NUNAVUT HANSARD

UNEDITED TRANCRIPT

OCTOBER 23, 2026

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

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Corrections:

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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker
Hon. David Joanasie

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 Akeeagok
(Iqaluit-Niaqqunnguu)
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 Hickes
(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 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 Qammaniq
(Amittuq)

Jason Iqaluq
(Hudson Bay)

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Hon. Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)
Minister of Comm unity 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

Steven Taqtu
(Quttiktuq)

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Michael Chandler

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Maliktoo Nooshoota

Hansard Production
Uqausirmit Uqausirmut Inc.

926 Sivumugiaq Street,
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 3H0
Tel (867) 975-000 Fax (867)975-5190 Toll Free (877) 334-7266
Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
October 23, 2026

Members Present:
Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok, Hon. David Akeeagok, Ms. Hanna Angootealuk, Mr. Edward Attagutaluk, Hon. Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. Jason Iqaluq, 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, Hon. Craig Simailak, Mr. Steven Taqtu, Hon. Annie Tattuinee

>> House commenced at 9:01 a.m.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (no interpretation): Open the meeting with a prayer. Mr. Simailak.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning, Nunavummiut and my colleagues here. Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Main.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 92-7(2): Nunavut's 2026 Council of Federation Literacy Award Report

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Nunavut's recipient of the 2026 Council of the Federation Literacy Award. Today I'm pleased to recognize the accomplishments of someone who has gone above and beyond to support and encourage others to develop their literacy skills in Nunavut, Teresa Qiatsuq.

>>Applause

(interpretation) Ms. Qiatsuq is originally from Kinngait and now resides in Iqaluit. As an Inuk, she's a reporter. She has made an outstanding contribution to the promotion and preservation of Inuktitut through her work at CBC's daily Inuktitut news program called Igala.

As a host of Igala, everyday Ms. Kayochuk proudly speaks Inuktitut and consistently ensures that Inuktut is spoken first in her interviews and broadcasts. Through her work she reaches Nunavummiut across the territory, providing news and information in Inuktut, showing that Inuktut language belongs in public spaces and the media. (interpretation ends)

The Federation Literacy Award was established in 2004 to recognize the successes of adults that have undertaken literacy training, and celebrates the valuable contributions made by Canadians across the field of literacy. Past award recipients have included adult learners, educators, volunteers, community organizations and businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I will be presenting the award to Ms. Qiatsuq during our lunch break today, and I invite all members to join us to celebrate her achievements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Gwen Healey Akearok.

Minister's Statement 93-7(2): National Foster Family Appreciation Week

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok: *Ullaakuut* to all my colleagues today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark National Foster Family Appreciation Week, observed October 19 to 25, 2026. This special week is dedicated to celebrating the remarkable 159 foster homes in Nunavut that open their homes and lives to children and youth who need them. They provide security, stability, and support. In doing so, foster families help children stay rooted in their family, culture, and community through some of the most difficult moments of their lives. We extend our deepest and sincere thanks.

Mr. Speaker, just last month, Family Services announced a 45 per cent increase in daily foster care rates

>>Applause

retroactive to April 1, 2026. We know that caring for a child involves immense effort and expense, from groceries to school supplies, and this rate increase provides stronger financial support to help ease those everyday pressures. We want to ensure foster families do not experience increased hardship while providing their critical services.

Mr. Speaker, foster care is a last resort, but it is also an essential safety net when children cannot remain safely at home. Our highest priority is to protect every child's physical, mental, and emotional well-being, while preserving their Inuit heritage, culture, language, and spiritual ties. Because kinship care remains the first choice for our children and youth, we hope that this increase to the daily foster care rate will also encourage more family and community members to consider becoming foster caregivers.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all Nunavummiut to consider becoming foster caregivers. By opening your homes, you offer warmth, care, and a connection to our culture. Please contact your local Family Services' office if you are interested in becoming a foster family.

Mr. Speaker, please also join me in thanking our foster families for their commitment to providing care for our children and youth here in the territory.

Qujanamiik, Mr. Speaker

>> Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Minister Hickes.

Minister's Statement 94-7(2): Rankin Inlet Air Terminal Buildings and Airfield Rehabilitation Project

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to both celebrate the grand opening of the new Rankin Inlet Air Terminal and highlight critical investments being made in our infrastructure transportation system.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of safe and reliable air infrastructure in Nunavut cannot be understated. With no roads connecting our communities, air travel is essential to the movement of people and goods across the territory. Nunavummiut depend on our airports to travel between communities, access medical care and other essential services, and receive the goods and supplies our communities rely on every day.

On September 28, we celebrated the grand opening of the new Rankin Inlet Airport Terminal Building alongside the Premier, the MLA for Rankin Inlet South the Honourable Annie Tattuinee, and Nunavummiut. With design work already underway thanks to investment through the Department of National Defence, the federal minister for Northern and Arctic Affairs, Minister Rebecca Chartrand, made an important announcement through Transport Canada's Arctic Infrastructure Fund. I just want to take

a moment to recognize Minister Chartrand adjusting her schedule very last minute in order to be able to attend that event, I thank her very much for her commitment to Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, the federal government has committed $85.6 million to the construction phase of the Rankin Inlet Airfield Rehabilitation Project.

>>Applause

This investment will ensure the Kivalliq transportation hub can continue to serve both the region and territory well into future.

Mr. Speaker, together our governments are making significant progress towards modernizing the Rankin Inlet Airport. Investments of this scale are only possible through strong partnerships. The Government of Nunavut is pleased to work with the Government of Canada through Transport Canada and the Department of National Defence to advance this important project for our territory.

I would like to thank our federal partners for their continued partnership and investment in Nunavut's transportation infrastructure. I also want to recognize the many people who have worked to advance these projects and who will continue this work as the airfield rehabilitation moves toward construction.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statement. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 95-7(2): Pond Inlet Research and Training Centre

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on September 24th, I had the privilege of travelling to Pond Inlet to celebrate the opening of the Research and Training Centre. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association built this centre to provide training and to support research in the community, to create opportunities for the high arctic region, and for the benefit of Nunavut. There was a great turn out at this celebration; Minister Koonoo Honorable Member for Tununiq, Mayor Joshua Arreak, Elders and Community members participated. And I would like to recognize Olayuk Akesuk, President of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and his team for creating and delivering on this important achievement.

