

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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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, March 19, 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 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. David Joanasie) (interpretation): Before we start, can Minister Simailak please lead us in prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Thank you, Mr. Simailak. *Orders of the Day*, number 2. Clerk, can you check to see if the Commissioner of Nunavut is ready.

My apologies, we will have to take a short break. The bells will ring when we are ready to proceed.

>>*House recessed at 13:43 and resumed at 14:20*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, members and people of Nunavut. We can resume our meeting. Clerk, can you check to see if the Commissioner of Nunavut is ready to go and do the opening.

Opening Address of the Commissioner of Nunavut

Commissioner Eva Qamaniq Aariak (interpretation): Members, please be seated. Thank you. My apologies for making you all wait. It was completely accidental. Good afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, elders, and honoured guests, I am pleased to be here in the second session of the 7th Legislative Assembly of Nunavut to deliver the first Commissioner's address of this Assembly and our new government.

The Legislative Assembly carries a responsibility that reaches into every community of Nunavut. The decisions debated and made in this Chamber touch the daily lives of Nunavummiut.

In our territory, the distance between communities is vast, but the connection among our people is strong. We are linked by family ties, by language, by the land and sea, and by the shared understanding that we do best when we look after one another.

Today, our government is tabling its mandate for this Assembly. It is Ikajuqtigiikta, which means “Let’s help each other.”

These words speak to how Inuit have thrived for generations: by noticing when help is needed, by responding without being asked, and by strengthening the whole community through care. And we all have a shared responsibility.

That spirit matters now.

Across our homelands, change is arriving quickly. We see it in the changing climate, in the weather and sea ice we rely on, and especially in the cost of living, in the demands placed on governments, and in the attention that the Arctic is receiving.

Nunavut’s realities are clear to anyone who travels our communities or listens to our people. There are pressures on housing and the gaps in infrastructure, the ongoing impacts of trauma, there are concerns about safety, and the burdens of poverty and food insecurity. These challenges affect well-being, and they also affect the long-term strength of Nunavut and the broader Canadian Arctic.

This mandate recognizes that the Arctic is becoming a central focus in Canada and internationally, particularly in the area of sovereignty and security. Our government is advocating to ensure that federal initiatives reflect the needs and priorities of Nunavut, and that investments strengthen our communities in practical ways. I will speak in English.

(interpretation ends) For Nunavut, sovereignty is not only a matter of strategy. It is also lived experience. It is the ability to raise children in safe homes with enough nutritious food. It is access to our country food. It is reliable energy and infrastructure. It is opportunity for education, training, and employment. It is a strong Inuit language, culture, and identity. It is stewardship of the lands, waters, and ice.

When Nunavut’s communities are strong from the inside, Canada’s place in the Arctic is stronger as well.

(Applause)

This mandate was shaped through listening and dialogue. In the process of developing it, our government heard from Elders, Nunavut Tunngavik, and all Members of the Legislative Assembly. It reflects areas of alignment and shared purpose.

The mandate also acknowledges an important truth: major long-term commitments do not fit neatly into one term of office. Work underway must be carried forward so that Nunavummiut see the intended benefits. At the same time, this government has a responsibility to set clear direction for what must be strengthened now, and for the opportunities that lie ahead, including the early years of devolution.

Our government will implement devolution in a careful and practical way, so that Nunavut is ready to manage new responsibilities and so that Nunavummiut see long-term benefits from stewardship of our lands, waters, and natural resources.

Members, this mandate begins with a vision that is both foundational and forward-looking. It affirms that the vision behind the creation of Nunavut, and the ongoing implementation of the Nunavut Agreement, is a territory where Inuit have a strong voice in governance and decision-making. It commits our government to strengthening Inuit self-determination and the social determinants of health as foundations for the future for all who call Nunavut home.

It recognizes that the environment is not a separate issue from well-being. A safe and healthy environment supports food security and economic growth. It looks toward a Nunavut where lands, waters, and ice support self-reliance and are protected for future generations, and where economic development is balanced with stewardship as new responsibilities are assumed through devolution.

The mandate speaks to youth, who are not only “the leaders of tomorrow,” but voices and contributors today. It envisions children and youth who feel valued, who are supported in relationships with family and community, who participate in learning, and who take pride in cultural identity. It commits our government to engaging youth as partners in shaping decisions that affect their lives.

It also points to the elders and intergenerational knowledge, including renewed efforts to engage elders in advising on Inuit matters, Inuit Qaujimagatunqangit, and Inuit Societal Values in legislation, policy, programs, and workplaces. And the mandate emphasizes meaningful consultation, consensus decision-making, and cooperative action so that no one is left behind, and so that prosperity is achieved through well-coordinated effort for the common good.

This is the foundation: a vision grounded in Inuit rights and responsibilities, a territory strengthened by its people, and a government accountable to Nunavummiut in the way it works and the results it delivers.

>> *Applause*

Our government will continue to be guided by eight Inuit Societal Values: Inuuqatigiitsiarniq, Tunnganarniq, Pijitsirniq, Aajiiqatigiinni, Pilimmaksarniq and Pijariuqsarniq, Piliriqatigiinni and Ikajuqtiigiinni, Qanuqtuurniq, and Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq.

These values are more than guiding statements. These are the conduct expected of those who serve, which is respect, openness, service, consensus, skill-building, teamwork, innovation, and care for the land and animals. They shape how government should treat people and how government should make decisions.

It is our goal to ensure that our government understands and respects Inuit culture.

Members, this mandate sets out four pillars that will support and guide priorities for action over the next four years:

1. Strengthen and uplift families and communities;
2. Drive local economic growth and employment;
3. Simplify operations and enhance partnerships;
4. Invest in a brighter future for all Nunavummiut.

Together, these pillars support an approach to making progress: practical action that improves daily life; respect for Inuit-led initiatives; modernization of public service operations to improve access and efficiency; cooperation within the Assembly and across the public service; and planning that protects the well-being of future generations.

>> *Applause*

Under the first pillar, which is strengthening and uplifting families and communities, our government places emphasis on protection, prevention, and supports that reach people where they live. The mandate commits to improving protections for children at risk and other vulnerable persons; expanding access to quality early learning and child care; involving youth as advisors and contributors to community well-being; and modernizing and promoting resources that support sexual health, reproductive health, and child-rearing.

