NUNAVUT HANSARD

UNEDITED TRANCRIPT

OCTOBER 29, 2026

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

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Corrections:

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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker
Hon. David Joanasie

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok
(Iqaluit Manirajak)
Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Iqaluit-Niaqqunnguu)
Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College

Hannah Angootealuk
(Aivilik)

Edward Attagutaluk (Aggu)

Hon. Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

Hon. George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
Deputy Premier of Nunavut; Minister of Justice; Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut; Minister responsible for the Labour Standards Board; Minister responsible for the Human Rights Tribunal

Jamie Kablutsiak
(Arviat South)

Gordon Kautuk
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Brian Koonoo
(Tununiq)
Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Languages; Minister of Environment; Minister of Energy

Simon Kuliktana
(Kugluktuk)

Hon. Cecile Nelvana Lyall
(Netsilik)
Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

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

Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)

Fred Pedersen
(Cambridge Bay)

David Porter
(Gjoa Haven)

Abraham Qammaniq
(Amittuq)

Jason Iqaluq
(Hudson Bay)

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Hon. Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)
Minister of Comm unity Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation; Minister responsible for Mines; Minister responsible for Trade

Hon. Annie Tattuinee
(Rankin Inlet South)
Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

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(Quttiktuq)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
October 29, 2026

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

>> *House Commenced at 13:30.*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Joanasie) (interpretation): Item 1, Mr. Taqtu, open the meeting with a prayer.

>>Prayer.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taqtu. Good afternoon Nunavummiut, MLA's and those listening and watching by way of television. Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' Statements, Minister Main.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 116-7(2): Summer of 2026 Meetings

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update Nunavummiut on a very busy summer season. As many of my colleagues know, I participated in various meetings to advocate for Nunavut and ensure our most pressing needs and opportunities were heard. (interpretation ends)

In May, I had the opportunity to virtually participate in the Western Premiers' Conference, where I spoke about the urgency of Arctic security and sovereignty. I pushed that no decisions about our land should happen without the full participation of our communities.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, in June, I travelled to Hay River to meet with my fellow northern premiers, to discuss our common issues and priorities. The territories are stronger together, and we are united on issues surrounding health care funding, defence investments and critical infrastructure needs.

In July, I was in Charlottetown for meetings with my finance minister colleagues, as well as meetings with Canada's Premiers and with Prime Minister Carney for the First Ministers' Meeting. Across these meetings, we discussed important issues for Canadians and priorities for Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) We also discussed public safety, growing the economy and more.

Mr. Speaker, more than ever, it's critical that we stand united as Team Canada, in the face of global uncertainty. I'm proud to do so, as we navigate the current geopolitical realities. At the same time, I want to assure my colleagues, and all Nunavummiut, that I actively push for the critical needs of our territory. I won't stop speaking up and fighting to ensure we receive the funding, investments and attention we deserve, to achieve a brighter future for all Nunavummiut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Arctic College, Mr. Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 117-7(2): Plans for Future Degree Development

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

Nunavut Arctic College is in the latter half of its 10-year partnership with Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador. Through this partnership support is given in to the College in updating and delivering a revised Nunavut Teacher Education Program. With significant funding from Canadian Heritage, the Arctic College has gained important operational and administrative experience delivering community programming. The integration of Inuit language and culture and delivery expansion to include online and blended learning, has been particularly significant. (interpretation ends)

From these lessons, and experience gained, the College is looking towarsd developing its own, Nunavut-specific, Bachelor of Education Program to meet the needs of Nunavut schools now and into the future. This work is at its early stages, but the College is meeting important milestones. The College has met with the Department of Education about regulatory requirements, completed an environmental scan of education programs across the county and begun internal consultations with its Education team on options and opportunities for this degree. It is also preparing the necessary documents to support its own regulatory updates.

The development of a Nunavut-based degree program represents an important step toward educational independence and Inuit self-determination. Rather than requiring

Nunavummiut to leave their communities to access higher education, a Nunavut degree program would allow knowledge, research, leadership development, and professional training to occur within Nunavut and according to Inuit and Nunavummiut priorities.

(interpretation) This program will blend *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangi*t (IQ), Inuktut language of instruction, land-based learning, and academic excellence. It will prepare future teachers to lead the educational system and advance the goal of bilingual education in Nunavut.

As Nunavut Arctic College expands educational opportunities in Nunavut, being able to develop, grow and innovate is necessary to ensure its programs remain relevant. The College is excited to be doing this work for our territory.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 118-7(2): Strengthening Inuit Employment Capacity

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight changes within the Department of Human Resources that strengthen our capacity to advance Inuit employment across the Government of Nunavut.

We have created an Inuit Employment Planning Division to provide strategic leadership for government-wide and departmental Inuit employment planning. We are also increasing capacity within our training, development and recruitment programs to help more Inuit enter the public service and advance in their careers.

These changes will support expanded internship opportunities, Inuit-specific accredited training programs, coordination of Article 23 funding, and stronger recruitment and pre-employment training initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, as part of this restructuring, Inuit Employment Planner positions are being created to support every Government of Nunavut department and territorial corporation.

>>Applause

These planners will work directly with departments and corporations to identify their needs, strengthen their plans and help turn Inuit employment commitments into practical action.

The renewed Nunavut Agreement Implementation Contract provides significant investments in Inuit employment and training. This restructuring strengthens our capacity to put those investments to work and support our obligations under Article 23.

Mr. Speaker, increasing Inuit employment requires sustained attention to the barriers people face when seeking work, accessing training or pursuing advancement. Departments need the expertise and support to address those barriers and create meaningful career opportunities.

This increased capacity will help us connect employment planning with the recruitment, training and development work needed to build a representative public service.

Thank you to all those who have moved this work forward, our colleagues across government, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Canada. Together, we have a responsibility to ensure these changes lead to greater opportunities for Inuit across Nunavut.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>> Applause

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

Minister's Statement 119-7(2): New Board of Directors

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to announce new appointments to the Board of Directors of Qulliq Energy Corporation. These appointments help ensure continuity in the corporation's ongoing initiatives.

Following an open recruitment and screening process, three new members were appointed: Manu Kunuk, a Policy Analyst within the Government of Nunavut who brings valuable experience in territorial public policy; Anthony Rose, who has extensive public and private sector business experience; and Neil Henderson, Senior Director of the Blue Economy Projects at Qikiqtani Inuit Association, whose career also includes key roles within government and Inuit organizations.

To maintain continuity in leadership, I also approved the reappointment of two valued members who have served on the Board since August 2023: Alexander Cook and Dr. Martha Lenio. The new board members join Chair Jeannie Ehaloak, Nayab Khan, Paul Kaludjak, and Travis Kalluak, all helping to play an essential role in fulfilling the

corporation's mandate by providing strategic direction to advance Nunavut's energy future, including upgrading critical infrastructure, and integrating clean energy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all members of Qulliq Energy Corporation's Board of Directors for their commitment, dedication, and contributions to Nunavut. Please join me in congratulating our new and returning members.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Koonoo.

Minister's Statement 120-7(2): Celebrating Youth Contributions to Inuktut and Innovation

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the outstanding work of five students who joined the Inuktuurutit initiative this summer, supporting our government's efforts to revitalize Inuktut through modern technology.

The students, four from Iqaluit and one from Igloolik, worked alongside departments, communities, organizations, and partners across Nunavut on the data collection for the development of Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology for Inuktut. OCR technology enables computers to recognize and convert printed text into digital text that can be searched, preserved, and used in future language technologies.

Mr. Speaker, to support this work, these youth collected and organized thousands of images of Inuktut text from books, signage, posters, and other printed materials, helping create the data needed to develop future language tools. They gained valuable experience in project management, stakeholder engagement, communications, and digital transformation. (interpretation ends)

This project brought students closer to communities, language, and culture while demonstrating the power of collaboration. It also provided an opportunity for students to see firsthand how people from different departments and sectors can come together to support a shared vision.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I thank these students for their dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm. We are proud of what they have accomplished and look forward to seeing what they achieve in the years ahead.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>> Applause.

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Lyall.

Minister's Statement 121-7(2): Modernized Tenant to Owner Program

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Mr. Speaker, many Nunavummiut share a desire to own a home within their communities. They are ready to embrace the responsibilities of homeownership, but navigating the market and finding a home to purchase remain a significant challenge.

I am pleased to announce that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's modernized Tenant to Homeowner Program, known as TOP, will begin rolling out in early 2027.

Through the Tenant to Owner Program, eligible tenants in public or staff housing will be able to apply to purchase selected public housing units. To qualify, applicants must secure conventional mortgage financing and demonstrate readiness to manage the ongoing costs of home maintenance. TOP is designed to be stackable; eligible applicants may also receive assistance through the Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program.

Homeownership allows families to build long-term equity and invest in a home they can one day pass down to their children.

Mr. Speaker, we also recognize how many Nunavummiut depend on public housing. Because of this, we have a responsibility to manage these homes with care, while balancing new opportunities with existing needs.

Accordingly, TOP will begin on a modest scale, with a limited number of homes available for purchase. The Nunavut Housing Corporation will determine which units can be offered for sale, taking into account tenant interest and broader housing needs, along with financial and operational considerations.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative will not displace any current tenants, and no staff housing units will be offered for sale.

The Tenant to Owner Program complements our investment in new construction by unlocking homeownership opportunities within our existing housing stock. It supports *Ikajuqtigiikta's* broader direction by giving eligible Nunavummiut more choice in how they meet their housing needs.

More information about the Tennant to Owner Program and how to apply will be available on the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s website when the program launches in early 2027.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>*Applause*

Speaker: (No interpretation). Minister Brewster.

Minister’s Statement 122-7(2): Launch of Nunavut Health on Facebook

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Effective communication supports public health, promotes wellness and helps people access the care they need. Today, I would like to inform Members that Nunavut Health, the Department of Health’s dedicated Facebook page, is now live.

Mr. Speaker I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? Please proceed.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and member colleagues. Building on the Government of Nunavut’s existing communications, this brings health updates, advice and information about services together in one place. It gives Nunavummiut a channel focused on the health matters affecting themselves, their families and their communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Department’s communications team will use the page to share updates directly, respond to emerging health issues and provide new information as it becomes available. This will help residents stay informed about public health advisories and changes to services.

The page will also explain health programs and policies and help Nunavummiut understand where to turn for assistance. This includes practical information about medical travel, mental health supports and how to contact the Office of Patient Relations with questions or concerns about care.

Alongside these updates, health education and prevention messages will support informed decisions about health and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, social media is an important source of information for many Nunavummiut. This page adds another way to connect with residents, complementing government websites, radio, community notices and other established channels, and reflects the approach used by health departments across Canada.

I encourage all Members and Nunavummiut to follow Nunavut Health on Facebook and share its information with their families and communities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going to the Orders of the Day, Item number 3. And before we proceed, I would like to remind everyone that the member for Uqsuqtuuq will not be here due to illness. Item number 3, Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Mike.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 131-7(2): Passing of Michael Kakkik of Pangnirtung

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Good afternoon people of Pangnirtung, and my condolences. Mr. Speaker, this is something very hard for me.