In March 2025, Nunavut Arctic College signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, affirming the commitment of both organizations to

support training, education and research at this centre. This agreement was developed and finalized with a great deal of respect for each other's efforts, hopes and organizational mandate. Both organizations recognize that maintaining a shared commitment and working in the spirit of the agreement will ensure the success of this centre and for our territory.

I am very pleased that I was able to attend the opening along with the Arctic College in Pond Inlet who are now able to expand its programming. In September, the College began offering its first year of the Interpreter/Translator program and Fur Production and Design program. These programs will be moving into the new centre shortly. In addition to these programs, the College also plans to offer its Personal Support Worker program in the community as of early 2027. Other programs are being considered for delivery in Pond Inlet, and I encourage Nunavummiut to keep an eye on future announcements from the college.

Mr. Speaker, I'm grateful for the foresight of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association to seize on this opportunity to build this important centre. I know the organization worked with several stakeholders and funders, for example, Baffinland, the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, Natural Resources Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. This centre is a beautiful example of how shared efforts make things happen, and I would like to thank everyone for their effort and the investment provided.

Nunavut Arctic College is proud to be a partner in this collective effort. I am proud to confirm that this centre will have a part in the Arctic College's community-based academic programming now, and well into the future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Community Services, Mr. Simailak.

Minister's Statement 96-7(2): Nunavut Chairs the Committee on Internal Trade

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight Nunavut's leadership in advancing internal trade across Canada and our role as Chair of the Committee on Internal Trade for 2026.

Mr. Speaker, internal trade is about making it easier for Canadian businesses to grow, for workers to use their skills across the country, and for goods and services to move between provinces and territories without unnecessary barriers.

For Nunavut, this work must also recognize the realities of operating in the North. Our businesses face high transportation costs, limited infrastructure, labour shortages and small markets, creating challenges that are not always experienced in the same way elsewhere in Canada.

That is why Nunavut's role as Chair this year is important.

On August 27, I had the privilege of hosting the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for internal trade here in Iqaluit. The meeting brought national decision-makers to Nunavut and provided an opportunity for our partners to hear directly from northern stakeholders about practical barriers affecting economic growth, including challenges related to construction and housing, access to materials, transportation and workforce availability.

Mr. Speaker, the Iqaluit meeting also advanced important national priorities. Ministers agreed to accelerate work toward an agreement in principle on model mutual recognition legislation, which aims to create a clearer and more consistent approach to recognizing goods and services and supporting labour mobility across Canada, while respecting governments' regulatory responsibilities.

Ministers also continued work to expand the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement to services, with the goal of making it easier for businesses authorized in one participating jurisdiction to become authorized in another jurisdiction without unnecessary duplication of requirements.

Beyond mutual recognition, federal, provincial and territorial governments are advancing work on labour mobility, regulatory reconciliation, building materials, prefabricated housing and other barriers affecting businesses and workers across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's responsibilities as Chair extend beyond hosting Ministerial meetings. Throughout 2026, we are coordinating discussions among federal, provincial and territorial partners, helping build consensus and maintaining progress on shared priorities.

Mr. Speaker, hosting the Committee on Internal Trade in Iqaluit demonstrated that Nunavut is not simply participating in national economic discussions. We are helping lead them.

As Chair, we will continue working with our partners to reduce unnecessary barriers and create opportunities for businesses and workers, while ensuring that northern realities and local priorities are reflected in this national work.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 97-7(2): Nunavut's Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign

Hon. Janet Brewster: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an important part of protecting the health of Nunavummiut: knowing our bodies, understanding our risks, and knowing when to seek care.

Cancer has a significant impact on families and communities across Nunavut. We have higher rates of cancer than the rest of Canada. Lung cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Nunavummiut and the leading cause of cancer-related death, followed by colorectal cancer and breast cancer. For these cancers, survival is highest when they are found early.

For too long, cancer screening in Nunavut has largely depended on people and health care providers accessing screening opportunistically. This has meant that access and participation can vary from one community to another.

Nunavut is moving toward an organized and centralized approach to cancer screening, beginning with colorectal cancer and working toward programs that eventually encompass breast, lung, and cervical cancers. Our goal is to make early detection a stronger and more consistent part of cancer prevention and care for Nunavummiut.

At the same time, awareness and education remain essential. This October, Health is launching a Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign to help Nunavummiut learn more about breast health and recognize changes that should not be ignored. The campaign is built around three simple messages.

Knowing your body means knowing what is normal for you and being aware of changes in your breasts. Knowing your risk means understanding factors such as age, family history, and other personal risk factors. And knowing your options means knowing that pathways to care and screening are available through primary care and our health system.

To kick off the campaign, I am happy to invite our women colleagues here, our health care partners, and everyone who cares about the women in their lives to join me for a community awareness walk on Saturday, October 24 at 10:00 am. We will begin at the Legislative Building and walk together to the Qikiqtani General Hospital, where refreshments are being served everyone who completes the walk.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 107-7(2): Pangnirtung RCMP Report

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to people of Nunavut, the people of Pangnirtung.

Yesterday the MLAs were having a discussion. I stated that in communities, especially our community, on things that people do that are worrisome, I would like to talk about in Pangnirtung the RCMP monthly report to September 2026. I will explain only some of them, and the report, I will want to table the report to the House and I'll have questions about it. I will explain only some of them.

Up to the end of September RCMP report, the RCMP received calls for service in August 113 times, and to the end of September they received 1,166 calls for service from the RCMP. These are requests for help from the RCMP. And the people who called about alcohol in August, there were 52 calls, and up-to-date there has been 669 calls about alcohol. And RCMP arrested in the month of August 37 people, and up to today, 469 were arrested.

I am only mentioning some of the report. I will want to ask questions about it to the Minister, and after I ask the Minister, I will want to present this report to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Taqtu.

Member's Statement 108-7(2): Arctic Bay Construction Update

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning colleagues and everyone in Nunavut.

This past summer in Arctic Bay, they were very busy and I want to celebrate that. The small craft harbour construction was started, and the new water reservoir is being worked on. And they are also doing housing construction. I just want to celebrate the fact that they are so busy in our community; and we want to plan for devolution properly. I hope they can see the same number of construction that we have in our community in other communities. I just wanted to celebrate that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Pedersen.

