusion of the First Ministers Meeting, held the same week in Ottawa. He stated:

"To help further drive Canada's competitiveness and ensure energy security, First Ministers agreed to actively work to build and modernize electricity systems to make them more sustainable, affordable, and interconnected, for Canadians in all regions – including in the North, the Arctic, and in remote Indigenous communities."

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to following up with my federal counterparts to continue our discussions.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Lyall.

Minister's Statement 12 – 7(1): Build Canada Homes – Agreement in Principle Signed

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On January 30, our government, the Government of Canada, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated signed an agreement in principle under the Build Canada Homes to support housing delivery across our territory.

I want to acknowledge Minister Robertson and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated President Irngaut for their partnership in advancing this agreement, which establishes a framework to support the delivery of up to 750 new homes across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the housing crisis in our territory is severe and longstanding, and its impacts are felt every day in overcrowded homes and in the pressure placed on families.

This agreement represents a meaningful step forward. It strengthens our ability to build at scale in ways that reflect our construction realities, community readiness, infrastructure capacity, and workforce.

There is no long-term housing solution in Nunavut without strong Inuit partnership. Under this framework, NTI will advance 25 units through its own housing initiatives, reflecting Inuit leadership and direct participation in expanding supply.

The remaining homes will move forward through a coordinated approach that includes public housing, affordable housing, and supportive housing streams.

Affordable and supportive housing will move forward through programs administered by NHC and delivered by Inuit development corporations, non-profit providers, municipalities, and private-sector proponents, accessing NHC's targeted program supports and incentives.

By advancing these streams together, we can strengthen the housing continuum and respond to core needs, including working families and individuals who require additional support.

Mr. Speaker, this agreement builds on the direction we set through *Igluliuqutigiingniq* – Building Houses Together. Our goal remains to deliver 1400 public housing units and incentivize construction of affordable and supportive housing to reach 3,000 new homes by 2030.

This agreement will not solve the housing crisis overnight, but it reinforces our shared commitment to work together, and with accountability, to increase housing supply and strengthen our communities for the long term.

Quana, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Minister's Statement 13 – 7(1): Positive Engagements in Ottawa

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome my colleagues. I am glad to see you all here and welcome to your House, all these lovely visitors.

Mr. Speaker, I was honoured to join my cabinet colleagues in our recent visit to Ottawa, where we met collectively with several federal ministers to discuss our priorities.

I was happy to meet bilaterally with my counterpart, the Hon. Marjorie Michel, the federal minister of Health. I emphasized that Nunavut continues to have the highest per-capita health expenditures in the country, limited economies of scale, health's aging infrastructure, the need for substantive equality with all Canadians, and the high cost of and need for medical travel.

I also met with the Hon. Mandy Gull-Masty bilaterally to discuss the Non-Insured Health Benefits, Inuit Child First Initiative, and the *Aqqusariaq* Trauma and Treatment Centre. I conveyed strongly that Nunavut requires predictable, full federal cost recovery for the Non-Insured Health Benefits eligible services. We look forward to continuing these conversations moving forward.

Since our visit, the federal government has announced a one-year extension of the Inuit Child First Initiative, while they determine an overhaul of a long-term program. I am glad to hear that the federal government is listening to Nunavummiut's voices in the importance and necessity of programs such as this.

I also took the time and very much enjoyed meeting with *Atii Angutiit!* and *Pauktuutit* Inuit Women of Canada, and I will provide more on these very important discussions later during our sitting.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut on the Hill allowed us to speak with one voice about Nunavut's priorities. We underscored the importance of Nunavut-led services, stable federal funding, and infrastructure investments that reflect the realities of the North. I highlighted the importance of substantive equity, which has an impact on social determinants of health, including housing, food security, education.

I want to thank our federal colleagues for their engagement, and I look forward to continued collaboration in the months ahead.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister's Statements. Acting Minister of Education, Mr. Main.

Minister's Statement 14 – 7(1): Inuktut-Ilinniaqta.com Online Family Learning Hub

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On behalf of Minister David Akeegok, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to highlight the Department of Education's online family learning hub, Inuktut-Ilinniaqta.com, a resource designed to support families with their children's learning at home.

In the spring 2025, the Department of Education relaunched its resources website to ensure families in Nunavut have access to a collection of engaging learning materials, tips, and useful links to support their children's learning at home. On this website, you will discover a rich collection of materials to spark your child's curiosity and support their learning. Enjoy our digital collection of books, audiobooks, magazines, and videos anytime, anywhere, in a way that suits your family.

The website also includes resources developed in partnership with the Departments of Health, Family Services, and Environment, as well as the Representative for Children and Youth's Office and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. The website will be updated regularly with new learning resources for families to access online.

The Department of Education is proud to be a partner with families to support their children's learning. I encourage all Nunavummiut to visit Inuktut-Ilinniaqta.com and explore the resources available for their families.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Minister Healey Akearok.

Minister's Statement 15 – 7(1): March is Social Worker Month

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, March is Social Worker Month, and I would like to take this time to recognize Family Services' frontline social workers and the important work they do to support children, youth, and families across Nunavut.

This year's theme is Social Work: Compassion and Action. It reflects what our community social services workers and family resource workers bring to their jobs every

day. They are in our communities guiding Nunavummiut through the most challenging times in their lives. Even when faced with difficult decisions, social workers choose care, respect, and compassion. They make a positive difference in the lives of Nunavummiut.

At Family Services, we know social workers need strong support so they can continue doing their important work. We are listening to them. We are hiring more social workers so they can start supporting families earlier, before problems become emergencies. Family Services is improving our systems so social workers can spend more time with people and less time on paperwork. We have also increased Inuit Societal Values training to ensure programs and services are culturally grounded, responsive, and more effective for Nunavummiut.

We are providing new pathways to social work education and training for Nunavummiut who want to serve in their communities. Nunavut Arctic College offers a diploma program and has partnered with Memorial University in Newfoundland to offer a Bachelor of Social Work degree program. Family Services has also developed the Family Resource Worker program that combines online learning with in-community prevention and wellness work alongside social workers, enabling Inuit to train close to home and serve their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in this House to join me today to thank Nunavut's social workers for the compassion and commitment they bring to work every day.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We thank all the social workers. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Mr. Hickes.

Minister's Statement 16 – 7(1): Core Community Infrastructure Nunavut

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to echo the minister's word. Thank you very much to all the social workers across this territory, across Canada, and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reaffirm a message I have consistently delivered on behalf of our government at national meetings and regional conferences across Canada over the past six weeks: Canada cannot meaningfully assert Arctic security or sovereignty without investing in the core infrastructure of Nunavut's communities.

Mr. Speaker, as global geopolitical pressures grow, Nunavut has become central to Canada's national defence strategy. That reality demands major nation-building investments in Nunavut – projects that serve both community needs and national security.

Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues, during our Nunavut Day on the Hill meetings in Ottawa, every federal minister I met – from Transportation to Public Safety, and Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation to Labour – asked the same question: How can investments in Nunavut strengthen Canada's sovereignty?

Our government's answer has been clear: Nunavut communities must have the core infrastructure required to participate fully in the protection of our country.

Canada's sovereignty depends on the strength of the people who live here in the Arctic, and that strength cannot be realized without reliable water and wastewater systems, fuel storage, power generation, housing, and transportation networks.

Mr. Speaker, these are not secondary benefits of Arctic security investments – they must be the foundation of Canada's Arctic security strategy. Ottawa must treat core infrastructure not as a by-product of security spending, but as the investment itself.

At the Northern Perspectives conference I participated at in Winnipeg, leaders from governments, Indigenous organizations, industry, and the defence sector emphasized how emerging economic corridors, particularly between Manitoba and Nunavut, are becoming strategic assets in Canada's Arctic sovereignty. Mr. Speaker, these corridors will only succeed if Nunavut communities have the infrastructure to support them.

At the Vancouver transportation ministers meeting I attended, the federal government underscored that supply chains are a matter of national security.

Mr. Speaker and members, In the north, transportation is more than logistics – it is food security, emergency response, economic participation, family connection, and ultimately, sovereignty.

At the Arctic Summit I attended in Whitehorse, it was clear that the national security strategies must be built through partnerships that respect Indigenous governance, local knowledge, and community priorities.

Mr. Speaker and members, Arctic sovereignty is not a single policy; it is a network of relationships grounded in trust and shared benefit.

I also want to highlight a truth underscored at the national meeting on the Calls for Justice on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, which I participated in with Minister Healey Akearok in Ottawa: Canada cannot

claim sovereignty in the Arctic if Inuit women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are not safe in their own communities.

Security is not only about borders -- it is about people. It is what Premier Main has called our “human security.” It means ensuring that trade corridors, resource and economic development, and national security initiatives do not come at the expense of those most vulnerable. It means ensuring that Nunavummiut have safe homes and strong communities that show the world that Canada’s Arctic borders are defended by strong, vibrant, resilient, prosperous people who stand on guard for our nation.

Mr. Speaker and members, across every table and every forum, our government’s message has been clear: Investing in Nunavut’s core infrastructure is the foundation necessary to ensure Canada’s national sovereignty and security.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut stands ready to play its role in securing Canada’s national security, but we cannot do it alone. By strengthening Nunavut’s communities together, we strengthen Canada itself.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Orders of the Day. Item number 3, Members’ Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

Item 3: Members’ Statements

Member’s Statement 25 – 7(1): Reflecting on Becoming Member of the Legislative Assembly

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

Today I’m very pleased that I’m back to the chambers. Since September 2017 that was the last time I rose in this chamber and made my statement. I’m very pleased to be able to attend and be part of this membership.

I’m back here again to the Legislative Assembly with some few members that are still members, and I also would like to say to the 7th Legislative Assembly today is our first day. In 2029 we have to consider very carefully what we would like to see in the future years in regards to the people out there, in regards to the issues, lack of housing, and high cost of living and others.

But, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak mostly to talk about when you come back. I didn't think I was going to come back to the Legislative Assembly and I'm very pleased that I've been elected again, and I'm now 70 years old. So that's how I'm feeling.

When we were children we remember certain things as a child, like some things are important to us and Mr. Speaker that's why I say, I am just reminiscing and thinking, although I am now a member of the elders, I would like to thank my family members from Pangnirtung, my wife and my children for allowing me to come back to the chambers as well as a regular member.

First of all in the previous Legislative Assembly I was a member of the cabinet, but now I've never been a regular member. I don't mind being a regular member in this Assembly.

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

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? Please proceed, Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you for the consent to my request.