It further commits to strengthening access to health care services and elder care services closer to home, expanding culturally safe mental health, addictions, and trauma services. It emphasizes community-based programs that improve food security, health, and well-being, and initiatives that prevent crime and improve community safety and security.

It also commits our government to working with elders and other partners to promote and protect Inuit languages, culture, and cultural well-being across programs, services, and workplaces.

This is a whole-of-community approach. It recognizes that well-being is shaped by safety, stability, and connection, and that communities themselves must be supported in building solutions that fit local realities.

>> *Applause*

Under the second pillar, driving local economic growth and employment, our government is practical about what builds self-reliance.

The mandate commits to supporting the growth and development of small businesses, harvesters, and artists; strengthening key economic sectors; supporting Nunavut-based manufacturing; and supporting youth in attending school, graduating, and pursuing post-secondary education. It commits to expanding opportunities for education, training, and certification that lead to employment and independent living.

It also speaks directly to the public service: building capacity, strengthening Inuit employment through decentralization and pre-employment training, and addressing barriers to employment.

This work includes a clear focus on employment of Nunavut Inuit. Our government will work to lessen unemployment by strengthening pathways to jobs in communities, and by supporting employers to hire and train Nunavummiut.

Our government will work with partners to maximize the benefits that Nunavummiut receive from mining, including training, employment, and business opportunities.

Our government will also support the growth of our fisheries and continue to support fur harvesters, recognizing their contributions to local livelihoods, culture, and the economy.

This pillar reflects a simple truth. A stronger economy in Nunavut is not only about projects and investments; it is about people having the skills, supports, confidence, and pathways to take opportunities, start enterprises, and build careers close to home.

>> *Applause*

Under the third pillar, simplifying operations and enhancing partnerships, our government recognizes that the way it works contributes to a positive outcome. The mandate commits to fiscal discipline that protects essential services and priorities; to

increasing efficiency and improving access to government services and funding; to supporting innovative approaches to serving Nunavummiut; to strengthening human resources management across the public service; and to finding ways to reduce the time and cost involved in construction.

It also makes partnership a central method of delivery. Our government will work with Nunavut Tunngavik through the Nunavut Partnership Committee to accelerate shared priority projects.

In Nunavut, partnership is not an “extra.” It is required by the Nunavut Agreement. It is essential to success. Progress depends on coordinated effort, shared accountability, and respect for Inuit leadership.

>> *Applause*

Under the fourth pillar, investing in a brighter future for all Nunavummiut, the mandate brings together advocacy, sovereignty and security, stewardship, infrastructure, and long-term planning.

It commits to demonstrating unity with Inuit organizations in advocating for Nunavut and Nunavut Inuit; ensuring Nunavut benefits from Arctic sovereignty and security initiatives; implementing devolution for the long-term benefit of Nunavummiut; and mitigating the impacts of population growth, development, and climate change to protect the environment and enable adaptation.

The mandate further commits to working with partners to build units across the housing continuum and develop the skills and capacity needed to support the additional housing.

It commits to building or replacing critical infrastructure in communities, as funds allow. This includes strengthening and modernizing our energy and electricity infrastructure so it is more resilient and reliable.

The mandate also commits to strengthening transportation and telecommunications links, and the availability of land, water, and energy to support growing communities and a diversified economy.

This pillar speaks directly to the moment we are living in. As the world’s focus on the Arctic increases, Nunavut must ensure that investments strengthen communities, build capacity, and protect what makes our home unique. Security must be expressed not only through plans, but through the lived strength of Nunavut communities.

>> *Applause*

A mandate must be more than a document. It must be a guide for action, and it must be accompanied by clear reporting on planned actions and progress. The mandate is connected to a four-year business planning cycle. Our government's business plan identifies the actions that departments and territorial corporations will take in response to mandate priorities. It also enables annual reporting on tangible outcomes.

This matters. Nunavummiut deserve clarity: on what our government said it would do, what it has done, what it is working on now, and what still requires effort. This Assembly also deserves that clarity, so it can hold government to account and guide the work ahead.

This mandate emphasizes collaboration, consultation, and consensus, not only as values, but as practical necessities. Nunavut's challenges are complex and long-standing. Progress will require persistence, and it will require respectful partnership across governments, departments, communities, and Inuit organizations.

When Nunavut is at its best, we work together in a way that reflects who we are: open, welcoming, respectful, and grounded. We debate firmly but respectfully. We listen carefully. We look for solutions that we can agree on and advance together.

Our government knows that behind every policy and every budget line is a person: a child who needs safety, a parent who needs support, a young person who needs a pathway, a family that needs housing, and a community that needs reliable infrastructure.

Our government also recognizes the strength that already exists in Nunavut, in families who care for one another, in Elders and the wisdom they share, in youth who contribute ideas and energy, and in communities that lead solutions that fit their own realities at home.

Ikajuqtigiikta. Let's help each other. *Qujannamiik*.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. I would like to thank you Commissioner Arreak for your opening address. Those were very interesting statements. On the *Orders of the Day*, item number 3, Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Main.

Item 3: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 1 – 7(2): Ikajuqtigiikta Mandate

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Commissioner for opening the second session as her first duty of the 7th Legislative Assembly of Nunavut with her Speech from the Throne.

Later today, I will be tabling the mandate document that will lead this government for the next four years. We have called our mandate *Ikajuqtigiikta*, which means “Let’s help each other”. The crafting of this document has seen months of hard work, consultation, and we have so many people to thank.

Firstly, I’d like to thank all my colleagues here in the House. Our mandate development began in November with cabinet gathering and outreach to all members of the Legislative Assembly for input. As newly elected members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, representing every community across the territory, everyone in this House provided valuable feedback which helped to create the mandate.

I recognize that it was valuable to have members coming from an election in October 2025 and move from the campaign trail into mandate development. In this way, members helped bring the current concerns from your constituents straight to the departments and agencies so we can help. You have helped us get the voice of Nunavut into this document, so thank you.

