NUNAVUT HANSARD

UNEDITED TRANCRIPT

NOVEMBER 3, 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)

Brian Koonoo
(Tununiq)

Simon Kuliktana
(Kugluktuk)

Hon. Cecile Nelvana Lyall
(Netsilik)
Acting Minister of Environment; Acting Minister of Energy; 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 Community Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation; Minister responsible for Mines; Minister responsible for Trade

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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
November 3, 2026

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

>> *House Commenced at 13:30.*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Joanasie) (interpretation): Item number 1, prayer. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Let us pray.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, members, Nunavut residents, to the people who are listening to the proceedings through the radio and TV or through iPads. We send our greetings from the City of Iqaluit, capital of Nunavut. *Orders of the Day*, Ministers' Statement. Minister of Health, Ms. Brewster.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 135-7(2): Strengthening Mental Health Care In Our Communities

Hon. Janet Brewster: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, strengthening mental wellness means supporting the people who care for our communities and expanding services at home. From October 19 to 21, the Department of Health hosted the sixth annual Trauma Symposium in Winnipeg. I delivered the opening address, welcoming frontline workers under the theme, "Stronger Together: Building Care in Our Communities."

The gathering focused on community-based workers, including Outreach Workers, Youth Program Facilitators, and Mental Health and Addictions Assistants. Their knowledge and relationships help connect Nunavummiut with care and support.

Mr. Speaker, these workers often support people they know personally while managing their own experiences of trauma and loss. Supporting their wellbeing is essential to sustaining care in our communities.

The symposium offered opportunities to share knowledge, strengthen skills and learn strategies for caring for themselves while supporting others. I recognize the Inuit program supervisors whose leadership helped ensure the gathering reflected community experiences and Inuit societal values.

Mr. Speaker, investing in our workers goes hand in hand with expanding the services they help deliver. In March of this year, we expanded the Cambridge Bay Mental Health Transitional Housing Program to three homes with a total capacity of 12 beds.

The program supports Nunavummiut who no longer require the level of care provided in a mental health facility but still need assistance with daily living. It provides a supportive environment to develop skills and build greater independence.

Mr. Speaker, skilled, supported workers and appropriate places to receive care are both essential to mental wellness. Together, these efforts help Nunavummiut access support that responds to their needs.

I thank our mental health teams for the knowledge, compassion and dedication they bring to this work. Their wellbeing matters, and their commitment makes a difference in the lives of Nunavummiut every day.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statement. Minister responsible for Status of Women, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Minister’s Statement 136-7(2): National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) and good afternoon to all my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, this summer I attended the annual meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women in Moncton, New Brunswick. I was joined at the table by Ms. Amber Aglukark, President of the Qulliit Nunavut Status of Women Council. Qulliit is an important partner in advancing the safety, equality, and well-being of women, girls, and gender-diverse people in our territory.

During the meeting, Honourable Minister Rechie Valdez, Canada's Minister of Women and Gender Equality, announced $607.4 million to continue the critical work of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, as well as renewed funding for provincial and territorial crisis hotlines. These investments recognize that ending gender-based violence requires sustained action, long-term partnerships, and continued resources and support for the organizations and people doing this work on the frontlines.

Nunavut faces unique challenges in responding to gender-based violence. There is a high cost of delivering services across 25 communities, limited housing availability, gaps in access to specialized services, and many of our community members continue to experience the impacts of intergenerational trauma. Our response must reflect the realities of Nunavut and the voices and experiences of women.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is now preparing to co-host the next annual meeting in July 2027 in Iqaluit. We have an important opportunity to bring an Inuit perspective to national conversations about gender-based violence while showcasing the excellence and leadership of Inuit women. Through partnerships with our federal and provincial colleagues, as well as our work with Qulliit, Inuit organizations, and local gender-based violence agencies, we are doing the work to make our communities safer for everyone.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, November is Family Violence Prevention Month, and the Government of Nunavut and Qulliit Nunavut Status of Women Council are calling on all Nunavummiut to take a stand against violence and help build safer and healthier communities. Violence is not just a family problem, it is a community problem, and we all have a role to play in preventing violence and supporting those who are affected by it.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 137-7(2): Recognizing Nunavut's First Sport and Recreation Hall of Fame Inductees

Hon. Craig Simailak (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends)

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two remarkable Nunavummiut whose contributions to sport have left a lasting impact on our territory.

On October 3, the Nunavut Sport Federation introduced the Nunavut Sport and Recreation Hall of Fame, inducting its first two members: the late Attima Hadlari of Cambridge Bay and Jordin Tootoo of Rankin Inlet.

>> Applause

Mr. Speaker, Attima was recognized for his lifelong dedication to Arctic Sport and traditional Inuit games. An accomplished athlete, particularly skilled in the traditional sealskin whip, he shared his knowledge with younger generations as a coach, mentor and official.

He participated in numerous Arctic Winter Games as an official and oversaw territorial sporting events. Attima was also a respected Inuit drum dancer who performed internationally, sharing Inuit culture and traditions. Through his dedication to teaching and mentoring, Attima helped preserve traditional Inuit games and pass important cultural knowledge to future generations.

Mr. Speaker, Jordin Tootoo was recognized for his historic achievements in hockey and his continued contributions beyond the sport.

In 2003, Jordin made history as the first Inuk to play in the National Hockey League. Over 13 seasons and 723 games, he played for the Nashville Predators, Detroit Red Wings, New Jersey Devils, and Chicago Blackhawks, where he finished his NHL career. His achievements inspired Inuit athletes and demonstrated what is possible for someone growing up in a small Nunavut community.

Beyond his playing career, Jordin continues to give back through his advocacy, community involvement and work with young people, serving as a role model both on and off the ice.

I would like to congratulate Jordin Tootoo and honour the memory of Attima Hadlari. I also thank the Nunavut Sport Federation for establishing the Hall of Fame and creating a lasting opportunity to recognize the individuals who have helped shape sport and recreation in Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Congratulations and good memory of him. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Tattuinee.

Minister's Statement 138-7(2): Visiting our Employees in Naujaat

Hon. Annie Tattuinee: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on my recent visit to Naujaat, where I had the opportunity to celebrate an important community milestone and spend time with the public servants who serve Nunavummiut every day.

During my visit, I joined community members and partners to celebrate the opening of the Ikayuut Solar and Energy Storage Project. This project brings together renewable energy, Inuit leadership and opportunities for local employment and training, while helping reduce Naujaat's reliance on diesel. I congratulate everyone whose work helped to bring this project from an idea to operation.

Mr. Speaker, I also joined the Minister of Family Services to visit the local Family Services office and meet employees supporting the community.

These visits matter. They give us an opportunity to thank our employees personally and better understand what it takes to deliver services to our communities.

Our public servants are the people Nunavummiut turn to for help. In smaller communities, employees often carry significant responsibilities while working with limited resources and supporting people who they know well. Their work requires professionalism, resilience and a strong commitment to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Human Resources, I value the opportunity to hear directly from employees about their experiences. These conversations help us better understand the practical issues affecting recruitment, retention and access to training, and where our processes need to work better for individuals delivering services.

As we move forward with improvements to Human Resources, the experiences of employees across Nunavut must help guide our work. We need to support people where they work and create more opportunities for Nunavummiut to build careers in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the people of Naujaat for taking the time to speak with us. To share your experiences, perspectives and contribution through the work you do for your community.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, as well. Ministers' Statement. Housing corporation, Minister Lyall.

Minister's Statement 139-7(2): Supporting Homeownership Through NHAP and IFP

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon colleagues and those listening or watching our proceedings today.

Mr. Speaker, building a home gives a family the opportunity to invest in their future. Yet in Nunavut, the construction costs and difficulty securing traditional financing can put homeownership out of reach.

I am pleased to update the Members on two modernized Nunavut Housing Corporation programs designed specifically to break down these barriers: the Nunavut Homeownership Assistance Program, known as NHAP, and the Nunavut Interim Financing Program, known as IFP.

Through the Nunavut Homeownership Assistance Program, eligible Nunavummiut can receive a $250,000 forgivable loan to purchase and ship an approved building-material package. The Nunavut Housing Corporation also provides ongoing guidance and support to help participants navigate construction and long-term financial management.

Mr. Speaker, four households participating in our first cohort received their building materials through this year's sealift. These families are now one step closer to building their own homes.

Getting materials is only part of the challenge. Families also need financing during construction. Conventional lenders often approve a mortgage but withhold funds until a home is substantially complete, leaving families to pay significant construction costs before mortgage funds are released.

The modernized Interim Financing Program is designed to bridge this gap. It provides eligible participants with interest-free construction financing, repayable within 18 months from the date of mortgage approval or equivalent long-term financing. Unlike the Nunavut Homeownership Assistance Program, this interim loan must be repaid in full.

