



**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)

**Hon. 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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926 Sivumugiaq Street,  
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 3H0

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

Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Tuesday, March 17, 2026**

**Members Present:**

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok, Ms. Hannah Angootealuk, Mr. Edward Attagutaluk, Hon. Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Jamie Kablutsiak, 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. Alexander Sammurtok, Hon. Craig Simailak, Mr. Steven Taqtu, Hon. Annie Tattuinee.

>>*House commenced at 10:00*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. David Joanasie) (interpretation): Before we proceed, Mr. Mike open the meeting with a prayer. Let us pray.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Speaker (interpretation): Good morning to all. Orders of the Day. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Healey Akearok.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 51 – 7(1): The Uquutaq Society's Important Work**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we know that a safe place to stay is a basic need and human right. Today, I would like to celebrate the important work of the Uquutaq Society, a community leader in providing shelter and fostering wellness since 2009. I am grateful for their service.

Mr. Speaker, the Uquutaq Society currently runs a 30-bed men's homeless shelter, 26 transitional housing beds in a communal living building, a 17-bed low barrier shelter and warming centre, and 13-beds in the affordable housing program.

Mr. Speaker, I have great news to share. I am pleased to report that Uquutaq is expanding their services this year. A new Low Barrier Shelter at 158 Nipisa Street will open later this year with 44 beds for men and women, and 13 single units for transitional housing.

>>*Applause*

It will also have a year-round drop-in and warming centre, a kitchen and dining room, and space for a range of programs and counselling services.

Uquutaq will also start construction on a 32-unit supportive housing project at 803 Aiviq Street this winter. This facility will house elders and young adults, allowing knowledge transfer and support for young people.

A third capital project is in the design phase. Uquutaq plans to hold community engagement sessions this spring. The current plan includes building commercial space for non-profit organizations combined with affordable one-, two-, and three-bedroom housing units.

Mr. Speaker, the expansion of services is the result of the strong leadership of Executive Director Laurel McCorrison, and the strong partnerships she has fostered. The capital costs for the projects were funded by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the National Indigenous collaborative housing initiative, and several federal government departments. Operating and maintenance costs will be shared by Uquutaq and Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the many partners for their contributions to providing shelter. Community-led partnerships play a key role in building a stronger Nunavut.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Koonoo.

### **Minister's Statement 52 – 7(1): Congratulations on Long-Term Service Awards**

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I would like to take a moment to recognize the long-term service of staff, whose commitment and dedication to the public service is most commendable. These significant milestones are to be celebrated.

For 20 years' service with the GN, the Government of Nunavut, I would like to recognize:

- Drikus Gissing;
- Michelle Pretty;
- Wei Zeng;
- and MJ Phelan, who is now enjoying her retirement.

For 25 years of service, we would like to recognize:

- Lena Takoonagak;
- Mitch Campbell; and
- Lillian Savikataaq.

Thank you to all our long-serving staff; your continued service strengthens our work and supports the communities we serve. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Tattuinee.

### **Minister's Statement 53 – 7(1): Launch of the Public Administration and Indigenous Governance Program**

**Hon. Annie Tattuinee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce a significant step forward in strengthening policy capacity within the Government of Nunavut. As departments advance their Inuit employment plans, we are taking concrete action to build a more representative public service, creating meaningful pathways for Inuit to enter and advance in policy roles while helping address critical vacancies.

Mr. Speaker, in January 2026, the Department of Human Resources launched the Public Administration and Indigenous Governance Program in partnership with the First Nations Technical Institute and Toronto Metropolitan University. This program is one of only a few undergraduate programs in Canada grounded in public administration through an Indigenous and Inuit lens. It recognizes both academic excellence and the practical expertise gained through work experience.

The first cohort, comprised entirely of Inuit employees from across the Government of Nunavut and Inuit organizations, is undertaking a rigorous program while continuing to work full time. Over two years, they will complete certificate and advanced certificate studies, building the foundation for leadership in policy and governance. Graduates will also have the opportunity to continue toward a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration and Indigenous Governance, either through the same job-embedded model or through existing education leave programs.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative is more than a training program; it is an investment in self-determination. It will strengthen this government's ability to design policy grounded in Inuit knowledge, lived experience, and community priorities.

To the Inuit participants representing departments, agencies and communities across Nunavut: your commitment to continuous learning is building a strong, skilled and more representative public service. We look forward to celebrating your achievements in the future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed with Ministers' Statements, I would like to recognize a visitor, previous MLA and once a speaker, and have played a role in minister position, Mr. Paul Quassa, welcome, and the wife, Elisapee. Welcome both of you.

Ministers' Statements. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. Hickee.

### **Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

#### **Minister's Statement 54 – 7(1): Status of Petroleum Products Stabilization Fund**

**Hon. George Hickee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, petroleum products are the backbone of Nunavut's energy system, supporting space heating, electricity generation, aviation, transportation, and daily life across Nunavut. The Petroleum Products Revolving Fund and the Petroleum Products Stabilization Fund ensure we can secure supply and manage global price volatility across all communities.

Mr. Speaker, in 2022–23, following a period of global fuel price volatility, the stabilization fund exceeded its authorized lower deficit limit of \$20 million, reaching a deficit of \$24.7 million and requiring a supplemental appropriation to restore compliance. Mr. Speaker, in 2023–24, the division recorded a modest surplus of approximately \$780,000, marking the beginning of recovery.

At the close of fiscal year 2024–25 the Division recorded a significant operating surplus, reducing the accumulated deficit from \$19.2 million to approximately \$5.1 million. While fiscal year 2025–26 is not yet complete, current forecasts suggest continued improvement, and the fund is expected to return to surplus by the end of this fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's base retail fuel prices have remained unchanged since January 2024 despite significant movements in global oil markets. This reflects the disciplined application of our cost-recovery model and careful management of the stabilization fund as it continues its recovery while stabilizing prices for Nunavummiut.

However, Mr. Speaker, escalating tensions in the Middle East have recently pushed global oil prices significantly higher after a period of relative stability. Movements of this scale can translate into tens of millions of dollars in additional cost pressure for Nunavut's annual fuel resupply.

Mr. Speaker, the division secures fuel in stages ahead of each resupply season using futures contracts, helping reduce exposure to sudden movements in global oil markets. Through this approach, one-third of Nunavut's projected fuel requirements for the 2026 resupply were secured in December 2025 within the available capacity of the revolving fund. Because this volume was secured before recent price increases, it significantly reduces Nunavut's exposure to current market pressures.

Mr. Speaker, with the improved financial position of the Petroleum Products Stabilization Fund, Nunavut is in a far stronger position to manage global market volatility than two years ago. Currently, no fuel price changes are anticipated. The Division will continue to monitor market conditions closely, with pricing recommendations typically brought forward in the fall.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Community Services, Minister Simailak.

**Minister's Statement 55 – 7(1): Arctic Winter Games Closing – Team Nunavut**

**Hon. Craig Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning my colleagues and visitors in the gallery. Welcome.

(interpretation ends) I would like to recognize the achievements of team Nunavut of Arctic Winter Games Whitehorse, Yukon.

Our delegation of 310 athletes, coaches, officials, youth ambassadors, and cultural performers represented Nunavut with determination, sportsmanship, and heart. I had the honour of attending the games and witnessing firsthand the energy, talent, and resilience that define our territory.

From the opening ceremonies to the final competitions, Team Nunavut carried themselves with confidence and pride. The Arctic Winter Games remain one of the most powerful expressions of northern unity, bringing together communities from across the circumpolar world in a celebration of sport and culture.

I extend sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Yukon for hosting an exceptional games. Their hospitality and organization created an environment where young athletes could thrive, and lifelong memories could be made.

Mr. Speaker, the results achieved by our athletes reflect months of discipline and preparation. Team Nunavut returned home with 55 medals overall, including 10 gold, 19 silver, and 26 bronze.

>> *Applause*

Among the many highlights was a gold medal victory by the U15 boys hockey team, who captured the championship in a hard-fought final against Yukon. The U19 girls hockey team also brought home bronze, demonstrating the continued growth of hockey talent across Nunavut.

