**NUNAVUT HANSARD**

**UNEDITED TRANCRIPT**

**OCTOBER 27, 2026**

**IQALUIT, NUNAVUT**

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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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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**
**October 27, 2026**

**Members Present:**
Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok, Hon. David Akeeagok, Ms. Hanna Angootealuk, Mr. Edward Attagutaluk, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. Jason Iqaluq, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Jamie Kablutsiak, Mr. Gordon Kautuk, Hon. Brian Koonoo, Mr. Simon Kuliktana, Hon. Cecile Nelvana Lyal, Hon. John Main, Mr. Johnny Mike, Mr. Fred Pedersen, Mr. David Porter, Hon. Craig Simailak, Mr. Steven Taqtu, Hon. Annie Tattuinee

*>> House Commenced at 13:31.*

## Item 1: Opening Prayer

**Speaker** (Joanasie) (interpretation): Item number 1, Mr. Attagutaluk, if you can open the meeting with a prayer.

*>>Prayer*

**Speaker**: (interpretation) Good afternoon to the people of Nunavut, members of the Legislative Assembly. Item number 2 in our *Orders of the Day*, Ministers' Statement. Minister Akeeagok, Government House Leader.

## Item 2: Ministers' Statements

### Minister's Statement 103-7(2): Minister Absent from the House

**Hon. David Akeeagok**: Good afternoon to everyone, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise the members that Hon. Janet Brewster will be absent from the House today due to illness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Community Services Minister Simailak.

### Minister's Statement 104-7(2): 2026 Sport and Recreation Awards

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and celebrate the recipients of the 2026 Sport and Recreation Awards.

On October 3, the Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut, the Nunavut Sport Federation, and Community Services' Sport and Recreation Division came together to celebrate individuals, teams and communities for their achievements and contributions to sport and recreation across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Sport and Recreation Division recognized this year's recipients across several categories:

- Male Athlete of the Year: Andrew Kavik of Sanikiluaq

*>>Applause*

- Female Athlete of the Year: Lana Lindell of Rankin Inlet

*>>Applause*

- Coach of the Year, Gavin Greenley of Cambridge Bay

*>>Applause*

- Administrator of the Year, Hannah Siksik of Rankin Inlet

*>>Applause*

- Official of the Year, Rob Strutz of Iqaluit

*>>Applause*

- Team of the Year: Team Nunavut's U19 Arctic Winter Games Female Hockey Team

*>>Applause*

- Special Recognition Award for Outstanding Contribution to Sport: Rebecca Walker of Baker Lake; and Todd Gardner, Shauna Beaton, Paul Suvega Sr., and Patrick and Samantha McDermott of Iqaluit.

*>>Applause*

Mr. Speaker, the Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut also recognized outstanding accomplishments and contributions to community recreation. This year's recipients were:

- Calm Air Youth Leader Award of Excellence: Novoalia Carriere of Kinngait

*>>Applause*

- Recreation Leader of the Year: Breton McNeil of Iqaluit

>>*Applause*

- Volunteer of the Year: Kinngait Youth Group

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Sport Federation also recognized Rankin Inlet for its commitment to supporting and strengthening sport in the community, presenting the community with the Calm Air Community Sport Award.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate all recipients of the 2026 Sport and Recreation Awards and thank my colleagues who attended the celebration on my behalf.

I would also like to thank the Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut for hosting the event in conjunction with its annual Recreation Leadership Conference and the Nunavut Sport Coaching Symposium.

These awards recognize the athletes, coaches, volunteers, leaders and communities whose dedication continues to strengthen sport and recreation across Nunavut.

Ma’na, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We congratulate them all. Ministers' Statement. Minister of Family Services, Minister Healey Akearok.

**Minister’s Statement 105-7(2): Expanding the Ikur’raq Cabin Initiative**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that the Government of Nunavut and Government of Canada are expanding support for the Ikur’raq Cabin Initiative. This initiative helps communities provide safe, low-barrier respite spaces where people in need can find temporary shelter, warmth, and connection to community.

As outlined in *Ikajuqtigiikta*, unsheltered homelessness is a critical safety and public health challenge in Nunavut. It requires sustained action from all levels of government

and strong partnership with communities. Ikur'raq cabins are one practical response to an immediate need.

Through the 2024-2026 Canada-Nunavut Contribution Agreement under the Unsheltered Homelessness and Encampments Initiative, Nunavut received a total of $1 million in federal funding to support the construction of 10 cabins each year, in partnership with hamlets, non-profit organizations, and Hunters and Trappers Associations. As of August 2026, five cabins have been completed and another 15 are under construction.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut has now secured an additional $513,642 from the Government of Canada to expand this important initiative. This funding will support the construction of 15 additional cabins. Family Services is now working with community partners to allocate the funding and advance construction in communities where the need is greatest.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut deserve safe places to go when they are in crisis. By expanding the Ikur'raq initiative, we are helping communities provide immediate, practical support to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, while continuing our work toward lasting housing solutions for Nunavut.

*Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you as well. For Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. Hickes.

**Minister's Statement 106-7(2): 2026 Simata Pitsiulak Avation Scholarship Recipients**

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

Mr. Speaker, The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut is committed to building capacity in the territory's transportation industry. The Simata Pitsiulak Aviation Scholarship is focused on developing the territory's workforce by providing financial assistance in the form of grants to aviation students. Mr. Speaker, the goal of the program is to both incentivize and support enrolment, graduation, and transition into the territory's workforce. The scholarship prioritizes Inuit Employment by increasing the number of Nunavut Inuit aviation specialists that may one day choose to serve in our government.

Mr. Speaker and members, this year I am very pleased to report that nine impressive Nunavummiut, each in school and working to successfully complete their programs, have

been chosen by the selection committee. This year's successful scholarship recipients are as follows:

- Andrew Owlijoot (Rankin Inlet)
- Conner Ejetsiak (Belleville, ON
- Natuk Inukshuk (Rankin Inlet)
- Elaine Sanertainut (Rankin Inlet)
- James Tutanuak (Rankin Inlet)
- Luke Cornthwaite (Iqaluit)
- Sadie Vincent-Wolfe (Iqaluit)
- Jukipa Kotierk (Iqaluit)
- Magnus Pupik (Baker Lake)

Each of these dedicated students will receive a scholarship valued at $7,500 to help towards the cost of their aviation-based training. Please join me in recognizing this year's recipients of the Simata Pitsiulak Aviation Scholarship.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): I'm pleased with you as well, and congratulations. Minister Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 107-7(2): Strategic Action Plan for Inclusion and Equity 2026-2031**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we celebrate the Third Annual Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day, I'm pleased to highlight some of the ways the department is supporting early childhood educators and children through inclusive culturally and linguistically supports

The Department of Education has refreshed its actions under the Early Learning and Child Care Strategic Action Plan for Inclusion and Equity to align with extended federal funding, building on the accomplishments of the past three years. The Strategic Action Plan, which I will be tabling today, will continue to provide guidance on inclusion and equity to all early learning and childcare stakeholders in Nunavut from 2026-2031. The action plan is built around the following three strategic focus areas:

1. Increasing materials, equipment supports, and program planning;
2. Increasing learning and training for early learning and childcare providers; and
3. Guiding change in early learning and childcare-related policies. (interpretation ends)

Mr. Speaker, inclusion and equity are grounded in *Inunnguiniq* and Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit*, supporting the diverse capacities of all children. This can be achieved by creating early learning environments filled with culturally and linguistically appropriate, quality early learning resources, as well as by providing additional supports and resources in a caring, responsive, and respectful way. For example, the department developed and distributed sensory stones along with delivering sensory toy training to licensed childcare centres across the territory.

Resources that include Braille are being developed and distributed to all licensed centres. These actions contribute to the *Ikajuqtigiikta* priority of strengthening and uplifting families and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to invite members to join me in the lobby to explore some of these resources firsthand later today, and I encourage Nunavummiut to join me in celebrating the contributions of Nunavut's early childhood educators.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statement. Minister responsible for Housing Corporation, Minister Lyall.

**Minister's Statement 108-7(2): Joe Kunuk – CEO Igluvut**

**Hon. Cecile Lyall**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Joe Kunuk on his appointment as Chief Executive Officer of Igluvut Corporation.

His appointment reflects his experience, leadership and commitment to improving outcomes for Nunavummiut. I am confident that Mr. Kunuk will bring dedication and a collaborative approach to this new responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation recognizes that building public housing alone cannot meet the housing needs of all Nunavummiut.

Igluvut plays a vital role in expanding housing options and adding essential capacity to the territory's housing system.

Addressing Nunavut's housing shortage requires strong partnerships, and Inuit-led organizations play a critical role in developing housing solutions that directly respond to the needs of Nunavut Inuit.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's *Igluliuqatigiingniq* Strategy and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's *Angirratsaliulauqta*, the Nunavut Inuit Housing Action Plan, lay the groundwork for Igluvut.

I would also like to recognize the leadership of Paul Irngaut, the Vice President of NTI and Chair of NTI's Infrastructure and Housing Advisory Committee, as well as the regional vice presidents who also sit on the Committee.

My thanks also go to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Regional Inuit Associations, industry partners and everyone supporting housing initiatives across Nunavut. These efforts are essential to delivering safe, stable housing for families in Nunavut.