In December 2025, cabinet held a Mandate Retreat in Arviat and worked with our essential partner, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, to ensure Inuit perspectives were heard and considered. This was followed by a Full Members Caucus Mandate Retreat in Iqaluit in January 2026. Discussions during the retreats were grounded in the principles of Inuit *Qaujimagatuqangit* and informed by dialogue with the board of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and elders. Members explored their collective vision for the territory, highlighted areas of agreement, and considered the choices and trade-offs required to focus government efforts over the coming term. We thank Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the elders for their contribution to this document.

Mr. Speaker, the development of our *Ikajuqtigiikta* Mandate is only the first step of many, as the work towards implementation now begins. With limited resources and huge challenges across Nunavut, we will need everyone to roll up their sleeves and help with the implementation activities. I know my cabinet is ready to live up to the challenges facing us. I believe that all members care deeply for their communities, and are ready to face our challenges together. Our mandate title and approach are about harnessing the power of partnerships, and it will begin with our work together here in this Assembly.

Together, the four pillars in our mandate provide a clear path forward. Our path is toward stronger communities, toward greater economic opportunity, toward more effective governance, and toward a sustainable future for all Nunavummiut.

To my colleagues and to our staff, and to everyone who contributed, I truly appreciate all you contributed toward creating our mandate. My sincere hope is that the *Ikajuqtigiikta* Mandate that we created together will guide us well in the years to come, and help us to build Nunavut stronger.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. *Nakurmiik*. Following the *Orders of the Day*, number 4, Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Item 4: Members' Statements

Minister's Statement 1 – 7(2): Kivalliq Hydro Fibre Link

Mr. Kablutsiak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This letter was dated March 3.

(interpretation ends) “Nukkik Corporation is pleased to share that the Kivalliq Hydro Fibre Link has reached a major milestone. We will officially be submitting a project proposal and a land use plan amendment application to the Nunavut Planning Commission on March 3, 2026. This marks an important step towards securing the approvals required to build the KHFL in Nunavut.

“More than five years of engagement, engineering and field work completed, the KHFL is near shovel-ready and prepared to enter the licensing phase. This nation-building project will deliver clean, reliable power and high speed broad band connectivity to Kivalliq communities and mines, strengthening Arctic energy security and digital connectivity.

“The NPC, Nunavut Planning Commission, and the Nunavut Impact Review Board, NIRB, will conduct a joint review of the proposed amendment to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. The amendment would establish a defined territorial corridor to secure development of the KHFL. The project proposal provides information to the NPC's conformity review and includes details to assist the NIRB in scoping and screening of the KHFL.

“The NIRB-led process will examine the potential environmental, social, cultural, and economic effects of the project, including impacts on the land, water, wildlife and communities.

“The KHFL is an Inuit-led project, and Nukkik's path forward remains firmly grounded in core principles, respects for Indigenous rights, meaningful and inclusive engagement, environmental stewardship, and adherence to full and thorough review process.”

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

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. There are any nays? I don't hear any. Mr. Kablutsiak, please proceed.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

“As part of the regulatory process there will be opportunities for your organization and other interested parties to share their perspectives directly with NPC and NIRB.

We will continue to meet regularly with community leadership, resource users, and the public to share updates and gather feedback.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely, Jonathan Pameolik, Community Relations Manager.”

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. If members can refrain from using acronyms for the sake of our interpreter translators as well as our transcribers for Hansard, just so that read out the entire acronym so that everybody understands. Just a friendly reminder.

Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Pedersen.

Member's Statement 2 – 7(2): Municipal Recreational Infrastructure

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to all in Cambridge Bay watching these proceedings today. Today is the last day of our winter session until we return for Standing Committee meetings, to review the draft 2026-2027 on April 23.

My statement today deals with municipal recreation infrastructure. I would like to congratulate the municipality of Cambridge Bay on the announcement of the soon-to-be constructed youth centre. The new centre will be built on the same lot as the last one, but it will be twice as wide as the previous one. This larger building will offer more programming space and allow the youth of the community a place to hang out with friends and family in a safe and secure building, while keeping them busy as they progress through their own life journeys, a space that is greatly needed at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to bring up the need for the completion of the community's new arena building. The municipality has had issues since construction commenced. The exterior of the building is there, but due to engineering issues, the interior has not been completed.

Currently there are no Government of Nunavut funds allocated to the construction of it. I would urge the ministers of both Community Services and Transportation and

Infrastructure to have their staff reach out to the municipality to see what types of assistance they may be able to offer.

We as a government have engineers on staff, while the municipality does not. The expertise they possess can assist in getting this project back on track. I will also speak directly with the municipality to have them submit correspondence to this government with a view to getting funding allocated through our capital planning process.

Arenas are a major piece of any community's recreation infrastructure, and government funding has always been available to all communities for construction of such facilities. During the next session I will have questions to the ministers on this project.

I think this statement comes out well today, considering just what we've heard from the speech from the Commissioner and from our premier on the new mandate development.

To close off, Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish my wife, Clair (ph), a happy birthday today, and look forward to getting home tomorrow so I can be with her and family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Pedersen, and a very happy birthday to your wife, as well as to my mother-in-law, down in Ottawa.

Speaker (interpretation): Member Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

Member's Statement 3 – 7(2): Proud of the Arctic Winter Games Participants

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Nunavut and to the community of Pangnirtung residents.

Today I would like to congratulate the athletes that attended Arctic Winter Games. The athletes from Pangnirtung, I congratulate each and of one of them. The athletes that won medal, I want to mention what kind of medal they won and their names and although I congratulate them, I'm very proud of the athletes for volleyball bronze, Nat Dialla, Ricky Dialla, Andrew Kilabuk. For women's hockey, bronze winners, Joe Dean Makma, for women's wrestling, Sheila Kakee, who won a bronze and also got a silver as well. And for badminton, Hillary Nesalik also won a bronze.

These individuals had won a medal and I mention their names and acknowledge them. I'm very proud of them and they are young people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. For high Arctic, Mr. Taqtu.

Member's Statement 4 – 7(2): Upcoming Constituency Visit

Mr. Taqtu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since today is our last winter session, I just want to mention that I have learned a great deal during this session and I thank each and of one of my colleagues.