Individual athletes also delivered outstanding performances in several events. Competitors in Arctic Sports, Dene Games, and Snow Snake earned podium finishes and personal bests, reflecting the strength of traditional northern sport in our territory. Athletes such as Gabe Oyukuluk, who earned gold in Dene Games, and Danica Taylor, who captured silver in Arctic Sports, exemplified the skill and determination of Nunavut's young competitors.

Equally important was the recognition of our team's character. Team Nunavut shared the Sportsmanship Award, an honour that reflects the respect, teamwork, and positive spirit our athletes demonstrated throughout the Games.

Beyond the podium, what stood out most was the leadership shown by our youth. Whether competing, volunteering, or performing, they demonstrated respect, teamwork, and pride in representing Nunavut.

I would like to once again recognize our flag bearer, Peyton Dyer-Aknavigak of Cambridge Bay, who led our team with poise and strength.

The Inukshuk Drum Dancers delivered a powerful performance that showcased the strength and continuity of Inuit culture. They reminded all in attendance that our identity is not only enduring but thriving.

Behind every participant stood a network of coaches, families, and volunteers. Their dedication is the foundation of our growing sport system.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut can be immensely proud. Our youth have shown that the future of our territory is strong, capable, and inspired.

I invite all members of this House to join me in congratulating Team Nunavut.  
*Atii Aksut.*

Ma'tna, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Congratulations to all the team Nunavut. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Healey Akearok for Nunavut Arctic College.

### **Minister's Statement 56 – 7(1): Culture Week 2026**

**Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok:** Mr. Speaker, reading week is an important time for post-secondary students. It is the first significant break in the winter semester, as it is a dedicated week where students have no classes, they can catch up on rest, on assignments, or focus on life and family matters.

For the Nunavut Arctic College, Culture Week takes place instead of reading week, and it ran from February 9-13, 2026. While students had the freedom to use the time as they see fit, the three regional campuses hosted several cultural activities for students. I am happy to report that many students took part in Culture week activities.

There were a range of activities, including sewing and tool making, parka making, mitt making and Niksik making. Inuit and Arctic Sports demonstrations and training were offered at the Kitikmeot Campus. In Iqaluit, students and their guests had the opportunity to watch Zacharias Kunuk's Film, *Uiksaringitara: Wrong Huband*, at the Astro Theatre. Both the Kivalliq and Nunatta Campus also hosted a feast that brought together staff, students and all those involved in culture week activities. Here in Iqaluit, elders from the Elder's Qammaq participated in the feast. The College was so happy to welcome so many people at their feast.

Community, culture, food and elders are important sources of learning, whether in the classroom or outside. I want to thank everyone who took part in Culture Week at Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you for making this important part of our academic calendar a success.

(interpretation) Thank you, Minister Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Health Ms. Brewster.

**Minister's Statement 57 – 7(1): Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month**

**Hon. Janet Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. This disease remains one of the most common cancers affecting Nunavummiut, and it is important that we reduce the stigma and encourage conversations about this disease.

Colorectal cancer is both preventable and treatable when it is found early. Regular screening is the most effective tool, helping to detect early signs of the disease before symptoms appear, giving people the chance to seek treatment sooner and improve their long-term health.

Mr. Speaker, in 2025 the Department of Health launched Nunavut's first population-based colorectal cancer screening program. This is a major milestone. Now, we are building a coordinated system that ensures every eligible Nunavummiut is considered for screening and receives appropriate follow-up.

The program officially launched in Rankin Inlet last May and has since expanded to 18 communities, with more to come as we move toward full territorial coverage.

Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the significant progress made by surgeons at Qikiqtani General Hospital. They have reduced the colonoscopy waitlist from more than 600 people in July 2024 to approximately 80 as of June 2025. This is a remarkable achievement that directly improves patient care.

To support timely follow-up, positive FIT, or fecal immunochemical test results are now tracked by a dedicated virtual nurse practitioner who conducts assessments and coordinates referrals for colonoscopies, whether in territory or out of territory.

Mr. Speaker, colorectal cancer screening is one of the most effective ways to save lives. I encourage all eligible Nunavummiut to participate in regular screening when they are invited.

By doing so, we can detect cancer earlier, reduce the burden of disease, and build healthier communities across our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Minister's Statement 58 – 7(1): Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit Member**

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to one of our Inuit *Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit* members, Sandy Akavak from Kimmirut. Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, Sandy has submitted his resignation as a member of Inuit *Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit*. I would like to thank Sandy for sharing his cultural knowledge and for his contribution to the Inuit *Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit*.

The Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit* is made up of Elders who are selected for their knowledge of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Inuit Societal Values. They provide advice and assistance with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to the Government of Nunavut. Working with the interdepartmental working group Tuttarviit, the Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit* assists in government efforts to bring an Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit* approach in its service delivery and day-to-day operations.

I ask members of this House to join me in thanking Sandy Akavak for his service and to wish him well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Koonoo, as well. An Inuit traditional naming so he calls me *aataq*, he's my grandfather. I thank you for providing service for Kimmirut residents.

Back to *Orders of the Day*. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluktuuttiaq, Mr. Pedersen.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 58 – 7(1): Happy St. Patrick's Day**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to Cambridge Bay residents that are watching our proceedings today. Although our family lineage does not have a lot of Irish blood in it, we do have some, so today I would like to wish family and friends a happy St Patrick's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Member Statements. Member for Arviat North, Mr. Kablutsiak.

#### **Member's Statement 59 – 7(1): Feasibility Study of Opening a Bank in Arviat**

**Mr. Kablutsiak:** During my campaign back in October 2025, one of the concerns that constituents raised was around the topic of opening a bank. I am raising this issue in the House today if Arviat can be considered to conduct a feasibility study around opening a bank, particularly with either RBC or CIBC branch to be in Arviat, during the 7th Legislative Assembly through Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that Arviat's EPLS Home Hardware is in partnership with RBC and the First Nations Bank, with Padlei Inns' north office. It would be great if Arviat could be considered doing a feasibility study on opening a bank. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

**Member's Statement 60 – 7(1): Nunavut Government**

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and also welcome to the visitors in the gallery.

I rise today to talk about the Land Claims Agreement, how Nunavut government was established. It's at the right time, because the individual who worked very hard for the creation of Nunavut territory. Nunavut government territory was established by the hard work of Inuit through the Inuit Land Claims Agreement which was signed in 1993, I believe.

Last winter I was feeling issues with Facebook issues being raised and Facebook after our recent election. The Inuit Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the individuals worked very hard to negotiate, because we were part of the Northwest Territories at the time. When we wanted to have division, we had to go through the land claims agreement and it has gone through and the land claims agreement has been agreed to, and we now have a government in Nunavut.

The constitution of government is protected by constitutional government. The Legislative Assembly, where I stand Paul Quassa took part as a negotiator along with others. Today that's why we have freedom to speak as Inuit, and we also take part in the decision-making.

This government is called a public government. It was established only by way of Inuit and the government agreeing, because Inuit were majority population in Nunavut. then Inuit had decided to have Nunavut government. But in the Land Claims Agreement it is stated as public government. We have been elected by anyone in our committee, and we represent the public at large, all of us.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? I don't have any nays. Mr. Mike.

**Mr. Mike:** Yes, I'm very pleased about this. I didn't realize he was going to come here with his wife when I rose to make a member's statement about it, because he's also one of the signatories to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, also the federal government.

The reason why I rise today is because it's okay to have a public government because our government is public government for anyone who resides in Nunavut, and it doesn't identify anyone.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to raise as member's statement so that we all know how Inuit had signed into the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Qamani'tuaq, Mr. Simailak.

### **Member's Statement 61 – 7(1): TASK Week at Jonah Amitnaaq School**

**Hon. Craig Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) This month in Baker Lake they held the 14th annual TASK Week at the Jonah Johan Amitnaaq High School. It comprised students of grade 9 to 12. Overall there were over 160 students that took part in TASK Week. It's perhaps a glimpse of their future.

During TASK Week students took part in culinary arts, mechanic work, welding, learning both electrical trade, cosmetology, sewing and first aid. Without partnerships with the entities at Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, Mines (ph) Ltd., Peter's Expediting Ltd., Arctic Fuel, and the other volunteers, this kind of work would not be possible, so I would like to thank them all helping with that week.