I would like to say that there are Pangnirtung participants for Arctic Winter Games. I would like to mention the names of the people who have gone to Arctic winter games. There are four grandchildren of mine that are attending the Arctic Winter Games from Pangnirtung: Nate Dialla (ph), Jenna Naujuk (ph), Andrew Kilabuk, Jordan March (ph), Ricky Dialla (ph), Erin Akulujuk (ph), Hilary Nasulik (ph), Sheila Kakik Iliaq (ph), Michael, ela, Kilabuk (ph). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those are the participants from Pangnirtung to play at the Arctic Winter Games in Yukon, from Pangnirtung. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member from Iqaluit-Manirajak, Minister Healey Akearok.

Member's Statement 26 – 7(1): Arctic Winter Games Participants

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize and congratulate the athletes, cultural delegates, coaches, volunteers, and mission staff from Iqaluit who are representing Nunavut in the Arctic Winter Games this week in Whitehorse. Our community is incredibly proud of each of them.

These young people and their supporters have dedicated countless hours to training and preparation. Their commitment, teamwork, and determination reflects the very best of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge one of my constituents, Suzy Pierce (ph), who is widely recognized as one of our greatest athletes of all time, to me. Over an extraordinary 33 years of competition in Inuit games, she has attended 13 Arctic Winter Games, and earned an incredible 27 medals. Having recently retired from competition, this week she continues to contribute to Team Nunavut, this team as a coach, supporting our Nunavut Inuit Games athletes.

We are extremely proud of her accomplishments, and grateful for the many ways she continues to give back through her dedication and volunteerism in Iqaluit.

To all of our Iqalummiut at the Arctic Winter Games, we wish you every success, and thank you for representing our community with pride. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Congratulations to Nunavut's athletes in Yukon. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluktuuttiaq, Mr. Pedersen.

Member's Statement 27 – 7(1): Cambridge Bay Arctic Winter Games Participants

Mr. Pedersen: Good afternoon, (interpretation) Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Today I would like to recognize the Cambridge Bay participants that are at the 2026 Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse. We have people representing under-19 basketball, both female and male, and wrestling in the male category, eight athletes, five coaches, and two mission staff. The athletes are Tabitha Klengenber, Colby Tuluganik Cassone (ph), David Qamayuk (ph), Payton Dyer-Aknavigak, who is also Nunavut's Flag bearer; Kylie Novoligak, Shae Niptanakyak (ph), Greyson Manaliana (ph), and Cordell Qumuq (ph).

Their coaches are Gavin Greenley (ph), Joshua Luis (ph), Hailey Hefell (ph), Isiah Springer (ph), and Christopher Crookes (ph), and accompanied by mission staff Gillian Rossi and Zachary Zerenka Crookes.

All residents of Cambridge Bay wish them all the best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Member's Statement. Member for Igluligaarjuk, Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Sammurtok.

Member's Statement 28 – 7(1): Condolences

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to mention the participants from Chesterfield and Rankin Inlet. I don't have the participants' names.

(interpretation ends) I go on to a sadder. I would like to send my deepest condolences to parents Patrick and Linda Putiliq (ph). We'll be thinking of you in our prayers.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We will keep it in mind. Go to the *Orders of the Day* at number 3, Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster. I apologize. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Ms. Tattuinee.

Member's Statement 29 – 7(1): Rankin Inlet Warming Centre

Hon. Annie Tattuinee: I would like to recognize the Pulaarvik Friendship Centre in Rankin Inlet that has been working to establish a warming centre in response to an urgent, life-threatening gap for men working in the community. The Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Centre owns a building on Ipiktuq Street, and that operated as an office and program space. They started renovations to transform their space to offer an emergency first-aid shelter support team for safety, to reduce harm, work towards stabilization grounded in Inuit values, community collaboration, and realistic expectations.

Their initiative recognizes that keeping people safe, warm, and supported by the community is a necessary foundation for any future progress.

Renovations are expected to be completed on April 30, 2026. The men's warming centre will have three bedrooms with a total of ten beds, shower and bathroom facilities, as well as a kitchen for men to prepare their own meals; a common area for men to gather for discussion and to socialize and play card games.

The men's warm shelter is expected to operate 24 hours a day from October 1 to April 30 each year, to provide men with a warm place to sleep during the night, but also encourage them to attend training during the day.

The men's warming centre is expected to be operational on October 1, 2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): We congratulate the Pulaarvik Centre. Members' Statements. Mr. Taqtu.

Member's Statement 30 – 7(1): Arctic Bay Arctic Winter Games Participants

Mr. Taqtu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy and also recognize the residents of Arctic Bay who are represented in Nunavut and Arctic Bay. There are 24 participants: Aiden Arayuk (ph), Nuka Willey (ph), Liam Hughes (ph), Sheldon Araru (ph), Tegan Qammaniq (ph), David Audlakiaq (ph), Dominic Taktu (ph), Dominic Qammaniq (ph), Judah Qaunuk (ph), Nuka Araru (ph), Lionel Willey (ph), Amajik Willey (ph), Christie Willey (ph), Keedan Okalik (ph), Randy Ookoo (ph), Krista Willey (ph), Gabriel Ulukuru (ph), Silain Suyu (ph), Noah Qammaniq (ph), Benite Demyas (ph), Karen Tilley (ph), Wiley Barnabas (ph), Roxanne Qiyutak (ph), Tamis Levi (ph).

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): We congratulate the participants. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North, Mr. Main.

Member's Statement 31 – 7(1): Arviat Arctic Winter Games Participants

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm also very pleased to congratulate the participants of the Yukon Arctic Winter Games. I'll state their names, Mr. Speaker and I'm very proud.

From Arviat Ashley Uli (ph), Joey Kumigua (ph), Don Ikaqa (ph), Dexter Kiluaq (ph), Gilbert Pamulik (ph), June Saviqataaq, Samson Iniqtau (ph), Gail Ukushuk (ph), Curtis John Talariqtuk (ph), Samantha Kumuk (ph), and coach Jade Gordon Leah (ph), from Qikiqtarjuaq, Nicodemus Mattu (ph), Christopher Birdsall (ph), Barrie Turner, Daniel Panica (ph), Emily Mattoo (ph), Sheila, also known as Sufi Natta (ph), Chelsea Panika (ph), and the coach, Gordon Lee Elizabeth Voisey.

They are going to be participating in the Arctic Winter Games, and I congratulate them all and also their parents and the coaches and the guardians. Their coaches, they do volunteer work and give a tremendous support to the youth of Nunavut and they work tirelessly. Go, Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Go, Nunavut. Member's statements. Following my list of names, Mr. Attagutaluk, your turn.

Member's Statement 32 – 7(1): Igloolik Participants

Mr. Attagutaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to congratulate Justin Ivalu (ph) better who is playing soccer and Calvin Tree (ph). They are representing Igloolik and I would like to congratulate them and wish them great things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Very good. Member for Uqsuqtuuk, Mr. Porter.

Member's Statement 33 – 7(1): Taloyoak Arctic Winter Games Participants

Mr. Porter (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize members or participants from Taloyoak who are in Whitehorse, playing volleyball. There are two participants, Andrew Ookook (ph), Carmen Quksook (ph), and under 19 male Seb Qumqaq (ph) who are participating at the Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements, Item number 3. I have no more names on my list. Following the *Orders of the Day*, Item number 4, Returns to Written Questions. Since there's none, item number 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Main.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is somebody here from Qikiqtarjuaq, Jason Gibbons, who has worked in both housing corporation and local housing authority, now with Sakku. He has done a lot for building. Cecille Kinniksie is also here, who is an elder and a radio operator in our community. So there she is in person. Please welcome to your House. And Cassandra Okalik, please welcome to the House. Please welcome both. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Please welcome to your House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I rose to recognize people in our community who are leading with resilient, compassion and determination.

Mr. Speaker I would like to welcome representatives of the YWCA-Agvik Society to the House: Susan Rowsell, our crisis intake worker. And if you can please stand when I say your name. Alisha Pudlat, program coordinator; Malaya Etuk-Fortier, crisis intake worker; Meeka Tiglik, crisis intake worker; and Alice Hebb, counsellor advocate.

I would also like to welcome Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council President Amber Aglukark to the House.

Mr. Speaker, every single day these leaders work to uplift women and children, strengthen community well-being, and advocate for safety, equity, and opportunity. Their leadership continues to create space for women's voices and support community-driven solutions that reflect the realities and strengths of Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in thanking these women for their efforts.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok: And I recognize Family Services frontline community and Social Services workers and family resource workers and the important work they do to support children and youth and families across Nunavut. Their commitment makes a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives Nunavummiut. Please stand as I say your name: Migal Leslie, Aaliyah Grannum, Nancy Kisa, Beth Toews, Sheila Higdon, Helen Fortunato, Larie Soberano, Ruth Elufa, Kenny Rubin Muhlana, Daniel Esplin, Skye Palmer, Rosa Toste, Fartun Hashi, and Kareen Thompson.

Mr. Speaker I ask my colleagues in this House to join me again today in thanking Nunavut's social workers for their compassion and commitment that they bring to their work every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Please welcome to the House. Recognition of visitors in the House, Member for High Arctic, Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I used to work in Arctic Bay with this individual and I would like to welcome to the House Audrey Quammaniq, who works a lot more than I do. And I thank you all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Please welcome to the House. I have no more names on my list. Item number 6, Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Kuliktana.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Question 4 – 7(1): Cancer Screening**

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Health.

I have heard concerns from many constituents in Kugluktuk about the need for improved cancer screening in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, it is devastating when a loved one receives a cancer diagnosis. Thanks to modern medicine, cancer treatment has improved considerably in recent decades. However, it is vitally important that cancer be caught early, before it is too late. Can the Minister describe some of her department's initiatives in the area of cancer screening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health has a number of cancer screening programs, including colorectal cancer screening, cervical cancer screening, lung cancer, breast cancer screening. Our screening programs are really important, obviously, in order to detect cancer as soon as possible, as early as possible.

Recently the Department of Health has been organizing and implementing a population-based colorectal cancer screening program which launched in March 2025 in Rankin Inlet. Community engagement activities were also held in Kimmirut, Clyde River, and Iqaluit throughout the spring.

The Department of Health is prioritizing building a dedicated cancer screening registry, and developing an effective and efficient patient follow-up process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. your first supplementary question, Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister, for your answer.