Member's Statement 109-7(2): Student Concerns in Cambridge Bay

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And good morning to everyone and to residents of Cambridge Bay watching our proceedings today.

Unfortunately, again in Cambridge Bay, we lost another Elder yesterday, so I want to pass on my condolences to the Kitigon family for this. Allan Kitigon for the last three or four years was at Embassy West and transferred to the new facility in Rankin Inlet where he passed away.

Later today, I'll be tabling a letter I received from a student that outlines their concerns. He is a grade 12 in Cambridge Bay who wants to become a nurse and is finding that the courses available at the high school in Cambridge Bay are not there, so she will have to take upgrading. So that will be the basis of my questions for the Minister of Education today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We send our condolences to the people who last their family member. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Member's Statement 110-7(2): Recognize Chi-Chi Arinze

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start, I would like to recognize a person that I worked with in Arviat as a teacher, Chi-Chi Arinze. The person was recognized and the person hasn't been in Arviat for a few years, but this was the first person to be recognized by the Prime Minister's office for teachers excellence. (interpretation ends)

This month, teacher Chi-Chi Arinze was recognized as one of the first recipients for the 2026 Prime Minister's awards for teaching excellence. Chi-Chi Arinze (indiscernible) digital literacy skills development and post-secondary preparation, grades 11 and 12. She's a teacher and the principal at Arviat John Arnalukjuak High School.

In the context of limited technology resources in the north, she tries to use the available technology for the progress of youth in Arviat. She is constantly searching for more technological resources to Arviat youth to learn and acquire skills for the modern world. Colleague and principal of Qitiqliq Middle School, Arviat, Nunavut, Chi-Chi Arinze has worked with Nunavut students in Arviat, Nunavut for two decades. She helps them build skills, confidence and strong sense of identity.

Mr. Speaker, Chi-Chi's approach is grounded in relationships, culture and real-world learning. She brings Elders into the classroom and centres learning in Inuktitut. She connects lessons to students' lives and community. Students learn through hands-on projects, cultural activities and shared work that builds both academic and personal skills. One-on-one support is always available. Her students also take part in virtual learning and learn to develop and explore ideas with digital tools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Ms. Lyall.

Member's Statement 111-7(2): Netsilik Youth Delegation

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today I rise to recognize the youth in my constituency. We often hear that youth are our future, but youth are much more than our future. They are an essential part of our communities today. Through the continued advocacy and empowerment of our youth, they play an important role in shaping our territory as a whole.

Earlier this month, youth from the Kitikmeot gathered in Cambridge Bay as part of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association's annual general meeting. Mr. Speaker, the youth delegation had the opportunity to outline their priorities for the region. Forums such as this are an important step in empowering our youth.

As a young teen, I also had the privilege of attending an AGM as a youth delegate. Opportunities like this have shaped my career and have given me the confidence to voice my ideas and concerns. It is our responsibility as a community to ensure that we are creating a future where our young people thrive in a future that they choose.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be tabling the report of the priorities of the youth of Netsilik delegation. I encourage all members to review the document, especially my fellow Kitikmeot colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statement. I have no more names. Hold on please. Member for Sanikiluaq, Mr. Iqaluq.

Member's Statement 112-7(2): Remembering Mosesie

Mr. Iqaluq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning everyone and Nunavummiut who are watching through the TV.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank you for giving your tribute yesterday, to our Elder of Hudson Bay, the late Moses Appaqaq. Mr. Speaker, I also like to give my tribute and give my sincere condolences to his family. Mr. Speaker, if you and the House can give us a moment, a silent one moment one minute and rise with me. If everyone can stand up. Just give us a moment of silence for the late Moses Appaqaq. Thank you, everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. And we think of the family and send our condolences to the family and the friends. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North and Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Member's Statement 113-7(2): Recognize Chi-Chi Arinze

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

I am rising to offer my congratulations to Chi-Chi Arinze who is, I think, well-deserving of the Prime Minister's award for teaching excellence, and I can personally speak to having seen Chi-Chi in action. She's made a huge contribution to the lives of many young people in Arviat, and you really cannot overstate the importance of that contribution.

Arviat is a very young community. We have a lot of talented strong, smart youth, and through Chi-Chi Arinze leadership roles over the years, she's touched so many young people and made positive contributions.

I would like to thank Patty Johnson who nominated her for this honour. It is an outstanding accomplishment to receive this recognition, and I really appreciate that it's not just Chi-Chi who is receiving this award, it's also a reflection of her co-workers, it's a reflection of the DEA in the community, the District Education Authority, the Department of Education, and the Kivalliq Region as a whole. And so I just wanted to offer my sincere congratulations, well deserved.

I think we all knew that prior to this award we all knew that there were great things happening, but this is just further recognition, and I wanted to offer my sincere congratulations. (interpretation) We congratulate Chi-Chi. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I believe there's no more. Going back to *Orders of the Day*, item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6, Oral Questions. I first recognize the member from Kugluktuk, Mr. Kuliktana.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 139-7(2): Air Ambulance Services

Mr. Kuliktana: My question today is for the Minister of Health and the concern is the issue of air ambulance in the Kitikmeot.

As the Minister is aware, the government issued a Request for Proposals for air ambulance service back in April of 2025, almost 18 months ago; that's a long time.

As the Minister will recall, my colleagues from Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven joined me in asking questions during our Spring Sitting about the status of the government's new contract for air ambulance services.

Information published by the Minister's department indicated that the "go-live date" for the new contract was supposed to be beginning of April of 2026, of this year.

Mr. Speaker, it's now October of 2026.

Can the Minister provide an update today on the status of the new contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the question from the member.

I'm really happy to say that the negotiations have concluded and that our Department of Health is ready to bring forward the question to Cabinet to approve so that we can finally go forward the new contract, which I think it reflects an incredible amount of work on both sides in order to come to the best negotiated agreement possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

As the Minister is aware, her department's most recent Requests for Proposals indicate that it's “preferred base locations and aircraft requirement for the Kitikmeot Region” are turboprop aircraft located in Yellowknife and/or Cambridge Bay.

Can the Minister confirm that the new contract for air service will include a clear requirement for more aircraft to be positioned in the Kitikmeot region and also in the same time zone? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure that the same time zone would have an impact on air ambulance services, and we know that there's a possibility those will change.