This TASK Week has been quite potential for a lot of the students, like I mentioned earlier. It could be a glimpse to their future. Our youngest boy, Aqaarniq, is a potential high school graduate. From last year's TASK Week he realized he wants to become an electrician now. Before that he didn't know what he wanted to do for a possible career, so these kind of things are helping. I'm hoping that this year's TASK Week was another glimpse for the students that took part in it to see what they might want to do for their careers.

Thank you all. Thank you for those that help out with TASK Week and thank you very much. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you as well. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North and Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

### **Member's Statement 62 – 7(1): Proud of Arctic Winter Games Participants (Main)**

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

I would like to talk about the Arctic Winter Games participants from Arviat and Whale Cove. We are very proud of all of you. Please be aware young people, and all their coaches and other staff. I would like to thank them.

I'm not really going to talk about the winners, although I'm proud and happy about the ulu winners. But even if they didn't win anything, I want to make sure that I talk about them the same way. If they got an ulu medal or not, we are very proud of all of our young people, and I encourage them to go on further, like our minister said previously. I agree with the minister.

I want to thank all of the participants who took part, because the Arctic Winter Games help all of the communities. It helps our young people's minds, and they don't have to worry about anything so much, and whenever hardships arrive and then there are sports or hockey opportunities, they really help our young people's lives and thinking about that and recreation in general.

Arviat is going to try out for the Hockeyville competition, and I want to support them. And hopefully Arviat will make it to the finals. I believe they will be two communities that will make it to the finals. If Arviat becomes one of the nominees, make sure you go on the computer and vote in April. We will know who the winners are. I really support the hockey in Arviat, because the winners will receive money to improve their arenas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. All the participants for the Arctic Winter Games and also from my constituency, although they didn't win an ulu medal, but they represented the youth in Baffin very well, and I would like to recognize two of them. They are twins, Sandy and Abraham Tamila from Kimmirut. I'm very proud of you both.

And regretfully, Kinngait teams could not make it to the games, and hopefully sometime in the future they will be able to take part.

Let's get back to the Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

### **Member's Statement 63 – 7(1): Recognize Uquutaq Society**

**Hon. Janet Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very happy to stand today to recognize the work of Uquutaq Society and welcome Lauren McCorriston back to the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the society was formed out of work that the Salvation Army was doing many years ago to support homeless people, homeless men specifically in Iqaluit, and has evolved in an incredible way to fill so many gaps and to include providing services for women who are in need in the city of Iqaluit as well.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's really important to note that a lot of the people that use Uqutaq's services come from all over Nunavut, and the work that the society does has an impact in uplifting people that need a hand up. I just want to express my gratitude for your incredible work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Back to the *Orders of the Day*. Number 4, Return to Oral Questions. Number 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Healey Akearok.

### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and welcome to all our guests in the gallery today.

Mr. Speaker, I rose earlier this morning to deliver a Ministers' Statement recognizing Uqutaq's leadership in providing shelter and fostering wellness, and the organization has steadily been increasing services. They provide for unhoused people, as Minister Brewster mentioned, from across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, this growth and expansion of services is the result of the strong leadership of executive director Lauren McCorrison, and with the support of an active board of directors. Please join me in thanking Ms. McCorrison to our territory and also welcome Wassima El Filali, was the manager of corporate services, Beverly Myers, the vice chair of the board of directors. If you can stand when I say your name. And Peter Kagotho, the senior manager of high barrier services, and board member Aaron Wile. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Please feel welcome in the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize someone who worked for more than 20 years for the Nunavut government, Michelle Pretty. She worked for 20 years for the government. And Lena Takoonagak and Wei Zeng. I would like to recognize them for their long service and all the good work that they do. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Please feel welcome in the Assembly. Member for Arviat North and Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although this person was already recognized, I would like to recognize the person who's not here for the first time. He's probably sat on all the chairs in the Assembly. He was the premier and the speaker and minister. He has done so much work for the Nunavut Agreement. We have one of the negotiators, Paul Quassa, and your wife. Please feel welcome to the Assembly. Right now he works for Baffinland and he is very experienced in having meetings, Mr. Quassa.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please feel welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names. My apologies, member for Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The person was already recognized. I would like to recognize him again, Paul Quassa and his wife, Mrs. Quassa. Please feel welcome in the House.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Back to *Orders of the Day*. Item number 6, Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Kuliktana.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Oral Question 54 – 7(1): Air Ambulance Service**

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on important questions asked last week by my colleague from Cambridge Bay concerning the government's contract for air ambulance services.

As the minister is aware, the government issued a request for proposals for a new contract back in April 2025, almost one full year ago. The request for proposals closed in June of 2025, over nine months ago. Information published by the government indicates that only one proposal was submitted.

In response to questions asked by my colleague from Cambridge Bay last week, the minister indicated that the procurement process is still underway.

Can the Minister clearly explain why it is taking so long to evaluate the single proposal that was submitted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Janet Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say that negotiations are underway, and that we're hoping to come to an agreement as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary questions, Mr. Kuliktana.

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister is aware, the request for proposals for air ambulance services that the government issued last year indicated that the "go-live date" for the new contract is April 1, 2026. Mr. Speaker, that's a little over two weeks from today.

Can the minister confirm if the department's current contractor will continue to provide services in the event that the new contract has not been finalized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Janet Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can confirm that there won't be an interruption in the air ambulance services, and we'll make sure that the residents of the Kitikmeot are safely covered during this time period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kuliktana.

**Mr. Kuliktana:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister, for your response. Mr. Speaker, information published in the government's Request for Proposals indicated that there was a total of 122 medical evacuation flights out of Kugluktuk during 2022. That's approximately one medevac every three days.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support having a contractual requirement, as the minister indicated, that the aircraft for the Kitikmeot region will be either stationed either in Cambridge Bay or Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, our residents of Kitikmeot region strongly, firmly believe that the aircraft should not be stationed outside of our region or our time zone.

Mr. Speaker, what assurance can the minister provide myself and our Kitikmeot residents that this requirement will be included in the government's new contract for air ambulance services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ms. Brewster.

**Hon. Janet Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't get into the details of the negotiations; however, the member can rest assured that medevac services will be as responsive as possible, and that once we can finalize the negotiations, we'll let you know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for the high Arctic, Mr. Taqtu.

**Oral Question 55 – 7(1): Nutrition North Canada Program**

**Mr. Taqtu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister of Family Services. As the minister will recall, I asked questions to the Minister of Health last week concerning her department's role in respect to the external review of the federal Nutrition North Canada program that was announced last year.

At the time the minister indicated that the Department of Family Services has been taking the lead to this issue on behalf of the Government of Nunavut.

Can the minister provide an update today on what submissions her department has made in respect to the external review of the federal Nutrition North Canada program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**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 we know, nutritious food remains inaccessible for many of our community members, for many Nunavummiut, and Nutrition North Canada subsidize have help reduce some costs, but it has been identified that it's not keeping pace with the increases of freight costs, with inflation and so on.

The program is currently under federal review still, and a report should be forthcoming, although we have not been provided with a release date. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Mr. Taqtu.

**Mr. Taqtu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) As I noted during Friday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the Federal Minister of Northern Affairs recently indicated that the federal government has invested \$200 million to "support the evolution of Nutrition North." The minister also indicates that a Food Sovereignty Summit will be held later this month.

Can the Minister of Family Services indicate how her department will be participating in the Food Sovereignty Summit, and can she confirm if the summit will be including any representative from Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord. (interpretation ends)  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the follow-up question. My understanding is that the summit is being held on March 26 and 27, and that the priority focus for the summit, the invitations have been sent to Inuit organizations and community-based organizations, so that invitation hasn't come to my office, but as soon as possible we are seeking more information, and we'll keep the member informed. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Taqtu:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The high cost of food is the hard reality facing my constituents who live in Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord.

As the minister is aware, regulations under the territorial *Income Assistance Act* prescribe the amounts that are provided to Nunavummiut as a basic allowance to cover the cost of food and other necessities.