I am aware that the Department of Health has undertaken a number of cancer screening initiatives like you mentioned, colorectal cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer. However, I am concerned that it is harder for residents in smaller communities like Kugluktuk to access screening services such as mammograms. Can the Minister describe how her department is working to achieve equity in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just looking for that information. There is a mammogram machine available at QGH which serves the Qikiqtaaluk region, and medical travel for routine breast cancer screening is not covered. However, if people from our communities are travelling to Iqaluit for medical care, it is recommended that they speak to their health care provider to explore if a screening for mammogram can be arranged during that same trip.

We do cover the cost of screening mammogram procedures, but not the travel unless it is for a clinical reason.

I'm sure I can come back to the member with more information, as soon as I can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your final question, Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister.

As the Minister is aware, the *Tobacco Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act* was passed by the 3rd Legislative Assembly during the year 2010.

On March 7, 2025, the Government of Nunavut announced that the Ontario Superior Court of Justice had approved a \$32.5 billion settlement. The announcement indicated:

“These funds will strengthen health care services, with Nunavut receiving \$97 million, 23 million up front, and the remainder over time.”

Can the Minister indicate how much of this funding will be used to expand and improve cancer screening in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am trying desperately to find that background information, but I can't find it right now. I hope the member can be patient with me as I explore this new way of answering questions. I will get back to you, to the member with that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. On my list, Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield MLA, Mr. Sammurtok. And to remind you, if you can raise your if you have questions to you can note you down. Mr. Sammurtok, go ahead.

Question 5 – 7(1): Naja Isabelle Facility

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Family Services.

As the Minister will be aware, I asked many questions during the previous Legislative Assembly about the status of the Naja Isabelle facility in Chesterfield Inlet. I was pleased to note that the government recently issued a new request for tender for work to replace the facility's roof. It is my understanding that this work needs to be completed before the facility can be reopened.

Mr. Speaker, the request for Tenders closed last week. Can the Minister confirm how many bids were received.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Family Services, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question. As the member knows, the safety and stability and well-being of children and youth in care is our top priority.

The member's question about the tender process is actually so new in its timing that I don't have that information yet, but as soon as I do I will get back to the member, as soon as possible. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary question, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have spoken on many occasions about the importance of this facility to the community of Chesterfield Inlet and the importance of providing local, community-based services. Can the new minister clarify her department's plans with respect to reopening the facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Family Services, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the follow-up question.

We recognize the importance of the facility to the people of Chesterfield Inlet, and once the building renovations are complete and it has completed its assessment, a new RFP process will be issued to provide services in the building. The program for those services is still to be determined. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Last supplementary question, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the new minister indicate what discussions she has had with the municipal council of Chesterfield Inlet regarding the future of the Naja Isabelle facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As the building is still under renovation those conversations have not happened yet, but we do look forward to ongoing discussions with the member about the process going forward. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My apologies. Back to my list. Uqqummiut MLA, Mr. Kautuk.

Question 6 – 7(1): Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health.

As the minister will recall, the previous Legislative Assembly approved \$700,000 in capital carryover funding during its winter 2025 sitting for the replacement of the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre with a new facility.

Mr. Speaker, the community's current health centre was originally built over a half a century ago. In April 2025 the government issued a request for proposals for the design of a new health centre for Qikiqtarjuaq. The request for proposals indicated that "construction is anticipated to begin in 2026 and occupancy is targeted for 2028."

Can the Minister provide an update today on the status of this important project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say that the detailed design is currently ongoing and is scheduled to be completed by fall 2026, for the design phase. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. First supplementary, Mr. Kautuk.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will appreciate, an important goal is to encourage more health care professionals to move to the community. Filling positions with permanent staff will reduce the department's reliance on contracted services.

The request for proposals indicated that “an adjacent lot has been allocated for staff housing.”

Can the Minister confirm how many new staff housing units are planned to be constructed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I can't confirm how many units there will be. We're still working on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Last supplementary, Mr. Kautuk.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important that our community health centres have adequate spaces and equipment to provide as many services as possible at the local level. Can the minister describe some of the ways in which the design of the new facility will improve health care services for residents of Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, the health centre is still in the design phase. What I can say is that going forward there is a commitment to ensure that new designs and new builds include, are informed by more recent builds such as the health centre in Kimmirut, which ensured that there is more privacy for clients who are entering the units and there is better planning around public health programming so there's more space for that.

Of course we always want to ensure that we are better and more well equipped for emergency response. Those are just three areas that we're focussing on when we consider this new design. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Back to my list. Oral Questions. Mr. Attagutaluk for Aggu.

Question 7 – 7(1): Departmental Positions

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment.

As the minister is aware, the government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that the Department of Environment currently has a total of six positions located in my community of Igloolik. This is a decrease from the previous total of 14 positions.

During the previous Legislative Assembly's final sitting, the minister's predecessor informed the House that his department had been "working with the federal government in moving the wildlife research section from Igloolik to the Canadian High Arctic Research Station in Cambridge Bay."

Will the minister commit to tabling a copy of his department's memorandum of understanding with the federal government regarding these positions before the end of our current winter sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, if I understood the question, the jobs were to be moved to Cambridge Bay. This move to Cambridge Bay, the positions in Igloolik will remain in Igloolik for this fiscal year. It will remain in Igloolik before the positions are moved to Cambridge Bay. I hope that answers your question. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. First supplementary question, Mr. Attagutaluk.

Mr. Attagutaluk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the government's practice has been that when it moves decentralized positions out of a community, new positions are moved in or are created to make up for the loss. Can the minister confirm what positions will be moving to Igloolik to balance the positions that have been removed from the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As of now we can consider, but right now we can't commit to tabling the MOU at the moment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Attagutaluk.

Mr. Attagutaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I noted in the preamble to my first question, the government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that the Department of Environment currently has a total of six positions located in the community of Igloolik. The report indicates that four of these positions are filled and two of these positions are vacant.

Can the Minister confirm which positions are vacant, and can he provide an update on his department's efforts to fill them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As of December 31, 2025, there are 53 vacancies in my department, and 39 of these vacancies at various stages of staffing process. My department is committed to improving capacity and reducing the department's vacancy rate by continued recruitment effort, with focus on Inuit employment and conditions.

At the moment I don't have the information on Igloolik staffing right now, but I can get back to you at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Mr. Taqtu, for high Arctic.

Question 8 – 7(1): Public Housing Construction

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. As we all know, we are both new to our roles, so.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Quttiktuq, I represent three of Nunavut's most remote communities. That is Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay and Arctic Bay. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to raising concerns on behalf of all three communities during my time in office.

As the Minister is aware, there is a shortage of housing across Nunavut. Information published by the Nunavut Housing Corporation in July 2025 indicated that new units were under construction in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay and Arctic Bay. Can the minister provide an update on the status of the Grise Fiord units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of housing corporation, Ms. Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you (interpretation ends) to the member for the question. For only Grise Fiord, so currently we have eight units in Grise Fiord at various stages of construction. There's a multiplex being constructed by NCC Development as the general contractor. This is a stick-build development and has a mix of one-bedroom and three-bedroom units. Construction is currently delayed and its expected to be completed around October 2027. The piles were originally scheduled for 2025; however, the ground conditions and unforeseen circumstances with the piling contractor had to shift the installation of the piles several times. We are hoping that the piles can be installed within this build cycle and targeted completion for that six-plex in Grise Fiord for October 2027.

Also in Grise Fiord there is the modular units. There are two four-bedroom public housing units that will be single detached houses. Those units are hoping to commence construction upon arrival into the community, but will be used as temporary accommodation for the construction crews. It's set for completion on October of this year. (interpretation) Thank you (interpretation ends), Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. First supplementary question, Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is can the minister provide an update on the status of Resolute Bay units, please. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the housing corporation, Ms. Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Currently right now there are eight units in Resolute at various stages of construction. There are six units in a multiplex that is being constructed by NCCD, as the general contractor. Civil work has been successfully completed, and framing and assembly are targeted to begin in July of this year.

There are also two units with two modular single detached houses. Civil work for those units is complete and the installation is targeted for July of this year, with a final target completion date of August. And again, these modular units will be used as temporary accommodation for the construction crews for the duration of the other projects happening in the community to then reintegrate immigrants back into the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary question, Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister Lyall. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update today on the status of Arctic Bay units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation. One, two, three, go.

Hon. Cecile Lyall (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. Since the start of the 6th Assembly there have been ten units completed in Arctic Bay. Currently under construction there is a 12-plex, which would have a mix of five one-bedrooms, four two-bedrooms and three three-bedrooms. The pile foundation is a hundred per cent complete and framing activities began in July, so we're hoping for a completion with targeted occupancy by October of this year for that development.

Again, we saw significant delays with those builds, but we're hoping to have that completion and ready for occupancy by October. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): We're on number 6. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

Question 9 – 7(1): Nunavut Land Use Plan

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the new Minister of Environment. As the minister is aware, I am quite sure the minister knows how to respond to it. The recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan was submitted to the federal Minister of Northern Affairs, the territorial Minister of Environment and the President of Nunavut Tunngavik back in June 2023, almost three years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I understand and recognize that the agreement of all three parties is required, that's the Canadian government, Nunavut government, and NTI organization, all three parties, the agreement of all three parties is required to approve the Nunavut Land Use Plan.

Can the minister clearly indicate what the new government's position is regarding the recommended land use plan. I would appreciate an update. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Minister Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. The Nunavut Land Use Plan has been under the planning stage for about 20 years, and right now the Nunavut government is still planning on it and they're trying to see if they can get an approval for the plan. The Department of Environment staff are putting together a response.

My colleagues in cabinet, we're putting together a response to this and we expect that in April the Nunavut government will be able to put together a response, and once they do that, they will convey the message. We understand that the planning has been going on for a long time on this, and I'm going to work hard on this to make sure that it develops; that is, the land use plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. First supplementary question, Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister. Now, I'm sure the Minister is aware that the board of directors of Nunavut Tunngavik recently approved a resolution concerning the Nunavut Land Use Plan. The resolution authorized the organization's chief executive officer to – it's quite important and I will read it: (interpretation ends) To “finalize the response to the Nunavut Planning Commission regarding the 2023 Recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan.”

(interpretation) Can the minister indicate what discussions he has had with Nunavut Tunngavik's leadership regarding its position on the plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Mr. Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. I want to make sure I respond properly so I'll say it in English.

(interpretation ends) "The GN is committed to working collaboratively and with partner stakeholders to fully consider and review the plan. We recognize that Nunavummiut and stakeholders are eager for decision, and significant effort is underway to complete the internal review as effectively as possible. The review is essential to ensure the plan appropriately balances the interests and requirements set out in the Nunavut Agreement, including conservation, responsible resource development, transportation, energy security, and other land use considerations. The GN is seeking to align its position wherever possible with the other signatories like NTI and the Government of Canada. As a new government getting up to speed on this complex, important file has been a priority, and we are committed to making a responsible and well-informed decision that reflects the input provided by Nunavummiut and stakeholders throughout the planning process.