Two Nunavut Homeownership Assistance Program participants from Arviat have already received interim financing to support their projects, showing how these programs can work together.

Mr. Speaker, the updated Interim Financing Program removes interest charges and administration fees and allows more time for repayment than the previous program. These changes better reflect the shipping seasons, weather and construction timelines that families must plan around in Nunavut.

Together, these updated programs help more Nunavummiut to build their own homes, increasing Nunavut's housing supply and helping families build equity for future generations.

I encourage Nunavummiut interested in building their own home to contact the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership staff or visit our website for more information.

Quana, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 140-7(2): Participation at the Indigenous Clean Energy National Gathering

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

Mr. Speaker, last month, I attended the 2026 Indigenous Clean Energy National Gathering in Calgary, Alberta. The national forum brought together Indigenous clean energy leaders, utilities, and practitioners from across Canada and the world to share experiences in helping Indigenous leaders advance community-led clean energy projects.

For Nunavut, participating in gatherings like this is an opportunity to bring Inuit perspectives, experiences, and priorities into national conversations. Our communities face unique challenges and opportunities, and it is important that Inuit have a voice in shaping the partnerships and approaches that will influence the future of energy development.

Mr. Speaker, one of the clearest messages from the gathering was that meaningful Indigenous participation in the clean energy transition requires early partnerships, shared ownership, capacity building, and opportunities for Indigenous communities to play an active role in energy development. Strong partnerships are built on trust, collaboration, and recognition of the unique strengths each partner brings to the table. Engaging Indigenous communities early in project development allows us to help shape projects before key decisions are made.

The national gathering also celebrated the Indigenous Clean Energy's 20/20 Catalysts Program. The 20/20 Catalysts Program is an intensive six-month program designed to propel participants—known as Catalysts—to become clean energy leaders. Through

practical and applied learning, the program equips Catalysts with the tools to develop successful clean energy projects and effective partnerships.

Mr. Speaker, to date, 19 Nunavummiut have participated in the Catalysts program. They include Alex Cook, Alex Ittimangnaq, Bill Williams, Billy Kilabuk, Blaine Chislett, Cameron McDonald, Jack Hicks, Jamie Evic, Jamie Mapsalak, Jimmy Arqviq, Joel Aggark, Juanie Pudluk, Laura-Jeannie Gibbons, Maika Niego-Akavak, Marie Kunuk-Allen, Michael Ihakkaq, Nudrat Ihsan, Peter Aqqaq, and the late Sheldon Nimchuk.

Programs like this invest in local workforce development and education. Opportunities to build technical and leadership skills, while developing a better understanding of project financing and risks, helps Indigenous communities evaluate opportunities and participate as informed, confident partners.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item number 3, Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Koonoo.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 149-7(2): Resignation as Minister

Mr. Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon people of Nunavut and people of Pond Inlet.

Due to a lot of reasons, and if I tried to explain why I resigned as a minister, I would spend approximately 1,000 hours explaining myself.

What I'm really focussing on is my family and my children, who are here in Iqaluit, in Pond Inlet and I would like to focus on my family more and their home sick and so am I.

That's one of the reasons why I resigned as a minister and I really, really want to go hunting as I was a hunter before I took on this job.

It has changed my life dramatically and it's hard to provide food for your family. And there's a lot of questions that I would like to pose to the ministers, because you can't do that when you're a minister. I will support you fully and we have another three years to go and we will have one.

And I thank you all for having me in this role. So let's help each other.

I would also like thank everyone because it's my personal reason to make that change, but I will still be representing the people of Pond Inlet and my community where I can help more as a regular member and also helping them in my role as a minister.

In regards to -- because it touches food security, including myself. I will keep going. I will not change, and I'm telling the people of Pond Inlet that I will help you as much as I can; we'll support each other.

Thank you to my colleagues who fully supported me in my time, possibly in the future when I'm available, I will do it again.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My former constituency assistant in Pond Inlet, Aiden Ootoova, has resigned due to personal reasons, as well. I was able to find his successor, I'll now have a new constituency assistant. I want to let my constituents of Mittimatalik know that Raymond Arnatsiaq will now be my assistant. I know that he will work hard in his new role, I'll help him in his role, and I know he will help me too. I'm grateful as he takes on this difficult position.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member's statement. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Member's Statement 150-7(2): Inuit Scholarship Program

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage eligible students across Nunavut to consider applying for a scholarship funding opportunity through to Nasittuq Corporation, which was announced through Nasittuq Corporation's Facebook page.

> "We want to make sure this scholarship opportunity reaches as many eligible Inuit students as possible.
>
> If there's a student in your family, community or network who may be interested, please share this opportunity with them.
>
> Investing in our future, we're proud to launch the Nasittuq Inuit Scholarship Program, supporting Inuit post-secondary students as they pursue their educational goals and build the skills that will help shape the future of Inuit Nunangat.

> Scholarships are available to eligible students from Nunavut, Nunatsiavut, Nunavik, and Inuvialuit pursuing studies in engineering, technology, environmental and Indigenous fields.
>
> Application closes November 30, 2026. Recipients announced December 18, 2026."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage Nunavummiut to apply by writing an e-mail to scholarships@nasittuq.com.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 151-7(2): Seasonal Time Change

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to you all and to resident in Cambridge Bay watching our proceedings.

With my statement today I have some thanks as well as some concerns that I can pass on from constituents in Cambridge Bay to Minister Hickes. We would like to recognize Minister Hickes for him continuously bringing forward the need for the extension and paving of the Cambridge Bay runway to his federal counterparts. He has done well in this regard.

However, Mr. Speaker, I must pass on frustration as well, and that's concerning our concerns for my constituents on the seasonal time change matter. I'm still receiving numerous complaints on this, and feelings of alienation. I understand there also may still be a petition coming from my community of Cambridge Bay. Residents of Cambridge Bay and other Kitikmeot communities are still supportive of being on the time time zone as the NWT and Alberta and would like for this government to make the change as soon as possible; I, too, have this view. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 152-7(2): Inuit Sign Language Deaf Society

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to quickly highlight a recent community consultation that took place in my community of Baker Lake; it's the Inuit Sign Language in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, working in collaboration with The Canadian Deafness Research and Training Institute, the Nunavut Deaf Society recently carried out workshops in Baker Lake with deaf Inuit and their families. In an effort to preserve and revitalize Inuit Sign Language, deaf Inuit and their families joined the meetings from Arviat, Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake. These were the first Nunavut Deaf Society meetings was hosted in Baker Lake, where the group of over 20 people was warmly welcome. The events were opened with the Qulliq ceremony performed by a local community elder who expressed gratitude for the opportunities provided to local deaf Nunavummiut through participation in the workshops.

During these meetings, participants were afforded the opportunity to connect and share their life stories on video. These special life story experiences will be presented with graphic designs, enabling for the preservation and valorization of the unique cultural history experienced by deaf Inuit and their families and friends.

To orient group activities, participants watched previously documented geographically-designed life story videos, selected Inuit Sign Language learning videos and played Inuit Sign Language learning games.

Deaf persons and their families have been involved with pursuing these initiatives for over 20 years, and interest in becoming involved with the Nunavut Deaf Society and Inuit Sign Language revitalization activities is growing substantially.

Different versions of Inuit Sign Language were shared, compared and recorded during the meetings, and it is worth noting that one participant was deaf, blind, so was accompanied to interveners who used a tactile version of sign language.

All participants were eager to share and learn from one another, and everyone expressed a strong desire to become involved with future Inuit Sign Language revitalization activities if possible.

Mr. Speaker, I am almost concluded my statement. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my member's statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you colleagues. Mr. Speaker, in terms of identifying future priorities for a Nunavut deaf society, a central theme involved brainstorming new strategies for improving deaf access to healthcare and services in Nunavut.

The idea of generating E-Learning modules for healthcare staff was discussed, and vocabulary items for the creation of Inuit Sign Language healthcare posters were explored and recorded.

Ultimately, Inuit Sign Language revitalization activities will provide the basis for the development of much needed culturally appropriate interpreter training programs which will ensure equitable access to education, healthcare and justice for deaf Nunavummiut.

Deaf Inuit life stories and Inuit Sign Language videos are available from the cdrti.org website. I would like to thank Paige MacDougall, she's from the Canadian Deafness Research and Training Institute. And, also James MacDougall, he's also from the Canadian Deafness and Training Institute. And the Nunavut Deaf Society members: Johnny Ugjuk, the president; he's from Rankin Inlet. Molly Ugjuk, secretary from Rankin Inlet; and Clayton Ungungai, Inuit Cultural and Language consultant from Iqaluit and Baker Lake. He lives in both communities back and forth.