As the Member for High Arctic, I represent three communities, Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord. If anybody's listening in Resolute Bay, I will be going up to Resolute Bay next week, and I hope to see each and of one of you, and also the staff and as well the hamlet council. Sometimes the airline is not readily available to go to the community of Grise Fiord, but when I'm able to go, I'll go there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Kautuk.

Member's Statement 5 – 7(2): Upcoming Constituency Visit to Qikiqtarjuaq

Mr. Kautuk: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to say thank you, as we are on the last day. We are completing the winter session, and I'm learning as well. I represent the two communities of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq. I want to represent them both equally. I apologize I have not gone to the community of Qikiqtarjuaq, but I'm planning to go to the community of Qikiqtarjuaq and meet with the people who are in authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm done.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Ms. Angootealuk.

Member's Statement 6 – 7(2): Upcoming Constituency Visit to Naujaat

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the members during our winter session, and also the people from Kivalliq who are watching the proceedings and also the community of Coral Harbour and Naujaat, and also the people who voted for me. I'll be going to Naujaat next week so I'm just informing you ahead of time. I will meet with the hamlet council. I'm just informing you now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Mr. Attagutaluk.

Member's Statement 7 – 7(2): Proud to Represent the Aggu Constituency

Mr. Attagutaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to extend my appreciation, since this is our last day of session. Because there was a by-election, I came here to attend the winter session, even though I was the last member to be elected for the Aggu constituency.

For I think it was football, Justin Ivalu, who attended Arctic Winter Games, who won a bronze as well, and we congratulate the individual as well.

On our next session, I'm learning as we proceed with our sessions, and I know that we will be busy and we will continue to work hard.

For the community of Igloodik, there will be 50th anniversary for our community of Igloodik hamlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Taloyoak, Ms. Lyall.

Member's Statement 8 – 7(2): Recognize the Tugaalik Cup

Hon. Cecile Lyall: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker, and good day to Nunavut and my constituents in Taloyoak and Kugaaruk.

I rise today to recognize the Tuugaalik Cup as an important annual event for Kugaaruk and the communities across the Kitikmeot region. It brings together youth, families, friends and community members in the spirit of friendly competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Community initiatives such as the Tuugaalik Cup play a meaningful role in supporting our young people. They give youth the opportunity to grow, show community pride, promote wellness, and build positive connections and lasting memories.

Mr. Speaker, events such as this encourage active lifestyles, build confidence, and give youth goals to work towards each year. The tournament also brings together families and welcomes visitors from across the regions, reinforcing a strong sense of unity.

Every contribution, large or small, makes a real difference. The impact of this tournament reaches far beyond the ice, and continues to be felt as it concludes.

Mr. Speaker, I support the continued growth of the Tuugaalik Cup and encourage partners and sponsors to recognize the positive impacts this event has on our communities and across the territory.

I would also like to acknowledge Alex Ittimangnaq, president of the Tuugaalik Cup, as well as organization committee and volunteers who dedicate their time and energy in making the event possible. Their leadership and commitment reflect the strength of Kugaaruk and the Kitikmeot region.

I am pleased to offer my support for the 2026 Tuugaalik Cup, which will take place in Kugaaruk from April 9 to 12, and I look forward to seeing my constituents in Kugaaruk during that time, as I visit and watch the event and meet with the organizations in Kugaaruk. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Madam Lyall, and you're the member for Netsilik. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa.

Member's Statement 9 – 7(2): Recognize Eva Aariak, Commissioner of Nunavut

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I just want to take a moment to recognize Commissioner Eva Aariak, as it's my understanding that today is the last day that she will have come before us as Commissioner of Nunavut.

I want to acknowledge her for the work that she has done in public service, empowering women like us to run for public office and to pave the way to ensure that we could believe that it would be possible, and that so many women are inspired by her leadership and by her caring.

I just wanted to reiterate publicly what I shared with her a few moments ago, that I am truly inspired by her and filled with so much gratitude for her leadership.

I just want to take a moment to acknowledge how much she has given to Nunavummiut throughout her career, and wish her the best in her retirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Kuliktana.

Member's Statement 10 – 7(2): Recognize Grant Newman and Local Housing Authority

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to acknowledge a couple of organizations in my community, and it really shows that their efforts, to me, especially towards their elders, that IQ is being practised. It is very good to see that is still continuing on.

One of our elders had cancer. One of his hot water tanks broke down, and yet, and as you know, our elders, they have a very tight budget.

Today I would like to recognize a private contractor and our local housing organization who working together can make big impacts within our community. For that reason I would like to recognize Grant Newman. He is the contractor who donated the hot water tank. It didn't have to be donated hot water to the elder. Also I would like, my kudos to the local housing association stepping in and installing it free for our elder who has cancer.

today I would like to recognize working together in our community can make big impacts for elders and community members. For that notice I would like to kudos to Kikiak, Grant Newman, and Ryan Innualik, part of the local housing association. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: *Quana* to all those involved. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Member's Statement 11 – 7(2): Reflect on Being a Member of the Legislative Assembly

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues here, I would like to reflect on the first sitting of the 7th Assembly, but before I do, I would like to echo my colleague Minister Brewster's words to our Commissioner Eva Aariak. I commend her service that she has provided to this House over her term, and I wish her all the best in any future endeavours.

Mr. Speaker, when I look back at the last couple of weeks of sitting in this House, it's my 13th year of doing this, and I have seen a lot of the growth from a lot of my colleagues around this room, my cabinet colleagues. I'm very excited and super optimistic about how the future will work for accomplishing as many of the mandate items as we possibly can that the premier will be tabling shortly.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a learning curve for all of us, including myself. Transitioning from a paper to electronic binder has created a couple blips from me. And just goes to show we are all still learning in this House, Mr. Speaker.

But also I would like to take a moment to reflect on everyone's families in here, especially the members that travel here from outside of the capital. It's probably a new adventure for a lot of you, and for a lot of your families, to have you guys here for such extended periods of time, I know it can be onerous. I have the luxury of sleeping in my own bed every night, but many of my colleagues here don't, and the life doesn't stop. There's still issues at home, there's still things you need to deal with and it's always hard to do from a distance.