These amounts have not been increased since the year 2023. Can the minister describe how her department works with the Department of Health to review the adequacy of these amounts with respect to the cost of purchasing healthy foods. (interpretation ends)  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and thank you for the follow-up question. We do know that we are struggling as a territory to meet the basic needs of our community members, as I mentioned earlier, and finding solutions to approve those conditions is a strong focus for our department.

Representatives from the Department of Family Services do collaborate with the representatives from the Department of Health on the food security coalition on food security initiatives that are territory-wide.

Additionally, exploring the suite, I guess you could say, of possibilities related to income support and how that program can be strengthened in the future, our department has done some exploratory work on guaranteed basic income and other avenues that we're

exploring to strengthen those income supports and help families meet the basic needs in our territory. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Kautuk.

**Oral Question 56 – 7(1): Power Requirement for Qikiqtarjuaq Port**

**Mr. Kautuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Wednesday, March 11, 2026 I have asked the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure some questions, and his department indicated that there might be a need for power infrastructure for the new Qikiqtarjuaq port. Now I am asking the Minister for Qulliq Energy Corporation if any discussion has been made with Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Qikiqtaaluk Corporation to handle the new power requirement for the new Qikiqtarjuaq port. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Healey Akearok.

**Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok:** I apologize, Mr. Speaker. I thought that question was for TIN. If the member could repeat the question. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): If you would ask your question again, Mr. Kautuk.

**Mr. Kautuk:** Your department indicated, and now I'm asking Minister of Qulliq Energy Corporation if discussion has been made with Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Qikiqtaaluk Corporation to handle the new power requirement for the Qikiqtarjuaq port. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Healey Akearok.

**Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) Thank you for the member for repeating the question for me. At this time there has been little consultation with the proponent on those power needs for the Qikiqtarjuaq port, and we look forward to hearing more information. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please make sure that you listen to the questions. Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Pedersen.

**Oral Question 57 – 7(1): Inuit Employment (Pedersen)**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister of Human Resources and are regarding Inuit employment within our government, timely questions concerning her Minister's Statement of today.

We are aware that the government has not been able to meet the representative level of Inuit employment since the creation of Nunavut, as stipulated within the Nunavut Agreement.

Each government department has an Inuit employment plan to help them try to meet the target, and each Inuk employee should have a plan in place as to how they can advance up within the department to reach a higher position, hopefully with the goal of reaching director and deputy minister type positions.

Can the minister confirm that these types of plans are in place for all departments and for all Inuit employees in government; in addition, if they are in place and if the plans are not met, what are the ramifications if any to supervisors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Tattuinee.

**Hon. Annie Tattuinee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Human Resources is leading the implementation and monitoring of a renewed 10-year Inuit employment plan, with the focus on increasing Inuit employment set out in Article 23.

The GN-wide Master Inuit Plan was approved in spring 2025. Human Resources is leading the monitoring of the Master Inuit Employment Plan that serves as a guide for government-wide initiatives aimed to increasing Inuit employment.

The renewed Master Inuit Employment Plan includes strategic priorities, long term goals, nation occupational classifications which is used federally, based Inuit employment planning, and greater clarity, to allow readers to assess and progress towards Inuit employment plans.

Each department is required to submit an Inuit employment plan, and they will be reviewed on a quarterly basis and will receive updates from each department. And if sufficient progress isn't being made, then we'll look at what needs to change and how things can be improved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary question, Mr. Pedersen.

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister for her reply. We are now seeing more Inuit students taking post-secondary education programs, whether that be within Nunavut at Nunavut Arctic College, or outside of Nunavut at colleges and universities in the south.

I'm aware that within my region we are seeing a record number of post-secondary students taking degree-granting programs, and each year the numbers are increasing. This

bodes well, as we have a pool of graduates each year that can qualify for jobs within our government.

Can the minister confirm if her department is actively reaching out to these graduates to inform them of the many vacancies and the many advertised positions within the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Tattuinee.

**Hon. Annie Tattuinee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question.

The Department of Human Resources has introduced a student employment program to allow individuals pursuing further education to gain employment within government, to gain experience, and the program has been expanded to allow for year-round student exposure to Inuit employment when they get back to their communities or wherever they may be located when they are on breaks, even reading week, if they have an opportunity to go home.

So yes, we are pursuing and encouraging students to look at employment opportunities available in government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Mr. Pedersen.

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again I thank the minister for her response.

My final question is in regard to current employees taking further training to allow them to advance to more senior positions within the government. I'm aware that the government has a number of programs in support of this. It is a great way to ensure that current Inuit employees have the ability to move up within the department they work in.

Can the minister table in this House the number of current Inuit and non-Inuit employees that are taking university-level courses, paid for by this government, within the past four years, and if possible, to have these numbers broken down by region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker (interpretation):** Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Tattuinee.

**Hon. Annie Tattuinee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information readily available in front of me, but I will make a point to note the question and get back to the member. Thank you for the question.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

**Oral Question 58 – 7(1): Fisheries**

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning, people of Pangnirtung and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Community Services, whose department is responsible for the government's Fisheries and Sealing Division.

My question to the Minister of Community Services: As the Minister is aware, the issue of unfair fishing quotas has been a longstanding issue of concern for Pangnirtung and other communities in the Baffin region.

As the minister is also aware, his department's current business plan indicates that addressing this issue this has been one of its priorities. (interpretation ends) The business indicates that:

“The working group for Nunavut stakeholders and representatives remains active, fostering collaboration on advancing Nunavut's access to its fair share of adjacent water allocations. Key discussions have included establishing a unified Nunavut position for bilateral negotiations on shared turbot and shrimp stocks, and drafting a proposal to transform competitive fisheries into licensed allocations, ensuring a significant portion is allocated to Nunavut. Efforts are ongoing to advocate for federal financial support to facilitate the repatriation and acquisition of fishing quotas.”

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community Services, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his question regarding fishing quotas for our adjacent waters. The department has been working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Qikiqtani Inuit Association to advocate for more of our fishing quotas increasing our quotas in our adjacent waters. We've had discussions and dialogue with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans minister on this subject, and it is ongoing as well.

As recently as last month, end of January when we were in Ottawa, I sat down with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, our federal minister on this subject, and we're still working on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): First supplementary to your questions, Mr. Mike.

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister. With regards to OB quota allocation on the (interpretation ends) adjacency to South Baffin, 7,797 tonnes, (interpretation) and not even half of the quota allocated to Nunavut. More than half is allocated outside, within our Nunavut waters.

This is the issue that has been dealt with for a long time, since an agreement was established. I am not so concerned with OA, because the tonnage is all for Nunavut, and 17,000 tonnes for turbot.

The minister is aware that Fisheries and Oceans released a statement in December 2025 concerning the Clearwater Redetermination of quota. The federal department's announcement also indicated concerning this (interpretation ends) that its proposed course of action is to: "re-issue the licences and allocations to FNC Quota."

(interpretation) Perhaps because of this, it has always been problematic. Nunavut sometime appears to be taking the lead, but on the OB, we don't have any control. And Nunavut should take it.

I know QIA have worked very hard on this issue, having spoken with NTI, and the president of QIA also indicated concerning the issue that Nunavut and the Baffin region have a lot of the quota allocation, because we don't have the 3,900 tonnes, and we're looking at about a \$1 billion figure which is allocated outside of Nunavut.

Perhaps the minister can identify where the Nunavut government is on its position with this problematic issue. That is my question Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Community Services, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his question and for his continued advocacy on fishing and sealing, fisheries for now.

There is a lot of economic activity that could take place in our adjacent waters. It would help a lot of our communities with local employment, helping community members with procuring more boats or hunting, fishing gear that we could use to help with either community fisheries or self-sustenance for their household.

We continue to advocate to our federal counterparts that we would like more, we need more of our quota increased to Nunavut. It will benefit all of our communities, and that is the position that I am taking and will continue to advocate to that.

I would like to thank Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for taking along, helping out, helping us along advocate for Nunavummiut and the Inuit of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. My apologies. Second supplementary and final supplementary, Mr. Mike.

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I sound too crazy. Thank you, minister. This has been a long-standing issue. I can say it has been an ongoing issue for 30 years in the Baffin region.