I give a huge thanks out to them as well. They have done a lot of work preparing for what needs to be done. It's a group that is needing some help and support as they too are entitled to services and whatnot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): We thank all the people who help other people. Members' Statements. I have no more names. We will proceed to Item number 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Healey Akearok.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 157-7(2): Food Security (Healey Akearok)

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer I gave to the Member for Quttiktuq regarding the Government of Nunavut’s involvement in the Competition Bureau’s review of the food supply chain. The Government of Canada announced in June 2026 that they

were launching an examination of Canada's food supply chain, including food production and processing, transportation, distribution, and retail pricing practices.

Mr. Speaker, as part of this initiative, they announced a public consultation, survey, and opportunities for members of the public to book private appointments to discuss their concerns. To help ensure Nunavummiut participated in the open call for individual feedback, the Government of Nunavut issued a public service announcement in August 2026 sharing the opportunity with the public.

Mr. Speaker, I want to assure members that this government consistently takes every opportunity to advocate for families and communities and engage our federal counterparts on Northern food security, ensuring that Nunavut's unique realities and supply chain pressures remain a priority.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item number 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item number 6, Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Kautuk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 200-7(2): The Office of the Chief Coroner

Mr. Kautuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister of Justice, and they concern the activities of the Office of the Chief Coroner of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Chief Coroner plays an important role in investigating unexpected deaths throughout our territory, provide actional safety recommendations to prevent similar deaths and conduct inquests. Annual reporting is an important means of ensuring transparency and accountability, as well as keeping Nunavummiut informed of their activities.

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister is aware, amendments to *Nunavut's Coroner's Act* came into force in 2024, introducing new annual reporting requirements for the Office of the Chief Coroner.

Mr. Speaker, during our spring sitting, the Minister indicated that the Office of the Chief Coroner's annual report for the 2025 calendar year was expected to be submitted to him in June 2026.

Can the Minister provide an update today on the status of the 2025 Office of the Chief Coroner's annual report and can he indicate when it is anticipated to be tabled in this House?

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the member's question. And his timing is impeccable, Mr. Speaker, as I'll be tabling that report tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kautuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker for the response. (interpretation ends)

Mr. Speaker, on August 21, 2026, the Office of the Chief Coroner issued a public service announcement concerning a coroner inquest.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that coroner's inquests can be particularly difficult for grieving families and communities, and I believe it is important that the appropriate support is available throughout these proceedings.

Can the Minister confirm what mental health and other support services are available to families and community members who may be affected by a coroner's inquest, particularly when these proceedings take place in the smaller communities?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for raising this issue. I think it's very important to address how important involvement with a coroner's inquest can be challenging for any individual, but particularly those that are directly involved with whatever the case is before the inquest.

Mr. Speaker, the Coroner's Office works very closely with Department of Health officials and Victim Services to make sure that supports are available in communities where there is an inquest ongoing.

Mr. Speaker, I can't emphasize enough how important it is to make sure that we support not only the victims of crime, but the families that are involved on both sides, whether it be a crime or another type of incident that has led to a coroner's inquest.

So, Mr. Speaker, I can assure the member that there is a lot of thought that gets put into making sure that there's appropriate services available for families involved and community members involved during a coroner's inquest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

On August 24, 2026, the Office of the Chief Coroner issued a public service announcement calling for applications from individuals interested in serving as community coroners throughout Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the announcement indicated that applications would be accepted until September 24, 2026, and that successful candidates would receive the necessary training to undertake their responsibilities.

Can the Minister provide an update today on how many applications were received in response to this community coroners call-out and how many have been appointed?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have the exact number of applicants that did apply. Mr. Speaker, I know that we are very underserved with community coroners. There are currently only six communities that have active coroners in them, and only three that have more than one; sorry, four with more than one.

Mr. Speaker, in an ideal circumstance, there would be at least two community coroners in every community, and that being simply for the reason that if somebody's directly involved with a case that they can't act upon, they have some backup person in place.

Mr. Speaker, I can't emphasize enough how important of a role this is in the communities. I know it's a very challenging and not always a pleasant role, but the service to the community and the care that's put in by our community coroners -- because they often know the individuals that they're investigating or addressing whatever circumstances around the deceased -- Mr. Speaker, it can be taxing yet very rewarding positions to serve the community and to make sure that families know that someone cares about their loved one in one of the worst circumstances of their lives, Mr. Speaker.

So, unfortunately, I don't have the exact numbers to provide the member today, but I will follow up with my officials and find out. I did just sign off with a number of coroners recently, and I'll have to look into the numbers for the member. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Kuliktana.

Oral Question 201-7(2): Immunization Policy

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My questions today are for the Minister of Education, and they concern the Statement that he made in the House last month concerning the government's new Directive on the Administration of Immunizations and Other Health Programs in Schools.

Mr. Speaker, I am old enough to remember when polio was a real concern in the community.

The invention of vaccines to defeat deadly diseases like polio and measles are a true miracle.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that some Canadian jurisdictions require that parents provide proof that their children have been immunized against certain communicable diseases before they can be enrolled in public school.

Can the Minister clearly explain our government's policy in this area?

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, thank you for raising this very important question regarding immunizations. As I stated in the Minister's statement last week, the working partnership with our Department of Health tries to make sure -- it does make sure that children that are in need for immunizations and other shots that are needed are up-to-date, and this is one of the big reasons and big emphasis reasons why we work very closely with our Health Department, you know, to ensure that our children are immunized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

The Minister of Health has made a number of Statements during our current sitting concerning the issue of immunization and I thank her for leading by example and getting her shots here in the Assembly Building.

Can the Minister of Education indicate approximately what percentage of students in Nunavut schools have received their recommended series of childhood vaccinations against deadly diseases like polio and measles?

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our schools would not be holding those records for whether -- what kind of immunizations. A lot of the work that our schools have done is to ensure that the parents are involved and that everybody understands what immunizations are needed. And so I don't have that level of detail in front of me, and I don't anticipate that our schools would have that information. The information for the children's health rests with the families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, although technology has improved our lives in many ways, the invention of social media has made it all too easy to spread misinformation.

The experience of the COVID-19 pandemic showed that the level of trust in science and medical expertise is not what it once was.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that leadership bodies such as District Education Authorities receive clear and accurate information about the importance of immunization.

Can the Minister describe how his department is working with District Education Authorities to ensure that they are aware of the contents of the new Directive on the Administration of Immunizations and Other Health Programs in Schools?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The District Education Authority are a key figure of the work, and I applaud the work that they do throughout our schools and throughout the communities. They are an integral part of the decision-making and ensuring that any kind of program such as the immunization program is flowed through.

With this new directive, it had strengthened -- that it needed to be strengthened and to make sure that communication flows right from the Health Department to our children

and everybody in between, which includes our District Education Authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 6. Before moving on, I would like to note Mr. Taqtu for Quttiktuq won't be here; and MLA for Aivilik, Ms. Angootealuk, won't be here; and MLA for Hudson Bay, Mr. Iqaluq, won't be here due to illness and won't be attending the meeting.

Oral Questions. Cambridge Bay MLA, Mr. Pedersen.

Oral Question 202-7(2): Devolution Agreement

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier and are on the topic of devolution. The Premier is aware of events in the Northwest Territories where expensive mine cleanups have happened. An example is the Giant Mine and now a possibility with the Ekati mine, as there seems to be uncertainty as to who would be responsible for the cleanup, either the federal government or the Government of Nunavut, or the government of the NWT, sorry, and this was due to the Devolution Agreement that was signed there.

How is this government dealing with such an issue should it arise as part of the devolution process here in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and thank you for the question. So, there's two specific things I want to mention. First off, that current sites that are contaminated and known to be impacted are excluded from the Devolution Agreement. So those sites are detailed throughout the Agreement, and they will not be coming over from the Government of Canada to Government of Nunavut.

There is a process in place where once reclaimed and cleaned up, the sites could come over and become the responsibility of the Government of Nunavut. But as of day 1, April 1, 2027, they will remain with the Government of Canada, and that's the first way we're dealing with it.

The second thing I wanted to mention is that the Government of Nunavut understands that security is a legal requirement around water licensing issued for large projects in Nunavut; and security, having companies put up specific financial amounts for insecurity is the primary, in most cases, the only resource available to protect the public from the costs of remediating an abandoned project.

And so that security aspect and how the security is calculated, that's an important area that's being worked on as we speak on the federal side.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and yeah, on the matter of the security, the reason I mentioned the I can Ekati mine is the amount of security that's been posted for that project, some people believe is sufficient and other organizations believe it is far too less so, you know, the amount could differ.