I look forward to NHC working alongside Igluvut to build more homes for Nunavummiut and wish Mr. Kunuk success in his new role.

I'd also like to acknowledge Aaron Pedersen, who has recently been announced as Igluvut Corporation's Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in this House to join me in congratulating Mr. Kunuk and Mr. Pedersen on their appointments.

*Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We're proud of them. Item number 3, Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Pedersen.

## Item 3: Members' Statements

### Member's Statement 124-7(2): Government's Debt Limit

**Mr. Pedersen**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to you all and to residents of Cambridge Bay watching our proceedings today.

I'm glad our Premier returned, because today my questions will be for the Premier related to his finance portfolio and will be on the government's debt limit which is set by the federal government.

Just like in any family financial planning, we must ensure that we can always pay our credit on time. When we do this, our borrowing limits can be increased, thus allowing us to tap into that increased limit when needed.

We are at that time as a government. Our communities need more infrastructure and they need to now.

Mr. Speaker, this government has a strong credit rating, and we do have the ability to request a limit. We just need to present the required information when making the request.

As I mentioned, the time is now to spend more. We need to increase our credit limit and we need to invest it in the infrastructure that our communities need. If we wait too long, project costs will increase, and because of the that, we won't be able to afford all the projects that we are planning.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names. Let us proceed to item number 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Before we start that, I would like to welcome Nunavut's Integrity Commissioner. Please feel welcome Ms. Katherine Pedersen.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Mr. Akeeagok.

## Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

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

Mr. Speaker, like I just stated, I will be recognizing students, and today we are celebrating the day, and it's all about curriculum. And I would like to recognize the students that are here that are in their House. A person from Pangnirtung, Geeteetah Manniapik from Igloolik, Debbie Qaunaq; and from Taloyoak, Deanna Ettunga and the teacher, Larissa McDonald. And they will be having a presentation in the main lobby.

Here from the Education Department, those people who set these things up: Sarah Leslie, Dora Kelley Bolt and Courtney McDonell. I would like to recognize them. And like I recognized Katherine Pederson, that's on my speed dial.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors to the Gallery. Member from Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate some special guests joining us in the gallery today. Please help me welcome Elaina Illauq. Please stand up when I say your name. Victoria Lindel, and assistant coach Lauren Perrin.

They are representing team Nunavut's U19 hockey team, our 2026 team of the year.

>>*Applause*.

The team earned bronze at the 2026 Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse, marking their first medal at a major games, and inspiring young athletes across Nunavut.

I would also like to recognize Samantha and Patrick McDermott. They are the recipients of the Special Recognition Award for their Contributions to Sports and Recreation in Nunavut.

Please join me in welcoming all our guests to the House, and congratulating them on their achievements and contributions to sport in Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Legislative Assembly, and go team Nunavut.

Recognition of Visitors to the Gallery. Member from Tununiq, Mr. Koonoo.

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

I would like to recognize (indiscernible) true to my heart: Samantha McDermott and Pat McDermott. Thirty years ago they were my teachers and my principal. And because of them they taught me very good English. And sometimes they were strict, but they taught me very good. They were very good teachers. And over 30 years you've worked very hard, and a lot of students have learned a lot from you. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Pedersen.

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

And although I recognized him yesterday, he's back here again today, so I would like to recognize my son, Aaron Pedersen. Welcome back to your House.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker**: Welcome again, Mr. Pedersen. Recognition of Visitors to the Gallery. Member for Netsilik, Ms. Lyall.

**Hon. Cecile Lyall**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not very often I get to recognize one of my constituents in the House. I would like to welcome Ms. Ettunga, and I wish you all the success in your educational endeavours, and we're so excited to have you back at home in Taloyoak once you've completed with your program.

I would also like to recognize Joe Kunuk. As I stated in my statement, the Chief Executive Officer of Igluvut, Aaron Pedersen, the Chief Operating Officer of Igluvut at NHC. We are really excited for Igluvut to become operational and to see more housing options offered to Nunavut Inuit.

I would also like to recognize Paul Irngaut, the vice-president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. We're really excited to have the opportunity at NHC to be able to work with Inuit organizations.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly and congratulations to Mr. Koonoo and Mr. Pedersen.

Recognition of Visitors to the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Attagutaluk.

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

I would like to recognize Deborah Qauroq who is here for her education. We are proud of her and hope she completes her education very well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Yes, please feel welcome in the Assembly.

Recognition of Visitors to the Gallery. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Kuliktana.

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

Today I would like to recognize Kelly Bolt who is a Kugluktuk resident and who is now taking the early childhood program. I just wanted to recognize you and welcome to your House, and we wish you the best in your future endeavours.

And also I would like to recognize an old friend, Paul Irngaut who has contributed to Nunavut in a lot of areas. So I would like to recognize both of them.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors to the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

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

I would like to welcome a person from Pangnirtung, (indiscernible) Ms. Maniapik, and also Nunavut Tunngavik's vice-president and a person I've known for a very long time, Joe Adla Kunuk. Welcome to the Assembly. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Please feel welcome in the Assembly.

Recognition of Visitors to the Gallery. I have no more names.

We will proceed to item number 6, Oral Questions. My apologies. Yes, we are on 6, Oral Questions. Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Taqtu.

## Item 6: Oral Questions

### Oral Question 159-7(2): Water Infrastructure

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

My questions today are for the Minister of Community Services.

As the Minister is aware, the government recently issued another advisory concerning drinking water in a number of communities.

Arctic Bay has been under a boil water advisory since August of 2024, over two years ago.

The Legislative Assembly has approved significant capital funding for the construction of the Arctic Bay water treatment plant upgrade.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy that this project is on the cover of the 2027-2028 capital estimates.

It reflects the importance of the investment.

Can the Minister provide an update today on the status of this project? My questions today are for the Minister of Community Services.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon all.

Regarding the status of the Arctic Bay water treatment plant, construction began just this fall. So very, very recently construction has begun on it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

As the Minister is aware, Grise Fiord relies on glacier melt for the community's drinking water supply.

Information published by the Municipality of Grise Fiord indicates that “Our community currently relies on glaciers for our drinking water, and with the impact of global warming, there is concern regarding the long-term supply of our drinking water. We have no natural water reservoir like other Nunavut communities.”.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that a previous government undertook a study on the long-term water supply for Grise Fiord.

When I raised this issue with the Minister during the Legislative Assembly's winter sitting, he indicated that he would look into the findings of that study.

Can the Minister highlight the findings and recommendations from that study?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question regarding his other constituency of Grise Fiord and their water advisory or review of it.

But first, let me go back to his first question, Mr. Speaker. Construction has been ongoing and -- I misread the wrong line here. It's scheduled to be completed this calendar here, the substantial completion.

And for the Grise Fiord, the project is currently in construction. Approximately 56 percent complete, and the new plan account for water volumes and community growth, along with treatment requirements to meet the new water regulations that changes from time to time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Information published by the Municipality of Grise Fiord also indicates that,"Safe and clean drinking water for all communities in the territory is a stated, top priority for the Government of Nunavut. The Government of Canada, and Nunavut, are working together on the planning, design and construction of a new Water Treatment Plant in Grise Fiord. The project will include three new water storage tanks. One of these will be redundant, for backup capacity. The tanks will feature freeze protection, mixers, alarms, and bolted steel construction. Water will be treated to meet the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality."

He just already updated, but can the Minister provide an update today on the status of this project?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Yes, with Community Services and the Government of Nunavut, we heavily work towards safe drinking water right across Nunavut, all our communities, and provides health, safety and community sustainability as a priority.

We work very closely with the hamlets and our partners at Transportation Infrastructure Nunavut and Health, and our federal partners. They are a major partner with our funding programs to update our water treatment plants and other infrastructure across the territory. And for Grise Fiord, yes, substantial completion is slated for summer of 2027.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (No interpretation).

**Oral Question 160-7(2): Property Taxes**

**Mr. Kuliktana**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Finance and they concern the issue of property taxes.

As the Minister will recall, the 2026 *Mill Rate Establishment Order* under the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* was published in the September edition of the *Nunavut Gazette*.

Mr. Speaker, the 2026 property tax rate for residential properties in Nunavut communities outside of Iqaluit has been set at 6.15 mills.

This is unchanged from the 2025 taxation year.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that homeowners will be happy to hear that their property taxes are not increasing.

Can the Minister indicate how his department determined that no increase was required.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

We're looking at different options. At the Department of Finance and Revenue, that is something that's important to us. We just want to have our hands out to the federal government, but our revenue is something that's very important to us, but we do look at the implications that might be created with the increase in taxes, so there's different options that we use, different ideas.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

The 2026 *Mill Rate Establishment Order* indicates that the property tax rate for mining companies has increased from 16.36 mills to 18.24 mills. This is an increase of approximately 11%.

Can the Minister indicate how the amount of this increase was determined and can he indicate approximately how much property tax revenue the government expects to receive from mining operations during the 2026 taxation year.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can choose one or both.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So our (interpretation ends) total property taxes in 2025 were $19.6 million, and we're hoping to see that number increased. I don't have a specific breakdown in terms of the different mill rates, in terms of the specific revenues we're expecting to come from mining properties, but I can follow up with that to the member.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kuliktana**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for your response.

As the Minister is aware, the *Nunavut Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement* was signed in January of 2024.