We are a working group that meets regularly, so we are trying to come up with a decision as soon as possible. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. And to remind everyone, we have been hearing a lot of acronyms. So that the interpreters can know, please try to refrain from using short terms or abbreviations so everyone knows them. Second and final question, Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question I asked earlier, this is just an addition to the question I had earlier. Can the minister provide a clear timeline for when a decision will be made by the government regarding the recommended, by motion, Nunavut Land Use Plan, on how it will operate. That's my final question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Minister of Environment, Mr. Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to Mr. Mike. We had a meeting with two other ministers and their staff, or their officials. The Department of Environment and the premier's office, we had a meeting and there are still quite a number of Nunavut government and Nunavut Tunngavik issues that need to be changed in the Nunavut Land Use Plan, so we had a discussion about them and we decided we need to study it further, study them further.

We're not going to start from square one with the Nunavut Land Use Plan, it's just things at the end that need to be reviewed some more.

I cannot say when we're going to have another meeting about this, and I can say that we will meet about it again this year. I'm saying that on behalf of the Nunavut government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqsuqtuuq, Mr. Porter.

Question 10 – 7(1): Gjoa Haven Power Plant (Porter)

Mr. Porter (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As the Minister is aware, Gjoa Haven's current power plant was constructed almost half a century ago and is in need of replacement. In November 2024, the Qulliq Energy Corporation awarded a contract for the design and construction of a new power plant for the community of Gjoa Haven. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister provide an update today on the status of the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question.

QEC is committed to advancing the critical infrastructure needed in Gjoa Haven while also ensuring that community voices are respected and heard in the planning process. In Gjoa Haven the hamlet council raised concerns regarding the zoning requirements and some of the community impacts, and so the QEC leadership, including the vice president of corporate services and the engineering team, all visited Gjoa Haven to engage the council and the contractor directly. A solution was reached allowing the project to continue to proceed, while strengthening relationships with the hamlet.

And so construction of the new power plant is now under way with civil and structural framing completed in 2025. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. First supplementary question, Mr. Porter.

Mr. Porter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the answer. Can the minister confirm how much of the project is being funded by the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for QEC, Minister Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the follow-up question. This project is one of four that is currently partially funded through the Arctic Energy Fund. I don't have the exact number in front of me today, the exact value, but I can commit to getting that information to the member as soon as possible. *Qujannamiik.*

Speaker: Thank you as well. Your second supplementary question, Mr. Porter.

Mr. Porter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister for her answer. As the minister is aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has made efforts to incorporate solar and other renewable energy sources in its designs. Can the minister indicate if Gjoa Haven's new power plant will incorporate any renewable energy sources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the supplementary question. At this time it does not appear that that information is available, although I can again follow up with the member directly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. According to the list of my names, Aivilik member, Ms. Angootealuk.

Question 11 – 7(1): Activities of the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As the minister will be aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation issued a request for proposals in August of last year to conduct assessments of power plants in a number of Nunavut communities, including Coral Harbour. Coral Harbour's power plant was built in the year 1988 and is almost 40 years old. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I don't think you finished your question, Ms. Angootealuk.

Ms. Angootealuk: The request for proposals indicated that the Qulliq Energy Corporation will use the results to help plan for the "future upgrades, replacements." (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I apologize, I didn't hear a question yet. Please proceed with your question, Ms. Angootealuk.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): I apologize. I made a mistake, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the request for proposals indicated that the work is scheduled to be completed no later than March 15, 2026, less than a week from today. (interpretation

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question. Yes, we recognize that the power plant in Coral Harbour is 37 years old, and we currently have four power plants under construction and are currently seeking funds for another six that are high priority because of their advanced age. As the member noted, the request for proposal she indicated is concluding on March 15, and I look forward to getting some information back to the member after that time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Your first supplementary question, Ms. Angootealuk.

Ms. Angootealuk: As the Minister is aware, Kivalliq Alternative Energy is an Inuit-led partnership between Sakku Investments Corporation and Northern Energy Capital. The organization has been working to develop two solar energy projects in Coral Harbour and Naujaat. These projects plan to provide 30 per cent of the communities' electricity with locally produced clean energy.

Can the Minister provide an update today on the status of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's involvement with the Coral Harbour project. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Yes. Thank you as well. Minister of Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the supplementary question. QEC and Kivalliq Alternative Energy are committed to completing the solar project in Naujaat, which will be, is anticipated to reach completion in 2026. At this time I am not able to provide an update to the member on the status for Coral Harbour specifically. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Your final supplementary question, Ms. Angootealuk.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's involvement with the Naujaat project. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Ms. Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the supplementary, and I do appreciate the question. The detail is that Qulliq Energy Corporation and Kivalliq Alternative Energy are working to finalize the design of the point of interconnection line expansion to connect the independent power producer facility so that the solar generation facility to QEC's system. We anticipate completion in 2026. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item number 6 in *Orders of the Day*, Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. I'm very happy. There's more members here now and last week our session could not resume due to no quorum, but today we're supposed to have 12 quorum. As I stated to media, we need to be 13 members but we need 12 members to have a quorum at the Legislative Assembly. I correct myself. I just wanted to point that out.

Back to *Orders of the Day*. Item 7, Written Questions. I don't see any names. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address, number 9. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committee on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Amittuq member, Mr. Qammaniq.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 4 – 7(1): Resolutions and Correspondence Concerning

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to table a collection of resolutions and correspondence concerning the need to designate Sanirajak, in order for it to become a hub for search and rescue and emergency measures services. I encourage all members to read this document which I am tabling, and I will be asking questions to the appropriate minister in regard to this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Item number 14, Notice of Motions. Notice of Motions, Mr. Kautuk.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 16 – 7(1): Appointment of Languages Commissioner of Nunavut – Notice

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that the Legislative Assembly recommends that Ms. Karliin Aariak of Iqaluit be appointed as Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, effective April 8, 2026.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Item number 15, Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. I recognize Mr. Kautuk.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 16 – 7(1): Appointment of Languages Commissioner of Nunavut

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

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? I don't hear any, so Mr. Kautuk, please proceed.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 18 of the Official Languages Act provides that the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut is appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly to hold office for a term of five years during good behaviour;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly's Management and Services Board has undertaken a merit-based selection process for this position;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to recommend an appointment to this position;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that the Legislative Assembly recommends that Ms. Karliin Aariak of Iqaluit be appointed as Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, effective April 8, 2026.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Ms. Karliin Aariak will be the Languages Commissioner for five years, to the end of her term. I would like to congratulate Ms. Aariak, who will have a huge task ahead of her.

Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Main.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 1 – Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027 – First Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that Bill 1, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027*, be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (no interpretation) Minister of Finance, Mr. Main. (interpretation) I apologize. That was the First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Main.

Bill 2 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2026-2027 – First Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2026-2027* be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Second Reading of Bills. Or Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Main.

Bill 3 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2025-2026 – First Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South that Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2025-2026* be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Bill 3 has had third reading. First Reading of Bills. First Reading.

Bill 4 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2025-2026 – First Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Tununiq that Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation*

(Capital) Act, No. 4, 2025-2026 be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 4 now has had first reading. Item number 18, Second Reading of Bills.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 2 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2026-2027 –Second Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2026-2027*, be read for the second time.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) this Bill authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2027.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the principle of the bill.

A Member: Question.

Speaker: The question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried, and Bill 2 is immediately referred to Committee of the Whole.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters, Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2026-2027*, with Mr. Pedersen in the chair. Before we do, we will take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:10 and resumed at 15:39*

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. (interpretation ends) My apologies, we seem to have mis-stepped one important part of the legislative process, and as such, as Speaker, I'm exercising my prerogative to re-take the chair.

Now I would like to recognize going back to item 17, no, sorry, Minister of Finance, I recognize you.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I see unanimous consent to return to item 17 and then 18 in the *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Do members agree? Agreed. Item 17. Minister of Finance, First Reading of Bills. Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that Bill 1, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027* be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Do members agree that Bill 1 has been read for the first time?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Agreed. Minister of Finance, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2026-2027* be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. Do members agree that Bill 2 has been read for the first time?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Okay, thank you. Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that *Bill 3, Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2025-2026* be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thanks again. The motion is in order. Do members agree that Bill 2 has been read for the first time?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Main.

Bill 4 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2025-2026 – First Reading

Hon. John Main: I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Tununiq, that Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2025-2026* be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. Do members agree that Bill 3 has been read for the first time?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Bill 4 has been read for the first time?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Do members agree that Bill 4 has been read for the first time?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Okay. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Main. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2026-2027* be read for the second time.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) this Bill authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2027. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill?

A Member: Question.

Speaker: Question has been called. All those, then, in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried, and Bill 2 is immediately referred to Committee of the Whole.

This just goes to show everybody participates in every part of the legislation first reading, second reading, to ensure that we are legislators as a whole.

So with that, items 17 and 18 have been completed. I ask members to stay seated so we can proceed with Committee of the Whole. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:43 and Committee commenced at 15:45*

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

Chairman (Mr. Fred Pedersen): Thank you. I call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 2. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We wish to commence the review of the 2026-2027 capital estimates of the Government of Nunavut, starting with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, followed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: I would like to ask Minister Hickee: Do you have officials you would like to have appear before you with the committee?

Hon. George Hickee: Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Speaker: Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 2 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2026-2027 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them in. For the record, Minister Hickee, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chair and committee members. If you will indulge me, I will announce my ministers within my opening comments.

Good day, Mr. Chair and colleagues. It is my pleasure to join you today to review the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut's capital estimates for 2026-2027 fiscal year as part of the proposed five-year capital plan covering the 2026-2031 period.

Joining me here today are: Kyle Seeley, Deputy Minister; Mandy Hickey, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services; and in support, in the background, we have Mr. John Hawkins, Assistant Deputy Minister, Transportation; and Erika Zell, Director of Policy and Planning.

Mr. Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to provide context for members on the recently established Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut. This marks the first time we are presenting a comprehensive capital appropriation within the framework of the mandate of the department as an internal service department.

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut plays a vital role in supporting all Government of Nunavut departments and agencies. It delivers a variety of key central services, which include procurement, infrastructure management, information management and technology, petroleum products management, and transportation. Collectively, these programs and services enable Government of Nunavut staff to remain connected, ensure that Government of Nunavut facilities are safe and suitable, and guarantee the availability of essential goods across the territory. The department's core mandate centres on providing these support services to government bodies.