Mr. Speaker, in recent news articles, both Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association have signed an agreement on advising on the Baffinland sale. How or will the Government of Nunavut be involved in this process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) When it comes to the Baffinland court-ordered restructuring, we are closely following this. We're not involved in terms of being in an advisory role, but we are a stakeholder. We're following very closely, because we understand the jobs that Nunavummiut have at site, at Mary River, are important to our economy, the tax revenues that flow out of that operation. We want Mary River to continue operating and to succeed into the future so that those careers can continue to be available for Nunavummiut.

So it's a process that we are -- it's court-structured. We're following it closely as a stakeholder, and that's the extent of our involvement.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question for the minister is can he update us again on the number of federal employees who have agreed to be transferring over to the Government of Nunavut commencing on an April 1, 2027? Thank you.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am receiving periodic updates on this matter. The job offers are still on the table in front of

those skilled and highly-valued affected federal employees, and I would be pleased to provide an update once the period for considering those job offers has closed.

I can say that the numbers have been increasing and it's been encouraging to see those numbers increase. And, like I mentioned previously, we're hoping to see every one of those federal employees sign off and agree to come over and become part of the Government of Nunavut.

We're truly excited about our new department that will be born on April 1, and we need the skilled, dedicated staff who are currently working for our federal partners to come over and join what we hope is going to be a success story in 2027.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 203-7(2): Devolution and Oil and Gas Development (Mike)

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Premier concerning devolution and the issue of oil and gas development that he tabled here yesterday, and *Petroleum Resources Act* included.

My question to the Premier, everyday actually, our issue on devolution and the oil and gas development. (interpretation ends) As the Premier will recall, he himself asked questions on this issue back in March 2020 when he was sitting on this side.

At that time, the response that he received indicated that the devolution process would impact the ability of future governments to determine policy in this area.

As the Premier is aware, federal moratorium on offshore oil and gas drilling has been in place for approximately a decade or more.

Can the Premier confirm what his government's position is on lifting the moratorium? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question. In terms of our position on the moratorium, our position is that the moratorium is an unnecessary barrier to Nunavummiut taking an active role in decisions about Nunavut's resources.

The moratorium was a federal decision. It was a federal policy decision that was taken, with very little consideration for the addition of the Nunavut government of the day, back in 2016 when it came in. And so our position currently is that moratorium should be lifted.

Nunavut is home to rich resources, and our position is, further, that Nunavummiut should be put in a position to make the decisions around those resources, not Ottawa. Ottawa shouldn't be coming in and unilaterally making decisions about blocking things in the territory, which unfortunately is what they did in 2016. And that unfortunate decision should be undone. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Premier. The issue we are discussing is complex and differences -- (interpretation ends) between “onshore” resources and “offshore” resources in the terms of petroleum resources unto the Act.

Can the Premier clarify what legislation needs to be introduced in House of Commons and our Legislative Assembly as part of the devolution process to provide clear authority in this area? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for pointing out that this -- and I agree, this is a complex area when you're talking about the Devolution Agreement, now when you're talking about the moratorium, and then you also look at the difference between onshore and the offshore.

So our jurisdiction ends at the shore line in terms of onshore resources versus offshore. And the member has very good timing, because I am actually planning to table later today two proposed pieces of draft legislation that are specific to oil and gas. And so those are part of what is needed on our side in terms of enabling legislation for oil and gas and petroleum resources going forward.

Mr. Speaker, I did mention just the amount of resource that we have here in the territory. Our estimated potential resources in terms of natural gas is 181 trillion cubic feet. And in terms of oil, 18.25 billion barrels, with approximately 70 percent of this potential located offshore.

Mr. Speaker, I'll reiterate what I stated earlier: the decisions about these resources need to be made to be made by Nunavummiut. And going forward through devolution through

working towards an offshore accord, that's something we want to see become reality. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you Premier for your response to my question. (interpretation ends).

The information published by the territorial government indicates that, “estimates of undiscovered conventional resources range from 18 to 267 billion barrels of oil, and 180 to 1,228 trillion cubic feet of gas.”

These are significant numbers and we need to be prepared.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Premier, although I understood very well, but in regards to -- I know that Premier does not speak on behalf of Nunavut Tunngavik, but I know that he speaks with the leadership on a regular basis.

Can the Premier update the House on what discussions he has had with this issue with Nunavut Tunngavik's new President on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I've had the opportunity to participate in recent engagements with federal partners specific to the oil and gas offshore moratorium and was participating alongside folks from Nunavut Tunngavik.

Their position on specific issues is always of great interest to us, and we don't always see eye to eye on every single issue, but of course we have a great deal of respect for Nunavut Tunngavik as they are our partners in many things that we're looking to do as a government.

Following April 1, 2027, the Nunavut government will have the ability to trigger discussions on and offshore protocol with federal partners, and that's something that we're looking forward to.

As the member is aware, offshore oil and gas was not part of the devolution negotiations, and it's unfortunate; but following April 1, we'll have that ability to trigger.

And Mr. Speaker, I wanted to mention that all of the institutes of public government in terms of the Nunavut Impact Review Board, the Water Board, all the important stakeholders who help to balance development with environmental considerations, those

entities have important roles to play when it comes to development of all can kinds in Nunavut, including oil and gas.

And so I just wanted to put that on the record, because nobody I think is advocating for a free-for-all without any consideration around environmental protections. I think it's a view towards balanced development that helps our territory grow, helps us to provide better services through accessing resources that provide the government revenues. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 204-7(2): Activities of the Qulliq Energy Corporation (Kablutsiak)

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As the Minister is aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation began a project last year to assess the condition of a number of power plants in the territory, including Arviat's power plant.

As the Minister is aware, Arviat's power plant was built over a half a century ago.

During the Legislative Assembly's sitting of May 27, 2026, the Minister informed the House that the report on the Arviat assessment was expected to be completed in mid-July.

Mr. Speaker, it is now November.

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question. The Power Plant Assessment Report is currently being finalized. The site visits to all the communities that are being included in that report were just completed in the summer of 2026. So, the site visits and the assessments themselves have been completed, the report is still being finalized, and I'm

happy to share that with the House as soon as we have it in our hands. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

During yesterday's sitting of the House, my colleagues from Aivilik asked important questions about the status of renewable energy projects in the communities of Coral Harbour and Naujaat.

As the Minister is aware, Kivalliq Alternative Energy has been working on a Clean Energy Microgrid project in Arviat.

Information published by the company indicates that this is project will "integrate wind, solar and energy storage into the local grid."

Can the Minister provide an update today on the status of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's involvement with the project?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the follow-up question. And we are always excited to get questions about renewable energy, and I never imagined that I would be in this position to get so excited about power plants, but here we are. Here we are.

In terms of the update specifically related to renewable energy for Arviat, the information that I have is again through our Independent Power Producer Program at Qulliq Energy Corporation, which is the avenue through which independent power producers apply to work with Qulliq Energy Corporation to implement their projects.

And as of September 2026, the application from Arviat has been received and it's in the system, and any more than that is being led by an independent project proponent, and I can't speak for their status update, Mr. Speaker. But as far as Qulliq Energy Corporation is concerned, we've received the information. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Information published by the Qulliq Energy Corporation indicates that its assessment project for power plants will, "identify operational risks, regulatory compliance gaps, and

opportunities for life extension. The findings will inform strategic planning and prioritization for future upgrades, refurbishments, replacements, and potential hybridization with renewable energy sources. This initiative will ensure alignment with Nunavut's territorial energy objectives, enhance climate resilience, and address the evolving needs."

Can the Minister provider a clear timeline for the replacement or upgrading of Arviat's current power plant?

Speaker: Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the follow-up question. I'm happy to provide an update on the status of Arviat's power plant. As of most recently, the G3 genset unit is undergoing a major overhaul with repairs that are currently underway, and it's expected to return to service imminently, anytime now.

And Qulliq Energy Corporation is also working to install an emergency generator outside the power plant to support that reliability, and the member has asked questions about that in previous sessions.

And so the update on that tendering process was that it closed on April 15, and after two extensions, there were no bids. And so that process is still ongoing to finalize that installation of the emergency generator. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 6, Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Member Koonoo.

Oral Question 205-7(2): Income Assistance

Mr. Koonoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased that I'm able to ask questions now. My first question to my person whose next to me, minister for Family Services. The income support recipients in Nunavut and they get funding through income support. They have to report -- use the report for employment, seek report and I know that it's very hard to try and send money to the family, to our family especially to the family members when they are out as a patient. It's very difficult to provide support to the income recipients that we have compassion for them. Can the minister agree or agree to looking into making revisions to the regulations or legislation? Thank you.

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

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank my colleague for the question. I'm so happy your first question in the House is coming to me and on this very important topic.

Mr. Speaker, Family Services provides -- our Income Assistance Program supports 4,470 households. And as the member shared in his question, we have heard that the current eligibility framework can be administratively burdensome with the monthly assessments and the detailed reviews.