In Article 15 of the agreement – that had been abandoned, apparently, by DFO, Department of Fisheries, this issue we're discussing, at one time there would be some hope through reconciliation process, the 3,900 tons for OB tonnage could have been given in view of reconciliation.

I would like to ask the minister again: He did mention that he was down in Ottawa and had met with the officials. (interpretation ends) Can the minister confirm what discussions he has personally had with the federal minister of fisheries concerning the need for fairness for Nunavut in respect to offshore fishing quota allocations. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Community Services, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his question. Yes, we continue to have discussions with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the federal minister herself, and along with her staff members and my staff members, we are keeping that dialogue going.

As recently as last week we reached out to her again to see what's coming up for meetings. I am hopeful to have more face-to-face meetings with the Department of fisheries and oceans federal minister and hopefully continue the dialogue, and continue to explain our story as to why we need our quota increased.

We all know that a lot of our communities have low employment. People needing food, people needing money, and we continue to advocate for that. I thank the member for his questions and continued advocacy, as that gives me more reasoning to pass on to the department's federal fisheries and oceans minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. And if you can be a little more concise and go directly to your questions and keep your questions short. Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Oral Question 59 – 7(1): Kivalliq Inter-Community Road**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

As the minister is aware, one of the most exciting initiative currently underway in Kivalliq is the Inter-Community road project. This project plans to connect the communities of Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Arviat, Baker Lake and Whale Cove, with a year-round two-lane gravel road.

As the minister will recall, the *Kivalliq Inter-Community Road Study Summary* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly during the sitting of September 17, 2025. Can the minister provide an update on the timeline of commencing construction work on the Kivalliq Inter-Community Road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Speaker the member is correct; the summary of that 866-page report was tabled in September of last year.

Mr. Speaker, at this time we take the information that was I guess that was provided through the different consultations and different engagements with a number of stakeholders and all the communities impacted, and hunters and trappers organizations, and now we have all that information we need to decide how that will all fit in our future path of capital projects as well as assess the viability of the project. That is the stage that we're at right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will be aware, the *Kivalliq Inter-Community Road Study Summary Report* indicates that the estimated "overall project construction cost" of the Kivalliq Inter-Community Road is approximately \$3.01 billion.

Can the Minister indicate if his department will be submitting a proposal under the new federal Arctic Infrastructure Fund to support this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Transportation and Infrastructure, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member's question and that also in that report it also speaks to the operations and maintenance of that road being a little over \$13 million a year, in estimations.

Mr. Speaker at this time, like I had mentioned, I will say that the full study was sent to the Transport Canada previously. Again, we have to take a look at what the parameters of this new Arctic Infrastructure Fund is going to be available to us, but at the same time we have to sit down as a government as a cabinet and determine where our priorities lie with our application sequence of how we apply it to that fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** As the minister will be aware, the *Kivalliq Inter-Community Road Study Summary Report* indicates that there's a number of pieces of federal legislation that will be potential applicant to the review process to construct and operate the road. These include the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that a number of relevant federal status will be amended as a result of a devolution process.

Can the minister indicate the extent of which the plan amendments will impact the review process for the Kivalliq Inter-Community Road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Mr. Speaker, I don't have that level of detail here with me today, but I can assure the member that I will speak to my cabinet colleagues regarding that plan going forward, and I'll update the member when that information as it comes available. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Aggu MLA, Mr. Attagutaluk.

### **Oral Question 60 – 7(1): Insurance for Municipal Infrastructure**

**Mr. Attagutaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community Services. As the Minister is aware, a number of communities in Nunavut have lost important buildings due to fire and other causes in recent years. For example, the loss of Igloolik's Kipsigak Arena has been felt throughout the community.

Can the Minister provide an update today on the status of the insurance process in respect to the arena. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Community Services, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his question regarding the loss of the arena due to fire. That is still going through the NAMIX

insurance program, and we're still waiting to hear back on the status of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Attagutaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the government re-issued a request for proposals in December of last year for an actuarial and compliance review of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities' insurance exchange, which is commonly referred to as NAMIX.

Mr. Speaker, information published by the government indicates that the request for proposals closed at the end of January, almost two months ago.

Can the minister confirm which proponent has been awarded the contract to undertake this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Community government services minister, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. That information I don't have on hand right now, but I can commit to getting back to the member at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary question, Mr. Attagutaluk.

**Mr. Attagutaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister for the reply.

Mr. Speaker, the request for proposals indicates that one of the objectives of the review is to "assess the financial sustainability and future risk exposure of the Nunavut Community Insurance Program and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities Insurance Exchange."

Can the minister describe what concerns his department has with the insurance program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** I thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Regarding NAMIX and working with Nunavut Association of Municipalities, we do try to consider and look out what other options there might be working with Nunavut Association of Municipalities. We take their needs, we hear their concerns and we try to work with NAMIX and my cabinet colleagues on that to see where we can offer more support if there are concerns.

We listen carefully to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and try to work with them. We take their concerns into serious consideration, because they are the entity that works specifically with each hamlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Kablutsiak.

**Oral Question 61 – 7(1): Update Nunavut Housing Corporation RFT#110004120**

**Mr. Kablutsiak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation in regards to the status of the RFT which was opened on February 19 and it closed on March 6. What is the status of it? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Lyall.

**Hon. Cecile Lyall**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. Just for my clarity, which RFT is that, sorry? Thank you.

**Speaker**: Mr. Kablutsiak, can you clarify which RFT you're referring to, thank you.

**Mr. Kablutsiak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Project name, demolition and disposal of nursing station, lot 523, plan 2011. (interpretation) I hope that that's clear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister for housing, Ms. Lyall.

**Hon. Cecile Lyall**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for that question. I don't have that information in front of me but once I do I can share it with the member. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Kablutsiak.

**Mr. Kablutsiak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is in regards to the LHO office in Arviat. Back in 2019, the LHO, when I was the chair of the LHO this issue was being brought. They need a new NHO office in Arviat. If you can inform me of what the status of it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Mr. Kablutsiak, your line of questioning should remain on the same topic as your first. If you have a supplementary – Ms. Lyall wants to interject. Minister Lyall.

**Hon. Cecile Lyall:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. Currently right now, we're in the construction phase of the replacement for the local housing organization's facility.

Arviat is our next priority community, and we're planning on issuing an expression of interest later this spring to examine the options that we might have for a facility in Arviat.

We do recognize that the existing facility in Arviat is very old and it is in critical need of replacement. Depending on the results from the impression of interest, we'll move forward with a plan to replace the existing building. Hopefully sometime, we will have that plan by next summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kablutsiak.

**Mr. Kablutsiak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think it came across when I was asking the question, but the RFT#110004120. (interpretation) That is the reference number I was regarding my question to in Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation) Mr. Kablutsiak, I did not hear a question. If you can ask your question.

**Mr. Kablutsiak** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is, What are your plans to work on this on the tender period. It was closed on March 6. I have also mentioned the reference 110004120. And if you have awarded the contract for that RFT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Cecile Lyall:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. I believe this was on the staff housing units for Arviat. We are anticipating those six new units, the materials to arrive on this sealift.

We recognize that currently for staff housing in Arviat we have 75 units, and at December 31, 2025, we had seven vacancies in Arviat, so we're hoping after this sealift to have those buildings, the construction to commence on those buildings after sealift 2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Do you have additional question? I now recognize the Member for Arviat South, Mr. Kablutsiak.

**Oral Question 62 – 7(1): Departmental Activities in Arviat**

**Mr. Kablutsiak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Acting Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, as a former educator, I know that it's tough being the "substitute teacher," so I am confident that the acting minister will be happy to hear that I am going to focus my questions today on the Department of Education's activities in our home town of Arviat.

As the acting minister is aware, information prepared by his department indicates that there is an urgent need for repairs and renovations to a number of schools in Arviat, including the Qitiqliq Middle School in Arviat.

Can the minister provide an update on the timetable for this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Acting Minister of Education, Minister Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his question. In Arviat, looking at the schools' repairs and renovations, a number of schools, (interpretation ends) first of all, just recognizing that both the elementary school and the middle school in Arviat, their utilization rates are both over 100 percent and that's the threshold beyond which the Department of Education flags schools as needing either expansion or for inclusion in the capital process.