The agreement contained a section regarding property taxation and the longstanding dispute regarding Baffinland's property tax arrears.

The agreement indicated that, “The Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik acknowledge that differences exist between them concerning the amendments to the territorial *Property Assessment and Taxation Act* brought into force on May 27, 2022. The Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik are committed to resolving the

differences between them concerning the amendments within two years of the signing of this Agreement.”.

Mr. Speaker, it is now October of 2026.

Can the Minister update the House on the status of these discussions?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Main.

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

So the mandated two-year window for negotiations is now closed on that matter.

As outlined in the Devolution Agreement, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik have held discussions with respect to Nunavut Tunngavik concerns regarding *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*. Apologies, I try not to use too many acronyms.

The Government of Nunavut is always open to consultations and discussions with our partners at Nunavut Tunngavik. A legal challenge of the PATA amendments is currently before the Nunavut Court of Justice. The PATA discussions under the Devolution Agreement are separate from the court process and without prejudice.

The Government of Nunavut continues to vigorously defend the PATA amendments before the court, while also fulfilling the committments of the Devolution Agreement.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Following my list of names, member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Kautuk.

**Oral Question 161-7(2): Invasive Species in Nunavut**

**Mr. Kautuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is to the Minister of Environment who is responsible for the Nunavut Planning Change Secretariat.

My question concerns the issue of the invasive species in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as our territory continues to experience an impact of climate change, it is important that we understand how changing environmental conditions may affect the

presence and spread of pests that can present significant challenges for all of our communities in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the spread of bedbugs and other invasive species have been raised as an emerging issue of concern.

Can the Minister describe what research or monitoring his department has been undertaking to determine how climate change may be influencing the presence and spread of these species in Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: (No interpretation).

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

In regards to environment and species, or the spreading of species, is not under the Department of Environment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kautuk**: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends).

The Minister of the Department indicates that, "Species are transported throughout the world by human activities, like shipping, which allow species to move further distances ... Nunavut remains very remote compared to the rest of Canada and so the lack of major road system, infrequent shipping and cold climate has limited their introduction and survival. However, as climate change alters Arctic ecosystem, it creates conditions that are more favourable to the survival and reproduction of non-native species. It also enables greater human activities and development, which gives potential invasive species more opportunity to establish themselves."

Can the Minister describe how his department is currently collaborating with the other government department to address this issue?

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 the member.

The Department of Environment is in charge of research, especially those towards with the mines and shipping routes. But when it comes to bedbugs inside a house, we're not quite sure how they arrive, but that's under their responsibility of the Department of Health. So, that's how we do it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Kautuk**: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the Minister for his response. (interpretation ends).

In 2026 the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Department of Health issued a joint Public Service Announcement. The announcement indicated that, "The Government of Nunavut Department of Health and the Nunavut Housing Corporation are reminding residents to act quickly if they suspect bedbugs in their home. Early reporting allows an inspection and treatment to be arranged before the infestation spreads ... they can be found in homes, hotels and offices ..."

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the importance of a coordinated approach to addressing invasive species.

For example, I'm aware of an outbreak of insects in one of the schools in my constituency, and concerns have been raised by a number of other Members in the House about bedbugs in hotels that are used by medical travellers.

Will the Minister commit to working with the Department of Health, the Department of Education and the Nunavut Housing Corporation to establish an interdepartmental working group focused on prevention and early detection, timely responses to invasive species outbreak across Nunavut?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Koonoo.

**Hon. Brian Koonoo** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your question.

The climate change secretariat is currently working. For example, they work with other departments like the Department of Health and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We are starting to respond to invasive species outbreaks across Nunavut.

There's different species that are coming into Nunavut. We are aware of it at the Department of Health, and we will keep working with the other departments in regards to the climate change and the warming of Nunavut.

It could be other invasive species other than bugs or brown bears are also increasing in population. We are currently working on it at the Department of Environment, and we will work with any other entities if we need to do so.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Pedersen

**Oral Question 162-7(2): Debt Limit for Nunavut**

**Mr. Pedersen**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance and are regarding the debt limit for Nunavut.

As the Minister is likely aware, earlier this months the Yukon debt limit was raised from $1.2 billion to $3 billion. This was done in part to allow them to borrow more now.

Our needs in Nunavut for more infrastructure is great, and right now we are not using much of our debt limit. As time passes, the cost of goods for projects seems to rise quite rapidly, therefore, it is important to include more projects now.

Our capital plan for next year has decreased from this year. This is at a time that we should be investing more before costs rise even more.

To ensure that we can start to close our infrastructure gap, would the Minister be opening to requesting an increase to our debt limit so that we can add more projects that are needed in our communities?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Finance, Minister Main.

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

I've had in terms of the member's preamble in reference to the Yukon, I've had the pleasure of getting to know Premier Dixon a bit, and it's really interesting to see the projects that are being worked on over there to the west.

In terms of Nunavut's debt limit, we currently do have some room within our borrowing limit. So it was increased in 2025-2026 by $300 million, so our borrowing limit went up from $750 million to $1.05 billion.

In terms of the member's question and the need for investing in infrastructure, I certainly agree with the need to address the incredible gaps that exist, whether it's in drinking water, power generation, health infrastructure, you name it, airports, marine infrastructure. So the need is certainly there.

But at the same time there is limited capacity within our construction sector to deliver. There are factors other than just the amount of money that's put behind capital projects that determine how much actually gets built.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Pedersen**: I thank the Minister for his reply.

I think when resources are made available for major construction projects, I think the companies to do that can be found. I'll give an example of the DEW line system built from Alaska to Greenland every 50 miles in two years. Two years complete from start to finish. So when resources are made available, companies to do that work are found. And that's a very good example of a major project that took two years from start to finish.

My next question is: Does the Minister agree that over time the cost associated with completing capital projects rises, and depending on world events, can rise quite quickly?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Main.

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

We've certainly seen significant inflation in terms of the cost of building projects in Nunavut. If you look back a decade ago, some of the capital projects that were built then appear quite cheap by today's standards. And so I would agree with that.

However, at the same time we do have to, you know, if we're talking money, we have to realize that the more debt you have, the more money you have to put towards interest.

And so right now the debt that we have taken on under our debt cap is -- we're having to pay costs to service that debt. So the more debt we take on, that's just going to increase.

But I certainly will not argue that, you know, against increased infrastructure in Nunavut. There are huge needs right across the territory, and I agree with the member on that.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

As the Minister has agreed that capital costs rise over time, will he commit to discussing with his cabinet the need to prioritize and move some planned capital projects forward so that overall project costs can be lowered, thus not only saving this government money, but more importantly, getting the much needed infrastructure into our communities sooner?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Finance, Minister Main.

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

I can confirm that capital and infrastructure is a huge topic of focus for myself and the cabinet colleagues, whether it's Minister of Education, Community Services, Human Resources, Transportation, Housing, Environment, Family Services and Health -- even though she's not here -- there's huge needs. And it's a very difficult process of deciding which projects need to get built first when we have such a huge need.

I mean you look at the beautiful new power plant in Cambridge Bay, that rose to the top of the list in terms of needing to get addressed because the existing one was crumbling.

And so if we look across the different portfolios, look at the different needs, we're continually having to prioritize issues around health and safety, issues that are critical in nature. Where if we had more room, if we had more capacity, I think we could get to some of those issues that were -- or some of the capital projects that are further down on the priority list, which are in their own way also important.

So I am not going to commit to anything here, but I can confirm and share with the member that capital projects and infrastructure is a huge area of focus for cabinet.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 163-7(2): Public Safety in Pangnirtung**

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Justice. They concern the concerns of Pangnirtungmmuit.

The Minister will recall last week during this sitting in the House, I raised a concern in our Members' Statements, and this is regarding the information contained in Pangnirtung RCMP September 2026 Monthly Report.

Mr. Speaker, last week in this House under Members' Statements, I mentioned or I drew attention to the recent incident of firearms-related violence in Pangnirtung, and this has raised serious concerns for Pangnirtung residents on safety.

The RCMP report have touched on a number of things. Proper storage and use of firearms in Nunavut is a program that's been often raised and have benefitted and made differences how firearms must be properly used and stored.

Mr. Speaker, the information and the campaign and which (no interpretation) (interpretation ends) "safety awareness activities throughout the year ... including possession and acquisition licence courses in combination with awareness outreach events in Nunavut communities."

Can the Minister confirm whether there are plans to deliver possession and acquisition licence course and firearms safety awareness activity in Pangnirtung? If so, when will these activities will take place?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this question comes at good timing, as the member will recall just earlier today when I was talking about training the trainer of firearms safety program delivery.

When we look at getting more people registered and trained across the territory, it allows us to deliver programming in more communities.

Mr. Speaker, to directly answer the member's question, I have the schedule for November. I don't see Pangnirtung on there, but I will follow-up with my officials and see how early in the new year that they will be delivering the programming in Pangnirtung. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for your response.

This is an ongoing program by the Justice Department. On May 31, 2023, the 2022-2025 Nunavut Minister of Justice and Nunavut Royal Canadian Mounted Police Commanding Officers Shared Directional Statement, and this is what I'm referring to -- and this was tabled in the House. And this was to be one of the areas looked into, "As alcohol is a major factor in the majority of the crimes and calls for service in Nunavut, the Nunavut government, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police commitment in addressing the harmful effects and crimes associated with bootlegging and substance abuse in our Nunavut communities."