And so one of our current Business Plan actions for this current fiscal year is undertaking the first steps of the review process for the *Income Assistance Act*, and the related regulations.

And so we're listening and we're hearing this feedback; we're taking it into account as we plan the next steps for what those revisions to the Act and regulations might look like. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Koonoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank the minister for her response. To supplement my question in regards to the income support recipients, for those who are (indiscernible) they wait approximately two months to get their income assistance, and there's no employment available in their community. Does it actually say two months to get your first cheque, or if it's slow could you make some changes so that they can get their support earlier? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank you for the follow-up question and for highlighting that challenge. It's been noted, and I'll be discussing it with my officials.

What I can say is that our territorial and regional income assistance managers met in March of this year to discuss some of the program challenges, to share perspectives, and to help inform again these next steps going forward when it comes to revising and updating our *Income Assistance Act* and regulations.

I'm also happy to share that, you know, the review and the approach to the modernization of this legislation is ongoing. There are some things that don't require a regulatory -- what's the word I'm looking for? We can make some change to the program directives now, and so one of those initiatives that's been undertaken is just making sure that we're consistent with our service delivery across communities, and we're creating the spaces where everyone working on these core issues to bring the services to our

community members is communicating and sharing their best practices. So that's where we are at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Koonoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your response. My last question to the minister is in regards to foster parents and there was a change in the support that's provided for the foster parents. Can the minister indicate if there has been changes, because we have heard that they don't get paid for months. Are they getting paid regularly for being foster parents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question. We know regular payments, regular payment schedule is very important to our foster parents and our foster caregivers, it's important to our department, and so making sure that that system functions well is a priority for the Department of Family Services.

The standards of practice have been going through an update over the past year, and so we hope that these systems are now moving forward in a way that they're all working in unison. It's part of a bigger vision for the department where our income assistance, career development, all of those, I guess you can say the suite of programs and services that are delivered by Family Services are working well together and functioning well together, so payments are going out in a timely way across every platform within the department. And it's something we're continuing to strive to achieve and do well -- do our best for the families who are relying on these payments every month. With (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I would like to recognize the member for Tununiq, Mr. Koonoo.

Oral Question 206-7(2): Country Food for Medical Travel Patients

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated that I had questions. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health in regards to patients who come down here to Iqaluit for doctors appointments. And I've heard some people from the outlying communities and the Elders that the food that is provided does not include country food. And some who are here long have a hard time eating just store bought food. Is it possible to change the foods that are provided to the patients so that country foot is included at the newer boarding home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. The provision of Inuksiutits in all of our boarding homes is supposed to be taking place. The only limitations are availability of Inuksiutit, and certainly if medical travellers are finding that a particular boarding home isn't providing Inuksiutits, they can let us know through the Office of Patient Relations or through the medical travel team, and we can address that directly with the boarding home providers.

Having said that, I will look into whether or not Inuksiutit is being provided on a regular basis here in Iqaluit, and if not, why not, and get back to the member directly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Koonoo.

Mr. Koonoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank you for your response. I think it's a necessity, because I hear that Baffin Larga down in Ottawa is providing country food, and I had gone there earlier. Their's sewing programs and other activities that are provided in that home and I would like to see those provided. Those types of food and activities provided to the people at the boarding home here in Sailijaaqvik. I have repeatedly heard from people that they don't have any Inuit working there, and it creates a hardship and a lot of them are Elders who are unilingual. Could the minister review that contract so that there's a percentage of Inuit content in there and also provide country food and other activities? Could the minister look into this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Brewster.

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly when -- I still refer to it as "the new boarding home" in Iqaluit was being built, there was room set aside to run activities, whether they be sewing, arts and crafts, or to provide other activities to medical travellers. And we meet on a regular basis with the providers of service at the boarding home, and I'm certainly willing and very happy to bring back the concerns that you've just brought up, member, so that we can improve those services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Brian Koonoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for your response. The need for change is quite evident and there definitely needs to be -- there's a need to review the programs and so on, because better services and programs are provided in the gateway to this in Ottawa and Winnipeg and they have Inuit employed at those boarding homes. I would like to urge the minister to at least review the contract before the end of the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Janet Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank my officials in the department for just sending me a message saying that the concerns raised about the Inuksiutit and space for activities has recently been addressed, and the feedback came directly from medical travellers.

The boarding home now has a direct relationship with the vender, purchasing Inuksiutit to provide weekly Inuksiutit to travellers at the boarding home, and we're currently just organizing to design a set of standards for all boarding home contracts to ensure there's consistency with services, meals and programs.

And I can tell you that our department officials come together and meet with the boarding home officials on a regular basis, and that often there's a meeting of all of the boarding home service providers where they can share information about how they're running specific boarding homes, so that those vendors can learn from each other and so that there can be consistency as well.

And I'll just double-check with my team to make sure that that's still happening. Thank you for these questions and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Going back to the *Orders of the Day*. Item number 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, Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. I recognize the Chairperson of Legislation, Mr. Kablutsiak.

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

Committee Report 6-7(2) – Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation, and that the Bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 15 has been referred to the Committee of the Whole and will be entered to the *Orders of the Day* at the appropriate time.

Item number 13, Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 83-7(2): Proposed draft Legislations Pertaining to Devolution

Hon. John Main: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had this plan for quite some time. It's not just in response to MLA from Pangnirtung today.

I'm pleased to table two proposed pieces of draft legislation pertaining to devolution. Once the Inuktitut translations are completed, I will file with the clerk for distribution to all members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Community Services, Mr. Simailak.

Tabled Document 84-7(2): 2025 Annual Report Nunavut Fire Marshal's Office

Tabled Document 85-7(2): Northen Employee Benefits Services 2025 Pension Plan Annual Report

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table two reports: the 2025 Annual Report of the Nunavut Fire Marshal's Office, and the Northern Employee Benefits Services 2025 Pension Plan Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 86-7(2): Government of Nunavut Public Service 2026-2026 Annual Report

Hon. Annie Tattuinee: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the 2025-2026 Annual Report of the Government of Nunavut's Public Service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 87-7(2): 2025 Public Health Act Annual Report

Hon. Janet Brewster: Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to table the Minister of Health's 2025 *Public Health Act* Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 88-7(2): 2025 2026 Nunavut Housing Corporations Contracting, Procurement and Leasing Activities Report

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to table the 2025-2026 Contracting, Procurement and Leasing Activities Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 89-7(2): Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut – Foster Care in Nunavut

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I have one document to table today, which is the Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut regarding Foster Care in Nunavut. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Item number 14, Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills and Other Matters. 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, Bill 10, 11 and 12 with Mr. Pedersen in the chair.

But before the break, before we go to Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House breaks at 13:04; Committee resumes at 15:16.

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

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

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We wish to continue with the consideration of Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2027-2028*, and the proposed 2027-2028 Capital Estimate of the Department of Family Services, and the Department of Environment; and if time permits, Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Are we in agreement that 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: I would like to ask Minister Healey Akearok if you have officials you would like to have appear before you in the Committee?

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok: Thank you; yes, I do.

Chairman: Does the Committee agree to let the officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to be here to today to present the proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates for the Department of Family Services to the Committee of the Whole. Appearing with me today is Family Services Deputy Minister Jonathan Ellsworth, and Family Services Director of Corporate Services Jayko Ellsworth.

The Department of Family Services if requesting a total of $5.25 million in capital funding for 2027-2028. Minor capital funding of $2.25 million will be used to address office space improvements and replacement of old vehicles, furniture and equipment across the territory.

The department operates several Government of Nunavut owned shelters, group homes and transitional housing units to serve some of the territory's vulnerable residents.

Several of these facilities are over 20 years old and require regular maintenance and repair. A total of $1.5 million will go towards dedicated ongoing Lifecycle repairs to maintain these assets.

The remaining $1.5 will be used to boost capital projects initiated by local social wellness focused non-profit organizations working to address core operational gaps.

Non-profit organizations have faced challenges in finding office and programming space, as well as staff housing to support recruitment and retention.

Contribution agreements would complement their efforts to address these challenges, to help with building purchases, improvements and other capital needs.

Non-profit organizations would be eligible to apply for funding if their work aligns with the Department of Family Services' mandate, including food security, life skills training, healing and wellbeing, family safety and homelessness.

Maximum funding thresholds would be established for startup, growing and established not-for-profits.

It's critically important to invest in non-profit organizations, because they make immense contributions to the health and wellbeing of communities and are essential partners in addressing the upstream challenges we face. Non-profit organizations also provide fundamental frontline services for families.

The Department of Family Services is committed to strengthening the delivery of quality services to Nunavummiut. This capital request is critical for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of program service delivery in communities across Nunavut. It aligns with our priorities to strengthen family wellness and community capacity.