Mr. Chairman and members, in preparation for Committee of the Whole this year, my department conducted a series of briefings with departments on the projects included in the 2026-2027 capital estimates. These briefings were designed to provide departments with the necessary information to address questions related to major project issues, current status, rationale, scope, and schedule. This approach supports the committee's important work of reviewing, questioning, and ultimately approving these estimates so that we can deliver essential services to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, , for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure is proposing a total capital appropriation of \$72,535,000. These projects and initiatives are focused on three priority areas:

- Investing in Government of Nunavut-owned water and waste Infrastructure,
- Strengthening Transportation-focused Infrastructure and Assets
- Enhancing Service Capacity

Mr. Chair, as our communities grow, so does the demand on aging infrastructure. As part of my department's 2025-26 capital estimates, my department is proposing the following investments into Government of Nunavut-owned water and wastewater infrastructure in Rankin Inlet:

- \$5,000,000 toward the replacement of critical undersized and overloaded water and sewer mains;
- \$100,000 toward Water Treatment Plant upgrades.

Combined, these initiatives represent an investment of \$5,100,000, or 7 per cent of my department's proposed capital investment. These investments are vital to enhancing the quality of life for Nunavummiut in Rankin Inlet by ensuring the Government of Nunavut-owned water and wastewater treatment assets can accommodate current and future community needs.

Mr. Chair and members, air transportation is a critical part of living in the territory, and my department continues to advance projects to increase access to the communities, address aging infrastructure, and to improve air services for Nunavummiut across the territory.

As part of the 2026-2027 Capital Estimates, my department is proposing the following investments into transportation-focused initiatives:

- \$1,509,000 toward a runway surface rehabilitation in Kugluktuk;
- \$1,792,000 toward a runway surface rehabilitation in Pangnirtung;
- \$2,000,000 toward the new Rankin Inlet Air Terminal;
- \$2,000,000 toward mobile equipment shelters in Kugluktuk, Pond Inlet and Arviat as part of phase one, Kugaaruk and Taloyoak in phase two, followed by Grise Fiord and Gjoa Haven in phase three;
- \$1,425,000 toward the purchase, assembly, and commissioning of aircraft boarding ramps;
- \$3,104,000 toward Iqaluit International Airport improvement;
- \$1,000,000 toward the Runway Maintenance and Improvement Fund;
- \$2,500,000 toward Airport Lifecycle – Transportation Equipment and Facilities;
- \$500,000 toward Marine Infrastructure.

Mr. Chair, the combined investments in transportation-focused infrastructure total \$15,830,000 or 22 per cent of my department's capital appropriation for 2026-2027.

These projects advance improvements to air terminal facilities, enhance the quality and reliability of air travel for Nunavummiut, provide critical storage for airport equipment, address runways requiring rehabilitation, and allocate funding for community marine infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman and members, as part of my department's 2026-2027 capital estimates, we are proposing investments to maintain and enhance our capacity to deliver service to departments, communities, and citizens across the territory.

Mr. Chair, these initiatives combined represent a total proposed capital investment of \$51,605,000, a total of 71 per cent of my department's 2026-27 proposed capital

appropriation. This funding is to ensure the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure can maintain service delivery to Nunavummiut, communities, and client departments.

Mr. Chair, in 2026-2027, my department is proposing the following capital investments to support ongoing enhancements to service delivery:

- \$2,000,000 toward planning the Government of Nunavut Capital Projects, recognizing that the development of capital projects requires detailed research and long-term planning.
- \$8,700,000 in 2026-2027 toward Minor Capital Projects managed by the department in the following areas:
 - Building and Equipment Upgrades - a total of \$5,000,000 toward upgrades and repairs to Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut facilities to ensure ongoing operation and regulatory compliance:
 - Fleet Vehicles - a total of \$600,000 to purchase new or replacement vehicles used by staff to conduct maintenance checks, deliver programs, site visits, and address emergency situations.
 - Petroleum Products Division Small Capital - a total of \$1,000,000 toward fuel storage and distribution upgrades managed by the Petroleum Products Division.
 - And within Transportation, a total of \$2,100,000 allocated for the purchase of runway inspection vehicles and equipment attachments, and for facilities assessments, studies, and design works needed to advance projects for federal funding programs.
- In addition, \$4,000,000 in 2026-2027 toward lifecycle replacements and equipment upgrades in the Local Area Network and Data Centres. Information technology and systems provide the framework that supports the work of the Government of Nunavut and services to Nunavummiut.
- \$2,000,000 toward the Information Management/Information Technology Design Fund, which supports the planning and design of Government of Nunavut-wide information management and information technology solutions.
- \$8,482,000 toward the Tenant Improvement Fund for five office projects in Baker Lake, Iqaluit, Pond Inlet and Rankin Inlet.

- \$2,558,000 to advance the demolition and remediation of surplus buildings, a total of seven projects in the communities of Arctic Bay, Arviat, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, Iqaluit, and Pangnirtung.
- \$23,865,000 to execute an early financial buyout of 10 existing Government of Nunavut-occupied office buildings under the lease-to-own framework.

Mr. Chairman, the projects identified in the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut 2026-2027 capital estimates reflect our commitment to addressing the territory's most critical infrastructure needs. Through these investments, we strive to enhance government services and improve the well-being of all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure's 2026-2027 capital estimates to regular members. I look forward to your questions, comments, and continued collaboration as we work together to serve Nunavummiut.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Does a member of the regular member caucus have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Before I start my opening comments, I am very happy to see that the new Rankin Inlet Airport is on your cover page. Now put use to it. It's not open yet.

Mr. Chair, thank you. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus on its review of the proposed 2026-2027 capital estimates of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut.

The department came into existence on April 1, 2025, following the government's recent reorganization. The department's proposed capital budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is \$72.535 million. A number of the capital projects and programs that are now under the responsibility of the department were previously administered by the former Department of Community and Government Services.

On March 10, 2023, the *Nunavut Airports 20-Year Capital Needs Assessment Update: 2020-2040* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. In recent years, a number of important transportation infrastructure projects have received funding under the federal National Trade Corridors Fund, including renovation and expansion of the Rankin Inlet airport terminal building and the construction of new airport terminal buildings in the communities of Chesterfield Inlet, Kimmirut, Kugluktuk, Naujaat and Whale Cove.

On January 22, 2026, the department issued a request for proposals for the design of a new airport terminal building in Arviat. The department's proposed 2026-2027 capital estimates include \$1 million in funding for a new Runway Maintenance and Improvement Fund. The department's proposed 2026-2027 capital estimates include funding for a number of assessments and studies, including an extension to the Naujaat airport runway, and assessments of the airport terminal buildings in Igloolik and Sanirajak. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of these projects.

On August 9, 2021, the federal Minister of Transport announced \$30 million in funding for a project to construct "new shelters to house heavy equipment essential for air operations, and to store cargo in the communities of Arviat, Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, Pond Inlet and Grise Fiord." The department's proposed 2026-2027 capital estimates include \$2 million in funding for this ongoing project.

On October 18, 2019, the Government of Nunavut issued a request for proposals for a "Comprehensive Marine Infrastructure Scoping Study." Funding for this important work was provided through the federal Oceans Protection Plan. Information published by the government indicates that Worley Canada Services was the successful proponent. Members continue to look forward to the results of this study being tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

On August 4, 2021, the federal Minister of Transport announced \$40 million in funding towards the construction of a new deep water port in Qikiqtarjuaq. The department's approved 2025-2026 capital estimates included \$5.070 million in funding for the project. On September 18, 2025, the Government of Nunavut announced that responsibility for the project would be transferred to the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation.

On August 13, 2019, the federal Minister of Transport announced funding under the National Trade Corridors Fund for a number of projects, including the study and design of an intercommunity all-season road in the Kivalliq and installation of passenger boarding ramps at seven airports. On September 17, 2025, the Kivalliq Inter-Community Road Study Summary Report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this important initiative, as well as the government's role in supporting the Grays Bay Road and Port Project.

The department's *Community Transportation Initiatives Program Policy* was last revised in February 2023, and sunsets on March 31, 2027. Schedule A of the policy details departmental support for "access roads and community marine infrastructure," while Schedule B details departmental support for "community marine infrastructure capital projects". Schedule B was formerly referred to as "small craft harbour contributions". The policy indicates that the department "will initiate a review of this policy no later than March 31, 2026."

The 2022-2023 annual report on the administration of the program was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 11, 2025. The 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 annual reports have not yet been tabled. Members look forward to the ongoing and timely tabling of departmental annual reports on the administration of this important program, as well as the results of the department's review of the policy.

The department's proposed 2026-2027 capital estimates include \$2 million in funding for planning studies. Members continue to encourage the minister to begin the practice of tabling, on an annual basis, detailed information concerning the status of ongoing and completed planning studies.

The government's proposed 2026-2027 capital estimates include a total of approximately \$54 million in funding for projects related to drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. \$5.1 million of this funding is for the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure's ongoing work to replace and upgrade infrastructures in Rankin Inlet. These assets are under the jurisdiction of the territorial government. The remainder of the funding is being administered by the new Department of Community Services.

On July 4, 2024, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission issued *Telecom Decision CRTC 2024-149*. The decision indicated, in part, that the Commission "approves the Government of Nunavut's funding application for up to \$271,937,242 to build a 1,300-kilometre fibre connection to four remote Inuit communities in Nunavut, including one official language minority community... the funding is awarded to the Government of Nunavut with the condition that the applicant provides evidence of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's support."

On February 27, 2025, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission issued *Telecom Order CRTC 2025-60 Broadband Fund - Acceptance of statement of work for the Government of Nunavut's transport fibre project in Nunavut*. During its winter 2025 sitting, the Legislative Assembly approved a \$1 million capital carryover for the Kivalliq Baffin Connector Fibre Project. The proposed 2026-2027 capital estimates of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure do not include any funding for the Kivalliq Baffin Connector Fibre Project. The substantiation sheet for the project indicates that capital funding for construction will be requested for the 2029-2030 and 2030-2031 fiscal years. The extent to which Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated will have co-ownership and co-management responsibilities for the project remains unclear.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2026-2027 capital estimates of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Sammurtok, or Mr., sorry. Do members have general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Seeing no general comments, we will now proceed to a page-by-page review of the capital estimates starting on page 83.

Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, grant summary, transportation, the details of which are on page J4. Total capital expenditures, \$15,830,000. Any questions?