As the Minister is aware, Pangnirtung is a community where alcohol is prohibited. (interpretation) Despite this prohibition, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Pangnirtung have received almost 700 alcohol-related calls this year. (interpretation ends).

Can the Minister indicate what measures his department is taking in collaboration with the RCMP in Pang to address prohibited alcohol from entering Pangnirtung?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member's asking very good questions at a very good time, and I know the member's brought this up to me inside and outside of the House as a concern and as a community, and when we deal with restricted alcohol communities, it's not just the RCMP that have a role to play; it's the community members themselves, whether it be through hamlet officials, even down to the schools.

With the new Constable that's been -- or, sorry, the new Corporal that's been the new commanding officer in Pangnirtung, he's fairly new there, and already he's done some significant outreach to the community justice workers, to the mayor and hamlet council. He's spoken a couple of times at both high school and elementary school, and it's those types of engagements that help people recognize that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are there for positive discussions, as well as some of the interactions that they have on the negative side of things.

But I think it's very important to recognize that it takes a whole community to discourage bootlegging especially. Many communities know who the bootleggers are. Oftentimes the Royal Canadian Mounted Police know who the bootleggers are. But you need to have

actionable information to be able to get warrants to do an appropriate investigation so that people that are breaking the law are charged, and if convicted, have repercussions for their actions.

So I encourage all community members and institutions in all our communities, when you know that there's illicit activity going on, please let the local detachment know so that they can initiate an investigation.

I know it's very complicated in smaller communities where we all have friends and family that may be involved, but we have to look at the harm that is happening in our communities through alcohol and its abuse. I appreciate the member for bringing this forward.

So to summarize my response, Mr. Speaker, with the new Corporal there engaging at the community level and engaging with the headquarters here in Iqaluit, we're going to continue to work towards catching people that are illegally selling alcohol across the territory.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

And the Police Report, I tabled them last week to the House and to encourage my fellow members to table the report.

And in regards to the firearms program, and there's a program available made by the Department of Justice to offer safety awareness, and this plan for 2022-2025 with the Nunavut government program, and there's a program made available through that.

But my last question I would like to include it in my question. Canada Post, they will strengthen its effort to serve (interpretation ends) Northern Reconciliation Strategy (interpretation) on November 20, 2020.

"In collaboration with community leaders and local Indigenous law enforcement, Canada Post will expand and strengthen its effort to serve Indigenous and northern communities safely. This includes working to reduce non-mailable matter, such as alcohol and illicit drugs that enter the communities."

Mr. Speaker, the Pangnirtung Royal Canadian Mounted Police report highlights, to my understanding, the harmful issue of illegal drugs in the community. In Pangnirtung, with 345 grams (interpretation ends) reported as of August 2026.

Can the Minister indicate what specific action his department is undertaking, in collaboration with the RCMP and Canada Post to identify and disrupt the illegal distribution in Pangnirtung?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, just before I go to the member's question and response, I would just like to highlight in our earlier discussions with firearms safety courses, that there is an application on the Government of Nunavut's website where people can apply to take the program. And the more people that apply, the sooner that program will be delivered in your community. So I'm speaking out to all members here, the more of your residents and constituents apply for firearms safety certification courses, the sooner it will come to your community.

Mr. Speaker, to directly respond to the member's question, I really appreciate it, because this is something I've been talking to Public Safety Canada Minister, Anandasangaree, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police since last December when they tried to come to Cambridge Bay unsuccessfully, but we did go through Yellowknife.

And one of the discussion items that I've been having with Minister Anandasangaree is just that, how Canada Post can get more involved with screening and recognizing when packages do need to be screened with illicit materials in them, they can contact the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, warrants can be obtained. There's legislation coming within Canada; I believe it's being introduced this fall.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's very important to recognize as these discussions and as at the federal level these discussions happen, that we promote Nunavut's position as much as possible to encourage Canada Post to do these types of inspections and screening.

Right now there's one inspector working out of Montreal that is inspecting Nunavut mail that is coming through that facility. But that's not enough. There's also other distribution centres across the country that service Nunavut.

So we want to make sure that for one, that they are legislatively enabled to do these inspections and searches, and to make sure that it's coordinated with law enforcement to make sure that convictions can happen, that the rules are being followed and that the people that are bringing these substances into the territory can be charged and convicted if found guilty.

So I think it's very important to continue that messaging. I appreciate the member bringing it up. I was just speaking to Minister Anandasangaree last week on this. I mentioned earlier that I had spoken with him last week. This is also one of the topics.

We have had a couple of pilot programs with Canada Post, and a significant amount of illicit materials were caught and diverted from entering Nunavut. So that is one vulnerable point that we recognize, and we are working actively with our federal partners in law enforcement to help close that loop.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Sanikiluaq, Mr. Iqaluq.

**Oral Question 164-7(2): Activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation**

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

My questions are for the minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The minister is aware is suffering from a shortage of housing.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that all Nunavut communities are in the same situation.

Information published by the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that it has been working to construct a number of new units in the community. I understand the construction has been a very slow process.

Can the Minister provide an update today on the status of these new units? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible For Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Lyall.

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

Currently right now in Sanikiluaq we have eight units at various stages of construction. The first being eight units within a multiplex, which has recently been subcontracted.

The civil pad installation is complete, but there were delays in the installation of the piles within that community.

For that eight-unit multiplex, we're now anticipating a target completion date of July 2027.

Two units within a duplex modular, we're anticipating a target completion of May 2027. And then another two units within a -- two units that will be modular single detached housing units, which would include two 4-bedroom staff housing units.

Exterior work and mechanical and electrical is complete on these, and inspections with a targeted completion date of May 2027.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Iqaluq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also thank you, Minister, for your response.

As the new member of the Legislative Assembly I recognize that I am catching up on decisions that were made earlier in the life of the current government.

Can the minister clarify how the Nunavut Housing Corporation determines the community allocations for new public housing units and can she confirm how many new public housing units are planned to begin construction in Sanikiluaq during the upcoming 2027-2028 fiscal year?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Lyall.

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

We do recognize that for quite some time, a lot of our communities in Nunavut did not see the start of new construction for public housing within them, and this is attributed a lot -- this has caused significant numbers coming into our public housing wait list.

Previously year-over-year the allocation of public housing units related to the wait list weighted by the number of units we have in that community.

Since the introduction of *Igluliuqatigiingniq*, the Nunavut 3000 Strategy, we're using the targets from there year-over-year where possible in the allocation of public housing.

So although we are still in the procurement phase for this upcoming -- we are still assessing proposals for this upcoming capital for next sealift.

We are anticipating to have that completed within the coming months, and I will update members on what has been procured for their communities either in stick build or modular once that process is wrapped up.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Iqaluq**: (no interpretation)

I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the members of the board of directors of Sanikiluaq's Qammaq Housing Association and all its employees.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that the Nunavut Housing Corporation work closely with local housing organizations to ensure that these accurate figures for public housing wait lists.

These figures help determine our locations for new construction.

Can the Minister indicate what the current numbers are for Sanikiluaq? 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 the question.

As of December 2025, NHC had a total of 202 public housing units in Sanikiluaq, and as of June 30, 2026, there were 68 applications on the public housing waitlist for Sanikiluaq.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 165-7(2): Post Secondary Educational Institutions in Nunavut**

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

My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the subject of post-secondary educational institutions in Nunavut.

As the minister will recall, the government's official statement regarding the decision to locate the headquarters of the new Inuit Nunangat University in Arviat indicated that the government is, "committed to ensuring that the complimentary efforts, "of both Nunavut Arctic College and the new university, "meet the needs of Nunavut."

When I raise the this issue during the spring sitting, I was informed that the government was working on a memorandum much understanding.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this work?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Akeeagok.

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

Mr. Speaker, the memorandum of understanding that we are working on is being passed back and forth. It's not completed yet, but they do have meetings about it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

As the minister will be aware, information published by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami indicates that the Inuit Nunangat University plans to establish six faculties that will offer degree programs in a wide variety of subjects, including education, social work, nursing and Inuktut interpretation and translation.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Arctic College's offerings include such longstanding programs as the Nunavut Teacher Education Program.

Can the minister indicate if the college plans to modify or discontinue any of its courses as a result of the new universities program offerings?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Akeeagok.

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

Mr. Speaker, there are no plans for discontinuing any of our programs that are related to the Nunavut Arctic College.

We are hoping that with the new university, that will be supplementary and that it's going to be able to help give Nunavummiut more options, not necessarily less. Because Nunavut Arctic College, most of our programs are spread out throughout all of our communities. And with the teachers education programs, we have been expanding it more to communities, and I don't see any of those programs disrupted.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

I raised concerns during the recent winter sitting and spring sittings regarding the high number of vacancies in Nunavut Arctic College's Arviat office.

The government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that approximately 6 positions are filled and 14 are vacant. That is a vacancy rate of almost 70%.

Can the Minister provide an update today on the status of filling those positions, and can he describe what specific challenges the college is facing with respect to recruitment for its positions in the community?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Akeeagok.