A young person just died recently in Pangnirtung and I know him very well, and he committed suicide. He's a male, young Inuk. Michael Kakkik is his name, and I've known him for four to five years. And I do apologize, Mr. Speaker. I have known him for four, five years.

He would take 10 to 15-year-olds out learning how to hunt during the school year right up to June, to the end of the school year.

Michael learned a lot during that time. He was very happy to learn about the traditional culture, about hunting and harvesting, and at times he showed me what I should be doing to help the young people. He just died all of a sudden, and it can't be helped.

I send my condolences to all the family members. We love them all and we hug them. And while I'm making this statement, my wife is now providing services right now for him.

But I would like to remember him in his past life, because we saw him in a happy environment even though he committed suicide (interpretation ends). He had a humble and caring way about him that made everyone at ease. His presence brought comfort, and his memory will continue to be a source of warmth and inspiration.

And I want to encourage everyone who were involved in the hunting programs in Pangnirtung that we remember his life rather than his death.

(interpretation) While he's in my heart, it's something that's very hard for me, and I can't help but cry. We send our condolences and love to his family. And I thank Michael for having been involved in his life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mike. And our thoughts and prayers are with the people going through this tragic time, to the people of Pangnirtung and his family, even though it's something very heavy.

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

Member's Statement 132-7(2): Resolutions and Reflections from the 2026 Annual General Meeting

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to you all and to residents in Cambridge Bay watching online and on television today and at gallery that we have today as well.

Later today during the appropriate time I'll be tabling documents from the recently completed Kitikmeot Association Annual General Meeting. I will be using those documents to formulate questions over the next few days on to various Ministers on the concerns that were raised by the region's membership.

Mr. Speaker, the resolutions highlight issues faced in the region, but more importantly, they also contain recommendations on how to deal with them. For one of them, the recommendations are groundbreaking in terms of how to deal with the issue of complying with Article 23 of the Nunavut Agreement. They are proposing this be done with a regional approach, and I am fully supportive of such a notion.

I would like to thank the management at the Kitikmeot Inuit Association for sharing the documents, as they outlined concerns directly from community members of all five Kitikmeot communities.

Mr. Speaker, as one of the documents highlight, they reflect, "Inuit priorities, regional opportunities and the next chapter of Arctic development." (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Taqtu.

Member's Statement 133-7(2): Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Mr. Taqtu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday during Members' Statements, I talked about suicide. After I spoke to that because our colleague is going through grieving and because of suicide.

We think of the people who are serving funeral, and during oral question period I'll be asking questions in regards to how we can provide more support. Because for all of us, how can we work together to resolve this issue? One individual question cannot resolve this. So I'll be asking questions to the Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 134-7(2): Iqaluit Team Nunavut

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and good afternoon to our colleagues and all our guests, everyone in Iqaluit watching our proceedings today.

I rise today to congratulate some of our Iqaluit-based Team Nunavut judo athletes and coaches on their recent medals and on qualifying for the 2027 Canada Winter Games.

Sport matters to our young people. It builds discipline, confidence and resilience. It connects you to mentors and to each other, and it supports their physical and mental health. And these young Iqaluit athletes were selected two years ago and have trained hard ever since, competing at national A level tournaments in Edmonton, Quebec and Ontario against some of the best in Canada.

At the recent Ontario Open, Charlotte Smook, Kimmie Gissing and Mathilde Pinkson each won bronze medals. At competitions, these athletes are known among their peers for their competitive drive, their team spirit and their sportsmanship. They are great ambassadors for Nunavut, and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them the very best at the Canada Winter Games. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): We congratulate them as well. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Koonoo.

Member's Statement 135-7(2): Congratulate Kristy Kanayuk

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Tununiq. Yesterday under Ministers' Statements, I do want to recognize Kristy Kanayuk from Pond Inlet, she was fourth on the singing competition called *Qilaut*, and she sings very beautiful songs that are lively. So I congratulate her. She's learning and getting better, so I would like to congratulate her.

I forgot to mention under Ministers' Statements the fifth one who had won, the fifth one who was the first one, Jocelyn Malla from Coral Harbour, singing *Kamatsiaqta*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak Mr. Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 136-7(2): Apex Road Improvement

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we think of our colleague and especially his constituency when they're going through hardship.

Today I would like to express my gratitude to the City of Iqaluit. The road to Apex has been worked on and it's been improved, and they have put concrete or they put pavement to the town, and it has improved the road and it's much better for the vehicles going down. So I would like to thank them for not forgetting Apex with these developments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 137-7(2): Qilaut Winner Jocelyn Malla

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Minister announced for Culture and Heritage in regards to our song competition, *Qilaut*, Jocelyn Malla was one of the people who had won for the song competition, and I'm very pleased that individual is from Arviat. Although he may live in Coral Harbour, but he originates from Arviat, and he's still ours; Jocelyn is still ours. And he was also, Josh was in the same school. At this time he's very good singer and he's a teacher, so I would like to congratulate him as well. Every time he sings, he sings about experiences, and helps to help you to be alive more and change livelihood. And he's also a teacher, and that's very

beneficial to the youth, so I would like to congratulate you and have a good day, you and your family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Qamanituaq, Baker Lake. Mr. Simailak.

Member's Statement 138-7(2): Agnico Eagle Course Programs

Hon. Craig Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to my colleagues and also to the visitors. I'm very pleased that I see people from Qamanituaq, Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, last year when I was -- after Baker Lake, I went to visit Agnico Eagle. I met with the manager Eric Steinmetzer on behalf of Baker Lake residents, and I was representing the people of Baker Lake. And I was encouraging him to come up with more training programs, because there are many potential Baker Lake individuals.(interpretation ends).

Mr. Speaker, in my meeting with one of the managers at Agnico Eagle, Eric Steinmetzer, I had suggested the idea of a camp cook program, a culinary arts program. Eric loved the idea. I told him there's kitchens at Meadowbank, the MALT Site Project, there's a couple restaurants in Baker Lake. They have also got the mine site just outside Rankin Inlet at Meliadine, and one day they will have a mine at Hope Bay; and they all need kitchens or they have kitchens that they need workers in.

And in my final meeting with Eric Steinmetzer, he said: "I love this idea, leave it with me, I will run with it." And run he did.

Over the last few weeks they have been running the course in Baker Lake, a camp cook program. There's two instructors that are helping out out, Sima Avasi (ph) Rhoda Hikohiknok (ph). And the students are: Barbara Manik, Joshua Hikonik (ph), Elizabeth Iqaliq (ph), Charlene Manik, Cholanda Okalituk (ph), Adrian Nungniq (ph) and Victoria Amarook.

This would not have been possible without partnerships. Agnico Eagle working with Nunavut Arctic College was able to plan this program and help set it up. And I also reached out to Qikiqtani Inuit Association asking for their assistance, and they came in with some financial assistance as well. And to my understanding, the program is running very well, and once they are completed their course and get their certification, they will be able to apply for some jobs either at Agnico or one of the restaurants in Baker Lake, and help provide good job opportunities for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. No more names on my list. We'll move on with our *Orders of the Day*. Item number 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Housing Corporation, Minister Lyall.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question 164-7(2) asked by the member for Hudson Bay on October 27, 2026. Mr. Speaker, the member asked for an update on the status of new units under construction in Sanikiluaq. I would like to clarify the information that I had provided, which I hope the member will appreciate.

I previously indicated that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has eight units at various stages of construction in Sanikiluaq. The correct figure is 12 units currently under construction. For the eight-unit multiplex, we are anticipating a target completion date of July 2027. That date has not changed.

However, I would like to clarify the target completion date for the modular duplex and the two modular single detached housing units which I previously stated was May 2027. The correct date is December 2026, pending electrical inspections.

I thank the member for the question and for the opportunity to provide this clarification. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item number 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Family Services, Minister Healy Akeeagok.

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

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok: I have a return to oral question number 166-7(2). Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer I gave during question period on October 27, 2026 concerning the member for Gjoa Haven's question about the Minister's Youth Action Team. Mr. Porter asked me to clarify how much funding was allocated to this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, the total amount allocated for this pilot project is currently $600,000, which will cover flights, accommodations, compensation for youth and trainers and other program needs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item number 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Akeeagok.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start, as Halloween is very close, I would like to declare myself as the butcher of names. So I do apologize to the wonderful folks that are in this House. If I do butcher your names, it's because Halloween is very close.

Mr. Speaker, following my earlier Minister's statement, please join me in welcoming the following team members who work for and work with our Nunavut Arctic College, the Teachers Education Program, and they range from administrative support to instructors to middle management and senior management, and a very wonderful vice-president that I'll butcher her name very proudly, too.

Please welcome from (indiscernible) Christine Porter. (interpretation) Please rise when I mention your name. From Rankin Inlet, Brenda Putulik. From Baker Lake, Rahabi Angoyuak, Eva Noah, Deanna Tupik, I apologize for mispronouncing. From Cape Dorset, Nina Manning-Toonoo. From Pangnirtug, Sheila Dialla. From Iqualuit, Miali Coley-Sudlovenick, Evan Morrison, Stephen Frampton, Stephen Snowball, Lucy Duval-Evic, Mary Tikivik, Salia Pijamini, Amelia Guarraro, and also the (indiscernible) assistant Kaviq Kaluraq.

And also behind me there are people behind me as well I would like to recognize: Paul Kaludjak, he's here. And person from the dark, Aziz Kreju. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. My apologies, he's the member from Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Mr. Akeeagok.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, member for Rankin South, Annie Tattuinee.

Hon. Annie Tattuinee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Brenda Putulik, my fellow resident of Rankin Inlet. And I know she works at Nunavut Arctic College, but whenever there's a graduation, we have discussions and talking and wanting to recognize the graduates properly. Thank you for improving the lives of our young people and the high school students, and you always encourage our young people. I would like to thank you. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, member for Aivilik, Ms. Angootealuk.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I should like to say to John, ancestors of Jocelyn Malla are from Sanikiluaq, so she's actually from Coral Harbour.

I know the person was already recognized Brenda Netsilik Katolik. I would like to recognize her again because I know her parents very well. And Simone, late Simone used to be an interpreter and her mother Annie Netsilik. Welcome to your House. And I recognize Paul Kaludjak and fellow residents of the Keewatin. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors. Member from Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: A few names I would like to welcome here to the House. First of all, Paul Kaludjak; he's been working in one of our community services offices for quite a while now, and his knowledge and wisdom help the department for sure.

And I mentioned earlier in my member's statement, there's a few Baker Lakers here in the House with us. I'm glad to see them. First one is Eva Noah. Please stand up, Deanna Tupik, Rahabi Angoyuak, and Kaviq Kaluraq; she now lives in Iqaluit but she's still Blake Laker. Please help me welcome to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please feel welcome in the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to recognize two of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's board members. I know he's been recognized, but I would like to recognize Paul Kaludjak as one of our board members, and Tony Rose who was here but maybe has stepped out, so I'm recognizing him in absentia.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all members of Qulliq Energy Corporation's board of directors for their commitment, dedication and contributions to Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in my member's statement I acknowledged the accomplishments of Iqaluit-based Team Nunavut Judo athletes, and I wish to recognize the athletes and coaches who are here with us today; Charlotte Smook, she's in grade 10, she's being doing judo for eight years; Kimmy Gissing, he's in grade 12 and has been doing judo for seven years; Wafa Firoza-Rahman, he's in grade and has been in judo for four years; Miki-Jaq Braken in grade 9 and in judo for six years.