I look forward to your ongoing support as we work to better serve communities across the territory. I welcome any questions or comments that members may have as we proceed.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Porter (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ms. Healey Akearok and your officials, please feel welcome. (interpretation ends)

I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness on its review of the proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates of the Department of Family Services. The department’s proposed capital budget for the 2027-2028 fiscal year is $5.25 million. This represents an increase of 50% over its 2026-2027 capital estimates. This change is attributable to an increase in the department’s annual capital budget for minor capital projects and the addition of a new budget for ongoing lifecycle improvements to department-owned shelters, group homes and transitional housing units.

The department’s Not-for-Profit Capital Fund first received funding during the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Schedule A-15 of the department’s *Grants and Contributions Policy* provides that the purpose of the fund is to “support capital projects initiated by local social wellness focused Non-Profit Organizations working to address core operational gaps.” The policy also provides that the program “will not exceed the term of the

Makimaniq Plan." Section 11 of the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act* requires the Minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on her department's activities in relation to the statute and the implementation of the Makimaniq Plan. The 2023-2024 annual report was tabled on February 25, 2025. Members continue to encourage the Minister to continue to include detailed information on her department's expenditures under its Not-for-Profit Capital Fund in future annual reports tabled under the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act*.

Members note that the department also makes funding available through its operations and maintenance budget to support such infrastructure-related initiatives as domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters and wellness hubs. For example, the department announced in January of 2025 that it would provide "grants up to $50,000 to non-profit societies, Hunters and Trappers Organizations, municipalities and businesses for materials, labour and costs associated with building Ikur'raq Cabins." The department's 2023-2024 annual report under the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act* indicated that: "The Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction's Makimaniq Plan calls for strengthened support for community well-being and the establishment of community wellness hubs in every community. In partnership with the [former] Department of Community and Government Services and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Department of Family Services undertook community visits to Arctic Bay, Kinngait, Baker Lake and Kugluktuk to understand each community's vision of what spaces they would like to see in a wellness hub." Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of these and related initiatives.
During its winter 2024 sitting, the Legislative Assembly approved $450,000 in supplementary capital funding for the acquisition and implementation of the department's new Case Management System. Given the importance of this system in addressing concerns raised by the Auditor General of Canada in relation to child and family services in Nunavut, Members encourage the Minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly on the status of implementing the new system. Mr. Chair, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates of the Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Porter. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Mr. Kuliktana, go ahead.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Chair. I just want to know a clarification in regards to the Wellness Hub. I just want to know what are the details of this initiative? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Healey Akearok, go ahead.

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

identified, were identified as part of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction Consultations, and the status of that initiative is that factfinding work was undertaken with four communities identified: Kinngait, Arctic Bay, Baker Lake and Kugluktuk.

And so that initial assessment has been completed, and the Wellness Hubs are in the queue you might say, in the queue for the Capital Planning process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Chair. So my understanding of the Wellness Hub is more for the Capital Planning process? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Ms. Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the follow-up question. Yes, the Wellness Hubs are in the queue, along with many other capital project needs that have been identified across multiple departments and in the queue for that Capital Planning process.

In the meantime, I'm happy to add, Mr. Chair, that I've continued to raise the need for these Wellness Hubs and the opportunities for partnership with other entities, with other organizations, who are also interested in seeing these initiatives come to fruition -- these buildings come to fruition.

The potential for a Wellness Hub to provide space for a number of different training opportunities, education opportunities, safe community spaces for programming and so on. They are appealing to many different organizations and groups, and so our conversations continue in terms of developing the relationships with other partners that will help bring them to fruition. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. I don't have any other names for general comments. So we'll now proceed to a page-by-page review of the Capital Estimates starting on page D-3. Family Services, Branch, Corporate Management Capital Estimates for 2027-2028 $5,250,000. Do members have any questions? Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Chair. Your department's 2026-2027 capital estimates included $2 million for minor capital projects. As of today, what is the status of the projects funded through this budget? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Minister Healey Akearok, go ahead.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, apologies. The status currently for the minor capital is many of our projects are underway. The funds have been committed in terms of the vehicle purchases and so on. All of the funds have been forecasted to be spent. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Chair. Your department's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include $2.25 million for minor capital projects. What projects are planned for the upcoming 2027-2028 fiscal year? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Minister Healey Akearok.

Ms. Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. This budget item is used to in part replace our aging fleet of vehicles that are used in every community. The vehicles are necessary for providing transport to families and children and youth in the care of the department. The minor capital is also used for office furniture and improvements.

We're continuing to upgrade our security and our facilities as well, and so the minor capital is used for small projects to improve the state of our facilities, as well as our vehicle fleet. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. Go ahead, Mr. Kablutsiak.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Chair, and I thank the Minister for the response. My next question: Your department's 2026-2027 capital estimates included $1.5 million for its Not-For-Profit Capital Fund. As of today, how much of the funding has been spent? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Minister Healey Akearok, go ahead.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the member for the question. To date, all of the Not-For-Profit Capital Funding has been spent. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Next on my list, Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Chair. What proposals have been approved to date during the current 2026-2027 fiscal year and what proposals have not been approved? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok: Mr. Chair, if I could just ask for a clarification for proposals for, is that for the Not-For-Profit capital? If you can please confirm. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kuliktana: Yes, it is for Not-For-Profit. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that clarification. To provide that operational update, I through you would like to ask Deputy Ellsworth to provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Deputy Minister Ellsworth, go ahead.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and good afternoon members. As I understand it, Mr. Chair, we've received proposals and have funded initiatives in Sanikiluaq for a renovation of an old municipality building that will be used for community programs and services.

In addition, Mr. Chair, we funded the Pirurvik Preschool in Pond Inlet for an installation of a modular dome-based infrastructure.

In addition, Mr. Chair, we funded the Hamlet of Pangnirtung to renovate their building to turn into a community soup kitchen and food security and learning space.

Mr. Chair, in addition, we funded the Hamlet of Kugaaruk to renovate the Business Development Centre to become a multiuse building.

Mr. Chair, in addition, we funded in Iqaluit Tasiuqtigiit, Hand in Hand, to assist in renovating a building that will be used as a cultural and community workshop.

In addition, in Iqaluit we funded the Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre for the purposes of hiring a project manager and architectural fees; it's the capital planning fees. In addition, Mr. Chair, again, the Qajuqturvik Institute for a cultural workshop and land camp facility.

In Clyde River we funded Ilisaqsivik for repairs and improvement to plumbing for their research centre, and to purchase a new truck and fridge and freezer.

We also funded, Mr. Chair, Niqsiq out of Igloolik for land preparation and land lease for staff units.

And finally, Mr. Chair, in 2026-2027 we funded Alianait Entertainment Group to renovate, and leasehold improvements to run a year-round Inuktitut emerging programming for youth in Iqaluit, while providing a safe, welcoming and culturally grounded environment.

Mr. Chair, to the second part of the question, we received several other proposals totalling, if I'm not mistaken, around 8 or $9 million, the details of which I don't have before me to share with the committee, but there is a significant need and usage of the Not-For-Profit Fund. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ellsworth, for giving that detail. Mr. Kuliktana, go ahead.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for the response. Your department's 2027-2024 Annual Report on Poverty Reduction was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on February 25, 2025. The report indicated that the Makimaniq Plan, "calls for strengthening support for community wellbeing and establishment of community wellness hubs in every community. In partnership with CGS and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Department of Family Services undertook community visits to Arctic Bay, Kinngait, Baker Lake and Kugluktuk to understand each community's vision of what spaces they would like to see in a wellness hub."

As of today, what is the status of establishing new community wellness hubs in these communities? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for the question. We acknowledge and understand the importance of community wellness hubs, particularly in the communities that have been a part of these discussions to date.

In line with the advice provided by our colleagues in the other departments, we are looking at a phased approach to the community wellness hubs, and so moving one at a time through planning and design phases to improve the trajectory of how those wellness hubs could potentially unfold. And so that's the state of that project at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Any more questions from members? I'll add in one question here. Your department's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include $1.5

million in funding for a new, "Ongoing Lifecycle" budget. What projects have been identified for the 2027-2028 fiscal year? Go ahead, Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank you for that question. So the Ongoing Lifecycle Fund is meant to be used to get ahead in identifying any issues that may arise in our facilities and to prevent -- the intention is to prevent later emergency supplementary appropriations for major issues, such as roof replacement and fuel tank issues and so on.

So right now for 2027-2028, the projects will be prioritized through a process with our colleagues at T.I.N. Real Property, I believe. And if you allow, Mr. Chair, Deputy Ellsworth would be able to speak more to that process.