But like I said, this has been our first full sitting. I'm very excited about the future, and I encourage all of you, when you go back home, to make sure you spend a little bit of extra time with your families, to acknowledge that you've been away for quite a period of time, and just make sure that you connect with your constituents, develop different strategies and different issues that you want to continue to bring forward in this House. And I look forward to working together with everyone in here. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Myself, I'm also learning my new role as well, and I'm learning just like everybody else. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin South, Ms. Tattuinee.

Member's Statement 12 – 7(2): Reflect on Being a Member of the Legislative Assembly

Hon. Annie Tattuinee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too am excited about our future here in government. This is my first time in a very public role. Most of my work in my past has been in the background, and I'm very excited to be here. I'm quickly, learning very quickly.

I would like to extend my appreciation to each and of one of you in this House who has given me a word, a bit of guidance, and some wisdom that you've passed along, and I will continue to learn from and continue to hopefully make positive contributions towards over the next four years for Nunavummiut.

I would also like to say that the Polar Bear Plate is happening in Rankin Inlet this week, and I would like to take my hats off to all those individuals that are participating and wish success to those that are really wanting to cheer on the players and everything else.

And I would like to say I'm happy to include my voice to serve the public in Nunavut, and again reiterate that I am new, and I am learning, and I appreciate this opportunity to

stand before you and thank you for allowing me to participate in this 1st session of the 7th government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Tununig, Mr. Koonoo.

Member's Statement 13 – 7(2): Pond Inlet Nunavut Quest

Mr. Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank all of you, and I'm proud of all of you, and the ministers as well. I'm learning too, and we'll make mistakes and that's okay, as long as we're trying to do a good job, or trying to do good.

In Pond Inlet they're planning with Igloodik for the Nunavut Quest, and they will have a major dance in Pond Inlet. I'm happy for the people of Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Arviat South and Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Member's Statement 14 – 7(2): Retirement of Diane Ammaq

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These two persons have been working in the government in Arviat, the first person was already mentioned yesterday, Patsy Uksuk, and Patsy has retired from housing corporation. She served for many, many years with housing corporation and she has helped a lot through her position. She was a very good representative of Arviat people, and I congratulate her and her retirement. I hope you have a good rest now, Patsy, and I thank her for all the work that she's done.

I would like to mention someone who is no longer working for Health, Diane Angma (ph). She worked for a long time; I'm not sure how many years. She wasn't sure how many years she has been working, but she knows it has been over 20 years. She has been a community health representative under the Department of Health, and she has helped a lot, and we will miss her, because she's always welcoming and a very nice person.

Diane, I'm glad that you'll be able to rest. During COVID-19 pandemic she worked real hard in Arviat at that time.

I would like to thank those two individuals and hope they have a good rest, Patsy Kuksuk and Diane Angma. Thank you very much for all that you've done and have a good rest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 15 – 7(2): Hockey Helps the Homeless

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) Like my colleagues, I just want to extend my thanks and my gratitude to everyone here, as this was my first sitting as well, and I am really touched by everyone's generosity with their stories and experience. I've learned so much, and I thank all of my colleagues for what they have shared.

I also want to welcome take a minute to welcome Hockey Helps the Homeless, which is here in Iqaluit this week, which is a charity that will be implementing a number of activities through the community this weekend. So we're grateful for their presence, and to welcome Jordin Tootoo back to Iqaluit as well as part that have initiative.

And this afternoon we've heard a number of mentions about our young people. I know it's exam week for our young people in Iqaluit next week, and I want to wish you all the best in your exams, and I hope that if you need help that you ask for help, and that you reach out to your teachers and your support people. We care about your success. So *Qujannamiik*.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list.

Back to the *Orders of the Day*. Item number 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat North and Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

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

(interpretation ends) I would like to recognize three individuals seated behind me. First of all, of course, we have Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and Secretary to Cabinet, Anna Fowler. We have Nunavut's most famous, or one of the most famous, sorry, interpreter-translators, Ooleepika Ikkidluak.

>> *Applause*

I wanted to tell her to wait, wait for me, wait.

>>*Laughter*

And of course no stranger to the Assembly, Annie Joannie. Annie was also recognized recently for her long-term service which was, how many years? Thirty years.

>>*Applause*

I am blessed to work with some very skilled, experienced, and passionate people, and the three ladies seated here today are some of them. Thank you and welcome to the House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. And the interpreters, we always think about you during the pandemic, and Dr. Patterson always had you as the interpreter, and we had to listen very carefully.

Back to the *Orders of the Day*, or before we get back to the *Orders of the Day*, we will take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:32 and resumed at 15:54*

Speaker (interpretation): Back to *Orders of the Day*. Item number 6, Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Kautuk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 1 – 7(2): Country Food Distribution Program

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

As the minister is aware, his department now has responsibility for administering the government's country food distribution program. This important program helps municipalities and hunters and trappers organizations by providing funding for community harvesting initiatives and community freezers.

The department's 2025-2026 main estimate included \$1.576 million in funding for the program. I note that Clyde River's hunters and trappers organization received over 60,000 in funding during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the government's country food distribution policy sunsetted in March 2022. Can the minister indicate what change to the policy is being actively considered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: I thank the member for his question. It's an important question, as country food is quite valuable to all of our communities. It helps with healing and helps keep our culture together. And the member is correct; the policy did sunset. We are still continuing on with what was set in place, and we will continue to see what kind of changes we can look at doing for it, if we need to make my improvements or not going forward. But we will continue to work on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister, for the answer.

As the minister will recall, the 2021-2022 annual report on the Country Food Distribution Program was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on February 23, 2024.

Can the minister confirm when the outstanding annual reports for the 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 fiscal years will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Regarding tabling the latest annual reports, I don't have that level of detail on me right now, but I can commit to getting back to the member, and we will hope to, we will be aiming for the spring sitting as well, but I can get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. A number of questions have been asked during our sitting about the high cost of store-bought food and the federal Nutrition North program.

Mr. Speaker, I understand and recognize that the government cannot tell airlines what to charge for their freight rates; can the minister indicate how his department is participating in the current external review of the Nutrition North Canada Program and can he indicate if it has provided input on the subject of freight rates for both country food and store-bought food. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Community Services minister, Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his question.

Our department is working with a few different departments trying to get that information together. I'm sure Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut is a partner. I'm sure Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is a partner, Family Services. There are a few different moving parts in how we can address that, but we will continue to work on it.