On page 5, under infrastructure, total capital expenditures, \$50,705,000. Any questions?

On page J7, information management information technology, total capital expenditures \$6 million. Any questions?

Page J9 Petroleum Products Division. There's no budget, but I'll open the floor for questions. We'll go back to J2. Department summary, Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut. Total capital expenditures, \$72,535,000. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure? Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I'm sure this is early on in the stages, and I do expect to get further questions on this, and I will be prepared to answer them during the obviously upcoming sitting.

If anyone wants to approach me privately as well, my office is always open. I know everyone just got into town, so I haven't had a chance to go introduce my staff to your office as well, and I look forward to doing that in the coming days and I do appreciate the ongoing attention to infrastructure transportation, especially within the IMIT, Information Management Information Technology side of things. So I appreciate the committee's interest and I look forward to further collaboration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Sergeant-at-Arms, you can escort the witnesses. Thank you. And we'll take a 10-minute break before we move on to the next subject for housing.

>>Committee recessed at 16:14 and resumed at 16:34

Chairman: Thank you. I call the meeting back to order. I would like to ask Minister Lyall, do you have officials you would like to have appear before the committee?

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, yes, I do.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to have the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them in. For the record, please proceed to introduce your officials and proceed with opening comments.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With me today I have the president and CEO of the Nunavut Housing Association, Mr. Devereaux and the Vice-President of Infrastructure, Nick Clark.

I am pleased to appear before your committee to present the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2026–27 Capital Estimates.

Chair, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is requesting a capital allocation of \$87.185 million for the 2026-27 fiscal year. This funding level reflects a deliberate effort to align the use of existing capital funds and the upcoming fiscal year's cash flow, along with our increased federal investments.

As a result, this represents a decrease of approximately \$22.6 million from the previous fiscal year. It does not signal a change in the government's housing objectives or priorities. Rather, a deliberate sequencing of projects and funding sources.

The proposed 2026-27 capital funding from the Government of Nunavut, along with funding from partners, including the federal government, supports the Nunavut Housing Corporation's plan to execute construction contracts for approximately 180 new public housing and staff housing units in 2026.

Mr. Chair, Nunavut's housing crisis is severe and impacts the lives of all Nunavummiut. Addressing it requires strategic planning, sustained investment, and collaboration with partners to deliver accelerated housing responsibly. For that reason, the Nunavut Housing Corporation continues to advance *Igluliuqutigiingniq*, the Nunavut 3000 strategy to build houses together and pursue the aspirational goal of 3,000 new housing units by 2030.

Mr. Chair, a key priority for the 2026-27 fiscal year is deepening federal collaboration, particularly through Build Canada Homes.

On January 30, I signed an agreement in principle on behalf of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Together with the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, this agreement positions us to advance the development of up to 750 new homes across the territory in the coming years.

This collaboration will significantly increase public housing construction, unlock a \$250 million multiyear investment from Build Canada Homes, and improve predictability in multi-year planning.

This new federal investment through Build Canada Homes will complement the \$28 million provided annually through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's National Housing Strategy and \$4.3 million annually under the CMHC Social Housing Agreement. These combined investments will play an important role in supporting new housing starts in the years ahead.

As the National Housing Strategy approaches its 2028 renewal, Nunavut Housing Corporation will continue to advocate for sustained, long-term federal funding to address the unique challenges and high costs of delivering housing in Nunavut.

Mr. Chair, our recent agreement with Build Canada Homes marks a meaningful step forward, but it does not mark the end of our efforts. We are also working with the private sector to secure funding. In the Fall of 2025, Agnico Eagle provided Nunavut Housing Corporation with a \$2 million in-kind contribution for the transportation of 20 modular units and has since indicated an intent to make a similar contribution in 2026 and subsequent years.

B2Gold announced a \$10 million cash contribution to support 10 new public housing units across the five Kitikmeot communities in 2026. These private sector housing investments are important contributions that we want to recognize and continue to foster in the coming years.

Mr. Chair, funding for Public Housing – New Construction is proposed at \$27 million, a \$25 million decrease from the previous fiscal year.

This reflects the anticipated contribution of new federal capital through Build Canada Homes, as well as the need to sequence fiscal-year cash-flow requirements for construction in line with labour availability, logistics, and community readiness.

Under *Igluliuqutiingniq*, the Nunavut Housing Corporation aims to build 1,400 public housing units by 2030. The 2026–27 capital plan is structured to advance that objective, targeting construction of 169 new public housing units in 2026 across Nunavut. This goal will result in Nunavut Housing Corporation achieving 834 total public housing units, of which 311 have been completed to date, and another 523 are either in construction or under contract to start in 2026.

Funding for Staff Housing – New Construction is proposed at \$7 million, a \$3 million decrease from last year. The 2026–27 capital plan is designed to support Nunavut Housing Corporation targeting 10 new staff housing units across Nunavut in 2026.

Mr. Chair, the Nunavut Housing Corporation continues to allocate capital renewal funding at levels well below industry benchmarks. Within this constraint, we prioritize protecting tenant health and safety and extending the useful life of existing housing stock. In future years, we will seek to increase our funding to expand this essential work.

For 2026–27, the Corporation is requesting funding that includes:

- \$10 million for Modernization and Improvement of public housing units – no change from prior year
- \$1.5 million for Modernization and Improvement of our Nunavut Housing Corporation's owned staff housing units – an increase of \$500,000 from the prior fiscal year
- \$8 million for mould assessment and remediation – no change from prior year; and
- \$1 million for fire damage repair and replacement – no change from prior year.

These investments are essential to maintaining a portfolio in which a significant number of units were built before 1980 and require substantial rehabilitation.

Mr. Chair, my focus remains on maintaining strong accountability and effective oversight of performance.

In response to recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is requesting \$2.166 million to replace its outdated housing tenant management system. This investment will support standardized housing management, improved data integrity, enhanced reporting, and secure, role-based access to information through a single cloud-based platform.

In addition, Mr. Chair, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is requesting \$3.499 million to continue building the information technology foundation for local housing organizations. This funding builds on the structured cabling work approved in prior years and will support the integration of LHOs into the Government of Nunavut's core business network, strengthening service delivery, data security, and operational oversight across all communities.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation is committed to ongoing performance audit follow-up, stronger governance, and transparent reporting to this Assembly.

Mr. Chair, \$10 million in funding is proposed to advance affordable housing and supported housing initiatives across the territory.

An additional \$8 million is proposed for homeownership programs, including the new Nunavut Homeownership Assistance Program, also known as NHAP, the Elders homeownership program, and other programs that support maintenance and renovation and enable Nunavummiut to purchase and retain homes in their communities.

These programs are essential to expanding the housing continuum and managing long-term pressure on public housing.

Local housing organizations, or LHOs, are essential to delivering housing services across Nunavut, and their ability to support tenants, maintain units, and manage daily operations depends on having adequate infrastructure and equipment.

Funding of \$7.360 million is proposed to renew and replace LHO workshops, warehouses, and administrative offices.

A continued investment of \$1.660 million for mobile equipment will ensure LHOs have reliable transportation to support office operations, administration, and maintenance teams.

Mr. Chair, partnerships remain central to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's approach.

Strategic relationships with builders, Inuit organizations, training institutions, and private-sector partners allow us to leverage capital, build local capacity, support Inuit participation in construction, and improve housing delivery.

Our government will continue to pursue partnerships that deliver housing while supporting Inuit employment, skills development, and long-term economic participation.

In closing, Mr. Chair, these capital estimates reflect a disciplined, forward-looking approach to housing delivery in Nunavut, grounded in realistic capacity, strong partnerships and clear accountability.

I look forward to hearing the Committee's questions and comments and to providing any information or clarification members seek.

Quana, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Does a member of the regular members caucus have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus on its review of the proposed 2026-2027 capital estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is \$87.185 million, which represents a 20.5 per cent decrease from the corporation's approved 2025-2026 capital estimates.

On October 18, 2022, the Nunavut Housing Corporation and NCC Development Limited announced the signing of a formal master partnership agreement. This agreement, as well as the Nunavut Housing Corporation's new Nunavut 3000 strategy, were publicly released on the same day. The *2025 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut: Public Housing in Nunavut* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 26, 2025. The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing on the report from September 4 to 5, 2025. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's *Action Plan Improving Public Housing Delivery: A Response to the 2025 Performance Audit by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada* was published in September 2025. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of the corporation's work in this area.

Members encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to announce its 2026-2027 public housing construction community allocations at the earliest practicable opportunity. Members also encourage the corporation to publish updated community public housing waitlist figures.

On January 30, 2026, the Government of Canada, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated announced the signing of an agreement in principle to "deliver up to 750 much-needed homes across the territory, including public, affordable and supportive housing. Through this investment, Build Canada Homes, the federal government's new agency created to supercharge housing construction, will provide up to \$250 million with up to \$230 million coming from the Government of Nunavut. As part of this new partnership, up to 30 per cent of units will be built using innovative factory-built components. Twenty-five of the 750 units will be specifically delivered and managed by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, in alignment with the Inuit-led housing model of the recently-launched Igluvut Corporation."

Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of implementing this agreement.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2026-2027 capital estimates include funding for the construction of new staff housing units. Members recognize the importance of prioritizing construction allocations to address such issues as forced sharing of units.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2026-2027 capital estimates include \$10 million in voted funds for its Affordable Housing Capital budget. This budget was first introduced for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's Supported

Housing Capital Policy sunsets on September 30, 2028. The Nunavut Affordable Housing Supply Incentive Policy sunsets on December 31, 2028.

On April 8, 2024, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced a “modernized suite of affordable housing and homeownership support programs.” On August 28, 2024, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced that the “Condominium Program is accepting applications from prospective homeowners and is now open to all Nunavummiut.” The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed 2026-2027 capital estimates include \$8 million for its Homeownership Programs budget. The Nunavut Homeownership Support Policy sunsets on March 31, 2028.

Members encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to include detailed information in its statutorily required annual reports concerning its activities and expenditures under its Affordable and Supported Housing Capital Programs and its Homeownership Programs. Members emphasize the importance of ensuring ease of access to information concerning the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s homeownership programs, especially in smaller communities. Members also emphasize the importance of providing timely decisions on applications submitted under its homeownership programs.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed 2026-2027 capital estimates include funding for the purpose of providing an annual contribution to local housing organizations for the creation of a vehicle reserve fund. Members recommend that the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s annual reports include a detailed listing of vehicle acquisitions undertaken by local housing organizations.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed 2026-2027 capital estimates include funding for its ongoing “Mould Assessment and Remediation” initiative. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this important work.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s five-year capital plan indicates that funding will be allocated on an annual basis for its Local Housing Organization Workshop, Warehouse and Administrative Offices replacement project. Information provided by the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that the design and construction of new local housing organization facilities in Cambridge Bay, Arviat, Pond Inlet, Kugluktuk, Igloodik and Gjoa Haven will be undertaken in coming years.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2026-2027 capital estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Seeing none, we will now proceed to page by page review of capital estimates starting on page L-3. Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Hannah was first to raise her hand, but you didn't see her. Thank you.