I can say to the Committee that the goal of that Ongoing Lifecycle Fund is to again prevent the larger costs associated with emergency or crisis intervention in our facilities when problems are left undressed for longer periods of time and they require more intervention later on. So we're trying to get ahead with the assessments of our facilities and identifying issues at an earlier stage through this fund but more detail could be provided by Deputy Ellsworth if you'll allow, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Deputy Minister Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And to supplement the Hon. Minister's response, I would like to share with the Committee that the Lifecycle is distinct from minor capital. It's largely for building systems, structural components and GN-owned DFS, Department of Family Services program facilities, including roofing, fuel systems, heating, ventilation, water, sewage systems, fire, life safety systems, building envelope, electrical, structural and accessibility work, Mr. Chair.

There's evidence to support the establishment of this Lifecycle Funding. For example, Mr. Chair, in 2025-2026 there were three emergency supplementary appropriations required in that year to respond to emerging issues that were identified through the course of the fiscal period, like the Rankin Inlet Adult Group Home. The fuel tank replacement and generator valve for that project alone was $1.1 million, and that was following an Environment and Climate Change Canada Compliance issue, among other projects as well.

And so, Mr. Chair, major systems and structural failures are different in scale and nature from routine operational assets needs such as is contemplated by the minor capital fund request, and a dedicated -- it protects the minor capital from being consumed by foreseeable building failures.

We don't anticipate that this will eliminate emergencies, but what it does, Mr. Chair, is it creates a planned baseline to reduce the frequency and cost of emergency failures. Actual priorities will still respond to conditions and safety findings, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ellsworth. Mr. Qammaniq, did you have a question? No? Okay. You do? Okay, go ahead, Mr. Qammaniq.

Mr. Qammaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. (interpretation ends) On October 13, 2023, the Minister of Community and Government Services sent correspondence to all Members of the Legislative Assembly which indicated that one of the capital projects entering the planning phase was an "Iqaluit Girls Group Home."

As of today, what is the status of this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qammaniq. Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. It pre-dates my involvement with this file, and so I would like to ask my deputy through you, Mr. Chair, to respond to the question. *Qujannamiik*.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Deputy Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for that question. Developing transitional homes for youth across the territory is an important objective of the Department of Family Services.

With respect to the reference you made to the letter in 2023, it's my understanding that a building condition assessment was completed on that asset in August of 2024, and it found the structure to be generally sound but in need of renovations, including safety system upgrades and insulation repairs.

We're currently exploring options to pursue Building 5344, Youth Services and Transitional Housing, in Iqaluit. At the present time, Mr. Chair, Uquutaq Society currently uses the asset as a low barrier shelter.

Members may be aware that Uquutaq is building a new low barrier shelter, and I understand that they will occupy that shelter beginning in late 2026.

We're moving into the design phase for Building 534 to be used for a youth services and transitional housing, Mr. Chair, and that is the current status of that letter. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ellsworth. I don't have any other names on my list for this. Do members agree with the Department of Family Services' total capital expenditures of $5,250,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree we have concluded with the Department of Family Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Brief closing comments, Minister Healey Akearok.

Hon. Gwen Healey Akearok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) and I just would like the thank the Committee for their attention and for their questions.

The Department of Family Services are working hard on the frontline to provide services to children and youth and families, and so I just want to thank our frontline workers while I have the opportunity to do so.

I also would like to thank my officials who have joined me here today, who do an exceptional job in the department and in providing information that's necessary for these decisions. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Healey Akearok. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials. And at this time we'll take a 10-minute break and get ready for the Department of Environment which is coming up next. Thank you.

>>Committee breaks at 16:04; and re-convenes at 16:16.

Chairman: Good afternoon again and welcome back. We're now dealing with the Department of Environment. I would like to ask Acting Minister Lyall, do you have officials that you would like to have appear before the Committee?

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

Chairman: Thank you. Does the Committee agree to let the Minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With me today I have our Deputy Minister, Michele LeBlanc-Havard, as well as Niki Nweze, our Director of Corporate Services.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present the Department of Environment's Capital Plan for the 2027-2028 fiscal year.

For this fiscal period, the Department of Environment is proposing a capital budget of $2.65 million. This expenditure will permit the department to concentrate on two program areas:

- Wildlife Management and,
- Parks and Special Places.

The Wildlife Operations and Wildlife Research Divisions has a combined annual capital budget of $750,000 to support renovations and maintenance of wildlife offices across Nunavut. These funds are intended to address priority repairs and unforeseen needs that may arise throughout the fiscal year. The Department of Environment is currently working with Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut and our staff in communities to identify pressing repair and maintenance requirements. Projects will be prioritized based on operational needs, urgency, and available funding.

The Wildlife Operations and Research Divisions will also invest a combined $770,000 to replace aging mobile equipment. To support research and wildlife management activities in the Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk regions, Wildlife Research will purchase replacement snowmobiles in Arviat as well as a snowmobile and ATV in Pond Inlet.

The remaining $1.13 million of the capital budget is allocated to Parks and Special Places to support upgrades and maintenance across Nunavut's territorial parks and campgrounds. A key project for this fiscal year is infrastructure development at Agguttinni Territorial Park, north of Clyde River. While the project experienced some delays due to increased cost of construction materials, it moved forward through our partnership with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) to develop shared facility space. Under this partnership, QIA and Nunavut Parks are sharing the cost of the facility, which allows both partners to address their respective infrastructure needs in the community. Construction was successfully completed in August 2026.

We will continue monitoring and maintaining infrastructure in all of Nunavut's territorial parks and campgrounds while ensuring that all work in our territorial parks is done following the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's Capital Plan remains modest and focused on areas that enable our department to serve the needs and priorities of Nunavummiut better.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates of the Department of Environment.

The department's proposed capital budget for the 2027-2028 fiscal year is $2.65 million. This is unchanged from the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The department's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimates included $3.6 million in funding for the Arctic Bay Wildlife Office replacement project. However, this amount was not approved the Legislative Assembly. During its 2026 sitting, the Legislative Assembly approved a $1.399 capital carryover for the Taloyoak Wildlife Office Renovation Project. Members look forward to the department clarifying its long-term plans for the replacement of wildlife offices, including the potential use of modular designs to reduce costs.

On September 10, 2019, the federal and territorial governments announced $4.7 million in federal funding under the Canada Nature Fund to support the establishment of a new territorial park near the community of Clyde River. During the Legislative Assembly's fall 2022 sitting, the House was informed that the department was working with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association to "finalize a Memorandum of Understanding" concerning the construction of a shared facility in the park. (interpretation ends) Information provided by the department indicates that the MOU "was approved in December 2023." (interpretation) Members continue to encourage the Minister to table a copy of the final Memorandum of Understanding in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

The department's 2025-2026 capital estimates included one-time funding of $550,000 for the acquisition of a backhoe and snowblower for the Iqaluit Kuunga/Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park. (interpretation ends) The stated purpose of this acquisition was to "provide more reliable year-round access to the park." Members continue to encourage the department to consider the feasibility of similar acquisitions for other territorial parks.

(interpretation) Members continue to encourage the Minister to begin the practice of tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly which details the department's activities, expenditures and initiatives in relation to Nunavut's territorial parks system, in

addition to containing information concerning such measures as the annual number of visitors to our parks. (interpretation ends) This type of reporting would be of benefit to all Members in evaluating the impact of the parks program and related capital expenditures. Members also recommend that the department's annual reporting provide detailed information concerning its usage of terrestrial and marine mobile equipment and other capital assets.

(interpretation) That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates of the Department of Environment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mike. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Seeing none. We'll now review the Department of Environment, Program Management Branch. Do members have any questions? Mr. Kablutsiak, go ahead.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Chair. (interpretation) On page 6 (interpretation ends) your department's proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates include $750,000 in funding for wildlife office renovations. Which wildlife offices and other facilities are planned to be renovated during the 2027-2028 fiscal year? Thank you, Chair.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the member for the question. Currently right now there are a number of our wildlife offices that require significant repairs, and the amount allocated into the repair program we do recognize is insufficient to complete the repairs.

So year over year in working with our community offices, this is assessed and that priority is list comes -- is addressed as the year goes on. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Chair, and I thank the Acting Minister for the response. Your department's 2025-2026 capital estimates included $3.6 million in proposed funding for the Arctic Bay Wildlife Office Replacement Project. This funding was not approved by the Legislative Assembly. A $459,000 capital carryover for this project was approved by the Legislative Assembly during its winter 2025 sitting. As of today, what is the status of this project? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Acting Minister Lyall, go ahead.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. As we -- I don't have my document. See, I should go back to paper.

As was noted in the Standing Committee's Opening Comments, that initial request to replace the Arctic Bay Wildlife Office was rejected at the time.

Currently right now we do not have a capital carryover for that project. The department obtained a class 'A' estimate that approximately 4.5 million was needed and awaiting a new construction estimate from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut.

So we're continuously assessing on how to effectively and economically -- how we're able to replace our wildlife offices in the communities that do need replacement.