Hopefully we can find a way to work with the airlines and see if we can lower the cost of freight, especially for nutritious food. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Rankin North and Chesterfield, Mr. Sammurtok.

Oral Question 2 – 7(2): Time Change

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is the first day of spring, so my questions today are for the Minister of Justice, and they concern the time change issue.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday of last week the change of time had all Nunavummiut except the residents of Coral Harbour turn their clocks forward by an hour. Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the Department of Justice is responsible for Nunavut's territorial *Time Zone Regulations* under the *Legislation Act*.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, I have heard a number of concerns from my constituency indicating that the time change practice is out of date. This issue was raised many times during the previous Legislative Assembly.

Can the minister indicate what the new government's position is regarding this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This topic has come up a few times, especially in the last few weeks, since British Columbia has announced it will be no longer changing its seasonal time.

Mr. Speaker, I know it has been raised a number of times in the House here, and I think I've raised it myself a couple of times. I'm not a huge fan of it, especially in the winter months. We have short days as it is. It doesn't really add much benefit to me.

But as a government, we're not currently taking any action, but I will say that we're following very closely to our neighbours to the west, Northwest Territories, since their premier announced last February that they were going to be pursuing looking at eliminating the standard time. So we are following that along, as well as a number of other jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister indicated, British Columbia is the latest Canadian jurisdiction that had changed to year-round Daylight Savings Time.

Mr. Speaker, I understand and recognize that Nunavut will need to consult with other jurisdictions on this issue of ending time changes. Can the minister confirm if his department has engaged in any discussions with other Canadian jurisdictions, including British Columbia and NWT, the Northwest Territories, on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question as well.

Mr. Speaker, while there is no ongoing direct consultation or communications with the jurisdictions that the member mentioned, we are following very closely. As a number of jurisdictions have changed the legislation to allow the standard time, or sorry, the removal of the Daylight Savings Time. That being said, we will continue to follow other jurisdictions. We do have to recognize that we have very strong connections. We have three different time zones with three strong connections to southern Canada, being Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta, so there's a number of other different other jurisdictions that have to be taken into consideration if we are to pursue this, and it's something we are following closely.

If this does become a priority for Nunavummiut, it's something I'm open to explore further. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. That will be something else to apply to another jurisdiction that's one hour behind or forward. Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you may be aware, residents of Nunavik in Northern Quebec have changed their clocks for the last time. Their region is ending the practice of time changes.

Mr. Speaker, in 2025, the Makivvik organization conducted a survey of Nunavik residents to learn their position on ending time change in their region. The survey results indicated that many were in favour of eliminating the practice.

Will the Minister commit to having his department conduct a similar survey to hear the views of Nunavummiut on ending the practice of Daylight Savings Time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Justice, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for that suggestion. Mr. Speaker, I won't commit to it today, however, what I will commit to doing is to continue follow with the implementation of other jurisdictions.

Since legislation has been changed, like I mentioned in an earlier response, in a number of different jurisdictions, and in some cases five, six, seven years ago, so it takes a lot more work than simply not moving the clock forward or backward at a couple points throughout the year.

But I will take that suggestion and will take it back to my colleagues, and if Nunavummiut want to have a voice, please feel free to reach out through ourselves, through this body, through our MLAs, through our communities, to highlight this as a priority and we can adjust accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Quttiktuq MLA, Mr. Taqtu.

Oral Question 3 – 7(2): Territorial Parks

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment, and they concern the subject of territorial parks.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware, his department issued a call for nominations during the fall of 2025 for appointments to a number of community joint planning and management Committees, including the committee for the Napartulik Territorial Park project on Axel Heiberg Island.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, Grise Fiord is the nearest community to that territorial park.

Can the Minister confirm who has been appointed to serve on the Community Joint Planning and Management Committee for the Napartulik Territorial Park. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question. At this time appointment is being reviewed. Appointment has not been made yet, but it's in the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary, Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, his department's 2026-2027 capital estimates include \$140,000 in funding for the Napartulik Territorial Park project. Can the Minister describe how this funding will be spent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague. The cost factor, I can't really brief you at this time. It's not listed in detail there, so I decline at this time to respond.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will be aware, his department issued an announcement in November of 2023 that it would be holding public consultations concerning possible amendments to the *Territorial Parks Act*.

This legislation falls under the minister's responsibility.

Can the minister highlight some of the changes that are being considered, and can he provide a timeline for when he will be introducing a Bill in the Legislative Assembly to amend the *Territorial Parks Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank you for your question.

(interpretation ends) Item 23 Environmental Protection Environmental Rights Act Report status, it's being worked on. We don't have a firm time it will be ready, but we are working on it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

Oral Question 4 – 7(2): Municipal Infrastructure

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate the government in regards to the Ikajuqtigiikta Mandate that was announced earlier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My questions today are for the Minister of Community Services. As the minister is aware, the municipality of Pangnirtung has identified a number of infrastructure needs and priorities.

As the minister will recall, the government allocated planning funding during the 2025-2026 fiscal year for a new municipal office and community hall. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm currently trying to scroll to it. If you just give me a second. I will have to get back to the member on that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you Mr. Minister. I was talking about the treatment plant and the water treatment. There was a local state of emergency declared in September of last year, following problems at the community's water treatment plant.

As the minister is aware, his department has been investing significant capital funding into drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure.

Can the minister indicate what his department's plans are with respect to upgrading Pangnirtung's drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his clarification. I misunderstood; I thought he was talking about hamlet office.

With regards to water treatment plant and sewage treatment facilities for Pangnirtung, currently right now what we are working on is solid waste upgrades for Pangnirtung and for water treatment plant and solid sewage treatment facilities. We are looking at what the

communities that we are working on are first right now that are in the queue that are ahead of Pangnirtung, we are working on those.

We do know that the environmental health officers do inspect the water treatment plant twice a year, so we are working on to see where and when we can do some work in Pangnirtung. But currently it's like other communities that are higher priority that have a more urgent need to get water treatment and sewage treatment work done in those communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister.

One thing that we utilize quite a bit is the Duval River bridge that was put into place when the old bridge got blown away. We had thought that this was a state of emergency when the old bridge collapsed.