We also have coaches, Matilda Pinksen, who is the president of Judo Nunavut. She's also currently in the Women and Coaching Mentorship Program and will be an assistant coach and team manager for Canada Winter Games. And Michael Smook has been doing judo for 15 years, is currently the head coach for Judo Nunavut, and will be the assistant coach during the Canada Winter Games.

Mr. Speaker, I think we are always smiling and joyful when young people join us in the House, so I especially want to say welcome to your House.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): We are proud of all the people involved in judo. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person who lived in Resolute Bay for a very long time, Aziz Kreju. Every time I go up there, he's always very welcoming. Thank you, Aziz.

And right next to him -- his legs will probably get tired -- Paul Kaludjak, our brother-in-law. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you as well. Please feel welcome in the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize more than two people actually, but to start off with two friends who I made through my mother, Sheila Dialla and Mary Tikivik. My mom always has good people looking out for her, and it's always nice to see my mother's friends in the House, and you've become my friends and I appreciate that.

And Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Miali Coley-Sudlovenick as well. I've known her since before she could talk, and I'm amazed by the woman that she has become and, you know, so impressed by everything you do for Nunavummiut. So welcome to your House, Miali.

And more importantly, I suppose, I'd like to recognize a former resident of the Keewatin region who is now a resident of Iqaluit-Sinaa, Mr. Paul Kaludjak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize one person in the visitor's gallery, Sheila Dialla from Pangnirtung, and my niece, favourite niece Lucy Duval-Evic. I think she lives in Iqaluit now. And Mary Tikivik, I would like to recognize her too.

In Iqaluit there's about 700 people from Pang here now; it used to be around 500. Sometimes it's confusing where they're actually living now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors. I have no more names on my list. I would like to thank all the visitors, especially the ones from Nunavut Arctic College who are involved in the Nunavut Teacher Education Program. You have a big job, and we appreciate you. And I would like to recognize the person from Kinngait, Nina Manning. Welcome to the Assembly.

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 175-7(2): Restorative Justice Program

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

Mr. Speaker, on June 9, 2026, the Minister's statement in the House announced the expansion of the community corrections diversion program into all Nunavut communities. Mr. Speaker, this is great news. The Ministers statement indicated, “after early success in Kinngait, the program has expanded across the territory and can now be accessed by probation clients in all of our communities. To support consistent and effective delivery of the program, the Department of Justice provided joint training to all Community Justice Outreach Workers and the community corrections officers."

Can the minister explain how his department will provide this program to adult and youth probation clients in communities who do not have a resident community corrections office or community justice worker?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. I really appreciate it, because the community workers that are hired right now across the territory do a really good job of making sure that people feel supported throughout their

experience through the judicial system. But I think even more importantly, Mr. Speaker, why I appreciate this question is because we do have communities that don't have communities that are established. There was a call-out a couple of times in the last couple years where I think it's very important that people in the community see this as an opportunity of contributing to their community and contributing to the well-being of their community members.

So in the interim, Mr. Speaker, to answer the member's question, workers from other communities or from the regional centres will go into communities and meet with clients and Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker the department's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates one of its priorities for 2026-2027 fiscal year is to, "expand Restorative Justice Program for probation clients to at least five additional communities where there are no community corrections officers and community justice workers."

Can the Minister confirm which five communities its department is considering in expanding the Restorative Justice Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member's question. So in the interim of creating these community committees, we're servicing all communities across the territory. So I think it just shows the momentum that the department has been able to achieve, and our Community Justice Outreach Workers and how important of a role that they play in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, I think it's very important to recognize that it is an opportunity. There are still about a dozen communities that don't have active committees. And I know I've done a call-out, and I've mentioned it in the House earlier this year, and I think it's very important if people do want to participate, that any members of the Legislative Assembly can forward their contact information to myself, and I'll have somebody follow up. So again, just to put a plug out there, Mr. Speaker, that way. But so as far as the next five communities, it's all 25 communities right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the department's 2026-2030 Business Plan indicates that one of its priorities for 2027-2008 is to, “expand Inuit cultural skills program with land based and cultural instruction to the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility and Kugluktuk-Ilavut Centre.”

Can the Minister explain what specific actions his department undertakings to achieve this priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the member I'm sure can imagine, when you have on- the -land programming, equipment is one of the critical components of that. So making sure that our facilities have the necessary equipment to be able to provide on-the-land programming, in addition to training, our own staff to be able to provide that training opportunity or where it's not unavailable, to contract it in.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's again another initiative that our outreach workers have an opportunity to really make an impact on people's rehabilitation, and we work towards making sure that that our clients that go through the judicial system have all the opportunities available to them for diversion. The positive experience side of the judicial system, Mr. Speaker, is to give people the opportunity and the tools to be able to help address what led them down that path and hopefully they take proactive measures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Taqtu.

Oral Question 176-7(2): Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention and they concern the issue of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.

Mr. Speaker, during yesterday’s sitting of the house, I spoke about the importance of mental health awareness and suicide prevention in my Member’s Statement.

Mr. Speaker, mental health and suicide prevention remain critically important issues across our territory and it is essential that Nunavummiut feel supported and know where to turn to when they need help.

As the youngest Member of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, I understand and recognize the challenges young people and young adults may face when expressing their concerns and reaching out for the support they need.

Can the Minister indicate how her department is working with key stakeholders, including the Department of Family Services, the Department of Health, Embrace Life Council, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to strengthen mental health supports and suicide prevention initiatives?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention, Ms. Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate all of the member's interventions in regards to suicide prevention in Nunavut. We're all touched by this issue, and it's an issue that can only be addressed by working together.

And the department through our plan of action works with all of our intergovernmental stakeholders. We work with Embrace Life, we work with NTI and the RCMP, as mentioned by the member. We have our Healing by Talking counselling services that are available to people. We have different programs related to alcohol and drugs prevention initiatives. We have our postvention system, which as most members know, if there is a completed suicide in a community, we send a crisis team in to work with all levels of the community in order to support the community, including the family that is impacted. We have Atii Angutiit, which is a program that brings men together in order to make connections with each other and perhaps talk about suicide and prevention and mental health.

We are working very closely as well with the Department of Education in order to ensure that we're providing age-appropriate services for children as they grow through their education.

It seems like we can always be doing more. One of the things that we have done most recently in terms of looking at the impact of trauma that is a cause of suicide is we are now looking at childhood sexual abuse through the lens of Public Health so that we can better support children will who are experiencing child sexual abuse, and also in order to prevent child sexual abuse.

As I said earlier, there is a lot of work being put into supporting Nunavummiut and there's always more work to be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 30, 2024, the *2024-2029 Inuusivut Annirnaqtut Action Plan* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, this action plan provides an important framework for strengthening suicide prevention efforts and improving mental health supports for Nunavummiut.

Can the Minister provide an update on the progress made in implementing the initiatives outlined in the 2024-2029 *Inuusivut Annirnaqtut Action Plan*, particularly those aimed at supporting youth and young adults?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the most recent, up-to-date evaluation that we've done, which is ongoing as we implement our program. I can say that speaking about our partners, our intergovernmental partners, we just welcomed a number of youth who are involved in sports and activities. That's one of the ways that we are supporting youth is by investing in recreation activities that can uplift young people, their minds and their bodies and give them opportunities that help them to balance their mental health and wellness.

When it comes to an actual update, I can go back to our team and see if we're at a place now where there's enough evaluation done in order to provide a more clear update about how we're progressing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is unfortunate that many individuals experiencing mental health challenges may feel hesitant or uncomfortable seeking the support they need.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage my constituents in Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay and all of Nunavummiut to reach out to their local health centre, or a friend, if they need support and explore the mental health resources available to them.

Can the Minister indicate what initiatives her department is undertaking to reduce the stigma associated with seeking mental health and encourage Nunavummiut, particularly those who live in smaller communities, to access available mental health services?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention, Ms. Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank the member for that encouragement for people to reach out. When we ask for help, we get help. And there are a variety of different ways that people can access support, whether it's through their health centre in accessing virtual care, whether it's on-the-land programming where they

are out on the land with people who can provide some mental health support, learning and using our bodies and providing for the community as well, which uplifts people's feelings of belonging in the community.

One of the things that the department has just undertaken is we provided trauma training to a number of mental health workers that work for the Department of Health, uplifting their skills so that they are more readily available at the community level to be able to provide supports to people who reach out.

We work with the Department of Education to de-stigmatize mental health issues. I spoke today about launching our new Facebook social media page. We're going to be providing information on that page on a regular basis about how to reach out when somebody has mental health issues, and ultimately I think it's really up to all of us to be able to uplift people who are having problems with their mental health, and to reassure people that mental health is health, and that there's no greater stigma for mental health over having cancer or having any other kind of health problem.

We are here to help, and everything that we do to talk about suicide prevention, to talk about mental health and how important it is to have access and to ask for help is spreading the word so that people can feel more comfortable seeking help when they need it. And ultimately, our goal is to raise Nunavummiut from childhood to adulthood in a way that helps people live in the absence of trauma. And knowing that we can't do that for everybody, what we're doing is providing support for people to move through their trauma in a way that meets them where they are at, and creates the opportunity for them to, any individual to not make the impulsive choice to take their own life; that if they reach out, there is somebody who is available to talk them through that moment of impulse, and hopefully we can have an impact on those individuals.

And checking in with people is the first step for us as community members to be aware of certain cues and people's lived experience so that we can check in and offer help as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Uqqummiut MLA, Mr. Kautuk.

Oral Question 177-7(2): Firearms Safety

Mr. Kautuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister of Justice and they concern Firearms Safety.

Mr. Speaker, during yesterday’s sitting of the house, The Minister of Justice announced that seven Nunavummiut successfully completed the Canadian Firearms Safety Course Instructor Training program held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, from September 22 to 24, 2026.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate these individuals on their achievement and I recognize the importance of increasing access to firearms safety education across our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I also recognize that many of our smaller communities continue to face challenges in accessing firearms safety training.

Can the Minister indicate what actions his department is undertaking to ensure that communities without locally certified firearms safety instructors will also have opportunities to access the Canadian Firearms Safety Course?

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Training the Trainer, such as the program that just went on in Winnipeg recently is a great example of how increasing the number of individuals that are trained to be able to provide this programming.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, ideally it would be great to have people in every community capable and registered to be able to provide this type of training.

Mr. Speaker, in the interim, like I mentioned the other day, if members of the community register that want to take the programming, once a number of participants are identified, we can bring somebody in to provide that training.

So I would encourage all of us to go back to our communities and put a call out to people that want to register for that type of firearms safety training program so that we can identify communities by need and work to make sure that those programs are facilitated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kautuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends)

Mr. Speaker, in his Minister's Statement yesterday, the Minister indicated, "Particular emphasis was placed on increasing instructor capacity within the Kitikmeot, where access to local firearm safety training has been limited."