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

Mr. Speaker, sometimes I wish I can move my papers a lot faster before this light shows up in order for me to get the proper answer. But I know the response and the response is in there but there's -- I don't have necessarily the exact reasons why, what the biggest barrier is for not having retaining staff over in Arviat. I'll definitely commit to following up that with my colleague in terms of those vacancies that are located in his community.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. According to my list, Mr. Porter is next, member for Gjoa Haven.

**Oral Question 166-7(2): Youth Action Team**

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

My questions today are for the minister of Family Services, and they concern the statement that she made yesterday in the House regarding the creation of a new minister's Youth Action Team.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the young residents of the Kitikmeot who co-signed the document the member of Netsilik tabled in the House last week.

Young people like Kaila McCallum of Gjoa Haven, Faran Greenley of Cambridge Bay, Chloe Hokanak of Kugluktuk and Allegra Oleekatalik of Taloyoak are the future of this territory.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister's Statement of yesterday indicated that, "the minister youth action team is an 18-month pilot program. It will help us carefully test its model as we consider the possibility of territory youth initiative."

Can the Minister elaborate today on how her department was select participants and can clarify what ages will be eligible for participation in this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

I am extremely enthusiastic about this initiative, as we welcome the opportunity to include the voices of our young people in the work directly into the work that we're doing at Family Services.

As I mentioned, the call for applications will be coming out soon. The eligibility criteria will be part of that. Our team is actually meeting to finalize those details this week, and I hope to be able to share that information with the public, as well as with this House, as soon as possible.

The ages that we're looking at are youth and young adults, and that will be confirmed -- the exact age range will be confirmed when that call comes out.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Porter**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for her answer.

I would strongly encouraged the youth whom I mentioned in my preamble to consider applying for this initiative.

Can the Minister clarify how her department will ensure that the youth action team includes participants from all regions of the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Healey Akearok.

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

I also would like to acknowledge the youth who shared their actions at the Kitikmeot Inuit Association AGM which has been shared already this session. I also received a copy of their statement and shared it with my officials as well. So we've been closely examining their words and their voices, and we value them very much.

In terms of how we're going to ensure participation from all the regions, that's been highlighted in our plan. We want to see applicants from all regions. We also want to see youth applying from all walks of life. That means in school or not in school, youth who might be staying with their families or kinship caregivers or in foster care, youth who may be seeking out different types of employment and skills and training. We really welcome the voices of young Nunavummiut from all walks of life into this initiative.

We want to hear from them. We value them, and we cherish this opportunity to include them in the work that we're doing and in this team. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Porter**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your answer on my questions.

Can the Minister clarify how much funding has been allocated to this initiative and will she commit to tabling the report on the initiative in the Legislative Assembly at the end of the 18-month pilot project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe there were two questions there, but in terms of the financial request, I don't have that at my fingertips; I would have to confirm that information.

But in terms of the tabling request, I would absolutely, it is my intent to table the voices and perspectives of our young people in this House.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: (interpretation) Oral Questions. And moving on with the *Orders of the Day*. 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 number 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and other Matters. Item number 13, Tabling of Documents.

Minister of Education, Mr. Akeeagok.

## Item 13: Tabling of Documents

### Tabled Document 63-7(2): 2026-2031 Early Learning and Childcare Strategic Action Plan

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends). I am pleased to table the 2026-2031 Early Learning and Childcare Strategic Action Plan for inclusion and equity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Languages, Mr. Koonoo.

### Tabled Document 64-7(2): 2024-2025 Minister of Languages Annual Report

**Hon. Brian Koonoo**: 2024-2025 Minister of Languages Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Tabling of Documents. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

### Tabled Document 65-7(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Community Services Concerning the Fisheries Sector

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

I wish to table today a copy of correspondence that I recently received from the Minister of Community Services concerning issues that I have raised in the Legislative Assembly regarding the fisheries sector.

And I thank the Minister for his letter, which I encourage all members to review with care.

I will have further questions on this important issue during our sitting.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item number 14, Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills; Item 15, Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills.

Minister of Finance, Mr. Main.

## Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

### Bill 5 – An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act – Second 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 read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill increases the authorized limit of the public stores revolving fund to $5 million.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question being called. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 5 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Government House Leader, Minister Main.

### Bill 6 – Archaeological and Paleontological Sites Act – Second 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 read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill mirrors provisions of the *Nunavut Act* Canada to authorize the mirroring of the Nunavut Archeological and Paleontological Sites Regulations.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question being called. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried, and Bill 6 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Main.

**Bill 7 – Public Lands Act – Second Reading**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 7, *Public Lands Act*, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this Bill mirrors the federal *Territorial Lands Act*.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question being called. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried, and Bill 7 has been referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills, Mr. Main.

**Bill 8 – Surface Rights Tribunal Act – Second Reading**

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

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Baker Lake, that Bill 8, *Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this Bill mirrors part 2 of the federal *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question being called. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried, and Bill 8 has been referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills, Mr. Main.

**Bill 9 – Waters Act – Second Reading**

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

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Netsilik, that Bill 9, *Waters Act*, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this mirrors part 1 of the federal *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question being called. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried, and Bill 9 has been referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

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

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

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

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member from Iqaluit-Manirajak, that Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No.3, 2025-2026*, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this Bill makes supplementary appropriation to defray the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question being called. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried, and Bill 11 has been referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister Main.

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

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

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 12, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2026-2027*, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this Bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the capital expenditures of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2027.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question being called. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried, and Bill 12 has been referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills, Minister Main.

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

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

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, that Bill 13, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2025-2026*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill authorizes the write-off of assets in accordance with section 82 of the *Financial Administration Act*.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question being called. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried, and Bill 13 has been returned to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Item number 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters, Bill 10, 11 and 12, with Mr. Pedersen in the Chair. But before going to the Committee of the Whole, we'll take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House adjourns at 15:14 and Committee commences at 15:34*

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

**Chairman** (Pedersen): Good afternoon. I'll call the Committee to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 10, 11 and 12. What is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Taqtu.

**Mr. Taqtu**: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Committee wishes to continue with the consideration of Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2027-2028* and the proposed 2027-28 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community Service. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Are we in agreement we first deal with Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2027-2028*?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Bill 37 - Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2027 2028 – Consideration in Committee**

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

To my left is Deputy Minister Kyle Seeley, Community Services; and to my right, Dayna Cox, Acting Director, Financial Services, Community Services.

Good day colleagues. I am pleased to appear before the Committee of the Whole on Economic Development to present the Department's capital estimates for 2027-28, as part of the capital plan for the 2027-2032 period.

Mr. Chairman, Community Services works with municipalities and other partners to help build safe, resilient, and economically sustainable communities.
The department's 2027-2028 proposed capital estimates reflect our commitment to ensuring Nunavut's municipalities have the infrastructure they need to provide municipal services to residents.

For the 2027-2028 fiscal year, the Department of Community Services is proposing a capital appropriation of $88,238,000. The department's appropriation request consists of three components:

- Enhancing water treatment infrastructure to ensure safe drinking water in our communities;
- Upgrading community infrastructure; and
- Municipal program-based investments.

Mr. Chairman, access to safe and reliable drinking water is essential to the health and well-being of every community.

In 2027-2028 the department is proposing a total investment of $24,711,000 to improve municipally owned water treatment infrastructure in four communities including:

- Completion of the new water treatment plant in Arctic Bay;
- Continued construction of the water treatment plants in Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet and Sanikiluaq, and;
- Warranty work on the recently upgraded water intake system in Kugluktuk

Mr. Chairman, access to safe drinking water is a critical component of living and working in our communities.

Together these projects represent approximately 28% of the department's 2027-2028 proposed capital appropriation.

These projects will support the replacement and improvement of aging water systems, improve treatment and operational reliability, and assist municipalities in delivering safe and dependable water services.

Mr. Chairman, core infrastructure is essential to the delivery of municipal services. Community Services works with municipalities to identify and advance their capital priorities through planning, design, and construction. This includes investments required for public safety, environmental protection, and municipal operations.

For the department's 2027-2028 capital estimates we are proposing $9,587,000 towards upgrades to assets owned and operated by municipalities, including two fire halls, four solid waste site upgrades and one maintenance garage.

This component of our 2027-28 appropriation request equals approximately 11% of our total request and consists of the following projects;

- Construction of Fire Halls in Arviat and Whale Cove;
- Upgrades to solid waste sites in Arviat, Clyde River, Pangnirtung and Resolute Bay.
- Construction work on the Hamlet of Igloolik's Maintenance Garage.

Mr. Chairman, investment into these projects, will enhance the quality of life in these communities and facilitate the delivery of essential municipal services.
Mr. Chairman, Community Services is also requesting $53,940,000 in 2027-2028 for programs that support municipal infrastructure, long-term asset management, equipment replacement, local planning, and sustainable service delivery.