(interpretation ends) It is my understanding that the municipality recently commissioned an evaluation of the bridge's condition.

(interpretation) Will the minister commit to having his department work with the municipality to review the findings from that evaluation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Yes, our department continually works with each hamlet and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to hear concerns and see what kind of amendments we can make together.

We do want to work together, and we will look at the review and see what we can come up with, and in conjunction with the member and the hamlet and work together to see what we can do with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (no interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Ms. Angootealuk.

Oral Question 5 – 7(2): Caribou Management

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Environment.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the people of Coral Harbour care deeply about the health of the Southampton Island Caribou Herd. In June 2025, the government

announced that a caribou near the community of Coral Harbour tested positive for rabies, which is a dangerous disease. The announcement indicated that caribou rarely get rabies. Can the minister provide an update today on how his department has been working with Coral Harbour's hunters and trappers organization and Department of Health to address this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you. The Department of Environment have regular meetings with the staff, and also help the local hunters and trappers organizations in regards to Inuit traditional knowledge.

We do know about the caribou with the rabies, and we are currently investigating.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Ms. Angootealuk.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the total allowable harvest for Southampton Island Caribou Herd has changed a number of times over the past decade. In 2015 the limit was increased from 800 to 1,600. In 2019, the limit was decreased to 1,000. Can the minister indicate if changes to this limit are currently being considered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That new wildlife management limitation was accepted in 2019 to reduce the total allowable harvest of caribou from 160,000 to 100,000, with non-quota limitation restricting the harvesting of either a cow or calf, or a calf in care. And the environmental health officers investigate and provide education and animal incident reports on rabies. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Angootealuk.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate when the next population survey of the Southampton Island Caribou Herd will be undertaken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Koonoo.

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) the Coral Harbour HTO requested that a new abundance survey will occur no later than May

2027, to allow the reassessment of the current total allowable harvest in a timely fashion. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 6 – 7(2): Activities of the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation recently issued a request for proposals for the design and installation of a new emergency generator at Arviat's power plant, as the request for proposals indicates that the corporation has, "purchased a used 1.45 megawatt modular emergency unit."

The request for proposal indicates that the successful contractor will be required to connect this unit to the main power plant.

Mr. Speaker, it is not clear to me why the corporation is taking this approach, rather than acquiring a new unit.

For the record, can the minister commit to getting back to me with additional detail regarding this project, including information regarding the number of generator hours of the used modular emergency unit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

The emergency power unit for Arviat is part of a bigger suite of emergency unit installations that are happening across Nunavut. This one that has been acquired for Arviat, it was designated for another community. Now it's being redesignated for Arviat. It was inspected and subsequently overhauled by the manufacturer, and it originally had 24,000 hours on it, and now it's been set back to zero after its complete overhaul in preparation for installation in Arviat. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): And thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A number of my colleagues have been asking questions about the Qulliq Energy Corporation's ongoing work to assess the condition of a number of power plants in the territory, including the Arviat power plant.

Information published by the Qulliq Energy Corporation indicates that Arviat's power plant was built over half a century ago.

Mr. Speaker, one of the stated purposes of the assessment project is to “inform strategic planning and prioritization for future upgrades, refurbishments, replacements, or potential hybridization of renewable energy sources.”

As the Minister is aware, a previous federal government provided funding to NRStor Incorporated and the Hamlet of Arviat to “conduct a front-end engineering design study for a hybrid wind, solar, and energy storage system to develop a detailed plan covering everything from power-purchase agreements to environmental assessment and permitting, to enhance the Nunavut community's ability to deliver renewable energy and reduce emissions.”

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

Speaker: Ms. Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the follow-up question. I'm glad for the question, because energy security is of critical importance in Nunavut, as we rely almost entirely on diesel, and so renewable energy projects are an important part of energy security for the landscape of Nunavut.

QEC's role as the energy utility for the territory is to prepare our grids for renewable energy, so that means basically setting up our power grid so that renewable energy can plug in those renewable energy projects. QEC is not the lead on those renewable energy projects, although QEC and the Department of Environment work together to support independent power-producer projects that are wind and solar, and exploring hydro across the territory.

The corporation and the Department of Environment work together to support those initiatives with technical and regulatory information. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on questions asked last week by my colleague from Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet concerning the Qulliq Energy Corporation's request for a federal takeover of the corporation's historical debt.

The Minister indicated that she has been having “conversations” about this issue with federal counterparts.

Can the Minister indicate what the federal government’s position has been regarding the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Healey Akearok.

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

We are working for our federal partners, our counterparts at the federal level, on all of the infrastructure needs for our energy utility. As mentioned earlier in an earlier response, we have four power plants currently under construction and we have six more that we know are reaching the end of their life cycle. So we’re seeking support for all of these big initiatives, which also includes examining the legacy debt of the corporation as well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. I have no more names. Oh, I’m sorry, for Arviat South member, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Oral Question 7 – 7(2): Transboundary Issues in the Kivalliq

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Transboundary issues in the Kivalliq, My questions are for the premier, and they concern transboundary issues in the Kivalliq.

As the premier will recall, his predecessor participated in an announcement that was issued in November 2024 by the federal government concerning transboundary land claims in our region of the territory.

Over the past year, ratification votes for the “North of 60 Agreement” were held by members of the – I’m sorry, I can’t pronounce the names of the Dene and Athabasca Denesūliné First Nations.

Information published by these organizations indicate that the agreements were approved by their voters.

When this issue was raised in the previous Legislative Assembly, members were informed that the Government of Nunavut will “have distinct implementation obligations to fulfill, similar to those under the *Nunavut Agreement*. The Government of Nunavut is also currently negotiating the amount of implementation funding that the Government of Canada will provide annually to carry out these obligations.”

Can the new premier provide an update today on the status of this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, thank you.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. Our government supports Dene Indigenous rights in Nunavut, and we welcome the successful inclusion of the two treaties, as the member referenced in his question, or his preamble.