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the importance of ensuring that residents of communities without locally certified firearms safety instructors are made aware of future training opportunities.

Can the Minister indicate what specific actions his department will undertake to inform regions and communities without locally trained firearms safety instructors of upcoming instructor training programs and ensure that interested residents have an opportunity to participate?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll have to check with my officials to see exactly how this notice went out to solicit these seven members that did participate recently. I don't want to speculate, but I will confirm with my officials how they went about it, and to encourage that duplication into communities where there are no registered firearms safety trainers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Kautuk.

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

The department’s Qukiutiliritsiarniq Nunavumi, Firearm Safety Nunavut campaign, offers resources, support and promotes the safe usage and handling of firearms in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, when I last raised this issue to the Minister, I asked the Minister when the Firearm Safety Nunavut program will be delivering possession and acquisition licence courses in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq. The Minister indicated, “in March of this year, in Qikiqtarjuaq there was firearms training program that was administered ... I would have to look into when the next one is going to be scheduled for Clyde River …”

Can the Minister confirm when the Firearm Safety Nunavut program will be delivering possession and acquisition licence courses in Clyde River?

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have a date as of yet; I realize that was just a short time ago.

However, I will, as I stated earlier, encourage members of the public to register online as soon as possible so that we can gauge numbers, which will help dictate how quickly we can mobilize an instructor into the community where there isn't one. And where there is an instructor, hopefully they are being active in the community and promoting people to take the program that they are able to train now.

So I would encourage again everyone to register as soon as possible. That will help speed up any program delivery in any of your communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Pedersen.

Oral Question 178-7(2): Seasonal Time Changes

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I'll be asking questions to the Minister responsible for Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut to deal with that department's views regarding stopping seasonal time changes in Nunavut.

MLAs have been asking the Minister questions on this issue under his other portfolio with the Department of Justice and we are also aware that this is a huge concern of residents in the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions. In fact, just this morning I was made aware that a mining operation in my region will not be following the seasonal time change at their operation; they will remain in the same time zone as both Northwest Territories and Alberta. Will other similar operators or communities follow? Time will tell as we approach the November 1, which is just three days from now.

Mr. Speaker, my first question to do Minister is what are the views of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut ending seasonal time changes in Nunavut?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut is a service department, I guess we can say, as far as a view, I know from the Information Management/Information Technology team, there are a number of concerns on how it will roll out. But as far as a view of the department, they would be taking direction from us and from the Department of Justice ultimately, which would be the department that would be I guess implementing the lack of time change, Mr. Speaker.

So as far as implementing, there are a number of concerns from the information technology side of things, but I can go into that I'm sure if the member has further questions. Thank you.

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

Mr. Pedersen: I thank the Minister for his response, and given that and taking into consideration the wishes of residents of both regions and repeated questions from MLAs in this House, can the Minister describe the process required to end seasonal time

changes either on a regional basis and/or on a Nunavut wide basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And Mr. Speaker, I think this is the crux of the discussion that we're having on this topic. When we are neighbouring jurisdictions that won't be changing their clocks forward this weekend, it is going to have an impact; we know that.

We want to make sure that we're minimizing any confusion or any impacts. When we're talking three time zones across Nunavut's vast expanse, it just adds to that complexity. And when you've got neighbouring jurisdictions that some are and some aren't going to be following daylight savings time, it just further complicates the matter.

So as the member mentioned in the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq, the neighbouring jurisdictions are saying right now that they will not be changing the clocks this weekend. So we're not able, frankly, to be able to just flick a switch and join that position. So we have to make sure that as we plan things out, we're minimizing the impact and minimizing the complexity across so many different sectors that are impacted by time.

I understand a private entity in a remote part of the territory can unilaterally decide as a business model that they're not going to be changing the clocks. However, from a governmental standpoint and within our communities, even within the private sector, to be able to not have that flexibility of just one-offs I think would just totally complicate so many different aspects of program delivery and scheduling.

So, Mr. Speaker, at this time I do understand like a hundred percent how complex this is going to be, and I just want to reinforce how important it is that we do this as a unified, concerted and thought-out process, so that we can make if the decision is to not change the clocks going forward, that we are able to do that in a seamless manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Back one hour this weekend and not spring forward one hour. Second and final supplementary question, Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and from the Ministers last response, I think I can get the answer to this but I'm going to ask it anyway. So, my final question is, does the Minister agree that it is important for regions to continue to be in the same time zone as their neighbouring jurisdictions which has been the case throughout our history? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think just logically, Mr. Speaker, whenever your time zones are aligned with your neighbouring jurisdictions, it makes things a lot smoother. Like I stated, when you have jurisdictions that aren't changing and some that are, it totally confuses the process.

So I think as we go forward, we're definitely going to have to examine regional changes. As an example, here in the Qikiqtaaluk right now, although Quebec has mentioned that they will be following suit with other jurisdictions next year on the same timeline we would theoretically be on, and Ontario hasn't announced yet right now. So in our region right now, keeping the same time zone as Ontario and Quebec is reality. But with the other two regions, as of this weekend there is going to be that one hour time zone. So I can empathize and understand, and I think it's going to be the position as we move forward, that we're going to have to examine each regional participation in this.

And I just want to highlight the complexity of it. When we look at Nunavut departments' hamlets' telecommunications providers, technology venders, airline service providers, government partners, there's such an extensive list of stakeholders that are impacted by this time zone discussion. One, we have to make sure we get it right; and, two, we've got to make sure that it's as seamless as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Iqaluq.

Oral Question 179-7(2): Early Learning and Child Care

Mr. Iqaluq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first of all, like you would like to the Minister of Housing Corporation. I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Education.

As the newest Member of the Legislative Assembly, I am learning a lot every day.

Perhaps the Minister will be my teacher. (interpretation ends)

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister will recall, the previous Legislative Assembly passed a new Early Learning and Child Care Act.

The Act received Assent in June of 2025, but is not yet in force.

Can the Minister provide a clear timeline for when the government will bring the new legislation into force?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I'm a very good teacher, but I try my best as a Minister.

In regards to the *Act*, we are currently writing the policy and we will be putting it into force in the fall.

The policies on the Paper Retention Policy and their regulations and currently being written. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaluq: Thank you, Minister, for your response. I forgot to mention in the beginning to -- (interpretation) I had forgotten this, so I'll include it. I wanted to do say good afternoon to the people of Nunavut and to my grandmother. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Early learning and child care are very important.

I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to residents of Sanikiluaq who work in schools and daycares, and I'm also pleased to mention Anitik who has been with Daycare for seven years as a caregiver..

As the Minister will be aware, there have been recent news reports about the status of day care services in Sanikiluaq.

Can the Minister clarify his department’s role in respect to renovations of the current facility and the relocation of services to the Nuiyak School?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I extend my greetings to your grandmother as well, and I'm very pleased that she watches the proceedings, and I'm sure she's very proud of her grandson who asks good questions.

We have been working on the daycare facility at Sanikiluaq to renovate the services, so therefore they had to relocate the daycare facility to the school. Once its been completed there will be more room for small children, and that can be taken under daycare, and the Department of Education is working very closely with this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaluq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister for understanding my question. (interpretation ends)

In September of 2023, the Department of Education announced a pilot project to expand full-day kindergarten to five communities.

This is an initiative that would be welcome in my community.

Can the Minister provide a clear timeline for the expansion of full-day kindergarten to Sanikiluaq?

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker. I am looking at the figures here. For the full-day kindergarten expansion, the communities, if what's written is true, but I'll have to look more. (interpretation ends).

The communities that are currently offering full-day kindergarten, Sanikiluaq is on that list. I will verify it's not already there in terms of I'll verify it with my member in terms of the timelines that will be needed. But from the notes I have, I understand that Sanikiluaq is offering the full-day kindergarten. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 180-7(2): Nunavut Land Use Plan

Mr. Mike (interpretation): I apologize. My questions today are for the Premier in regards to the Nunavut Land Use Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As the Premier will recall, I have asked many questions in this House concerning the Nunavut Planning Commission's Recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan. This was submitted to the federal government, as we're aware, the territory government and Nunavut Tunngavik almost three years ago.

On July 3, 2026 Nunavut government, the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik announced their decision to reject the Plan.

My understanding is that, including myself, is that this decision was approved by the Cabinet as a whole. (interpretation ends). I'm asking my question today to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, the word, "rejection" is used in the title of the Government of Nunavut

written reasons in respect to the draft plan. However, Article 11.5.6 of the *Nunavut Agreement* does not explicitly contemplate "rejection." What it states is that the Minister "may" refer the plan back to the Commission for reconsideration.

Can the Premier clearly explain why governments refer to its decision as a "rejection"? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you my colleague for the question in regards to this. Yes, this is your Article 11 in regard to Land Use Planning, Nunavut Land Use Plan, and we recognize the scope of it, and the government is always in agreement. (interpretation ends).

For terminology, Mr. Speaker, 1144(i) of the Land Claim Agreement does use the specific word "rejection." And so, you know, I'm not an expert in terms of legal semantics, but it does appear -- you know, that is a word that does appear in the article that the member is referencing.

So I think going away from specific wordings, whether it's a rejection or whether it's referring it back to the Commission for modification -- and I'm boiling it down what happened a few months is that the three signatories were able to coordinate a response to the Planning Commission and we gave some clear reasons for why we were not ready to sign on. And in providing those reasons to the Commission, we were advancing the process in terms of here are specific things that we would like to see addressed, there are specific things that need to be clarified in order for us to approve a plan and to sign on. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary question. Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Premier, for your response. The Land Use Plan, what you are talking about, it doesn't really state or clearly state the response why the rejection of the proposed Land Use Plan. It doesn't stipulate or state, and they don't stipulate the article numbers as well why there was a rejection, but they explain in some areas of articles that Land Claims Agreement are not stated -- articles are not stated there. (interpretation ends).

The announcement regarding the decision to reject the proposed Land Use Plan indicated that, "As of April 1, 2027, the Government of Nunavut will assume administration and control of Crown lands, natural resources and inland water in Nunavut under the terms of the Devolution Agreement signed by the Government of Canada, Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated."

Can the Premier clearly indicate whether or not a new land use plan is expected to be submitted, reviewed and approved before next year's Devolution deadline? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your question. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as was elaborated by our Minister of Environment recently, devolution and land use planning are closely relating, but they are separate processes, and neither is contingent on the other.

And so that being said, we do understand that land use planning process is important, and approving, reaching a point where we could have an approved Land Use Plan across Nunavut is an important objective. The timeline at this point is unclear in terms of when we would see a new opportunity to consider.

Since the decision to reject the Plan was communicated back in July, there has been work that's been happening at the officials' level. A technical working group has been convened with the signatories and the Nunavut Planning Commission to explore possible approaches to address written reasons for rejection.