This proposed investment include:

- $9,000,000 in capital funding for the City of Iqaluit;
- $3,000,000 toward the Design Funds - Local Government Priorities, a fund dedicated to the design of municipal projects;
- $750,000 toward Economic Development Facilities Lifecycle investments;
- $1,940,000 toward Fire Truck Replacements in Nunavut communities;
- $18,000,000 toward the Municipal Capital Block Funding contribution program, a program that provides capital funding contributions to non-tax-based municipalities to maintain acquire or upgrade hamlet owned assets.
- $750,000 toward Minor Capital Municipal Studies to support municipalities in completing assessments of their capital needs;
- $5,500,000 toward the Municipal Mobile Equipment Program, a program that supports municipalities in maintaining and replacing their heavy equipment fleet;

- $10,000,000 toward the Municipal Parking Garage Program a program that provides financial support to municipalities so that they can build much needed heated storage space for municipal assets; and
- $5,000,000 toward ensuring municipal programs and services are delivered without interruption through the Sustainable Service Delivery program;

Mr. Chairman, representing approximately 61% of the department's proposed capital estimates. These projects and programs provide municipalities the flexibility to manage local infrastructure priorities, maintain and replace critical assets, undertake planning and design work and strengthen the long-term sustainability of municipal services.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, Community Services prioritizes capital investments based on health and safety requirements, asset condition, service reliability, cost effectiveness, and long-term operating needs.

The department will also continue to pursue opportunities to work with the Government of Canada, municipalities, and other partners to increase the reach and impact of territorial investments. This approach is consistent with the *Ikajuqtigiikta's* emphasis on collaboration, responsible allocation of public resources and planning for the long-term well-being of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, the proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates represent practical and necessary investments in the infrastructure, equipment and municipal capacity that supports safe, healthy, and sustainable communities across Nunavut.

I thank the Committee for its attention and look forward to responding to the Members' questions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee have Opening Comments? Please proceed, Mr. Mike.

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

My opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on the Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates of the Department of Community Services.

Community Services came into existence on April 1, 2025, following the government's recent reorganization. The department's proposed capital budget for the 2027-2028 fiscal year is $88.238 million. (interpretation ends) . A number of the capital projects and

programs that are now under the responsibility of the department were previously administered by the former Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

The department's *Community Development Grants and Contribution Policy* was last revised in November of 2024. It sunsets in November of 2028. Schedules to the Policy cover a number of capital programs, including the Municipal Mobile Equipment Program, the Granular Crushing Equipment Program, the Fire Truck Replacement Program and the Sustainable Service Delivery Program. (interpretation) The department's stand-alone *Municipal Parking Garage Program Policy* sunsets in March of 2027

The 2025-2026 capital estimates of the former Department of Community and Government Services included $10 million in funding for a new "Sustainable Service Delivery Program." The 2026-2027 capital estimates of the new Department of Community Services included $5 million for the program. The department's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include $5 million for the program.

Information provided by the department indicates that its purpose is to (interpretation ends) "proactively address repairs to municipal facilities to reduce the number of emergencies … the intention is to split this fund in half between lifecycle upgrades and emergencies." (interpretation) Members encourage the Minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on the department's expenditures under the program.

The 2025-2026 capital estimates of the former Department of Community and Government Services included $6.15 million in municipal capital block funding under its minor capital budget. The (interpretation ends) 2026-2027 capital estimates of the new Department of Community Services included $18.0 million for a stand-alone municipal capital block funding budget. The department's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include $18.0 million for the program.

Information provided by the department indicates that "starting in the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the Granular Crushing Equipment Program will be discontinued, and its funding will be reallocated to the Municipal Capital Block Fund.

As the department continues its shift to block funding, the Municipal Parking Garage Program will not accept any new planning or planning/design applications starting in 2026-2027. However, it is expected funding will continue for current participating communities to complete their parking garage construction projects." (interpretation) Members encourage the department to clearly communicate this change in direction to municipalities. Members also encourage the Minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on the department's expenditures and initiatives under these programs.

On May 29, 2023, the *Government of Nunavut Drinking Water Strategic Framework* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Members remain concerned about the frequency of boil water advisories and other water quality situations in a number of communities

within Nunavut. (interpretation ends) The government's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include a total of approximately $29.9 million in funding for projects related to drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. $5.25 million (interpretation) of this funding is for the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure's ongoing work to replace and/or upgrade infrastructure in Rankin Inlet and Resolute Bay. These assets are under the jurisdiction of the territorial government. (interpretation ends) The remainder of the funding is being administered by the Department of Community Services for projects in a number of communities. Information published by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada indicates that it will be submitting a report to the Legislative Assembly in 2027 concerning the management of drinking water in Nunavut. (interpretation) Members look forward to holding a televised hearing on this report.

The department's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include funding for solid waste site upgrades in Arviat, Clyde River, Pangnirtung and Resolute Bay. (interpretation ends) The government has issued a number of Requests for Proposals in recent years for solid waste management feasibility studies for a number of communities. Recent departmental business plans have indicated that it "continues to support stakeholders in the development of a solid waste strategy … [however], further progress on this project is delayed due to capacity restraints held by partner stakeholders." (interpretation) Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this work.

The 2025-2026 capital estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services included $750,000 in funding for municipal studies and projects under its minor capital budget. The 2026-2027 capital estimates of the new Department of Community Services included $750,000 for the stand-alone municipal studies budget. (interpretation ends) The department's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include $750,000 for the program. Members encourage the Minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on the department's expenditures and initiatives under this program.

The department's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates also include funding for Economic Development Facilities Lifecycle improvements. This funding was previously administered by the former Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Members encourage the Minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on the department's expenditures and initiatives under the program. Members encourage the department to consider expanding the scope of the funding to include improvements to facilities owned by the Nunavut Development Corporation and its subsidiaries.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates of the Department of Community Services. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Do members have any generals comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Seeing none. We'll now proceed to a page-by-page review of the Capital Estimates starting on page K-3.

We will now review the Department of Community Services local government branch. Do members have any questions? Mr. Taqtu.

**Mr. Taqtu**: Thank you, Chair. Your department's proposed 2027-2028 Capital Estimates include a total of $24.711 million in Government of Nunavut funding for drinking water related capital projects. This represents 28 percent of your department's total budget for the 2027-2028 fiscal year.

What is the estimated cost to replace and/or upgrade drinking water and waste water infrastructure in all of Nunavut communities?

Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Simailak, go ahead.

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

Regarding water treatment plants and drinking water replacements for all the communities in Nunavut, to update them, the Drinking Water Strategy states it will be $600 million at the least. We estimate it will be more than that, though.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Taqtu.

**Mr. Taqtu**: Thank you, Chair. On May 29, 2023, the Government of Nunavut Drinking Water Strategic Framework was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. To what extent is the framework being used in your department's capital planning for water-related infrastructure?

Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're using that to design our standards for the water treatment plants.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Taqtu, go ahead.

**Mr. Taqtu**: Thank you, Chair. Information published by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada indicates that it will be submitting a report to the Legislative Assembly in 2027 concerning the management of drinking water in Nunavut.

To what extent is this work impacting your department's capital planning for water-related infrastructure?

Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Regarding the Office of the Auditor General, we visited a few of the communities in your vicinity and working with the Office of the Auditor General. Just a second here, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, for that.

We will be using that report from the Office of the Auditor General going forward to help us with the design and planning for future water treatment plants across the territory.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Taqtu.

**Mr. Taqtu**: Thank you, Chair.

While we're on the safe drinking water topic, how do you guys get information to get boil advisory from the communities? I'm asking because we got boil water advisory in Arctic Bay since August 2024. It's been two years.

How does it work to get that off the list?

Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question regarding boil water advisories.

Let me start in the beginning here. We follow the Department of Health. They are the ones that dictate when a boil water advisory should be initiated. And that's done through testing. Water is sent out to be tested, and it keeps being tested from time to time going

forward until the Department of Health is satisfied with the water quality that's being tested. And that's when we can finally lift a boil water advisory in a specific community.

So it happens in every single community in Nunavut. The water is tested quite regularly, all the time, just to ensure that we are providing clean, safe drinking water to our Nunavut communities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Next member, Mr. Kuliktana, go ahead.

**Mr. Kuliktana**: Thank you, Chair. I just want to follow up on the member's question on boil water advisory.

You say it's led by the Department of Health to ensure that they are the ones that call the boil water advisory. But for Community Service, what is your priority in that in order to visit the Community Services department that will determine what is the problem with the boil water advisory, or do you guys have to rectify the problem? Is that the cause -- or don't have the materials or framework to rectify the boil water advisory for a community that's been over two years? What is the exact downfall on why it's taking so long?

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I thank the member for his question. The Department of Community Services does follow the Department of Health. They are the regulators. They are the ones that look at our water quality when we provide the samples.

The majority of the water treatment plants are run by the hamlets. They are municipally owned. Some of them are Government of Nunavut owned.

But going forward, we provide training to staff members. Whoever is running the water treatment plants, we help with that. And we also, like what we're doing right now, is work towards investing in water treatment plants, whether it be upgrading or replacement, depending on where they are at with their facility in any given community.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Any other members with questions? I'll throw in a question here myself right now.

Your department's 2026-2027 capital estimates included $5.0 million in funding for the "Sustainable Service Delivery Program." The substantiation sheet for this program indicates that your department "will issue a call letter to municipalities to request the submission of applications to complete lifecycle upgrades to existing municipally-owned facilities." It also indicates that the intention is to "split this fund in half between lifecycle and emergencies." How much of this funding has been spent to date?

Thank you. Go ahead, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The last call went out on September 30, and it just came out, so we haven't put out any funds yet.

This is a proposal-based funding program granted to hamlets, non-tax based hamlets who undertake locally-led capital renewal projects of existing municipally-owned fixed assets.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak.

I guess if it hasn't been used yet. Can you confirm that there's been no projects that received funding during the current 2026-2027 fiscal year?