In terms of our positioning with regards to implementing the treaties, our position is that they must be cost-neutral to the Government of Nunavut. We are not willing to take on expense on behalf of the Government of Canada, so our position in these ongoing negotiations is that it must be cost-neutral to Nunavut. There must be enough implementation funding as part of these agreements for the Government of Nunavut so that we are made whole. That has been our position, and we are continuing to advance that, and the work continues around finalizing the implementation details of these treaties. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kablutsiak: Information provided by the government to the previous Legislative Assembly indicated that:

“The Ghotelnene K’odtjneh Dene and Athabasca Denesųliné settlement lands are on what is currently federal Crown land, which is subject to transfer. There are current Inuit-owned lands in the settlement areas. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Kivalliq Inuit Association have been negotiating alongside government. On their settlement lands, the Dene and Athabasca Denesųliné will have similar rights as Inuit, such as harvesting rights, land ownership and resource management.”

Can the premier confirm whether or not the two First Nations groups have agreed to be subject to the jurisdiction of the Nunavut Impact Review Board, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, the Nunavut Planning Commission, and other institutions of public governments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question. My understanding is that this is a matter that would be detailed, and once the implementation portion of the agreement is finalized, we already have seen some involvement in Nunavut Impact Review Board proceedings such

as those that were held a number of years ago in Rankin Inlet, around activity around the Meladine gold mine. We have already seen some participation from Dene parties within processes such as those.

But with regards to the parcels and that very specific question and the jurisdictional overlap, I can commit to getting back to the member with that level of detail. I believe it would be included within the implementing legislation or implementing agreements, which are still being worked on. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the premier is well aware, there are a number of important initiatives currently underway in the Kivalliq, including the devolution process, the proposed Kivalliq Intercommunity Road, and the proposed Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link project.

Can the Premier clearly describe the extent to which the recent ratification of the transboundary claims will impact any or all of these initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the question and looking forward at how these agreements would impact those activities in the future, I wish I had the answer to that question. I don't have a crystal ball here. There's a potential for impact.

I think what we're trying to build for the future is a strong relationship with these parties, a working relationship with these parties, recognizing that the overlap agreement will, the implementation on some of it will fall to the Nunavut government, and that's where we need that strong working relationship with these parties, so that there aren't negative impacts. So that there aren't delays. So that we can work through any issues together.

So I apologize to the member. We are keeping a very close eye on this work. We're a party to the overlap, the Ghotelnene and Athabasca Denesuliné process, and we're going to continue working very closely as we near finalization of the implementation component. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list.

Following our *Orders of the Day*, item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Petitions. Item 9, Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and other Matters. Item 10, Tabling of Documents. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Main.

Item 10: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 1 – 7(2): Ikajuqtigiikta Mandate

Hon John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the 7th Assembly the Ikajuqtigiikta Mandate. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Minister of Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Tabled Document 2 – 7(2): 2023-2024 Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm pleased to table the *2023-2024 Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Minister of Housing, Ms. Lyall.

Tabled Document 3 – 7(2): Contracting Procurement and Leasing Activity Report ending March 31, 2025

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *2024-2025 Nunavut Housing Corporation's Contracting Procurement and Leasing Activity Report*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister Main.

Tabled Document 4 – 7(2): 2025 Nunavut Food Price Survey Report

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm pleased to table the *2025 Nunavut Food Price Survey Report*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Documents 5 – 7(2): List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. I too would like to table a document, which is a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. Thank you. (interpretation ends), List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements.

(interpretation) Item 11 – oh, item 10. (no interpretation) Mr. Mike.

Tabled Documents 6 – 7(2): Municipality of Pangnirtung’s Infrastructure Priority List

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a copy today of *Municipality of Pangnirtung’s Infrastructure Priority List*.

Although I asked some of it, I encourage all members to review the document with care, and I will have questions on this subject this coming spring to the appropriate ministers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Mr. Mike, Tabling of Documents.

Tabled Documents 7 – 7(2): Correspondence from the Municipality

Mr. Mike: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of correspondence that the municipality of Pangnirtung recently sent a number of recipients, including the federal and territorial Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, the municipality’s correspondence includes a number of important recommendations concerning the issue of tuberculosis in Nunavut. I encourage all members to review the document with care, and I will have questions on this subject during our spring sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Tabling of Documents. I have no more names.

Finally, to item number 11. Notices of Motions. Mr. Sammurtok.

Item 11: Notices of Motions**Motion 1 – 7(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice of Motion**

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, March 23, 2026 I will move the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes today’s sitting, it shall be adjourned until May 21, 2026.

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 12, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item number 13, Motions. Mr. Sammurtok.

Item 13: Motions

Motion 1 – 7(2): Extended Adjournment

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is requesting unanimous consent to deal with his statement. There are any nays? I don't hear any nays. Go ahead, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, pursuant to provision of Rule 3, that when the House concludes today's sitting, it shall be adjourned until May 21, 2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand. Not in favour? Motion is carried.

Item number 14, First Reading of Bills. Item 15, Second Reading of Bills. Item 16, *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 16: Orders of the Day

Clerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There will be a meeting in the morning in the Nanuq boardroom at 5 o'clock, following today's sitting.

Orders of the Day (interpretation) for May 21, 1:30:

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 (interpretation): Thank you. As we end this sitting, I would like to thank our pages for the winter session, Mia Healey Akearok (ph), Brianna Goonoo (ph), CJ Vincent Wolf (ph), Frankie Vincent Wolf (ph), Cassia Brown (ph), and Mika Dewar (ph). Thank you very much to our pages.

And thank you to the interpreters. They help our sittings proceed. You can speak Inuktitut or English or Inuinnaqtun, because those languages have all been recognized. Thank you very much, and one of them is having a birthday, so happy birthday.

Also, spring is coming, and you'll be going back to your communities. The weather and the sun and the days are getting longer, and you'll be able to be outside more. I'm sure your community members will be doing that, and hopefully you'll all have very safe travel and spring, and be able to come back here for the spring session.

Minister Akeegok, we have you in our thoughts and your family. Mr. Akeegok wasn't able to attend, for good reasons.

There will be snowmobile races at Toonik Tyme. I would like to thank the organizers for the Iqaluit to Kimmirut and Back race. Maliktoo Lyta (ph), thank you, because you have

helped create the trail for the races, and you make sure that they have a safe route to race in. Hopefully everything works out well and everybody has a great time.

As we end this session, I thank everyone. (interpretation ends) We are adjourned until Wednesday, May 21, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:51*