And in terms of next steps, we're expecting the Planning Commission to develop discussion papers on outstanding issues, and continue engaging directly with relevant rights holders, including Regional Inuit Associations. (interpretation) thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mike: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response to my question. As the Premier be aware, that the Nunavut Planning Commission issued a statement last week concerning the rejection of the draft land use plan? (interpretation ends). It indicated that, “The Commission has directed staff to continue working with Inuit organizations, governments, and the other participants to explore potential revision to the Recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan.”

Can the Premier describe what direction has been given to the Nunavut government staff in respect to developing a revised plan that all three parties can accept? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Our direction to staff has been consistent to consistent, to continue engaging in good faith.

And in respect of article 11 and the importance of this process, we're fully committed that we're -- you know, it goes right to the heart of the article, and the agreement, which the member has been, you know, quite effectively and articulately pointing out here and bringing attention to in the House and I'd would like to give limb credit for that -- we're committed to ensuring the social, cultural and economic aspirations of current and future Nunavut communities remain central to land use planning and its implementation.

And so the direction that's been given in terms of the position that we took around rejecting the Plan, the direction that's been given is consistent with that. So address the overlays around Inuit-owned lands, address existing rights and access, address existing rights in a general way, address the contradictory plan requirements, address the issue of marine infrastructure and key migratory bird habitat sites, and address the uncertainty that exists around planned amendment process.

So those are the six reasons why, primary reasons why, the GN rejected the Plan, and the hope is that we can find a way forward that addresses those and the other issues that the other signatories highlighted. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral question. Member for Aggu, Mr. Attagutaluk.

Oral Question 181-7(2): School Infrastructure (Attagutaluk)

Mr. Attagutaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to ask a question to the person who loves questions and that's the Minister of Education (interpretation ends)

Mr. Speake, I was very pleased to hear the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure confirmed in the House yesterday that one of the capital projects that has been approved to enter the government's planning phases work on Igloolik’s Ataguttaaluk Elementary School.

As the minister will recall I asked in the spring sitting about ongoing repairs and renovation at the school.

Can the minister describe the scope of the study for the still?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Minister of Education, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very happy that it's been recognized and the planning has to go ahead for the necessary planning, because it's an older school and it needs renovations; it obviously needed

renovation. That's why we requested funding for it, and it's great that it's in this stage now.

As to the details, they will be looking at all the details and try to plan it properly. They want to start with the inside of the school first, according to the Plan. That's what I can say at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As the Minister is aware, there are three schools in the community of Igloolik; an elementary school, a middle school and a high school.

Can the minister describe some of his department's work to ensure that the middle school and the high school are in good condition and are safe appeared healthy space for students and teachers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the schools, we now have 46 schools in Nunavut, and there's three in Igloolik. The high school was recently opened. And we know that it's in good condition. And the middle school, I don't have any details in front of me right now, so I can't really talk about it as to an update.

This week Bill 10 is going to be reviewed under the Education department's capital request. At that time I will be able to divulge more of the details at that time. So I would like to inform my colleague that I'll have the details available at that time, and we know that our staff will be able to help us put this together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Attagutaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister is aware, his department has been working to expand the availability of full-day kindergarten to communities in Nunavut.

Information published by the department indicates that “not all of Nunavut’s schools have the required space or resources to support full-day kindergarten.”

Can the Minister provide a clear timeline for the expansion of full-day kindergarten to Igloolik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Currently there are 12 communities that have full-day kindergarten, and for the rest, they are in different stages. And the majority are, will require funding in order to do renovations or upgrades in terms of to try to offer that within the communities. It might be in that one that same letter that you received that had a list for pre-planning, the next one that we were going to get was for the Rankin Inlet full-day daycare, and were were pleased to see that on that list. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 182-7(2): Marine Infrastructure and Bulk Fuel Resupply

Mr. Kablutsiak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends)

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

As the Minister will recall, I tabled a document in the House during our spring sitting concerning the proposed Aqqiumavvik Seabed Mapping Project.

Information provided by the project proponent indicates that, “The coastal waters of the west Hudson Bay become increasingly precarious due to warming climate, reduced precipitation and very high rates of post-glacial rebound. Arviat experiences some of the highest rates of post-glacial rebound in the world. This creates navigational challenges for small boats and local harvesters, but it is an increasingly dangerous situation for larger ships having to approach the community.”

Mr. Speaker, the Aqqiumavvik Society has requested support from the Canadian Hydrographic Service and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to accomplish the mapping project.

When I raised this issue during our spring sitting, the Minister confirmed his support for the project.

Can the Minister provide an update today on the status of the work?

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the member mentioned, I am a supporter of any mapping, further mapping that we can do of our seabed that's in

our waters. It just adds more, as the member mentioned, of levels of safety, especially for our communities -- all of our communities that rely on sealift resupply.

Mr. Speaker, as the Seabed Mapping Project is a territorial initiative, I don't have an update to be able to provide the member on exactly what has been done. I know there was some communication with partners that were doing some mapping in relation to the Port of Churchill. We're anticipating some mapping to be further there, as well as the potential Fibre Link, of which Arviat is a community that's on that list of communities that would be attached to that Fibre if that project goes forward.

So I'm not aware of any current mapping projects. I know when we sent out our information, I believe it was through the Coast Guard or to Transport Canada -- I would have to check my files, Mr. Speaker, to confirm -- that we weren't aware of any initiatives this summer that would be going into that area. But we did get confirmation -- I believe it was with the Canada Coast Guard -- that if there was any mapping, that they would take Arviat's concerns into consideration. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Information provided by the project proponent indicates that, “The community is expanding at a rate that makes it difficult for sufficient fuel resupply. Due to the sharply shallowing waters, fuel resupply ships can no longer come in fully loaded. At low tide, the ships actually sit on the seabed. This is an environmental concern. Since Arviat can no longer receive full loads of fuel, the result is several partial loads coming in across the shipping season. Currently, the manifold for the resupply is located near the Northern Store – midway into the inlet. Because the ship can no longer fully enter the inlet, the length of the resupply line is long. This requires a longer time to pump. The hope is to move the manifold further to the east along the shoreline. For efficiency, it would be best located close to the site of the new tank farm.”

When I raised this issue during our spring sitting, the Minister confirmed that Transport Canada had provided funding under the Oceans Protection Plan to perform a number of improvements to the community’s marine infrastructure to improve the annual sealift and bulk fuel resupply.

Can the Minister indicate how his department has been involved with this work?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for raising this question as well. Mr. Speaker, there are two projects currently going on in Arviat that are

both hamlet-led driven. We've provided funding to the hamlet to do a sealift -- sorry. There's a report being done through the Community Transportation Infrastructure Fund to study improvements to the existing community dock. So that study is currently ongoing and in the process of being finalized.

But in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, there were funds provided to provide or to update and do some renovations and upgrades to the sealift lay-down area, which definitely will have an impact on being able to do a lot safer offloading for sealift resupply.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, there was previous funding for the bollards that the member is talking about and the manifolds where the fuel comes in. And now that the site of the new tank farm has been determined and finalized, incorporating that work into that facility will naturally occur.

So those bollards-- I can't remember how to pronounce it -- Mr. Speaker, will be placed where it makes it a lot easier to provide fuel offload. In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, we're hoping that the sealift lay-down area, in coordination with the bollards and manifolds being moved, will allow ships to be coming in full, Mr. Speaker, and will limit having to do smaller resupplies throughout the year. It's anticipated we'll be able to go in twice; go in early in the season for the initial resupply, and then top-up before the ice gets in so that's not a safety issue going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Earlier this week, the Minister confirmed that work is moving forward on Arviat’s new bulk fuel storage facility.

Can the Minister indicate if his department’s Petroleum Products Division encountered any issue with this year’s bulk fuel resupply? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, none that I was made aware of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Aivilik MLA, Ms. Angootealuk.

Oral Question 183-7(2): Mental Health (Angootealuk)

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of mental health is very important.

As the Minister is aware, the 5th Legislative Assembly of Nunavut passed a new Mental Health Act.

This Bill received Assent on June 8, 2021, over five years ago.

Mr. Speaker, the new Mental Health Act is not yet fully in force.

Can the Minister provide a clear timeline for when the new Mental Health Act will be fully brought into force?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. I know that that are lot of people who are counting on this mental health act to come into force so that they can be providers of support for family members. And so coming into force, getting that act into force is a huge priority for the department.

Partial implementation is anticipated for spring 2027. Some of the core sections of the act, such as the involuntary process, will be implemented in 2027. Sections that require amendments will be implemented at a later date, and a revised timeline for full implementation is expected to come really shortly.

You know, I've been encouraging our team to work with the Department of Justice a little a little bit closer to get the regulations in order. I know that, as I said, I know that there are many community members who might be confused about why the department isn't able to implement some of the parts of the act, because they don't understand or don't realize that the regulations have to be in place in order for to us bring it into full implementation. And so I've encouraged our team to work closer with the Department of Justice and to offer any help that we can in order to get those regulations specifically underway. So as I said, we're looking at spring 2027 right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary, Ms. Angootealuk.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the Minister. (interpretation ends)

It is important that mental health services in Nunavut be designed and delivered in a culturally appropriate manner.

As the Minister is aware, section 64 of the legislation establishes a new Mental Health Review Board. The law requires that “at least three individuals who are Nunavut Inuit residing in Nunavut” be appointed as Inuit Cultural Advisors to the Mental Health Review Board.

Can the Minister indicate how many meetings the Mental health review Board has had with its Cultural Advisors?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information at my fingertips. However, the department has been working very closely with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, who is a really important partner in that action item. We're working on terms of reference, and as soon as I can find that information for the member, I will provide it directly to the member. Thank you.

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

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

During yesterday’s sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College announced that, “The Interpreter/Translator program has developed a new mental health medical module, made up of 5 courses, that is currently being reviewed by Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. This module complements the health and legal modules already embedded in this program with subject-specific terminology. The College is excited about rolling out this new module once the terminology is approved.”

Can the Minister describe how the Department of Health has been involved in this initiative?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just am checking to see how we're involved with Inuit Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, I know we're working with them on translating common pharmaceutical terms. I'm just looking through my notes to see if I've got something that specifies exactly how we're working with them.

What I can tell is that the Department of Health is always looking to improve the materials that we make available, not just to health centres but to any frontline healthcare providers, and when it comes to interpreting any acts or any programs, the best that we can do is to provide medical terminology that is shared with all providers and frontline workers. And what I can do is I can again come back to the member with information directly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Moving on. *Orders of the Day*, Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Report of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters.

I recognize the Chair of the Legislative Committee, Mr. Kablutsiak.

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

Committee Report 3-7(2): Bill 5 – An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act

Committee Report 4-7(2): Bill 13 – Write-off of Assets Act 2026-2026

Mr. Kablutsiak: I wish to report that Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act*, and Bill 13, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2025-2026*, have been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the Bills are ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): And I recognize that Bill 5 and 13 have been reviewed by the Standing Committee and that the Bills are now ready for the consideration by the Committee of the Whole.

Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for Nunavut Homeowners Program, Mr. Simailak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 67-7(2): 2022-2023 Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Report

Tabled Document 68-7(2): 2023-2024 Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Report

Tabled Document 69-7(2): 2024-2025 Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Report

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table three reports: the 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Annual Reports of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Cambridge Bay MLA, Mr. Pedersen.