So, Mr. Speaker, one of the most important things that has been negotiated through this contract is that we are going to have more airplanes, and the details I can't share right now. However, we feel very strongly that the contract that has been negotiated is actually going to provide much better service and access to medevacs as quickly as possible for all Nunavummiut, no matter where they come from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister, for the response.

As the Minister is aware, information published by the department indicates that there were 122 medevac flights to Kugluktuk during the calendar year of 2022.

There were over 625 flights to Kitikmeot communities during that year.

Can the Minister confirm how many medevac flights the Kitikmeot communities have occurred during the current 2026 calendar year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information right at my fingertips, but I'm happy to get back to the member with that information later on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Porter.

Oral Question 140-7(2): Poverty Reduction

Mr. Porter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Family Services regarding poverty reduction.

During yesterday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister tabled her department's most recent annual report on poverty reduction.

This report is required under the territorial *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act*. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to reviewing the report with care.

Can the Minister highlight some of the major anti-poverty initiatives that her department is currently working on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

As we know, the reduction and elimination of poverty in our territory is of great importance to Nunavummiut, and I'm happy to highlight of course some of the work in that report.

One of the things that we've been working on is strengthening the collaboration between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik in terms of the last round table that was hosted together was in 2024, and a lot of the discussion at that round table focused on the development of the next plan, the Makimaniq Plan, as well as reviewing the feasibility study on guaranteed basic funding and focusing on what parts of all of these discussions are actionable in the short term and long term and developing a vision for the next iteration of that plan.

I'm also happy to share that some of work under this last iteration I guess of work has focused on supporting our shelters and our homelessness program.

We've also been enhancing our food security initiatives with the allocation of $1.2 million to food security related work, and then of course training and employment also remains a strong focus, providing additional training through our targeted labour market programs to help Nunavummiut access more skill development opportunities and matching with different career development opportunities as well.

So as part of a bigger initiative in the department, we're looking at how Nunavummiut move through all of the different programs and services that are available through our department, and how that uplifts the key actions in the poverty reduction work as well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Porter.

Mr. Porter (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your response as well.

The annual report that the Minister tabled yesterday contains information regarding shelters in Gjoa Haven for both men and women.

Homelessness and domestic violence are significant issues in Nunavut.

Can the Minister describe how her department determines the amount of core funding to provide these shelters for operating expenses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Minister Healey Akearok.

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

I'm happy to say that I recently visited Gjoa Haven and I visited the shelters in the community, one of which was under renovation, and had an opportunity to walk through them and visit with the staff as well, and very much appreciate all the work underway in Gjoa Haven.

With regards to the member's question on how those allocations are determined, I don't have the information at my fingertips around the specific formulations, but they are allocated -- the funds for homelessness and shelter program are identified in our Business Plan actions and in the budget that's approved in the House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second and final supplementary question. Member Porter.

Mr. Porter: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister, for your response.

The annual report that the Minister tabled yesterday contains information regarding income assistance rates.

Gjoa Haven is categorized as a Zone 2 community.

As the Minister is aware, the cost of food and other essentials is not decreasing.

If I'm not mistaken, the rates were last adjusted in the 2023 year.

Can the Minister indicate when the monthly assistance rates will be reviewed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Healey Akearok.

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

We all remain concerned around the rising costs of food across the country and in Nunavut as well, and the added pressure that that places on families.

In regards to our income assistance program, the work is underway to update the *Income Assistance Act* and associated regulations. And so through that process and that consultation process, examining the rates will be part of that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (No interpretation).

Oral Question 141-7(2): Port of Churchill Plus Project

Mr. Iqaluq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier, and they concern the issue of the proposed Port of Churchill Plus project.

As the Premier is aware, this project has the potential to have impacts on the Hudson Bay ecosystem and the water surrounding Sanikiluaq.

As the Premier will recall, he received correspondence in May of this year from my predecessor concerning the proposed Port of Churchill Plus project.

The correspondence was tabled in the Legislative Assembly at its sitting of May 22, 2026.

Can the Premier confirm if he will be tabling a response to that correspondence before the end of our current fall sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (No interpretation). Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I feel special for receiving the member's second question asked in the House.

In terms of that correspondence, we're not in the normal practice of tabling responses proactively unless requested to. If there's a request to table a response, I can certainly see that we do so and provide a response prior to the end of this sitting.

So to rephrase that, we will respond to that correspondence prior to the end of this sitting, and if the member would like the response tabled, I can certainly do that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

(interpretation ends) On July 7, 2026, the Government of Nunavut and Government of Manitoba announced the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding.

The announcement indicate that "the two governments will explore coordinated investment in the trade corridors, transportation and port modernization -- including the proposed Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link and Port of Churchill Plus -- to improve supply chain resilience and connectivity between Nunavut, Manitoba and global markets."

Can the Premier provide and update today on the Government of Nunavut's role in the proposed Port of Churchill Plus project?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

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

(interpretation ends) The Churchill project, we're not a direct -- we're not directly involved; however, we are a stakeholder.

In terms of what the member mentioned in his previous question, the potential for trans-boundary impacts, both positive and negative, it's important that Nunavut's perspective on those potential impacts is heard and taken into account.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link project and Port of Churchill project, when you're looking at the region as a whole, it is an exciting time to look at the idea or the concept of strengthening transport links to benefit Nunavut residents.

It's quite sad when you look at the map of Nunavut and the fact that we have no connection to the rest of Canada, either transmission lines or roads, or rail lines for that matter, and it's something that we need to change as a country.

Nunavut needs to be connected to the rest of the country, and it's been far too long that we are still sitting here entirely reliant on air transport and seasonal marine links. So it's an exciting time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Iqaluq.

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

(interpretation ends) It is essential that the residents of Sanikiluaq had the opportunity to participate in the review of the proposed Port of Churchill Plus project.

Can the Premier clarify the extent to which the the project will be required to undergo consideration by the Nunavut Impact Review Board?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Main.

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

(interpretation ends) That's a matter that I hope we can clarify through responding in the response to the correspondence, and there's a number of different ways that the involvement could potentially roll out.