With regards to Qitiqliq Middle School, there's currently a project and a need around the water tanks for that school. They need to be replaced. The department is working to have replacement water tanks shipped to the community so that they can be installed.

Regarding the timeline, I don't have that specific timeline, but I believe that it's very current. It's an ongoing project and the department is actively working to find a solution to have those new tanks installed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): First supplementary question, Mr. Kablutsiak.

**Mr. Kablutsiak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, the government issued an announcement in September 2023 concerning a pilot project to provide full-day kindergarten in five communities.

Information prepared by his department indicates that it would like to expand this initiative to the Levi Angmak School in Arviat during the upcoming 2026-2027 fiscal year.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Acting Minister of Education, Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question.

(interpretation ends) Full day kindergarten is an initiative that the department recognizes being very beneficial to students, so we see, or the department sees numerous benefits in terms of full-day kindergarten versus half-day kindergarten, including benefits around language learning, and so it is an initiative that, looking at the whole territory, the department wants to continue expanding.

Right now there is about half the schools, half the communities in the territory have full-day kindergarten rolled out.

For communities like Arviat at the Levi Angmak Elementary School, the rolling out of full-day kindergarten will involve staffing concerns, or matters, as well as potential matters around infrastructure and equipment space being needed within the school. So it's a multifaceted project.

Arviat is one of the next priority communities for the department to have it rolled out to, and the department is looking to 2027-2028 for Arviat and that project. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Second and final supplementary question, Mr. Kablutsiak.

**Mr. Kablutsiak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the Department of Education has approximately 136 positions in its Arviat office, including the curriculum development division.

The government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that almost 40 of the positions are vacant.

Can the Minister indicate what barriers have been identified to filling these positions, and can he describe what actions his department is taking to address the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Acting Minister of Education, Mr. Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to correct myself in my previous response regarding the full-day kindergarten issue.

Levi Angmak will be proposed for planning for full-day kindergarten renovations in 2027-2028 by the department.

With regards to the curriculum development division, currently there are 15 vacancies within that office, and the department has been struggling to fill those vacancies. There are several issues that are contributing to that; one of them is availability of staff housing, and that's where the Department of Education works very closely with Human Resources and the Nunavut Housing Corporation to try to secure units, so that those positions can be advertised with housing, and the department will continue working on that. They are continuing to have issues around the curriculum positions.

On a more positive note, the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students function is continuing to see expansion and need for additional staff, and so that is a function that is expanding within the same office. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. We will proceed; item number 7, Written Questions. Number 8, Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Porter.

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

#### **Committee Report 1 – 7(1): Report of the Striking Committee on the Recommended Structure and Terms of Reference for the Standing Committees of the 7th Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**

**Mr. Porter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour today of presenting the *Report of the Striking Committee on the Recommended Structure and Terms of Reference for the Standing Committees of the 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

Mr. Speaker, as the House is aware, section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the institution may “establish such committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary.”

Rule 83 of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* requires that a Striking Committee be established to report and recommend to the House, “with all convenient speed,” the membership of the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly. As members will recall, the Striking Committee was established by way of motion on the first sitting day of the 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, standing committees perform a number of important oversight functions on the activities of the government through:

- The consideration of proposed legislation;
- The consideration of proposed main estimates, capital estimates and business plans; and
- The holding of televised hearings on the reports of independent officers of the Legislative Assembly.

The work of standing committees allows for public and stakeholder input into the development of new legislation. The televised hearings that standing committees hold on the reports of the Auditor General and other independent officers of the Legislative Assembly serve to enhance government transparency and accountability.

I note that approximately three dozen televised hearings were successfully held by standing committees during the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assemblies, and approximately 125 bills were referred to committee for detailed consideration during this period.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the current Legislative Assembly have agreed to maintain the standing committee structure that was in place at dissolution.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the permanent public record and Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings today, I wish to take this opportunity to review the proposed mandate and structure of each of the Legislative Assembly's standing committees.

The Standing Committee on Legislation will be composed of all Regular MLAs. The standing committee has the mandate to consider all bills that are referred to the committee after receiving second reading in the House, with the exception of appropriation acts and House Bills, which are automatically referred to the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to Rules 67(3) and (4) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts will have oversight responsibility for the government's three main central agencies, in addition to a number of public agencies, territorial corporations and other entities. This standing committee will review the government's public accounts and hold televised hearings on the reports of the Auditor General and other independent officers of the Legislative Assembly. All Regular MLAs will serve on this Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee on Social Wellness will have oversight responsibility for the Department of Culture and Heritage, the Department of Education, the Department of

Family Services, the Department of Health and the Department of Justice. As Members will note, its focus is on those departments with responsibility for programs and services that focus directly on people.

The Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development will have oversight responsibility for the Department of Community Services, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, the Department of Environment, the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Nunavut Arctic College. As members will note, its focus is on those departments and public agencies with responsibility for such matters as infrastructure and resource management.

The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges will consider the operation of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* and any other matter referred to it by the House. This standing committee will include a ministerial representative. Members have agreed to defer appointments to this committee until later this year, after newly elected members have had the opportunity to experience a number of sittings of the House.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes the report of the Striking Committee. Consequently, I move that it be received and adopted by the House, and that the *Terms of Reference for the Standing Committees of the 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*, which are attached to this report as an appendix, be entered into the record as read.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Porter. Do members agree that the Striking Committee be received and adopted by the House and that the terms and reference by the standing committees of the 7th Legislative Assembly of Nunavut be entered into the record as read?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Thank you. (interpretation) Item number 13, Tabling of Documents. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 6 – 7(1): Correspondence and Clippings Concerning the Nukkiksautiit Hydroelectric Project**

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated previously, I said I was going to table to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table today a collection of three correspondence and clippings concerning the proposed Nukkiksautiit Hydroelectric Project. These are from people of Pangnirtung, from these organizations, and they have to do with the Nukkiksautiit Hydroelectric proposal and Kuugaluk Lake to make a dam to make power.

The three correspondence expressed their concerns by letter from the municipality of Pangnirtung, the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization, and Cumberland Sound Fisheries Board. I encourage all members to review the document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you as well. Tabling of Documents. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Pedersen.

**Tabled Document 7 – 7(1): Youth, Elder, and Women’s Resolutions from the 2025 Kitikmeot Inuit Association Annual General Meeting**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m pleased to table the Youth, Elder, and Women’s Resolutions from the 2025 Kitikmeot Association annual general meeting, which were passed in October 2025.

Each year the three groups pass resolution with a view to improving the lives of residents within their communities. There are parts that are implementable by the association and there are parts that are implementable by the Government of Nunavut.

I encourage all department heads to review these resolutions to see how their respective departments can help improve the lives in our Kitikmeot communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Human Resources. Oh, minister for Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Tattuinee.

**Tabled Document 8 – 7(1): Workers’ Compensation Appeals Tribunals 2024**

**Hon. Annie Tattuinee:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m pleased to table the *Workers’ Compensation Appeals Tribunal 2024 Annual Report*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you as well. Tabling of Documents. The Minister of Justice, Minister Hickes.

**Tabled Document 9 – 7(1): 2024-2025 Office of the Chief Investigations Officer Annual Report**

**Tabled Document 10 – 7(1): 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Division of Corrections**

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to table two reports, the *2024-2025 Annual Report of the Office of the Chief Investigations Officer* and the *Division of Corrections 2024-2025 Annual Report*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item number 14, Notices of Motions, Mr. Porter.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions****Motion 12 – 7(1): Legislative Assembly Appointments– Notice of Motion**

**Mr. Porter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 19, 2026 I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that members be appointed to the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item number 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Mr. Porter.

**Item 16: Motions****Motion 12 – 7(1): Legislative Assembly Appointments**

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member is asking permission to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? I don't hear my nays. Go ahead Mr. Porter.