Tabled Document 70-7(2): Resolutions and Refelctions from the 2026 Annual General Meeting

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am pleased to table a package of documents that Kitikmeot MLAs received from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association following its 2026 Annual General Meeting. The package contains a regional perspective and reflections from the Annual General Meeting. It is titled, "the Kitikmeot at a Turning Point."

The package also contains four resolutions that were passed by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The first resolution calls for the Development of a Kitikmeot Action Plan on Elders, Youth and Women's Priorities.

The second resolution concerns ending seasonal time changes in the Kitikmeot region.

The third resolution is titled "Strengthening Article 23, Inuit Employment in the Kitikmeot."

The fourth resolution is directed at strengthening airport security and preventing elicit drug trafficking into Kitikmeot communities.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to review these documents with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Moving on. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. 10 and 11 and 12 Bills. And the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Pedersen, will direct these. Before that we'll take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recess at 15:45; Committee commences at 16:14

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

Chairman (Pedersen): Welcome back from the break, and I'll now call this Committee Meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following Bills to deal with: Bills 10, 11 and 12. What is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Chair. We wish to continue with the consideration of Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2027-2028*, and the proposed 2027-2028 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and if time permits, Department of Education. 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 10 - Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2027 2028 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Lyall, do you have officials you would like to appear before the Committee?

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Does the Committee agree to let the officials appears before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them in. For the record, Minister Lyall, please introduce your officials and then proceed with your Opening Comments. Thank you.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With me today I have our President and CEO of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Matthew Parker; as well Nick Clark, our Vice-President of Infrastructure at the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I am pleased to appear before the Committee today to present the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2027–28 Capital Estimates.

Mr. Chair, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is requesting $79.76 million in capital funding for 2027–2028, approximately $7.425 million less than the previous fiscal year.

This reduction does not change our housing priorities. Rather, it reflects how we are using existing funding, managing cash flow requirements, and aligning with increased federal investments.

The proposed 2027-2028 capital funding from the Government of Nunavut, along with funding from other partners including the federal government, will support the Nunavut Housing Corporation in executing construction contracts for approximately 208 new public housing and staff housing units in 2027.

Mr. Chair, Nunavut's housing crisis is severe and it affects all Nunavummiut. Addressing it requires sustained investment, careful planning and strong partnerships.

For that reason, the Nunavut Housing Corporation continues to advance *Igluliuqatigiingniq*, the Nunavut 3000 strategy to build houses together and pursue the aspiration of 3,000 new housing units either in construction or completed by 2030.

Over the past several years, we have strengthened how we plan, procure and deliver housing. Working with industry and our partners has helped us reduce construction costs and positioned the Nunavut Housing Corporation to respond as new funding opportunities become available.

Through *Igluliuqatigiingniq*, we are bringing supported housing, public housing, affordable workforce housing and homeownership together under a coordinated approach to housing delivery.

Mr. Chair, partnerships remain critical to delivering our housing plans. As I have previously shared with members, our agreement with the Government of Canada through Build Canada Homes will provide NHC with $241 million over five years and support the development of up to 750 new homes across Nunavut.

This complements investments provided under Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's National Housing Strategy and the Social Housing Agreement. As the National Housing Strategy approaches its 2028 renewal, we will continue to advocate for sustained, long-term federal funding that reflects the unique challenges and high cost of delivering housing in Nunavut.

We also continue to benefit from private-sector partnerships. Agnico Eagle provided a $2 million in-kind contribution to transport 20 modular units in 2025, made a similar contribution in 2026, and has indicated their intent to continue this support in subsequent years.

In 2026, B2Gold provided $11 million to support 10 new public housing units across five Kitikmeot communities.

Mr. Chair, we are proposing $20 million to start the construction of 198 new public housing units in 2027-2028, $7 million less than the previous fiscal year. This budget request will be supplemented through internal transfers and federal contributions to

provide adequate funding to support contracting for the planned construction projects in 2027-2028.

This year, the Nunavut Housing Corporation will transfer $30 million from its operations and maintenance reserves to support the Public Housing construction program.

From federal funding sources in 2027-2028, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is forecast to receive: $62.3 million from Build Canada Homes, $32.6 million from CMHC's National Housing Strategy and $4.3 million under the Social Housing Agreement.

Under *Igluliuqatigiingniq*, we remain committed to starting construction on 1,400 public housing units by 2030. In 2027-28, we plan to start 198 new public housing units across 13 communities.

Combined with 377 units already completed and 445 currently under construction, this will bring the total to 1,020 public housing units completed or under construction.

We are proposing $10 million for new staff housing construction, an increase of $3 million from the previous year. In 2027, we plan to construct approximately 10 new GN staff housing units across 3 communities.

Mr. Chair, our funding for capital renewal remains well below industry benchmarks. We continue to prioritize tenant health and safety while extending the useful life of our housing stock.

For 2027–2028, we are requesting funding that includes:

- $10 million for Modernization and Improvement of public housing units – no change from prior year
- $2 million for Modernization and Improvement of NHC-owned staff housing units – an increase of $500,000 from the prior fiscal year
- $8 million for mould assessment and remediation – no change from prior year, and
- $1 million for fire damage repair and replacement – no change from prior year.

These investments will help protect our existing housing stock, including many units built before 1980 that now require significant rehabilitation.

In response to recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General, we are requesting $272,000 to complete our new housing management system, which will improve housing management, data quality, reporting and information security through a cloud-based platform.

We are also requesting $1.468 million to continue improving IT infrastructure for Local Housing Organizations. This investment will connect LHOs to the GN's core business network and strengthen service delivery, data security and operational oversight across communities.

Mr. Chair, we are proposing $10 million for affordable and supported housing initiatives across the territory.

This funding will support non-profit and private sector development, expand rental options and increase housing choices for Nunavummiut.

We are also proposing $8 million for homeownership programs including the Nunavut Homeownership Assistance Program (NHAP), the Elders homeownership program, and other programs which support maintenance, renovation, and the ability for Nunavummiut to purchase, repair and remain in their homes.

These programs expand housing options for Nunavummiut while helping reduce long-term pressure on public housing.

The Local Housing Organizations (LHOs) are essential to delivering housing services across Nunavut, and their ability to support tenants, maintain units, and manage daily operations depends on having adequate infrastructure, equipment, and tools.

We are proposing $7.360 million to renew and replace LHO workshops, warehouses, and administrative offices.

We are also proposing $1.660 million for Mobile Equipment to support LHO operations and maintenance teams.

Mr. Chair, we will continue working with builders, Inuit organizations, training institutions, and private-sector partners to leverage investment, build local capacity, support Inuit participation in the construction trades and improve housing delivery.

In closing, Mr. Chair, these Capital Estimates balance the urgent need for more housing with our responsibility to deliver projects effectively and sustainably.

I look forward to the Committee's questions.

Quana, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Mike (interpretation): I apologize. I made a mistake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to provide Opening Comments, on behalf of the Standing Committee on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development. But first of all, before I go to my Opening Comments, the Minister had written a letter to the Community and Government Economic Development Committee on October 19, 2026, regarding this letter. I wanted to make that statement. And thank you for your response, Madam Minister. As I indicated earlier, the Committee had its review of the proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital budget for the 2027-2028 fiscal year is $79.76 million, which represents an 8.5% decrease from the corporation's approved 2026-2027 capital estimates.

On October 18, 2022, (interpretation ends) the Nunavut Housing Corporation and NCC Development Limited announced the signing of a formal "Master Partnership Agreement." This agreement, as well as the Nunavut Housing Corporation's new Nunavut 3000 strategy, were publicly released on the same day.

The 2025 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut: Public Housing in Nunavu*t was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 26, 2025. The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing on the report from September 4-5, 2025. (interpretation) The Nunavut Housing Corporation's *Action Plan Improving Public Housing Delivery: A Response to the 2025 Performance Audit by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada* was published in September of 2025. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of the corporation's work in this area. Members recognize that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's procurement of its new Housing Management System Replacement is intended to help address issues raised in the Auditor General's report.

On January 30, 2026, the Government of Canada, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated announced the signing of an Agreement in Principle to "deliver up to 750 much-needed homes across the territory, including public, affordable and supportive housing. Through this investment, Build Canada Homes - the federal government's new agency created to supercharge housing construction - will provide up to $250.0 million with up to $230.0 million coming from the Government of Nunavut. As part of this new partnership, up to 30% of units will be built using innovative factory-built components. 25 of the 750 units will be specifically delivered and managed by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, in alignment with the Inuit-led housing model of the recently-launched Igluvut Corporation." Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of implementing this agreement.

Members encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to announce its 2027-2028 public housing construction community allocations at the earliest practicable opportunity. Members also encourage the corporation to publish updated community public housing waitlist figures.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include funding for the construction of new staff housing units. Members recognize the importance of prioritizing construction allocations to address such issues as forced sharing of units.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include $10.0 million (interpretation ends) in voted funds for its Affordable Housing Capital budget. This budget was first introduced for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The *Nunavut Housing Corporation's Supported Housing Capital Policy* sunsets on September 30, 2028. The *Nunavut Affordable Housing Supply Incentive Policy* sunsets on December 31, 2028.

On April 8, 2024, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced a "modernized suite of affordable housing and homeownership support programs." On August 28, 2024, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced that the "Condominium Program is accepting applications from prospective homeowners and is now open to all Nunavummiut." (interpretation) The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include $8.0 million for its Homeownership Programs budget. The *Nunavut Homeownership Support Policy* sunsets on March 31, 2028.

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

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include funding for the purpose of providing an annual contribution to Local Housing Organizations for the creation of a vehicle reserve fund. (interpretation) Members recommend that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's annual reports include a detailed listing of vehicle acquisitions undertaken by Local Housing Organizations.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include funding for its ongoing "Mould Assessment and Remediation" initiative. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this important work.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 5-year capital plan indicates that funding will be allocated on an annual basis for its Local Housing Organization Workshop, Warehouse and Administrative Offices replacement project. (interpretation ends) Information provided by the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that the design and construction of new Local Housing Organization facilities in Cambridge Bay, Arviat, Pond Inlet, Kugluktuk, Igloolik and Gjoa Haven will be undertaken in coming years.

(interpretation) That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Do members have any general 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 L-3. We will now review the Nunavut Housing Corporation Capital Estimates 2027-2028, $79,760,000. Do members have any questions? Mr. Kablutsiak, go ahead.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Chair. This is under Local Housing Organization Workshop Warehouse and Administrative Offices. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include $7.36 million for the local housing organization workshop, warehouse and administrative offices replacement project. The capital substantiation sheet for this project indicates that, "Given the cost challenges encountered in prior procurements, NHC continues to explore alternative delivery models for the remaining communities with Arviat targeted for the next community to proceed with an LHO replacement facility."