As it is a trans-boundary issue, it's quite complex. But I will say that the Government of Nunavut's role as a stakeholder, we recognize that we're not the only stakeholder, that Inuit organizations also have an important role to play. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated as well as the regional Inuit Associations. And so that's something that we have a strong appreciation for and will, you know, as one of the stakeholders, we'll work to make sure that other stakeholders also have their place at the table.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member from Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

Oral Question 142-7(2): Activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation

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

My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As the Minister will recall, I've raised a number of concerns during the spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly about the unacceptable delays in construction of new housing units in Pangnirtung.

I have asked this question repeatedly, and as the Minister will recall, I have shared photographs of crates and construction material that have been sitting in the community for years.

Mr. Speaker, poor management of materials can lead to incidents like the ones that recently occurred in Naujaat.

Concerning construction material, Mr. Speaker, when I raised these issues during our spring sitting, the Minister acknowledged that there have been significant delay in housing construction under the Nunavut 3000 strategy that the previous government introduced. (interpretation ends).

Can the Minister describe what actions the Nunavut Housing Corporation has been taking to address this issue? (interpretation).

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: I thank the member for the question.

We do recognize the frustrations the communities have with some pretty significant delays that we have seen in some of our construction, our buildings in community.

The units for Pangnirtung, the two 8-plexes now have an anticipated completion date of August of next year.

Something that we have been looking to improve going forward is our planning process. So now we have a built in bit longer of a planning process, ensuring that we attained all the lots, and the lot development is secured before bringing in material packages into the community.

And going forward we hope that this would be something that we would implement to ensure the successful delivery of housing into communities and ensuring the safety of the material packages within the communities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has been allocated tens of millions of dollars in public money that has been approved by this Legislative Assembly.

And some of us have been concerned about the delay and issues that I have repeatedly raised in this House. It is not clear that there have been any consequences for the

contractors that have failed to deliver on time. I am thinking of penalties or other contractual remedies.

Can the Minister clarify what actions the Nunavut Housing Corporation has taken in this regard? What actions have been implemented?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question.

The delay in construction does carry additional cost, and a lot of the time that cost is carried by the contractor.
We do recognize that material packages sitting in the community, there may be some damage due to either weather from the elements, vandalism or other instances.

So right now, we're looking at diversifying our contracts at the Housing Corporation. So, we're working with multiple different contractors throughout annually so that no one year would be contracted to one specific contractor.

From our view, this would ensure that we're not coming into delays if a company has issues with capacity.

We're also implementing different types of foundations within our builds. So we're hoping that this would alleviate some of that strain on the capacity constraints we see within the construction in Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister.

Mr. Speaker, these are very concerning. You expect the contractors to be directed with the delays. As per our regulations with with contracts, we have had two contractors and the following year you have another project in delay.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister did indicate back in June 2026 by way of letter concerning the issue we're discussing at this time.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister is well aware that for Pangnirtung, 14 new public housing units were allocated. And with respect to the 14 new housing units in Pangnirtung, 12 of the

new units will be stick build units, and the 2 remaining units will be modular, as it has been a trend as they are called modular units.
Perhaps can the Minister confirm here in this House how many new units are planned to be constructed in Pangnirtung during the upcoming 2027-2028 fiscal year?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for that question.

Currently right now we are still wrapping up our Request for Proposals from contractors in modular suppliers. So, we wouldn't have a community-by-community breakdown of what we're anticipating for the upcoming construction season, so what would come in in next years' sealift.

I can confirm that the two modular units that were anticipated for Pangnirtung this year had to be held in the south due to gravel issues and the lots not being developed in time for sealift. So those would be coming up on next years' barge.

But I won't have numbers broken down by community until we wrap up our Request For Proposals for both stick builds and modular units.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members be aware, our Member Qammaniq has not yet arrived until the flight comes in. And further, to remind you, if your cell phones are on, keep them off or keep it in a silent mode.
Oral Questions. MLA for Quttiktuq, Mr. Taqtu.

Oral Question 143-7(2): Policy on use of Personal Mobile Devices in School

Mr. Taqtu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister of Education who loves being asked questions (interpretation ends).

Mr. Speaker, as the youngest member of the Legislative Assembly, I am very much part of the “digital generation” and I cannot imagine what life would be like without access to the Internet and other modern technologies.

Mr. Speaker, as a father to four children, I am very much aware of the importance of ensuring that our schools strike the right balance when it comes to young people's use of personal mobile devices and other technologies.

As the Minister will be aware, our Northern neighbours in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon have very recently introduced new policies and guidelines in this area.

The Northwest Territories announcement last week indicated that “growing concern about the impact of personal mobile devices on student learning, focus, and mental health prompted the public and education leaders to ask for greater clarity around device use in schools.”.

Can the Minister confirm what policies or guidelines his department has developed concerning the use of mobile devices in Nunavut's schools?"

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education, Minister Akeeagok.

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

Mr. Speaker, it's great that I'm asked a question. The need to use the Internet and the use of cellphones in our schools is something that has been changed and progressed and how better they can be utilized. As we see, it becomes a concern when overuse is there, and schools are constantly trying to develop guidelines and directions.

And to date the territories of NWT and Yukon and what they put in place is not -- we have not finished yet, but we are diligently reviewing how best we can approach this in our schools.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Can the Minister indicate what discussions his department has had with the Nunavut Teachers Union and the Coalition of Nunavut district education authorities on this issue?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Minister of Health.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
What specific discussions have been made on the two particular organizations, I cannot make a comment. But this has been raised as an issue and the need to make changes, and

that is out there. And our staff realizes this and the specifics on what discussions have been made, I don't have that information, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, social media is unavoidable today. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we experience both the positive and negative elements of social media. Social media can be a useful tool to communicate with our constituents.

However, it can also be misused for bullying and other forms of abuse.

Can the Minister indicate what policies and guidelines are in place regarding the use of social media platforms by the students in Nunavut schools?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education, Minister Akeeagok.

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

That is a very good question, and it's something that our department has been expanding delivery of workshops, such as cyberbullying, be kind, preventing online harm.

A lot of these, we are going to each of the schools and providing some of the workshops related to that, as we are very concerned with the negative aspects of the social media.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): *Orders of the Day.* Oral Questions. Item 6. Mr. Kautuk.

Oral Question 144-7(2): Inuit Recruitment into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice and they concern Inuit recruitment into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my Member’s statement yesterday in the House, I recently had the opportunity to visit Qikiqtarjuaq. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the Hamlet council and the community members who took the time to meet with me and share their concerns on a number of important issues affecting their community.