**Mr. Porter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly may establish such committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary;

AND WHEREAS the Striking Committee has reported to the House;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make appointments;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that members be appointed to the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly;

AND FURTHER, I move that the following members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Legislation: Hannah Angootealuk, Member for Aivilik; Edward Attagutaluk, Member for Aggu; Jamie Kablutsiak, Member for Arviat South; Gordon Kautuk, Member for Uqqummiut; Simon Kuliktana, Member for Kugluktuk; Johnny Mike, Member for Pangnirtung; Fred Pedersen, Member for Cambridge Bay; David Porter, Member for Gjoa Haven; Abraham Qammaniq, Member for Amittuq; Daniel Qavvik, Member for Hudson Bay, Alexander Sammurtok, Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet and Steven Taqtu, Member for Quttiktuq;

AND FURTHER, I move that the following members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts: Hannah Angootealuk, Member for Aivilik; Edward Attagutaluk, Member for Aggu; Jamie Kablutsiak, Member for Arviat South; Gordon Kautuk, Member for Uqqummiut; Simon Kuliktana, Member for Kugluktuk; Johnny Mike, Member for Pangnirtung; Fred Pedersen, Member for Cambridge Bay; David Porter, Member for Gjoa Haven; Abraham Qammaniq, Member for Amittuq; Daniel Qavvik, Member for Hudson Bay, Alexander Sammurtok, Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet and Steven Taqtu, Member for Quttiktuq;

AND FURTHER, I move that the following members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Social Wellness: Edward Attagutaluk, Member for Aggu; Jamie Kablutsiak, Member for Arviat South; Gordon Kautuk, Member for Uqqummiut; David Porter, Member for Gjoa Haven; Alexander Sammurtok, Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet and Steven Taqtu, Member for Quttiktuq;

AND FURTHER, I move that the following members be appointed as Alternate Members of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness: Simon Kuliktana, Member for Kugluktuk; Johnny Mike, Member for Pangnirtung and Fred Pedersen, Member for Cambridge Bay;

AND FURTHER, I move that the following members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development: Hannah Angootealuk, Member for Aivilik; Simon Kuliktana, Member for Kugluktuk; Johnny Mike, Member for Pangnirtung; Fred Pedersen, Member for Cambridge Bay; Abraham Qammaniq, Member for Amittuq and Daniel Qavvik, Member for Hudson Bay;

AND FURTHER, I move that the following members be appointed as Alternate Members of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development: Alexander Sammurtok, Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet; Edward Attagutaluk, Member for Aggu and Jamie Kablutsiak, Member for Arviat South.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

Item number 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters, Bills 1, 3, and 4.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by motion 11 - 7(1), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

At this time we'll take a break and return at 1:30 as Committee of the Whole.  
Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:53 and Committee commenced at 13:31*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Fred Pedersen): Good afternoon. I'll now call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 3 and 4. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Taqtu.

**Mr. Taqtu**: Thank you, Chair. We wish to deal with the remaining bills on the order paper, Bills 1, 3 and 4, starting with Bill 1. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Are we in agreement we deal with Bill 1?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

### **Bill 1 – Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027 – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman**: Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Main: Do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee?

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair, yes.

**Chairman**: Do members agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here with Deputy Minister Daniel Young, who is on my right, and Ivan Gerginov, who is our Assistant Deputy Minister of Fiscal Management with the Department of Finance.

(interpretation) Mr. Chair, I am here to present Bill 1, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-27*, (interpretation) totalling \$724,878,000.

The 2025 territorial election shifted the government's budget cycle. In most years, the government will table the main estimates in the winter sitting, ahead of the beginning of a new fiscal year. However, following the formation of a new government, this does not leave enough time to develop a new mandate and consider budget requests. In years following an election, here at the Assembly we request that the Legislative Assembly approve an interim appropriation, so that departments have a budget to continue operations until the full main estimates are presented in the spring sitting.

(interpretation ends) Interim Appropriation Bill 1 is required to ensure that the Government of Nunavut can continue to provide services, meet payroll, and maintain operations from April 1, 2026 until the 2026-2027 main estimates are approved.

The Department of Finance prepared this bill in consultation with all other departments and territorial corporations. To determine appropriate amounts, Finance reviewed their spending patterns over the last four years and assessed their cash flow needs for the first four months of the fiscal year. Our goal was to provide enough funding so that each department could operate as usual, without engaging in new initiatives.

For Nunavut Arctic College and the Nunavut Housing Corporation, special considerations were required:

- Nunavut Arctic College receives its annual budget in two lump sum payments due to its June 30 fiscal year end. The interim amount reflects the first instalment.
- Nunavut Housing Corporation requires higher early year funding to meet its grants and contributions obligations to Local Housing Organizations.

Departments have reviewed and confirmed that the proposed amounts are sufficient to maintain operations until the Assembly approves the full operations and maintenance budget in the spring sitting.

The only new spending proposed through this Bill is \$5.525 million to continue to address the suicide crisis in our territory. While we do not typically introduce new spending alongside an interim appropriation, we view this as an emergency and do not think this work should wait until the main estimates are presented in the spring.

Mr. Chairman, this interim appropriation is a necessary and routine step following an election year. It ensures continuity of government operations while allowing the 7th Assembly to set its mandate and priorities before the full 2026-2027 main estimates are finalized.

I look forward to members' questions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Seeing none, I ask members to go to Bill 1 in your legislation binder. Bill 1, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027*. Clause 1, any questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 2, any questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 3, any questions? Agreed – sorry, go to schedule on page 2. Schedule interim amounts appropriated for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2027 vote 1, Operations and Maintenance. Total interim appropriation \$724,878,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 4, any questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 5, any questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 6, any questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 1?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree to put Bill 1 on the *Orders of the Day* for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Brief closing comments, Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank all the members and also all the staff who helped to prepare this Bill. We look forward to the spring sitting when we will present the full O&M operations and maintenance budget for 2026-2027. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Main. Are you having the same officials at the table for the next part here, Bill 3?

**Hon. John Main:** I would like to swap one of my witnesses, if you'll allow.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to the minister's swapping officials?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Bill 3 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act No. 2,  
2025-2026 – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The some of Dan Young still with me, and newly joining the table is Christine Ellsworth, who is the Deputy Minister for Department of Justice.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I appear before you today to present *Bill 3 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2025-2026, No. 2*. Through this Bill, the Government is seeking an increase of \$158.55 million to the 2025-2026 O&M appropriation for five departments: Justice, Health, Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Community Services, and Family Services. The request is based on updated projections to the end of the fiscal year. *Section 32.2* of the *Financial Administration Act* prohibits departments from overspending their approved budget, which necessitates this supplementary appropriation.

- Justice is requesting \$9 million to address projected expenditures in the Law Enforcement branch.
- Health is requesting \$99.2 million to address shortfalls across multiple health care delivery programs.
- Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut requires \$17 million to offset cost pressures in the Infrastructure Branch, including inflation, increased contract costs, and higher utility costs.
- Community Services requires \$12 million to address unforeseen expenditures in program delivery, including a \$10 million payment to NAMIX, the insurer of all of our municipal governments, to ensure it can continue to operate.
- Family Services is seeking \$21.35 million to address shortfalls in various program areas including the Income Assistance Branch, the Career Development Branch, and the Poverty Reduction Branch.

(interpretation) Mr. Chair, (interpretation ends) while operational costs continue to rise nationwide, the Department of Finance is working closely with all Government of Nunavut departments to manage expenditures. Departments are making significant internal efforts to reprofile existing resources before seeking additional funding.

This is the second operations and maintenance supplementary appropriation request for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Main. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Seeing none, we will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the supplementary appropriation starting on page 4 in your supplementary appropriation binder.

Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance No. 2, 2025-2026, Justice Operations and Maintenance, not previously authorized, total department \$9 million. Any questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Health, Operations and Maintenance. I am on page 5 now. Not previously authorized, total department \$99,200,000. Any questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Turning to page 6, Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, Operations and Maintenance, not previously authorized, total department, \$17 million.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** I guess there's no questions. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 7, Community Services, Operations and Maintenance, not previously authorized, total department \$12 million. Any questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 8, Family Services Operations and Maintenance not previously authorized, total corporate management negative \$442,000. Any questions?

Total family wellness \$16 million 176,000. Any questions?

Total income assistance, \$4,856,000. Any questions?

Total career development, \$842,000. Questions?

Total poverty reduction, negative \$82,000. Questions?