What specific models are currently being considered? Thank you, Chair.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. So currently right in a number of our prior NHO upgrades, when a tender went out, we were seeing those numbers coming in well above our budgeted amounts. So right now we've been looking at a possibility for design-build options or possibly a lease-to-own option, if there is a facility within the community that would have the ability to house a local housing organization's workshop. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Mr. Kablutsiak, do you have more? No. Next on my list is Mr. Taqtu. Go ahead.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Chair. (interpretation) Nunavut Housing Corporation is requesting $10 million for the improvement of houses, and that figure hasn't changed in a

number of years. How is that money usually used? It's a lot of money. There's a lot of units that need improvement in Nunavut. So where will this $10 million be utilized? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you for the question. We do recognize when we're looking at improvements made to our housing stock and the limited amount of funds that we have available for the modernization, improvement and renovations that $10 million may seem like a lot, but when you're looking at a housing stock across 25 communities and much of that stock being quite a bit older, much of it being built before the 1980s, 10 million is not sufficient.

We're also balancing renovations to existing housing stock to maintain that existing unit, with the need to construct new housing units to be able to meet the housing needs of individuals currently not within public housing.

So that money is utilized throughout the territory on some of our larger modernization and improvement activities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Chair. And you guys are requesting $8 million for mold assessment and remediation; no change from prior year. How do you guys select that needs to be addressed like right away? Do you guys get that information from local housing organizations, or do you guys just pick out a random piece of paper from the lottery and say, we needed to do this work? How does that work? Thank you, Chair.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. I think this is a concern for many of our members. So if it's okay with you, Mr. Chair, if Nick Clark can answer that question in detail for the members. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Go ahead, Mr. Clark.

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the member for the question. So in terms of selection, the LHO's notify NHC, and we maintain a central list, both of what units are impacted and to what level of mold they are impacted with. Unfortunately, the $8 million a year doesn't go far enough to address all of the mold at once. So we prioritize the more severely impacted units and we maintain a list of the others so that we can get back and address them.

So we are working through the building condition assessments currently underway. Corporations undertaking all owned units, public and (indiscernible) to identify mold as one of the criteria. That will give us visibility later this year so we can adjust our strategy in terms of addressing mold impact so that the lower level mold is addressed by LHO's, allowing that $8 million hopefully to make better inroads and eradicate the higher-level impact that we're seeing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Clark. Mr. Taqtu.

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have one more question of the proposed $10 million for for new staff housing construction. That's an increased $3 million from the previous year. It says, "We plan to construct approximately 10 new GN staffing units across three communities."

Which three communities are the staff units going to? Thank you, Chair.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the member for that question. In prior years before last estimate - so our last -- I keep saying last. Last year the amount for the construction of new staff housing was $7 million. In the years before that, from 2025, it was 10 million. So last year we saw a dip and we're coming back up to 10 million, recognizing the great need for more staff housing units across the territory.

So it's more of a coming being back to the average of what we would allocate to staff housing, new construction. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. I believe he was asking about which three communities. I didn't hear that part on the answer. Or did I miss that? Go ahead.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Sorry, Mr. Chair. Sorry to the member. Right now we're looking at construction in Naujaat, Rankin Inlet and Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Members with questions? Ms. Angootealuk.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Minister Lyall. (interpretation ends) In July of 2025, the Nunavut Housing Corporation published an update on the status of construction of new housing units funding during the 2023-2024, 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 fiscal year. When will this information be updated?

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angootealuk. Minister Lyall, go ahead.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. We're continuously trying to provide information in a timely manner to the members and for tabling here in the House, and also on our website at Nunavut Housing Corporation. We're hoping to have an updated report later in November for the next construction update report as well later in November. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Ms. Angootealuk, go ahead.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): The Nunavut Housing Corporation's (interpretation ends) 2026-2027 capital estimates included $27.0 million in funding for the new public housing construction. The corporation's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include $20.0 million in funding for new public housing construction. What accounts for the decrease for the upcoming 2027-2028 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angootealuk. Minister Lyall, go ahead.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. This decrease in investment -- it's supplemented by reallocating our own internal operations and maintenance. We're moving $30 million from the operations and maintenance reserves into new public housing construction dollars.

So at NHC we're looking at supplementing our proposed allocation from the House with federal funding, as well as re-profiling internal funding that we may have. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Ms. Angootealuk, go ahead.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair and thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) The corporation's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include $20.0 million in funding for new public housing construction. In which communities are the units planned to be constructed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angootealuk. Minister Lyall, go ahead.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. Currently right now we don't have a community breakdown that we would be able to share. Our tendering process is set to end later this month, and as those are reviewed and we look at the community readiness, so if there's lots developed or if the granular is in the community. So once all of that is done, we would be able to share the community-by-community breakdown, and I would share this with members ahead of our sitting in the same report that I had previously shared with them, breaking down the construction progress in their community, as well as anticipated builds on next year's sealift.

So I am hoping to have those numbers out to the members by early next year once the tendering process is ready and community, we're able to assess the community readiness at that time as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Ms. Angootealuk, go ahead.

Ms. Angootealuk: How many units are planned to be constructed in each community?

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you and thank you to the member for the question. After assessing the tenders and what we anticipate being able to build with the allocation in our current funding levels, we would be able to share those numbers.

Currently right now we're looking at building in 13 different communities this upcoming construction season. Once we have a better understanding of costs for construction and community readiness, we would be able to share that with the members. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Ms. Angootealuk, go ahead.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut 3000 Strategy contains public housing waitlist numbers that are dated March 31, 2022. The corporation's substantiation sheet for its public housing construction budget indicates that "waitlists for public housing are now approximately 3,702 units as of March 31, 2026."

When will the Nunavut Housing Corporation publish updated community waitlists?

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. The updated community waitlist, that will be reported during our annual report, and I can say as of June 30, 2026 there were 3,797 people on the public housing waitlist across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Ms. Angootealuk, go ahead.

Ms. Angootealuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On January 30, 2026, the Government of Canada, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated announced the signing of an Agreement in Principle to "deliver up to 750 much-needed homes across the territory, including public affordable and

supportive housing." The announcement indicated that "the final details of today's announcement will be confirmed in the funding contribution agreement."

As of today, what is the status of the contribution agreement?

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. We have signed our agreement with Canada for the Build Canada Homes Agreement between VCH and NHC. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Next on my list is Mr. Qammaniq. Go ahead.

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Will the Contribution Agreement be made public through tabling in the Legislative Assembly or posting on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's website. *Qujannamiik*.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you to the member for that question. Typically these types of agreements are not tabled in the House and not made public on our website because of the technical nature within the agreement. So this would be something that it would take quite some time to have translated into the officials languages here in Nunavut.

As we stated in our reply to the Committee, we have reached out to Canada and are in communications about the possibility of that agreement being made public. And again, this would not be a unilateral decision at NHC, as it is an agreement between two parties. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To what extent will the homes be constructed by NCC under the terms of existing agreements with the Nunavut Housing Corporation? *Qujannamiik*.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If it's okay with you, if I can have the president and CEO of NHC, Matthew Parker, respond to this question.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Mr. Parker.

Mr. Parker: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the member for that question. So we acknowledge the significant delays and delivery of some of the units that have been contracted to NCCD, and we share the Committee's concerns in ensuring that these housing units are completed as quickly as possible.

Of the 318 units that have been awarded to NCC so far, 114 have been completed, 216 are currently in progress, and there are 38 units that remain that have not yet started construction.

So as a result of these delays and logistical issues that have been encountered within this agreement, no new contracts are being awarded to NCCD for this current fiscal year, as our focus is ensuring that those units that have already been awarded can be completed as quickly as possible.

NCCD has now subcontracted a number of their units to other builders, and the progress on these is going well, and they have committed to come back to us with a plan for those projects that remain under their supervision and that have not yet advanced.

Obviously we are continuing to closely monitor this situation and to support NCCD and its subcontractors in resolving any issues as quickly as possible so that these units can be delivered for occupancy. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Parker. Mr. Qammaniq, go ahead.

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): Thank you. How many staff housing units have been transferred to Local Housing Organizations for use as public housing units during the current 2026-2027 fiscal year? *Qujannamiik*.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. From my understanding, so that's transferring staff housing, current Government of Nunavut staff housing units into public housing. No GN staff housing units have been transferred to be utilized as public housing units, to my knowledge. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Lyall. Mr. Qammaniq.

Mr. Qammaniq: *Qujannamiik.* The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2026-2027 capital estimates included $10 million in "Affordable and Supported Housing Capital." As of today, how much of this funding has been spent? *Qujannamiik*.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the member for that question. We have been continuously trying to have more developers within the affordable housing and supported housing sector and ensuring that there's that -- that need is seen across the territory where a number of our communities currently do not have shelters, a number of our communities currently do not have any affordable housing. So we're always advocating to have more proposals into this.

As of today we have expensed $3 million from that program, but we're hoping as more uptake comes into the program, we'll see more of these units across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Qammaniq: *Qujannamiik*. September of 2025, the Nunavut Housing Corporation provided to Members of the Legislative Assembly a list of projects funded under this program. When will an updated list be provided? *Qujannamiik*.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. Currently right now as we are (indiscernible) through the numbers and ensuring that we have applicants within the projects, I don't have a definite date as to when an updated list would be provided. It would not happen before the end of this year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Mr. Qammaniq, any more? Go ahead.

Mr. Qammaniq: *Qujannamiik*. Have any applications under this program been denied by the Nunavut Housing Corporation? *Qujannamiik*.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. I don't have that information in front of me, but I can come back to the Committee and share that information. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Qammaniq: *Qujannamiik*. Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2026-2027 capital estimates included $8.0 million for the new "Homeownership Funding" budget. As of today, how much of the budget has been spent? *Qujannamiik*.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the member for that question. I am just looking up the numbers. Apologies. I don't have a consolidated list of all the homeownership programs within my package, but I can come back to the members with that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Qammaniq: *Qujannamiik*. In February of 2018, the Government of Nunavut announced a new Staff Condominium Program. Under this program, up to 60 condominiums were made available for sale in Iqaluit. As of today, how many units have been purchased and how many units remain unsold? *Qujannamiik*.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair. All of the units have been sold, and if it's okay with you if I can go back to the previous question. All of last year's funding for the homeownership programs has been spent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall, and thank you for going back and giving the answer for that as well. Mr. Qammaniq, go ahead.

Mr. Qammaniq: *Qujannamiik*. (interpretation ends) On August 2018, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced that the "Condominium Program is accepting applications from prospective homeowners and is now open to all Nunavummiut."

How many applications have been received to date? *Qujannamiik*.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. The program concluded during the previous round of sale. So there aren't any new condominiums or units within that program, so we have not during the life of this government received any applications. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Qammaniq: *Qujannamiik*. (interpretation ends) The Corporation's proposed 2026-2027 capital estimates included $8 million in mold assessment and remediation. In which communities will this work take place? *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qammaniq. I'm not sure if Mr. Taqtu asked that one, but Minister Lyall, go ahead.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The units targeted for this upcoming -- the units that were targeted for the 2026-2027 Mold Remediation Program, there were 40 units targeted, and the communities were: Baker Lake, Clyde River, Coral Harbour, Igloolik, Qikiqtarjuaq, Sanikiluaq, Whale Cove and Iqaluit. And the units that were included within mold assessments, assessments and planning for 2027-2028 are: Arctic Bay, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, Sanirajak and Whale Cove. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Qammaniq: *Qujannamiik*. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2026-2027 capital estimates included $1.66 million for vehicle purchases by the corporation and Local Housing Organizations.