Mr. Speaker, one of the issues raised during my visit was the importance of increasing Inuit representation within the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and ensuring that policing services reflect the communities that they serve.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut's approved 2026-2030 business plan indicates in its environmental scan that "The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has detachments in all 25 communities. In 2025, there were a total of 159 Royal Canadian Mounted police officer positions in the territory, 15 of which were funded under the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program."

Can the Minister provide an update on the implementation of the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program in Nunavut, and can he clarify how many positions in the territory are currently funded under this important program?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question from the member.

I think it's very important to acknowledge that there are career opportunities with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police here in Nunavut and we want to see more people apply. I know the recruitment division has been taking on a number of different initiatives, and one of them being the First Nations Inuit Policing program. I think it gives an opportunity for members in the communities to get more engaged at the community level and show residents of our communities that that is an option.

Mr. Speaker, there are 15 positions that were created, and currently 12 of them filled.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First Supplementary, Mr. Kautuk.

Mr. Kautuk: (interpretation) Thank you, Minister, for your response.

Mr. Speaker, one of the concerns raised to me during my recent visit to Qikiqtarjuaq was the staffing levels of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment in the community.

Can the Minister confirm how many Royal Canadian Mounted Police positions are allocated to the communities of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq and can he confirm how many positions are currently filled and how many are vacant?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Hickes:

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was looking at the First Nations Inuit Policing numbers on a different briefing note.

For the actual staffing levels right now and in those communities, Mr. Speaker, I do know there are a couple of vacancies. I'll have to confirm with my numbers on actual amounts, but I do know there are a couple vacancies, and one of the challenges that we have been having filling some of the positions in our communities is staff housing. Similar to the Government of Nunavut across the board, we're continuously competing for staff housing infrastructure across the territory. So that's one aspect of a limitation, I guess, that the RCMP, or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are currently under.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Minister for your response.

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister will be aware, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police recently announced a recruitment campaign encouraging residents of Nunavut and other northern jurisdictions to consider careers in policing.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage my constituents and other young Nunavummiut who are interested in pursuing a career with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to consider applying.

Can the Minister indicate what specific actions his department will undertake, in collaboration with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, to encourage and support Nunavut Inuit in pursuing these recruitment opportunities?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question, because I think it's very important to show everyone here and out in the public that are watching and listening that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is an achievable career path for people. And I know the recruitment division of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are taking that seriously.

Mr. Speaker, there are tutoring services that are available to help residents pass the entrance exam and meet the academic requirements, down to the fact that even though we can send in a recruitment officer to oversee the exam so that residents don't have to travel on their own, even just to take the exam.

Mr. Speaker, there are also within the recruitment division, they are going to trade shows recently here in Iqaluit. They go to career fairs in schools across the territory to promote access to employment with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

There's another initiative where they're looking at people to do night shifts or shifts for cells in the communities at the detachments if there's people in there. It gives people an exposure to the system to show that there are options and different positions within the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, not just as on the street members.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Mr. Attagutaluk.

Oral Question 145-7(2): Human Resources Initiatives

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you. My questions today are for Minister of Human Resources.

As the Minister will recall, I raised questions during our Spring Sitting about the issue of decentralization and related matters.

As the Minister is aware, Igloolik is considered to be a decentralized community.

Information published by the government in its current business plan indicate that it is working to review its decentralization policy.

Can the Minister provide an update today on how the Department of Human Resources is involved in this review, and can she indicate what options are being considered?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Tattuinee.

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

The Department of Human Resources is currently modernizing our ability to keep track of employment throughout the territory. The number of full-time equivalencies is over 5,700. As we have said, we are functioning at 66 percent capacity. Working with the

Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to look at the decentralized operations.

Currently we have a Nunavut-wide hiring policy which encourages individuals regardless of where they live to apply for positions that are open.

The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is the lead on decentralization. So in terms of that, I don't have the answer immediately in front of me, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you again for the question.

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

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The government's most recent quarterly employment report indicated that approximately 1,930 positions were vacant. This is a vacancy rate of approximately 33%.

The department's current business plan indicates that one of its actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "initiate an independent review of operational human resource processes to identify opportunities for efficiency and outcome-based processes.".

As of today, what is the status of this work?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tattuinee.

Hon. Annie Tattuinee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. The Department of Human Resources is currently modernizing our ability to keep track of employment throughout the territory.

The number of full-time equivalencies is over 5700. As you said, we were functioning at 66 percent capacity. We are hoping to institute new processes and a review of the department whether we have the continued capacity to fill the positions more efficiently and effectively.

That being said, we do not like -- unlike other departments have issues related to staff housing and whatnot and our ability to fill positions based on that. And again, I reiterate the remote hiring policy that we're making available to allow positions to be working out of other communities across Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department's current business plan also indicates that one of its actions for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is to "restructure the department to align human resource functions to operate efficiently and effectively and better support departments and public bodies."

Can the Minister describe what specific changes are being undertaken? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Annie Tattuinee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. The department is in the process of hiring individuals working with human resource capacity within each of the departments in government to allow for a centralized more streamlined approach in terms of having individuals and filling positions and keeping track of our statistics in terms of different types of employment that are available to the Government of Nunavut, whether somebody's on leave and whether individuals are temporarily away from their position.

So, we're expanding our capacity to having an individual in each department to help us be more efficient in terms of our having processes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the member for the question again.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Next person on my list, member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Pedersen.

Oral Question 146-7(2): Student Concerns in Cambridge Bay

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education.

In the letter I received from a student, a grade 12 student, she informs me that when she was in grade 11 she was approached by guidance counsellors to help her plan the courses she should take for the career path she's choosing.

You know, according to her, grade 11 is kind of too late for doing that kind of thing; it should be done much earlier. And she's suggesting students in grade 6 to 9 level, that they should be approached.

So, my question for the Minister. The first one is: At what grade level do guidance counsellors start speaking with students so that they can help them select the type of

courses they need to take in order to achieve the courses required for the type of employment they want to seek after school?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The person who loves answering questions, Mr. Akeeagok.

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

This varies on each of the schools in terms of when the guidance counsellors would be approaching the students. But from what I understand, it is as early as possible when they are getting into the high school.