Chairman: Sorry. I would ask the members to raise your hand so I can recognize you if you want to ask a question or not, and I'll write your names down and as questions are asked, I'll request that you have your question. I guess the first one is Ms. Agootealuk, thank you.

Ms. Agootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question in regards to I did not see NHAP, construction of the NHAP units construction. People who made applications that were approved for NHAP, is the process still ongoing? Are they still dealing with them? When are you going to complete the process of reviewing the NHAP applications? Because there are many applications out there. Are you going to be providing assistance through funding for NHAP? That's my question, and I will have another question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead, Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. In this report we don't have the NHAP approvals listed community by community, because where NHC does not construct the units, they review the applications and allocate the funding to approve the applications for the NHAP projects.

The first group of NHAP approved projects, approved NHAP applications will begin the construction over this summer through the sealift. And as we see program uptake, we can come back and give that information to the members on what applications or what reviews might be happening within the communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Lyall. Ms. Angootealuk.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I also have an additional question in regards to that, in regards to seniors, since they are lacking housing in the communities. I know we have four units, and we have elders facility or elders homes in my community. How can we get additional seniors homes or senior facilities? Because we lack those units for elders at local housing authority. Because elders, or senior citizens, they cannot live in a huge apartment building, because they are elders, and it's too noisy. We hear that when the elders are housed in the same apartment unit as the younger people, they tend to complain about the noise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Ms. Angootealuk. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. While we're still reviewing the allocations for our capital projects on the sealift, some of those units will be elders units and more accessible units. A portion of the units that we're

hoping to have come in and constructed through this build season are single family dwellings which are more accessible, as there's not as many stairs. So we're hoping that mixture of different types of units would be able to account for some of that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Another question? Go ahead. You're done? Okay, thank you. Next one I have is Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I would like to thank you, Madam Minister.

With the information in front of us in regards to housing, I haven't heard any announcement up to now about an agreement indicating that the people in Nunavut will all have access to housing in that particular year. I didn't hear anybody say that from this government to date. With the public housing available, I haven't heard any announcement saying that all of Nunavummiut will have access to housing by 2030.

Looking at the information or looking at the opening comments and the information, the people out there are waiting and it indicates here in March 2025 there are 3,651 on housing list waiting for a house. And following this agreement and reading the information, it is not, it has become critical and nobody's making announcements saying that there is, won't be adequate housing for all of Nunavummiut. 3,651, we are not going to be building 3,000-some-odd houses by 2030. There are 3,000 on the waiting list since 2022.

We have to work harder to build houses. Not 300, not 180 houses; maybe 700, 800 within those years, and that's the only way that we're going to catch up with housing list. At least we have an agreement that we can work on, but what I'm saying is that the 3,000-plus have to be built by 2030, and we have erected very few houses.

For example, my community of Pangnirtung, there's shipments of material that came in 2024, and they're just out there in the elements, open to the rain, to the snow, and possibly being destroyed slowly. I know that the minister is doing as much as she can and as hard as she can, but the 3,600 on the waiting list.

The materials came in 2024 in Pangnirtung, and nobody has indicated that you will be able to move into the house on a particular date. And when you know the shortage of housing, I am making the comments on behalf of those people: Why is it that construction is going very slow? Why didn't nobody build those houses in 2024? Because they're just sitting out there in the elements.

So there's some mismanage somewhere in the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Maybe they doing right, but there are problems. I would like to know why there's use of delay in building houses when the materials are available. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. I think we have always recognized that the addition of 3,000 new units from the beginning would not, is less than the amount of people on our housing wait list, and it's so important to recognize that those wait lists are not just individuals. It's not 3,600 individuals. A lot of those people are families, and that's such a large portion of our population.

With *Igluliuqutigiingniq* for a long time it was mainly focused with constructing new public housing units. But with the development of *Igluliuqutigiingniq*, we were looking at filling in the whole housing continuum. Yes, we need more public housing, but we also need supportive housing. So many of our communities don't have shelter spaces. They don't have family violence shelters. So the introduction of the supporting housing capital program is looking to incentivize the construction of that needed shelter.

And then there are a lot of families across our territory that would be able to afford a rent higher than public housing, so with the Nunavut Affordable Housing Supply Incentive, we're hoping to incentivize private companies in the construction of affordable housing for those individuals that might be able to come in to offer that, like the Inuit organizations or different members of the private sector.

While also recognizing that in the beginning we had very ambitious build plans, it was the first time in our territory's history that we came in and we built in almost every single Nunavut community at one time. Since then we have learned a lot about capacity constraints, not just as the Nunavut Housing Corporation, but as a territory as a whole, and we are continuing to learn on how to roll out housing programs successfully and ensure that we're mitigating some of these delays that we have seen.

For Pangnirtung specifically, it's not within this capital plan, but there were issues with installing the piles there. We're hoping to get on track with those and hoping to have a new date for those completion dates. And once I have that, I'll give it to the member. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, but we have a severe shortage. (interpretation ends) In the 2025 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*, public housing in Nunavut was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 26, 2025. The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing on the report from September 4 and 5, 2025.

(interpretation) As that's the case, the Auditor General of Canada (interpretation ends) our members look forward to ongoing updates of the status of corporation work in this area.

(interpretation) With that, it is the report of the Auditor General of Canada on how we can improve the housing situation in Nunavut.

But what I'm trying to say, and I'll use myself as an example. I was the first one to put piles in the house, in a house that we were building. We keep talking about piling, piles, or the excuse might be the land is not good enough to put piles in, in that area. That's never true. Ever since the 1990s, we have put pilings in all parts of Pangnirtung, and maybe it is the contractors that you have to talk to. (interpretation ends) It's the contractors who are the problem, not the ground. Not the drilling.

(interpretation) It is something that we're working very hard, because there's homelessness or lack of houses to move into. Why don't they just say the land is not good enough to put piles in, so we'll just stop the project? So I'm looking at the contractors and blaming the contractors. The Nunavut Housing Corporation have to talk to those contractors, because that's the problematic area.

With that, we have to keep working on it to see improvement in building houses in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe that was a comment, but yes. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Next one on my list is Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2025-2026 capital estimates included \$8 million for both assessment and remediation. As of today, how many assessments and remediation projects are being undertaken during the 2026-2027 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair and thank you to the member for the question. Currently, the 2025-2026 remediation work a total of 45 units undergoing remediation across eight communities. The assessment for this coming cycle of remediation projects is wrapping up and we should have those numbers in the coming weeks. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Minister Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2026-2027 capital estimates include \$8 million for mold assessments and remediations. In which communities will this work take place? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Taqtu. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. We're looking at remediation projects in seven communities: Baker Lake, Coral Harbour, Kimmirut, Kugaaruk, Naujaat, Sanikiluaq, and Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Mr. Taqtu, any more questions? No? All right, Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On your modernization and improvement retrofit, the question I got is that last winter in Rankin Inlet there's a nine-plex that the roof got damaged with the wind. From my understanding, they're going to demolish it. Why demolish it when you can just replace the roof? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. When there is extensive damage done to any of our assets, an assessment is done to see if it would be more economically feasible to renovate or demolish the building and construct a new one. Given the age and the how extensive the damage was to that unit, it was deemed to be more economical to demolish the building and construct a new building in that place. So we're targeting a demolition of that building for 2026. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Now, I got the same question asked by my colleague from Pangnirtung. There were building materials shipped to Chesterfield Inlet smaller communities. Seems to be a problem with the smaller communities with the contractors. Any way of housing corp revisiting subcontractors instead of a major contractor, so the constructions could start on the summer or the year that they come in? And it wouldn't be two years behind it, like my colleague said that they're out in the open, rain, wind and how much material would be gone missing. So that would be a big expense for housing corp to replace all that. So we would have to wait another year before they do another construction.

So my question is: would you do some subcontracting for these major housing shortages that we got in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Sammurtok. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. Coming into the more technical aspects of a contract, if it's okay if I could have the president and CEO Eiryn Devereaux answer?

Chairman: Mr. Devereaux, go ahead.

Mr. Devereaux: I thank the member for the question. We look to expand and try to accelerate new housing starts for public housing and staff housing, try to find a myriad of contractors who share that same vision of trying to build greater supply at an economical cost, and we have seen growth in terms of the number of contractors in the last two years.

When we first started, obviously in the year one, you know, the major contract went to NCC Development, as it did in the second year. In the third year, when we started contracting units, we had a whole variety of other builders and the same as planning for the upcoming new units for 2026 for public housing.

We wouldn't subcontract. We only ever contract, and sometimes major general contractors will subcontract to smaller firms. Actually, that's going on right now with, you know, some of the smaller communities across Nunavut that NCC Development brought materials in, such as what you referenced in Pangnirtung. NCC has gone and subcontracted to other builders, whether it's Arctic Fresh projects or Birchcliff Developments.

We are also, through our annual procurements, working with those kind of companies to try to see, because we share the same observations that we've had significant delays in some of the construction projects in certain communities, and sometimes that's the nature of construction when you deal with trying to accelerate whether it's limited labour, whether it's issues with foundations or granular. And that can happen. But I know we can also do better and we're striving to do better.

I'll give just you a few examples as well, because in the last year we have seen some of the contracts with builders where materials arrived in the community, such as Iqaluit here for 24 units in multiplexes that started in August and were completed in April. So we do have some success stories.

We brought in modular units into Cambridge Bay last October. Those modular units, nine homes, single family dwellings arrived and they were completed within two months. So we are seeing some examples where the period of construction is faster than some of the examples that were given earlier.

But we do recognize that it's important in the smaller communities we have to ensure that we can get houses built within approximately a 12-month period. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Devereaux. Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the smaller communities you're building public housing, but there's no staff housing being built, and I realize that departments like Education should be applying for staff housing to be built. I realize that.

But it's a problem for smaller communities when the teachers or the nurses, or whoever, professionals have to share a house, and they quit less than a year later.