Go ahead, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

There may have been some emergency ones in the current fiscal year, but the lifecycle one just closed, so we do not have anything on that yet.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister.

So about how many projects were there used for emergency ones in this fiscal year? Do you have that information?

Thank you.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We don't have that level of detail on hand, but I can commit to getting back to the Committee with that information.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Questions from Mr. Kuliktana. Go ahead.

**Mr. Kuliktana**: Thank you, Chair.

My question is under the Municipal Capital Block Funding.

Your department's 2026-2027 Capital Estimates included $18.0 million in Municipal Capital Block Funding under its minor capital budget.

So today how much of this funding has been spent to date?

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Go ahead, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We rolled that out. It is block funding. We roll that out to the communities, the non-tax based communities at the start of the fiscal year. It's block funding, so they have it provided.

Excuse me a second. 23 of the 24 communities have received it. In order to receive this block funding, the hamlet has to provide an integrated community sustainability plan or a capital plan of one year or five years. One of three needs to be met. And majority have met at least one of the requirements, so they received it.

One hamlet did not receive it yet. That's because they still have to meet the requirement -- one of those requirements.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Kuliktana.

**Mr. Kuliktana**: Thank you. You mentioned that one hamlet did not receive it. What does your department do to ensure that they qualify (indiscernible) support to that hamlet.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

So our department works very hard with every hamlet to try to ensure that they meet the requirements. We've been quite flexible, lenient dealing with the hamlet directly, and even trying to help them with the meeting, at least one of the requirements. Because it's there for them; it's earmarked for each specific hamlet.

There is a breakdown, and as we all know, each hamlet has a lot of needs to update their capital assets. And so we've been trying to work with -- we work with every single hamlet that can qualify for the Municipal Capital Block Funding.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Kuliktana, go ahead.

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

What is the maximum amount of funding that can be provided to a municipality during a single fiscal year under this program?

Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It's based on a close-ended formula that's approved here in the House. And I can say for Coral Harbour, they will be getting $917,000, and for Kugluktuk they will be getting $805,000.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Kuliktana, go ahead.

**Mr. Kuliktana**: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Minister for the response.

Your department's substantiation sheet for the Municipal Capital Block Funding indicates that, "Starting in 2026-2027, the Granular Crushing Equipment Program will be discontinued, and its funding will be reallocated to the Municipal Capital Block Fund."

What feedback has your department received from the Nunavut Association of Municipalities concerning this change?

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Simailak, go ahead.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Nunavut Association of Municipalities supported it. They support switching to block funding, as it makes it easier for administrative purposes, makes it easier for the hamlets to plan going forward, and gives them a bit more community and empowerment. We are giving them the ability to plan ahead easier. That's what we're doing with that block funding. The Nunavut Association of Municipalities was in favour of this, and they are quite aware of it, along with all the other hamlets.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Any other questions? Mr. Taqtu, go ahead.

**Mr. Taqtu**: Thank you, Chair.

Your department's 2026-2027 Capital Estimates included $3 million for its, "Planning and Design Funding - Local Government Priorities" budget.

Which projects have received funding to date under this program during the current 2026-2027 fiscal year?

Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: We're just pulling that up, Mr. Chair. Just give me a second, thank you. Patience, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We can speak to the previous year of what's been done. For Kugaaruk, project entered design phase for 2026-2027 Kugaaruk Parking Garage Program, Cambridge Bay parking garage, Gjoa Haven arena, and Clyde River Parking Garage Program.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Taqtu.

**Mr. Taqtu**: Thank you, Chair.

Your department's substantiation sheet for its "Planning and Design Funding - Local Government priorities" budget indicates that projects to enter the design phase during the 2027-2028 fiscal year concern the community office in Kimmirut and community arenas in Kimmirut, Naujaat, and Clyde River. What is the scope of these projects?

Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

So this work is to upgrade the arenas and replacing the municipal office in Kimmirut. So that's for Kimmirut, Kinngait, Naujaat, Kugaaruk and Clyde River, their arenas, and the municipal office for Kimmirut replacement.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Taqtu.

**Mr. Taqtu**: Thank you, Chair. How were these projects selected?

Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Simailak, go ahead.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was done working with the hamlets and their Integrated Community Sustainability Plans and the federal programs where it became available with access going forward.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Taqtu? No. Next member, Mr. Iqaluq, go ahead.

**Mr. Iqaluq**: Thank you, Chair. In September of 2024, the Minister of Community and Government Services provided a list of planning projects to members of the Legislative Assembly. The list indicated that one of the projects, "proposed for approval into the planning stage for the 2025-2026 fiscal year," was the Pangnirtung Municipal Office/Community Hall. As of today, what is the status of this project?

Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Iqaluq. Minister Simailak, go ahead.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently working with the hamlet on the community centre and the hamlet office. We have written to the mayor. We are waiting for them to pick a land lot that is suitable for the hamlet. The site that was previously selected, I believe they are under negotiations with the land lessee, and the hamlet did reply and we are working with the hamlet on the preferred site for construction.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Iqaluq, any more? Go ahead.

**Mr. Iqaluq**: Thank you, Chair.

What is the status of planning for a new municipal office for Rankin Inlet?

Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Iqaluk. Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It's in the planning phases with preliminary studies. We are still working with the hamlet on the new hamlet office in Rankin Inlet.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kuliktana.

**Mr. Kuliktana**: Thank you, Chair. I just have a couple questions under the City of Iqaluit Contribution Agreement.

Your department's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates included $9.0 million in block capital funding for the City of Iqaluit. Your department's substantiation project sheets indicates that the current agreement with the city expires in March 31, 2028.

What reporting requirements are in place under the agreement with respect to the city's expenditure?

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Mr. Simailak, go ahead.

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

It's a block funding program, and the City of Iqaluit does provide audited financial statements on their expenditures.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Kuliktana, go ahead.

**Mr. Kuliktana**: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Minister, for the response.

Under the *Cities Act* right across the land of Canada, all cities don't receive funding from either the territorial or provincial government under the *Cities Act*. Why is City of Iqaluit receiving funding while they are under the *Cities Act*?

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Simailak.

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

The City of Iqaluit is a unique situation compared to the rest of the country. The city has such a small tax base that they couldn't afford some of the investments and infrastructure they needed to provide safe drinking water for Iqalummiut. The Government of Nunavut is a taxpayer as well, so it's a catch 22, if we can say that.

So in the end there was negotiations between the department and the City of Iqaluit to go to a block funding so that the city and the government can provide clean, safe drinking water, just because of the small tax base that's here in Iqaluit.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Kuliktana.

**Mr. Kuliktana**: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Minister.

So how long does the government expect to roll this program to the City of Iqaluit?

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Currently this will be ending fiscal year 2031-2032 fiscal year. Towards the end of this we will be revisiting this and taking a look at it again.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Members with questions for... Mr. Taqtu, go ahead.

**Mr. Taqtu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Nunavut most of the population is increasing and there's non-decreasing. I'll use Iqaluit as an example where they get $9 million, and will we be seeing that kind of contributions to the other communities other than Iqaluit?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has been steadily increasing block funding for all the other municipalities in Nunavut. We can expect to see that trend continuing.

As an example, the capital block funding we were speaking to earlier, that drastically increased funding to non-tax based communities in Nunavut so that the hamlets can take control of their programming, have less administrative issues or duties, and they can plan and work with the community services on how their capital block funding will go forward using the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. That's just an example. So all the other hamlets have been getting increased funds.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Taqtu, go ahead.

**Mr. Taqtu**: Thank you, Chair.

Your department's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates included funding for solid waste site upgrades in Arviat, Clyde River, Pangnirtung and Resolute Bay. How are these communities selected?

Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

These were selected on a priority basis and regional. The department had looked at all the hamlets in the territory at their solid waste facilities, and working with each hamlet, then the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, they selected those four communities, and we are using Arviat and Clyde River as pilot projects for solid waste facilities.

The current territorial regulations are insufficient in guiding the design of future facilities. Federal design guidelines exist for the north, but Nunavut's regulators have not yet come to a consensus on what will be required in the design to obtain their approval.

However, the Department of Community Services is not waiting for these regulations to be finalized. Planning and designing on these facilities, upgrades are moving ahead currently with regulation development efforts.

So we are taking the leap ahead to start working on the solid waste facilities so that they can meet the new demands that's been coming up for each community with all the construction happening and all the new housing builds or all the new (indiscernible) coming in.

We need to ensure that solid waste sites are being operated safely for the people, the communities and the environment and the land and waters. So that's what we've been doing.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Taqtu, go ahead.

**Mr. Taqtu**: Thank you, Chair. As of today, have you calculated the estimated cost of upgrading solid waste sites in all of Nunavut's communities?

Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We won't be able to calculate that for a few different reasons. The regulations in the end, what we will be following is not known yet. We also need to see how big solid waste sites are in each community. Some are a lot bigger and some are a lot smaller, some may need more work in remediation or construction. Land development, site location and there's a few perimeters that come into play to solid waste sites, which is why at this time

we cannot calculate how much it would cost to upgrade or replace all solid waste sites in every community in Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Taqtu, go ahead.

**Mr. Taqtu**: Thank you, Chair. I've just got one question under fire truck and fire hall replacement.

Your department's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include funding for fire hall replacement in Arviat and Whale Cove. Which other communities in Nunavut require new fire halls?

Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We would have to look at the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan that comes from each hamlet that needs submit one to see where they are at their priorities. We also take into account how fast a community may be growing. That could take into account the need to do a replacement.

We can use Arviat for an example. The member for Arviat South repeatedly mentioned the new university that's coming into Arviat, so there will be a lot more people there.

There's a few things that come into play, but it seems to make Integrated Community Sustainability Plan and working with each hamlet to meet their needs on the fire halls or fire hall replacements.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chair**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Mike, I believe you had your hand up. Go ahead.

**Mr. Mike** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to refer back to a question that was brought up earlier about the waste site upgrades. Pangnirtung has more than one dump site, and it indicates here in English "solid waste." Is there soft waste for other dumps? Could you indicate or explain what waste site means? What is solid waste?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Solid waste is usually the garbage dumps, old construction material, old trucks, fuel tanks, water heaters. Soft waste would be effluent water.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mike, anymore? Go ahead.

**Mr. Mike**: Yes, I understand now. So solid waste, I just wanted to find the difference between -- and Pangnirtung, is it included in there for the upcoming year?

And as people of Pangnirtung, we definitely know that there's upgrade required. There's also other hazardous waste that has been, that are placed in the same waste sites as old skidoos, old vehicles, wood and so on, and old batteries. They are all in the same location -- and also propane tanks. And the reason why I brought that up was to find out the difference between waste sites, and there's usually debris that fly around in the soft waste sites.

This is not a question, but I just wanted to indicate that there's a need for an upgrade in Pangnirtung. Thank you.

**Chair**: Thank you for your comment, Mr. Mike. I don't know if there was a question, so unless the minister wants to reply. Go ahead, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Yes, Pangnirtung is in the process of getting a solid waste upgrade. The planning phase is completed and the projection going forward of the design phase would be in 2027-2028 provided it's approved during this House.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Next on my list I have Mr. Iqaluq. Go ahead.

**Mr. Iqaluq**: Thank you, Chair.

Sanikiluaq's fire hall was developed in 1988. Could you work with the Sanikiluaq municipality to include the upgrade?

Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Iqaluq. Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the member for his question regarding Sanikiluaq.

If the hamlet puts into their Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, and in priority the department would work the hamlet of Sanikiluaq and begin working on that to meet their needs for a replacement fire hall, but it depends on the hamlet themselves. We would wait for the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chair**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Iqaluq, anymore? No, you're done. Mr. Attagutaluk, go ahead.

**Mr. Attagutaluk**: Thank you, Chair.

This is about parking garage. Your department's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates includes $10.0 million for the Municipal Parking Garage Program. The substantiation sheet for the program indicates that, "Starting in 2026-2027, the Department of Community Services will begin to phase out the Municipal Parking Garage Program by no longer accepting new plan design applications. However, the program will remain active for approximately five more years, allowing current participants to complete the construction of their parking garages."

What feedback has your department received from the Nunavut Association of Municipalities concerning this change? Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Attagugutaluk. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Regarding the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, the block funding, like I said earlier about the block funding, there's less administrative duties. It gives the power and the planning with the hamlets, it gives them community empowerment. So the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, they were aware of this. They do like the block funding programs just because it makes it easier for the hamlets.

There's no applications. They are given the funds for the block funding program, and they can run with it as long as they provide an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan or provide a one-year capital plan or a five-year capital plan to plan ahead.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Attagutaluk.

**Mr. Attagutaluk**: Thank you, Chairman. Thank you for the response.

Your department's 2026-2027 capital estimates include $5.5 million in funding for the Municipal Mobile Equipment Program. How much of this funding has been spent to date?

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Attagutaluk. Go ahead, Minister Simailak.

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

That program is a part of one of the block programs that we provide. So the funding goes out in the springtime in the new fiscal year to the hamlets, and they run with it or drive with it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Attagutaluk.

**Mr. Attagutaluk**: Thank you, Chairman.

Will you commit to providing a list of equipment acquired during the 2027-2028 fiscal year under this program?

Thank you, Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Attagutaluk. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

That list we do not have. Typically a hamlet will need to carry that money forward into the next fiscal year so that they can save up enough money to buy the equipment that they are needed to purchase to help service their community.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Attagutaluk, go ahead.

**Mr. Attagutaluk**: Thank you, Chairman.

It's about municipal studies. Your department's 2026-2027 capital estimates included $750,000 in funding for the minor capital municipal studies. What studies have been undertaken to date with this funding during the 2026-2027 fiscal year?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Attagugutaluk. Minister Simailak.

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

Currently there are two projects that was identified by Transportation Infrastructure Nunavut. They are for Coral Harbour, their reservoir assessment; and for Cambridge Bay, a hydrology study, which is to be finished this fiscal year.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Attagutaluk.

**Mr. Attagutaluk**: Thank you, Chairman.

What specific municipal studies are planned to be undertaken during the 2027-2028 fiscal year? I know mine have been answered already.

Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Attagutaluk. Minister Simailak, go ahead.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Municipal studies' projects requests come from municipal work teams, Transportation Infrastructure Nunavut. Their requests usually stem from either directives from CIRNAC inspections -- my apologies for the acronym -- or from their own inspections of waste water assets.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. I believe those are all the questions under this local government branch. Do members agree with the Department of Community Services local government branch, total capital expenditures of $87,488,000?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Please go to page K-5. We'll now look at the Community Services Economic Development Branch, Capital Estimates 2027-2028, $750,000. Do members have any questions? Mr. Taqtu, go ahead.

**Mr. Taqtu**: Thank you, Chair.

Your department's 2026-2027 capital estimates included $750,000 in funding for its "Economic Development Facilities Lifecycle" budget. What specific projects have been undertaken during the current 2026-2027 fiscal year?

Thank you, Chair.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Minister Simailak.

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

For the 2026-2027, the following projects are in progress. We are finalizing the Margaret Aniksak Visitor's Centre floor and foundation project in Arviat, Unikkaarvik Visitor Centre Centre roof and siding replacement project here in Iqaluit. The third one is Nattinnak Visitor Centre windows and doors security system replacement project in Pond Inlet. Next one is Angmarlik Visitor Centre, painting and deck project in Pangnirtung. And the next one is the Arctic Coast Visitor Centre, carpet replacement project in Cambridge Bay.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Any other members with questions? I'll ask one here myself. Your department's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include $750,000 in funding for its Economic Development Facilities Lifecycle budget. What projects are planned for the upcoming 2027-2028 fiscal year? Go ahead, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Just give me a second, Mr. Chairman. I have to get the right page. Give me a second. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your patience.

That would come from inspections we were doing the current fiscal year to help plan for next fiscal year on what kind of upgrades or renovations or updates that would need to be

done to the facilities that we have. That's how we plan going forward for the next fiscal year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. And since it was asked or it was mentioned in the Opening Remarks, to what extent can funding from this budget be used for repairs to buildings owned and/or leased by the Nunavut Development Corporation and its subsidiaries?

Thank you. And go ahead, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It's not a GN asset. So we need studies from them, a business plan going forward and request for those funds through the House. It had to be a contribution agreement is what we deal with with these corporations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. I have no more names on my list. So do members agree with the Department of Economic Development Branch, Total Capital Expenditures of $750,000?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Please go back to page K-2. Do members agree with the Department of Community Services, Total Capital Expenditures of $88,238,000?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Do members agree we have concluded with the Department of Community Services?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Any closing comments, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. And if I may, a quick indulgence. I committed to getting back to the Committee at a later date with some information. Thanks to technology I have that information on hand. It's to provide an answer to the question posed earlier regarding the Sustainable Service Delivery Fund. Only one project is being allocated at this time for this year under the Emergencies

(indiscernible), and it was to Grise Fiord to date in the amount of $377,000, but contribution agreement has not been executed.

All funds are being retained for emergencies with an anticipated intake for Lifecycle proposals in the new year, January outside of annual intake cycle should budget remain available.

I should note we have been tracking Gjoa Haven water treatment plant, Cambridge Bay water treatment plant, and Rankin Inlet garbage dump fire, but nothing has been approved.

I would like to thank the Committee for their questions and their comments. All the work that's being done here in this House and all the work that's being done behind the scenes by a lot of staff members that are not here with us today.

I thank my two staff members that came here today to help me answer your questions, provide the information that you need, and all the work that's been done in prior years.

These projects are multi-year programs or projects, and sometimes it takes multiple years to get these up and running, to update all of our communities so then we can provide safe communities.

Thank you for your time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

*>>Applause*

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Taqtu, go ahead.

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

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? Thank you. Any opposed? Thank you. Motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

*>>Committee adjourned at 16:57; House re-convened at 16:58*.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Item number 20 in our *Orders of the Day*, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Pedersen.

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

**Mr. Pedersen**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Committee has been considering Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2027-2028* and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Mr. Akeeagok. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

Item number 21, Third Reading of Bills. Item 22, *Orders of the Day*. Clerk.

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Mr. Clerk**: I would like to remind everyone about a meeting at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning. *Orders of the Day* for Wednesday, October 28:

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
    - Bills 10, 11 and 12
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. At least we see something unique this afternoon in the Legislative Assembly. The House stands adjourned for today and reconvenes tomorrow on Wednesday, October 28 at 1:30. Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>> House adjourned at 17:00*