As you may know, we are developing our curriculum for grade 7 to grade 12, and that's one of the critical things that we'll need to make sure that that path of whatever the student will be learning would go into any of those streams that are part of their curriculum.

But right now in this current situation, I don't have a definitive grade as to at what point the counsellors would go to the student.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, in each community, all the types of courses should be offered. So, the student is looking at chemistry, physics, and biology, 30 classes. Unfortunately, in Cambridge Bay those classes aren't available. So, she's had to take those classes online, and doing it online is much more difficult -- especially when you're in high school -- for taking courses and learning from them.

And our students, they want to get into university after completing high school in Nunavut. Many of them are required to go to college upgrading classes after graduating from high school before they can enter university courses.

So, what are the department's plans to ensure all schools can offer all classes to all students? And I guess that means teacher recruitment to ensure there are a required number of teachers in each community. So, what are the department's plans in sharing that?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, teacher recruitment and retention is a huge thing and something that we really need to advance further in order so these programs are done in a steady basis for each of our schools.

We don't have that luxury right now with our 46 schools that are here in Nunavut. So, the options of having online courses is there. And for the student to have the ability to speak with the guidance counsellor, our principal, and working with our regional school operations, we coordinate that if it's on biology to ensure that those online courses are there.

That's one that we try and ensure that happens in order so that it doesn't -- it's not at the later end of their grades, and it's something that I will continue to advocate our principals and our school support staff to reach out to the students and get their career path early enough, so that when they do graduate from our schools, that they are capable of going directly to the universities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In previous reply you mentioned that they are working on grade 7 to 12 curriculum, and I'm glad to hear that.

I understand that today you were in Nunavut. We're still following the Alberta curriculum for the most part, and we were following that when I went to school and the pre-division of NWT and Nunavut.

So, I'm wondering what's the department's timeline for offering a made-in-Nunavut curriculum?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister of Education, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our timelines shift over time, and for the Nunavut curriculum implementation timelines, we are about two years in advance of what was initially planned.

Right now, as of today, we've done our -- we've gone up to our grade 6 curriculum, and now we're working from grade 7 to 12 curriculum. And that timeline, in accordance with my briefing notes, is we're aiming to be completed by 2035-2036.

As for the agreed 7 to 12, it's not just like one grade that we've been focussing on from kindergarten to grade 6. From 7 and up they are going to start to see options of where they want to go through their career path, and those curriculums will reflect that and be able to have different options for our students to start taking in order to start completing their dream of landing into that career.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 147-7(2): Impact of Climate Change on Infrastructure

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions will focus on the impact of climate change on infrastructure.

My questions today are for the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister is aware, Arviat's airport terminal building is in need of replacement.

Earlier this year, the federal Department of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities announced approximately $21.8 million in funding under the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund for the design and construction of a new airport terminal building.

The federal announcement indicated that “the Arviat airport terminal building, which provides essential services to the aerodrome in this fly-in only community, is currently in poor condition and deteriorating as a result of permafrost degradation. As the airport terminal building was initially built for permafrost ground conditions, in the last 30 years, the building has experienced permafrost thawing and subsequent ground shifting which has enhanced the deterioration of the structure’s foundation.”

Can the Minister confirm how much of the federal funding has been received by his department?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And Mr. Speaker, the way I understand that program to work is that it's on a cost recovery basis. So as we submit receipts, we would get reimbursed for those costs up until the approved limit for that program.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister will recall, his department issued a Request for Proposals in January of this year for the design of a new airport terminal building in Arviat.

When I raised this issue during our recent spring sitting, the Minister indicated that his department has been planning to, "go out for construction tender in the winter of 2027."

Can the Minister provide an update today on the status of the design of the new airport terminal building, and can he confirm that the municipal council of Arviat will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the design before it is finalized?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, whenever there's an infrastructure project being done in a community, the hamlet and council is involved in that process.

Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that the project planning has been completed. And the Request For Proposals for design is enclosed, and a contract has been awarded, and just an initial meeting has already occurred. With construction, it's expected to begin in 2027.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary question, Member Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal announcement concerning funding for the new airport terminal building indicated that “The Hamlet of Arviat, Nunavut, is situated on continuous permafrost and is highly susceptible to permafrost degradation due to global climate change, which threatens the infrastructure in northern Indigenous communities.”

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that Arviat is not the only Nunavut community that has had its infrastructure impacted by climate change and permafrost thawing.

Can the Minister confirm which other infrastructure projects his department has submitted applications to under the federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, while I appreciate the question, we're always hesitant on publicly stating different projects that we have applied for funding for, for many different reasons, Mr. Speaker.

So, I can have a conversation with the member outside of the House, and if the member wants to get a little bit more detail on what type of proposals, especially for his constituency, I would be more than happy to have a discussion with the member. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) I recognize Aivilik member, Ms. Angootealuk.

Oral Question 148-7(2): Nunavut Health Care Cards

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was getting impatient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

My questions today are for the Minister of Health, and they concern the issue of Nunavut health care cards.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker I asked Questions to the Minister of Justice regarding the possibility of lengthening the validity of firearms license terms. I would like to continue a similar line of questioning.(interpretation ends)

My constituents have expressed concerns to me regarding the expiry and renewal of Nunavut health care cards, especially when they are required to travel outside of Nunavut for medical treatment.

Mr. Speaker, if Nunavummiut experience delays in receiving renewed health care cards it can create unnecessary difficulties for patients, including complications with medical billing and the verification of coverage at health care facilities outside of the territory.

Can the Minister clarify how long Nunavut health care cards remain valid from the date they are issued to the date that they expire?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know off the top of my head how long the healthcare cards are valid for, and I don't have mine with me so that I can check. I'm happy to get back to the member with that information.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angootealuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, information published by the Minister's department describes a number of challenges that can be faced when your healthcare card is outdated or invalid. These include "direct billing challenges, out-of-pocket expenses and travel vulnerability."

Can the Minister clarify what procedures her department has in place to ensure that Nunavummiut receive their renewed healthcare cards before their existing cards expires, especially for those who are scheduled to travel outside the territory for medical treatment? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, the department is working to ensure adequate staffing levels within the health insurance program. And we're also trying different approaches to manage the current backlog, while staff recruitment and training is ongoing.

For instance, we utilized summer students this year to help members of the public fill out the forms necessary to update or renew healthcare cards if they're not on the automatic renewal process.