How many vehicles have been purchased to date under this budget during the current 2026-2027 fiscal year? *Qujannamiik*.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. I am just looking for the numbers for this fiscal for the local housing vehicle purchases.

I don't have the number in front of me for the exact number of communities for number of vehicles that we purchased across our communities, but I can come back to the member with that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Qammaniq: *Qujannamiik*. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include $1.66 million for vehicle purchases by the corporation and Local Housing Organizations.

Will you commit to ensuring the Nunavut Housing Corporation's annual report include a listing of annual vehicle purchases by the corporation and Local Housing Organizations? *Qujannamiik*.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. A report of vehicle purchases for the Local Housing Organizations is not something we

typically would include within our annual report. This is something that we could look into providing for the MLAs in my regular updates to the MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Qammaniq: *Qujannamiik*. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2026-2027 annual estimates included $3.499 million in funding for a new "Infrastructure Foundation for Managed Services for Local Housing Organizations" project.

As of today, how much of this funding has been spent? *Qujannamiik*.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. As we are looking into modernizing our communications infrastructure with the local housing organization and improving how we're able to deliver services across the territory, this is something of great importance to us to ensure that we have modern system.

Currently right now it's putting a lot of different Excell sheets together, whereas with the new introduced system it will be in all one Cloud-based application. For our allocation from this fiscal, it has all been expensed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): *Qujannamiik* (interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include $1.468 million in funding for the "Infrastructure Foundation for Managed Services for Local Housing Organizations" project.

In the light of supplementary funding requests for the Department of Finance's Enterprise Resource Planning System, how confident is the corporation that additional funding will not be required for this project beyond the 2027-2028 fiscal year? *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Qammaniq. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. This estimate is based on what we anticipate the cost of cabling in on 25 Local Housing Organizations into the Government of Nunavut's core network. So pretty confident that this is -- falls in line with what we anticipate needing for this project. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Qammaniq: *Qujannamiik*. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2026-2027 capital estimates included $2.166 million in funding for a new "Housing Management System Replacement" project.

As of today, how much of this funding has been spent? *Qujannamiik*.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. The new Housing Management System is something that we're very excited to be able to implement and we're hoping to come in to pilot testing across our communities, in a few of our communities to ensure that this program is working correctly.

So far for this fiscal we have expensed all of the allocated dollars to this program from 2025-2026. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Qammaniq: *Qujannamiik*. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2027-2028 estimates include $272,000 in funding for the "Housing Management System Replacement" project.

In light of the supplementary funding requests for the Department of Finance's Enterprise Resource Planning System, how confident is the corporation that additional funding will not be required for this project beyond 2027-2028 fiscal year? *Qujannamiik*.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. Again, this program is progressing quite quickly, and we are anticipating that this funding amount would be sufficient to see the project to completion. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. Is that all the questions from members? Mr. Mike, go ahead.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): I haven't said anything for quite a while. (interpretation ends) The more information told, the more I want to know. (interpretation) There was a question about NCC, and the response was notified but they had said that they're going to build a set number of houses and NCC's going to be doing that work by contract, and there were are approximately 318 in the completed numbers and 250 are under construction.

NCC is very behind on building the required numbers, and they have subcontracted another company. The 114 I believe were completed from the 318.

Could you elaborate, because at times I get confused about completed dates under construction and so on when they are not in written form. And there's quite a lot of different types of housing out there. Since there's an Agreement between the Government of Nunavut and NCC, I would like you to elaborate on the numbers completely under construction and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the member for the question. So for our contracts with NCC, we have 114 units completed, 216 units currently under construction, and 38 units that have yet to be started.

And, again, I'd like to clarify, because I think there's a perception where we would have been building all 1,400 public housing units with one company. And underneath the Master Service Agreement, it was an Agreement to work together where capacity was available, where we would be able to come and reach the most economical price for units in the territory. It was not an agreement to sole-source all 1,400 public housing units under the Igluliuqatigiingniq Strategy.

We do appreciate the work that has been done with NCC, while also recognizing the delayed timelines. Capacity constraints across Nunavut, especially within the construction builds, have been felt, not just for housing, but for a number of other large capital projects that we see in the territory.

So for this upcoming contracting season, no contracts were explored with the company, as we are seeing the capacity constraints and wanting to ensure that we're delivering units across the territory, both as quickly as we can but as economically as we can as well too. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Mike: *Qujannamiik*.(interpretation) In Pangnirtung, for example, there are 16 recently -- recently started the construction of these units. It has been delayed for quite some time. NCC's contract, how many in Nunavut, how many of these construction units have been delayed, or have they been given to subcontractors? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Go ahead, Mr. Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. The units in Pangnirtung specifically, we saw a number of different delays within that

construction program, starting with issues in ensuring that the foundation was ready for the construction to commence. And then catching up. Like once you fall behind within a construction season, if you're delayed by a few weeks, it can delay you a whole winter.

For subcontracts, there have been a number of subcontracts. Apologies. In front of me I don't have a consolidated list of what communities might have been subcontracted, but I can provide that to the members if that's of interest to them. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Mike: Same thing here. Another question. (interpretation) As the Minister stated, that delayed foundation work, is that NCC's? Does NCC have to do the foundation? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Mike. Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. Normally the foundations are subcontracted trades. So they might -- the company might choose to contract a pile company or different individuals in the communities to be able to ensure that that foundation is erected.

And I would just like to clarify my previous point, where NCC might be subcontracting some of the work in certain communities, but our contract for those units is still with NCC. So we have contracted them for those units, and they have decided to subcontract our contract within a Nunavut company. And for the pile foundations, within Nunavut there is currently only one contractor that does this type of work across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know our previous contractors. We know how to deal with contracts and how we can do them properly. I know that I'm sure that just -- they just recently started constructing the units when they could have been completed and they could be people getting into theirs, but just recently they started constructing the units, and they could have been used or inhabited by this spring.

I was thinking that NCC, if they are no longer able to complete the construction, anyone can put in a bid due to housing shortage. I can state that we -- NCC especially in Pangnirtung, they did wrong to the community, and we're aware of the fact that they did not construct the units. And I'm sure it's not just Pangnirtung, but they did not construct units.

So I would like to open the contract to the public. I would encourage you to open the contract to the public out there who are able to construct units, because due to delayed construction and the material is just outside, not even housed. And elements or environment can damage them.

This is just a comment, Mr. Chairman, but I do want to move on to more remediation. There was a question posed about it. You identified for mold remediation. Pangnirtung was identified as well and (indiscernible) mold remediation. It seems like this is going to be an ongoing program.

Like for example in Pangnirtung, the units that belong to Nunavut Housing Corporation, usually the tenants are removed or moved to another unit quite a few times, and that's what occurs when tenants have to be moved to another unit due to mold remediation. And it seems like this issue is ongoing.

We would like to hear how many Pangnirtung units that have been identified after, identified that require mold remediation after the research or testing of the units. Thank you.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. Currently right now for Pangnirtung and the mold assessments, we're looking at doing 15 assessments within the communities.

And I think it's important to indicate that although we're doing 15 within the community, that doesn't mean that there's only 15 units that would need an assessment for mold remediation. As our vice-president stated, we're continuously working through our building condition assessments. We're at about 75 percent complete through those assessments, and after completing the territorial building condition assessments on our Public Housing portfolio and staff housing-owned staff housing units, we would have a greater picture of the need for modernization and improvements across our portfolio.

We do hear a lot of instances where a request has come in for a leaky faucet and then that might lead to mold within the unit. So I think it's really important for us modernizing how we're communicating with the LHOs and how information is being collected from our tenants in ensuring that our housing stock lasts a bit longer, but also maintenance is quicker.

And ultimately at the end of the day we hope that this proactive approach would lessen the number of mold assessments or mold remediation needed across our housing portfolio. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you. We have to have a clearer understanding in regards to mold units, units with mold, and they cannot be inhabited. The tenants have to move before remediation until they are replaced. Can the Minister inform us for the 2026-2027 fiscal year assessment, Building Assessment and Improvement Program, how many units in Pangnirtung need remediation or how many units cannot be remediated? After your assessment, would you be able to know the number of units that can be assessed or that could be remediated? How many units are going to be write-offs? Thank you.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. Currently as we're concluding our Building Condition Assessments, I don't have that information available to me now. This is something that we're hoping to have available later in quarter four of 2027-2028, and that would be the time where we review the needs for capital dollars for our mold remediation and Public Housing Staff Housing Modernization and Improvement Funds. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to -- well, thank you, Madam Minister, for informing us that the Building Assessment Report is not available.

In Pangnirtung there are 16 -- or 14 units to be constructed. Even due to mold or fire, destroyed by fire, and if they are too expensive to renovate, and we were allocated 16 units, and this year 13 units minus the ones that are write-offs, we should be allocated 30 units. But due to mold and fire damage units, they cannot be replaced or renovated.

These new units, there will only be 28 allocated or 24, as we don't know -- I'm just guessing as to how many units will be constructed. It's really good to hear when Housing Corporation identifies through the community and informs them how many units will be constructed. But due to the building damages, if you can inform us. Like they have to be replaced. And even though it seems like they are units that will will allocated less than actual numbers. So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member. It has been a continuous balance in reviewing what we can economically renovate versus what we can build new. The decision to remove a unit offline is not something that we take lightly, while also ensuring the health and safety of our tenants. For the mold remediation

projects, the assessments are chosen. The units chosen for assessment are chosen by the Local Housing Organization as they are the ones that have the greatest handle of the Housing Portfolio as they maintain. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Lyall. I have no more names on my list for questions. Do members agree with the Nunavut Housing Corporation Total Capital Expenditures of $79,760,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree we have concluded with the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Brief closing comments, Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the members for your questions and your input. I would also like to thank my officials and all the individuals behind the scenes at our offices across Nunavut here in Iqaluit, Arviat, Kinngait, Cambridge Bay. Their work really empowers us to be able to make these decisions here today.

Lastly, I would also like to thank our Local Housing Organizations. Their work and dedication enables us to be able to deliver the Public Housing Program and our Staff Housing Program, and really our Local Housing Organizations are the ones that communicate daily with our tenants across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Mr. Taqtu: Thank you, Chair. I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. 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. All those opposed? Thank you. Motion is carried, and I will now rise to report progress.

>>Committee concludes at 17:51; House re-convenes at 17:51

Speaker (interpretation): Item number 20, Reports of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Pedersen.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Pedersen: 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: There's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Iqaluq. All those in favour, raise your hand. Motion carried. Can you hear me now? Motion carried.

21, Third Reading of Bills. 22, *Orders of the Day*. Deputy clerk, Ms. Bens.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Ms. Clerk: Friday, October 30, 2026, 9 a.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
    - Bill 10, 11 and 12
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House now stands adjourned until tomorrow on Friday, October 30, starting at 9 a.m. in the morning. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House Concludes at 17:54