Total department, \$21,350,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go to Bill 3 in your legislative binder. Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act No. 2, 2025-2026*. Clause 1, questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 2, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 3, go to the schedule on page 2. Schedule supplementary amounts appropriated for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, vote 1, Operations and Maintenance. Total supplementary appropriation \$158,550,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 3, Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 4, Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 5, Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 4, Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 7, Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 3?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree to put Bill 3 on the *Orders of the Day* for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Brief closing remarks, Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main:** I thank the members for their consideration and their support. As mentioned in the opening comments, Department of Finance is working with the individual departments to strengthen the budgeting process going forward so that we can foresee and deal with cost escalations without necessarily having to come to the House for additional funds.

And we know that for some departments in particular, Family Services and Department of Health, that the cost pressures are significant, and so we appreciate those, all the

department's partnership in terms of managing public dollars. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Main. For the next Bill, Bill 4, will you have any other different officials? Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

#### **Bill 4 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2025-2026 – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My apologies if there was any confusion with the witness swap there.

I still have Dan Young sitting beside me here, Deputy Minister of Finance, and we are joined by Kyle Seeley, who's Deputy Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, no stranger to this table.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am here to present Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2025-2026*.

This Bill seeks \$41.885 million in supplementary capital appropriations for 2025-2026. If approved, this will increase the 2025-2026 capital budget from \$646.948 million to \$688.833 million.

In February 2025, the Assembly approved Bill 82, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2025-2026*, which provided early approval of capital carryovers from 2024-25 into 2025-26. That early approval allowed departments and affected public agencies to order materials in time for sealift, and to maintain momentum on multi-year projects.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) it is important to emphasize that these projects have already been approved through previous capital plans.

The first adjustments were based on estimates using the best available information available at the time. Now that invoices, project reports, and year-end financial closures are complete, we are seeking approval to adjust the earlier carryovers.

Several projects require revised carryover amounts, and one project requires new supplementary funding. Without these appropriations, departments would not have

sufficient funds to complete the affected work. Projects would need to be cancelled or deferred until new appropriations become available, an outcome we should avoid.

Given that most GN capital projects are multi-year and subject to short construction seasons, some level of carryover is both expected and unavoidable.

I also want to highlight that this Bill includes one new request for \$15 million for the Iqaluit and Pond Inlet Marine Infrastructure projects. This funding is required to meet remaining financial obligations, including settlement costs, remaining professional services, cost-sharing adjustments, and legal fees.

(interpretation) Mr. Chair, (interpretation ends) I am available to address questions regarding this supplementary appropriation or our capital process. I encourage members to direct project-specific questions to the responsible ministers.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Main. Do members have any general questions before we proceed to detailed questions? Seeing none, we will now proceed to a page by page review of the supplementary appropriations starting on page 4 of your supplementary appropriation capital binder.

*Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 4, 2025-2026, Department of Finance, not previously authorized, total department \$4,585,000. Any questions? Agreed?*

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 5, Department of Justice, not previously authorized, total department \$1,612,000. Questions?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 6, Department of Education not previously authorized, total department \$5,148,000. Questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 7, Department of Health, not previously authorized, total department \$9,531,000. Questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 8, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, not previously authorized; moving to page 9, total department, \$16,186,000. Questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Department of Community Services, not previously authorized, total department, \$4,644,000. Questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 11, Department of Family Services, not previously authorized, total department, \$179,000. Questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** We will now take a short 10-minute break. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 13:57 and resumed at 14:38*

**Chairman:** (Mr. Pedersen) Thank you for returning. I'll call the meeting back to order again. Please go to Bill 4 in your legislation binder.

Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2025-2026* clause 1, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 2, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go to the schedule on page 2. Schedule, supplementary amounts appropriated for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026 to capital, total supplementary appropriation \$41,885,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 3, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 4, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 5, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 6, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 7, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 4?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree to put Bill 4 on the *Orders of the Day* for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Brief closing comments, Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your committee's attention to this matter and truly appreciate the support in terms of these capital projects, the carryovers as well the additional appropriation for the marine infrastructure. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Main. This now concludes the business before the committee. Sergeant-at-Arms you can escort the witnesses out, and I'll now rise to report progress. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed and House resumed at 14:40*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please be seated. Item number 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Pedersen.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Pedersen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1, 3 and 4 and I would like to report that Bill 1, 3 and 4 are concluded

and are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor is there a seconder? Mr. Taqtu. All those in favour? Not in favour? Motion carried. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Main.

### **Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 1 – Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026 2027 – Third Reading**

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

**Speaker**: All those in favour? Not in favour? Motion carried. Bill 1 is ready for assent by the Commissioner.

Third Reading of Bills, Minister of Finance, Minister Main.

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

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

**Speaker**: The motion is good. All those in favour? Raise your hand. Not in favour? Motion is carried. Third Reading of Bills. My apologies, Bill 3 is now ready for Commissioner's assent.

Third Reading of Bills, Minister of Finance, Mr. Main.

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

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour. Not in favour? Motion carried and Bill 4 is ready for Commissioner's assent. Clerk, can you check to see if the Commissioner is ready to come to the House. Please wait for the Commissioner.

### Assent to Bills

**Commissioner Aariak** (interpretation): Members, please be seated. Good afternoon.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following bills:

- Bill 1, *Interim Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2026-2027*;
- Bill 2, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2026-2027*;
- Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2025-2026*, and
- Bill 4, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2025-2026*.

Those are the bills.

By virtue of the authority of my office, I hereby prorogue the 7th Assembly of Nunavut and summon all members to meet in this chamber at 1:30 on Thursday, March 19, 2026 for the opening of the second session. Thank you very much.

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

### Item 22: Orders of the Day

**Clerk** (interpretation): *Orders of the Day* for March 19:

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, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** This House is adjourned to Thursday, March 19 at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 14:49*

**Appendix, Tuesday, March 17, 2026**



**Terms of Reference for the Standing Committees of the  
7<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**

## Standing Committee on Legislation

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The mandate of the Standing Committee on Legislation is to:

- Consider legislative proposals;
- Consider bills referred by the House after second reading, pursuant to the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*;
- Consider regulations and other statutory instruments;
- Consider any other matter referred by the House.

## **Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts**

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The mandate of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts is to:

- Consider main estimates, capital estimates, departmental business plans and corporate business plans; and
- Consider any other matter referred by the House.

The Standing Committee has oversight responsibility for the following Government of Nunavut departments, public agencies, territorial corporations and other entities:

- Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs;
- Department of Finance;
- Department of Human Resources;
- Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
- Nunavut Development Corporation;
- Qulliq Energy Corporation;
- Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission;
- Human Rights Tribunal;
- *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*;
- Legal Services Board;
- Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Board;
- Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council;
- Utility Rates Review Council;
- *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit*; and
- Unless otherwise specified in the terms of reference for any other Standing Committee, all other boards and agencies of the Government of Nunavut.

The Standing Committee has additional responsibility for:

- Considering the Public Accounts of Nunavut and the reports of the Auditor General of Canada;
- Considering the reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut;
- Considering the reports of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut;
- Considering the reports of the Representative for Children and Youth; and
- Considering matters related to the Government of Nunavut's obligations under the *Nunavut Agreement*.

## **Standing Committee on Social Wellness**

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The mandate of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness is to:

- Consider main estimates, capital estimates, departmental business plans and corporate business plans; and
- Consider any other matter referred by the House.

The Standing Committee has oversight responsibility for the following Government of Nunavut departments:

- Department of Culture and Heritage;
- Department of Education;
- Department of Family Services;
- Department of Health; and
- Department of Justice.

## **Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development**

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The mandate of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development is to:

- Consider main estimates, capital estimates, departmental business plans and corporate business plans; and
- Consider any other matter referred by the House.

The Standing Committee has oversight responsibility for the following Government of Nunavut departments, public agencies and territorial corporations:

- Department of Community Services;
- Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut;
- Department of Environment;
- Nunavut Housing Corporation; and
- Nunavut Arctic College.

## **Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges**

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The mandate of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges is to:

- Consider the operation of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*; and
- Consider any other matter referred by the House with respect to the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

# Standing Committee Structure