And we're encouraging all members of the public to consistently update their civic address if it changes, especially those in Iqaluit. And we recognize how difficult this is for members or citizens of Nunavut to access healthcare outside of Nunavut if they don't have that valid healthcare card.

And, of course, one step that anybody can take who has medical travel or other travel that's immanent, and if they had trouble accessing a renewed healthcare card, they can contact the Office of Patient Relations for support to move that along for themselves.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Second and final supplementary, Ms. Angootealuk.

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

Mr. Speaker, on August 11, 2026, the Department of Health issued a Public Service Announcement indicating that there would be a summer information hub to offer in-person help with Nunavut healthcare cards at the Qikiqtani General Hospital and at the post office in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the public service announcement indicated that the department was "Offering in-person assistance…to help residents apply for, renew, or replace their Nunavut healthcare card, update their mailing address and personal information…"

Can the Minister indicate if her department has considered expanding this initiative to other regions across the territory?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department would be really happy to make use of any kind of opportunity to duplicate that program that was so successful this summer.

You know, I imagine we could focus on different regions, or send people, for example, to the boarding homes to help people who are travelling already.

It's certainly proven to be successful this summer, so we're really happy to duplicate that wherever we can, and to of course, get rid of the backlog.

So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you as well. Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. I acknowledge member for Iqaluit-Sinaa.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent from my colleagues to return to Item 5 on the *Orders of the Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to *Orders of the Day*, item number 5. Are there any nays? I don't hear a nay; please proceed, Ms. Brewster.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a proceeder as well.

Mr. Speaker, I'm really happy to recognize a former 20-years-long employee of the Government of Nunavut today, as well as my former MPA. So many people will recognize her. When we invest in people in Inuit, in our staffing and in our training, we are investing in Nunavuumiut to be able to go out and maybe find greener pastures for a little while, and maybe come back.

My former MPA, Tracy Kyak, is here, and she's now working at QIA, and I want to say welcome to your House, and I hope it's less stressful than the last time you were here. Welcome, Tracy.

And with her is a visitor from the University of Ottawa, Cameron Wesley. I would like to welcome you to our House. And I see other people; welcome to our House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> Applause

Speaker: (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you. Moving on to item number 7, Written Questions. Item number 8, Returns to Written Questions. Item number 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. Item number 13, Tabling of Documents. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Pedersen.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 55-7(2): Student Concerns in Cambridge Bay High School 1

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned during my member statement earlier, I'm pleased to table a letter from a grade 12 student in Cambridge Bay, Ms. Karen Greenly, on her concerns with the availability of classes and when guidance counsellors come to speak with students, so I'm happy to table this document.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. *Orders of the Day*, number 13. Tabling of Documents, member for Netsilik.

Tabled Document 56-7(2): Kitikmeot Youth Report

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Report of Priorities for Netsilik Youth.

I would like to thank the authors of this, Allegra Oleckatalik, and Chantelle Quirniq.

I would also like to thank the rest of the youth deligation from Kitikmeot: Farren Greenly of Cambridge Bay, Chloe Hokanak of Kugluktuk; Kyla McCallum of Gjoa Haven; and Allegra Oleckatalik of Taloyjoak.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. And moving on, item number 14, Notices of Motions. 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. 16, Motions. 17, First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Main.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act – First Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends). I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act*, be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (Interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion? Question being called. All in favour? I apologize. Do you agree that Bill 5 be read for the first time? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Bill 6 – Archaeological and Paleontological Sites Act – First Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Tununiq, that Bill 6, *Archaeological and Paleontological Sites Act* be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in Order. Do you agree that Bill 6 has now been read for the first time? Do you agree?

Minister of Health, I apologize. Government leader and Mr. Premier, Mr. Main.

Bill 7 – Public Lands Act – First Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that Bill 7, *Public Lands Act*, be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. Do we agree that Bill 7 be read for the first time? Thank you. First Reading of Bills, government leader, Mr. Main.

Bill 8 – Surface Rights Tribunal Act – First Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Baker Lake, that Bill 8, *Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. Do you agree that Bill 8 be read first time? Thank you. First Reading of Bills. Government leader and Mr. Premier, Mr. Main.

Bill 9 – Waters Act – First Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, that Bill 9, *Waters Act*, be now read for the first time. *Nakuurmiik*. (Interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. Do you agree that Bill 9 be read for the first time? First reading of bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Main.

Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2027-2028 – First Reading

Hon. John Main: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2027-2028* be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. Do you agree that Bill 10 be read for the first time? Thank you. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Main.

Bill 11 - Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No.3, 2025-2026– First Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, that Bill 11, *Supplementary*

Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No.3, 2025-2026, be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is so ordered. Do you agree that Bill 11 be read for the first time? Thank you. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Main.

Bill 12 - Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2026-2027 – First Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 12, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2026-2027*, be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion so ordered. Do you agree that Bill 12 be read for the first time? Do you agree? Thank you. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Main.

Bill 13 - Write-Off of Assets Act, 2025-2026 – First Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 13, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2025-2026*, be now read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is ordered. Do you agree that Bill 13 be read for the first time? Thank you. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Bill 14 - An Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act – First Reading

Ms. Brewster: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Netsilik, that Bill 14, *An Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act,* be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is ordered. Do you agree that Bill 14 be read for the first time? Thank you. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Education, Mr. Akeeagok.

Bill 15 - An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act – First Reading

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, that Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act,* be now read for the first time.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Do you agree that Bill 15 be read for the first time? Thank you.

And going ahead, item number 18, Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Main.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 10 - Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2027-2028– Second Reading

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2027-2028* be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2028. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Do you agree that Bill 10 be read for the second time? Do you agree that Bill 10, that this can be referred to the Standing Committee? Do you agree? Thank you.

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

Minister of Finance -- I apologize. Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2027-2028* will be referred on Monday, October 26, 2026. So, we'll not be dealing with it today.

Item number 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Item number 21, Third Reading of Bills. Item number 22, *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of a meeting of the Management Services Board at 1:30 this afternoon.

Orders of the Day for Monday, October 26 at 1:30 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions

9. Replies to 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 Motions
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

>>Applause

Speaker's Statement

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Our meeting of Friday morning has gone smoothly again, so we're adjourning for the day and we'll proceed again on Monday, October 26 at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House concludes at 11:02