I would encourage the housing corp to build at least staff housing in smaller communities so that the other departments would be able to have access to staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Sammurtok. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. We do have a number of projects in here for staff housing, although our capital request for staff housing is a lot smaller than the public housing portfolio, but there are a number of the smaller communities that we're hoping to build in, and ten staff housing units all together. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. One more? Go ahead.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You say you got staff housing on the list. Is there a possibility of getting a list where are those staff housing will be built? Because the main interest I've got is for Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Sammurtok. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that. Yes, Chester is one of the communities that we're looking, hoping to build staff housing in coming on the sealift. The other communities are Arviat and Kinngait. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Next on my list, Mr. Kautuk.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've got the same problem as Pang. I've got material sitting since 2004, but it's indicated on document that they're completed, but not even the piles are up. I'm wondering now is if NCC is breaching their contract. I wonder if we can start hiring local people, not just as a labourer, because local people are better builders than fly-in fly-out people. They know the community. But the problem is they don't have red seal certificate. But they can build great houses, better than fly-in fly-out people. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Kautuk. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. We're always looking to improve and expand all of our trades programming and how we do it and ensure that it's being done within the different companies that we might be contracting procuring services from.

So I think it's always been important for us to also have that trades component as a part of our projects, just to ensure also when all these units are built, that there will be people within our communities that can maintain them.

So it's really ensuring that we're creating that pathway forward for individuals who might want to become a tradesperson to ensure that they're able to do so. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Next on my list, Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Nunavut Housing Corporation draft 2026-2027 indicates it includes \$7 million in voted funds for construction of new staffing units. My question is how many public housing units have been transferred to local housing organizations for use as staff units during the current 2025-2026 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. A majority of this briefing I received was on this capital ask. But in terms of number of public housing units that were, sometimes a unit is utilized for staff persons coming in for the LHOs, like if they have someone coming in, as like an emergency manager or emergency, like, maintenance staff. On occasion those vacant public housing units are utilized for a short term as staff housing units.

In front of me right now I don't know the exact number that we would be seeing for this fiscal, as it's normally an emergency need. We don't ever plan on removing units from the public housing portfolio and utilizing them as staff housing units, but we can have the numbers provided for the last fiscal that we would have utilized. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Next on my list, Minister Qammaniq.

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): I'm very happy I'm next. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For myself, private homeowners, they don't get enough representation in the smaller communities. We don't have contractors available and we can't, my furnace needs the annual service, and housing has told me that they don't do private homeowners. And we don't have contractors. And that's that one.

People if they have their own homes, if they're making over 77,000 then the help available to them diminishes. These days a small shopping bag, when you try to buy healthy food, it's \$100 right a way for that little big, and that \$75,000 salary cap should be changed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qammaniq. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. The income cap for the home renovation program varies community to community. We have continuously looked at this to ensure that we're keeping up with the increased costs of living we're seeing across Nunavut.

Within this capital request we do have the Homeowner Repair Program, which also has income cutoffs, and there's also the Emergency Repair Program which has a maximum contribution of 15,000. However, the income eligibility has changed for that program, just depending on the criteria needed on health and safety.

We recognize that in a majority of our smaller communities that the only skilled maintenance staff might be the NHO workers, especially when we're looking at oil burner mechanics, who are specialized fields, and we know that on occasion when they have time they might be able to come in to privately owned units. But that's dependent on how busy they are at maintaining the public housing portfolio. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. You're done? Mr. Porter.

Mr. Porter: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to echo my friend here regarding the home ownership. We have the same problem at home. We only have one contractor and this contractor, he overprices everybody. He just does a quick fix and then next day again I call him to fix. But anyhow, I wanted to echo regarding preventative maintenance checks on home owners. I know before the local housing organizations used to do this for the homeowners, but now, past few years they haven't been doing that.

And then some home owners applied through housing corporation to do the preventative maintenance such as furnace, water makers and cleaning water tanks, simple little things, but so but, like I said we have local contractor but they overprice us.

I wonder if the local housing organizations can go into the home owners to do these preventative maintenance checks. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Porter. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. I think we're continuously looking at how we can modernize and improve the types of programs that we're offering and have available to us across Nunavut, from our smallest communities to our largest communities. And maybe going forward it might be having, like, all the homeowners within a community come together, and when we have crews within that community that might be something we can look at so it will be something for us to explore going forward. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. You're done? Okay. Ms. Angootealuk.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask questions about home ownership as well. It's almost impossible in the smaller communities. I understand what the members are saying. Like when we're trying to request for help on an emergency, they don't treat it like an emergency. Like, for example if our water tank bursts, we have to wait a long time, even though it's called an emergency and we try to get help on an emergency basis.

Can the housing associations get disciplined or something? Like, the response we got one time was you still want service? Yeah, I had to tell them we still want service. And that's all they did. Even though we were trying to get help on an emergency basis. And there's a whole bunch of people that go through that in my community and other communities. Maybe the people under you in Arviat, maybe you can advise them that it's really cold in the Keewatin and our pipes freeze right away. If you could relay that message to your staff in Arviat. Thank you. I hope I'm understood.

Chairman: Thank you Ms. Angootealuk. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. Our local housing organizations are arm's-length organizations from the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We can ask for that additional assistance, but it does also vary, depending. Some of our local housing organizations might be understaffed or they might not currently have the specific tradesperson on hand that might be able to do that. So it varies community to community or situation to situation. But we can recommend that that be something that they are more open to offering. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Next on my list is Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike: A Supplementary. Thank you. *Qujannamiik*.

(interpretation) I just want clarification about January 30, 2026 the Canadian government, Nunavut government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated made an announcement that they signed an agreement about the 750 homes that would be for public housing. What I would like clarified is that money, the funding contribution agreement, has that

agreement been signed or can you give us an update on that agreement in principle?
Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. For the agreement in principle that was signed with the federal minister for Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada and the president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the funding of 250 million for Nunavut for the construction of 750 units, not all of those units would be public housing units within that funding program we're hoping to offer some of that funding through the Supported Housing Capital Program, and also the Nunavut Affordable Housing Supply Incentive, so helping to incentivize other companies, not-for-profit or corporations across Nunavut to also build housing within our communities.

So far we've only signed the agreement in principle and we're anticipating in the coming weeks and months to have more of that final agreement. We're just still in discussions.
Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Minister. In your comments, on the third page of your opening comments about public housing, Nunavut 3000 *Igluliuqutigiingniq*, you had finalized the funding agreement. (interpretation) The reason I'm asking is 834 public housing homes were units, and out of that 311 have been completed and another 523 are either in construction or under contract to start in this year.

Is this separate from the tripartite agreement that was mentioned earlier? This part doesn't look completed, and NTI it sounds like that they have become involved and will plan to build 25 units. I would like some clarification on that, because we have to understand completely. (interpretation ends) What is the status of the final funding contribution agreement? (interpretation) Is there a final agreement? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. *Igluliuqutigiingniq*, Building Houses Together is the name of the Nunavut 3000 Strategy. We have not signed the final funding agreement with Build Canada Homes. That partnership, we've only to date signed the agreement in principle with NTI and the Minister responsible for housing over at the federal government. From that agreement, once we're able to finalize where we land, those are coming within the coming weeks. It hasn't been signed yet. Just the agreement in principle. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you Madam Minister. It seems like we have to find out the exact day because of the materials that have to be shipped by ship. And the contribution agreement has to be completed. It would be better once there's been a decision made that it would be better for us to consider these items during Committee of the Whole. It would be much ideal if the final agreement was signed, because like it seems like everything is coming, coming from everywhere and NCC would be contractor and also others will be other than NCC. There's contractors as well that are working in regards to this, and we don't even know who they are.

In regards to the agreements, because they are going to be using a lot of money and it's going to be expensive. One thing that we're concerned about these, because some construction items they're supposed to move ahead and complete. They have been incomplete due to various reasons. So therefore a contribution agreement needs to be agreed to or to have a final agreement. Whether there's agreements, when agreements don't go through and if they are not moving through you as a minister, and if there's individuals that we would like to share about the contractors that are not abiding with the contract agreement, if there's such. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. For the final agreement with Build Canada Homes, it's a multi-year agreement, so it wouldn't be the full amount of money right in the front. And then for the contracting, if I can have our president CEO, Eryn Devereaux answer, if that's okay with you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Go ahead, Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the member for the follow-up question. Things are progressing well with the federal government in terms of signing that final funding agreement. A few components, it's going to be subject to the big budget bill in Ottawa, in Parliament being passed and that's in the works as we speak.

We are hopeful that once that budget bill is passed we'll be able to move shortly thereafter to sign the funding agreement and to use portions of that 250 million towards the anticipated new housing starts.

As the minister said, that \$250 million would be spread over a four-year period to help support the cost of new public housing units each year in addition to other sources of federal funding that we've already secured, and in addition to the capital funds that we seek from the Legislative Assembly each year.

The other question in terms of contractors, we do a report annually on the contractors that we do sign construction agreements with, and as I had mentioned earlier, over the past two build seasons, including the upcoming sealift this year, we're starting to see more contractors come to the table to express interest in building public housing units for us at a cost that's more affordable than what we were seeing with when we were tendering four or five years ago. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Devereaux. Mr. Mike, are you done? Go ahead.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps if you identify the date at least to the regular members, the date when the funding or contribution agreement, I know that you'll need funding, you will require some funding. When will the contribution agreement, when do you expect to table that information, once the federal budget has been completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. Once I have more information on when we might have that final funding agreement, once we know when that signing of that might happen, I will let the members know. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. I don't seem to have any more questions from members. Do members agree that we've concluded Nunavut Housing Corporation? Oh, sorry. The total capital expenditures of \$87,185,000.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Lyall, closing comments.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the members for the questions. I really look forward to working with each of you and answering more questions that you might have on your individual communities, for what might be happening with our builds within them. But I think this process is a bit different for this build cycle in particular, and I thank you for your patience. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. What is the wish of the committee, Mr. Taqtu?

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Chair I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? Motion is carried. I'll now rise to report progress. The officials may leave the witness table. Thank you.

>>*Committee adjourned at 17:53 and House resumed at 17:54*

Speaker: Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Pedersen.

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 2 and would like to report progress. And Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you as well. Motion is on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Sammurtok. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

(interpretation) Back to item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Item 22, *Orders of the Day*.

Item 22, Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Just to remind, there's a meeting of the Regular Members' Caucus in the morning in the Nanuk board room, followed by a meeting of the Striking Committee. Orders of the Day for March 10:

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 (interpretation): Thank you. The session for today and tomorrow morning March 10, we will resume at 1:30 in the afternoon. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:57*