This is again another struggle with working within a budget where we need to prioritize which communities were coming in and looking at for that replacement. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Acting Minister Lyall. Mr. Kablutsiak, go ahead.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Chair. Could you elaborate a bit more when you said "we do not have"? Because part of my question said a $459,000 capital carryover for this project was approved by the Legislative Assembly during its winter 2025 sitting. So as of today, what is the status of this project? Thank you, Chair.

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

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the member for clarifying that question. If it's okay with you, Mr. Chair, if our Deputy Minister of Environment, Ms. LeBlanc-Havard, can answer that question.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead, Ms. Leblanc-Havard.

Ms. Leblanc-Havard: The member indicated there was 495,000 carried over for this project. My awareness is that that 459,000 would be used to explore alternate methods of construction or alternate solutions. But we would have to get back to the member to confirm the amount and the exact carryover. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for the question.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. LeBlanc-Havard. Mr. Kablutsiak, go ahead.

Mr. Kablutsiak: Thank you, Chair. This will be my last question. Your department has previously indicated that wildlife office replacement projects in Arviat, Baker Lake and Kinngait are “requested for planning studies.” What is the estimated cost to construct a new wildlife office? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kablutsiak. Go ahead, Acting Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. Currently right now for buildings in the Kivalliq, for the offices in Arviat, it's not seen as an office for immediate replacement. So that target would be set for a later date.

Currently right now we don't have estimates for the construction of new wildlife offices within the communities, as those are done on a case-by-case basis, and taking in the topography and cost of construction within that community, while also balancing the increased costs of materials.

So that's not something that we could provide when we aren't currently looking at replacing those offices immediately. That would be something that we would be able to return to the Committee with in following years. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Acting Minister. Next on my list is Mr. Kuliktana. Go ahead.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Chair. During its spring 2026 sitting, the Legislative Assembly approved a $1.399 million capital carryover for the Taloyoak Wildlife Office Renovation Project. Your department’s capital substantiation sheet indicates that “the cost to renovate the Taloyoak Wildlife Office has increased to $5.0 million, which would take over six years of the renovations' budget to fund completely.”.

As of today, what is the estimated remaining cost to complete this project? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Acting Minister Lyall, go ahead.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. A very preliminary estimate for the cost of constructing a new building within the community of Taloyoak would be 5.5 million. And that, again, is a very preliminary estimate, and it would most likely be well above that amount. And we don't currently have that capital and don't have a plan in front of the Committee today to obtain that amount of capital. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Acting Minister Lyall. Mr. Kuliktana.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Chair. Your department's 2026-2027 capital estimates included $750,000 for wildlife office renovations. As of today, how much of this funding has been spent? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Acting Minister Lyall, go ahead.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair and thank you to the member for that question. Because we are continuously planning and assessing the needs and conditions of our wildlife offices across all 25 communities, right now for that budgeted amount we have spent roughly 100,000. And again, a lot of work goes into planning with our local offices in every community and assessing the needs of our offices across Nunavut, while also taking into consideration the budget and what we're able to do with that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Acting Minister Lyall. Mr. Kuliktana, go ahead.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Chair. I just had one more question with regard to this. Which wildlife offices are currently being renovated with this funding? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Acting Minister Lyall, go ahead.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Currently right now we're not renovating any offices in particular. We're looking into the assessment of those offices.

If it's okay with you, Mr. Chair, if I could hand over this question to Nikki, our Director of Corporate Services at the Department of Environment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead, Ms. Nweze.

Ms. Nweze: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have any particular wildlife office we are renovating at the moment. We said 750,000 for all wildlife offices in Nunavut, and for any matters that would come up during the year, because 750 cannot fully renovate any office at this point.

So any emergency that comes up, change oil tank or stuff like that, we take the money from there to pay for the expenses.

At the moment we only spent less than 100,000 in the budget, and we are continuing to explore how to spend it on the other offices that needs renovation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nweze. Mr. Kuliktana, go ahead.

Mr. Kuliktana: Thank you, Chair. This will be my last question. What are the obstacles of achieving this goal? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kuliktana. Acting Minister Lyall, go ahead.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the member for that question. Our main obstacle in having the ability of carrying out the necessary renovations across our wildlife offices in our communities is having the funds to be able to do so.

Currently right now within the department there is a high need to prioritize where we're spending those dollars, because of the limited funding available to do so. And again, it's taking into consideration that we have offices in every single Nunavut community, and this budget is meant to meet the needs of all those offices.

So going forward, I think it will be an important practice for us in the department to be able to assess how we can address those needs and have the ability to construct new replacements within the communities where there is currently a need to replace these facilities. So our obstacle is having the funds to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Acting Minister Lyall. Questions from members? Mr. Kautuk, go ahead.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Chair. The Legislative Assembly approved a $2.835 million capital carryover for the Agguttinni Territorial Park Development Project during its spring 2026 sitting. As of today, what is the status of this project? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kautuk. Acting Minister Lyall.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. We have spent a large amount of that funding that was carried forward. In addition to that, the construction of seven of the 11 shelters have now completed. And again, that was through an agreement with the Department of Family Services and the Poverty Reduction Program for the assembly of these shelters within the park, as well as involvement from the Clyde River HTO.

The building for the park, construction has completed, and that Memorandum of Understanding, as stated earlier, has been signed between the Department of Environment and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Acting Minister Lyall. Mr. Kautuk.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Minister. During the Legislative Assembly's winter 2026 sitting, you stated that the Government of Nunavut had "approved a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Environment, Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut, and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association that outlines all parties' relationship in the construction and shared use of a building in Clyde River."

Will you commit to providing a copy of the memorandum of understanding to the standing committee? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kautuk. Acting Minister Lyall, go ahead.

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for that question. I would not have the ability to commit to sharing that MOU. Again, this is an agreement between multiple parties, where at the Department of Environment we would not have the sole authority to share that agreement.

What we can do is look into the possibility of that with our partners, but that is not something that I can guarantee would be made available publicly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Acting Minister Lyall. Mr. Kautuk, go ahead.

Mr. Kautuk: Thank you, Chair. This will be my last question. During the Legislative Assembly's consideration of your department's 2026-2027 capital estimates, MLAs recommended that your department begin the practice of preparing an annual report to the Legislative Assembly on its expenditures and activities related to Nunavut's territorial parks system.

When will the first annual report be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kautuk. Acting Minister Lyall?

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the member for the question. If it's okay with the Chair, if our Deputy Minister LeBlanc-Havard can answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead, Deputy Minister.

Ms. Leblanc-Havard: *Qujannamiik*. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for the question. My understanding is that right now we have no obligation to table an annual report. However, with limited resources and limited capacity, we've been working to improve our awareness about the department and how we communicate that with the territory, with Nunavummiut.

We've envisioned a state of the environment report that would be shared publicly, but it's really in its beginning stages. Part of that would of course include all the sections in the Department of Environment. This is something that we're working towards, but at this time I cannot make a commitment for when that would be shared or started. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. I believe that's all the questions from members on this. Do members agree with the Department of Environment total capital expenditures of $2,650,000?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Any closing comments, Acting Minister Lyall?

Hon. Cecile Lyall: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the Committee members for your questions. I think it's really important to acknowledge the hard work that happens behind the scenes in our office here at the Department of Environment, and across Nunavut. In our Parks offices and local wildlife offices, there are a lot of individuals looking to ensure that we're facing the environmental challenges and making the decisions necessary to ensure that we're able to provide these programs and opportunities to Nunavummiut. And again, thank you for your patience with me in answering questions. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials. And members, we will now take a brief recess to prepare for the appearance of the Nunavut Arctic College. I would ask members to remain in their seats. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you Minister Akeeagok. Please proceed with your Opening Comments.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to present Nunavut Arctic College's draft 2027-2028 Capital Estimates. The College is requesting $4.24 million for the upcoming fiscal year, to be divided as follows:

- $500,000 for Minor Capital
- $940,000 for Migration to Fusion Cloud
- $2.5 million for Ongoing Lifecycle
- $300,000 for Information Technology Infrastructure

Minor Capital funds support the College's daily operations, including vehicles, furniture, fixtures, and equipment. In 2027-2028, these funds will support emergency repairs and maintenance of Community Learning Centers across the territory, including movable

assets, fuel tank replacement, and fuel spill remediation. This fiscal year's plans include vehicles and equipment for Piqqusilirivik, the Environmental Technology Program, the Nunavut Research Institute, and also for Nunatta Campus.

Nunavut Arctic College, like the Government of Nunavut, is migrating Finance (Operations and Maintenance) and Human Resources to Oracle Fusion Cloud. The College began this process after the core government departments deployed this enterprise resource planning system, to make sure that all of the plans run well. The College has dedicated $940,000 to support College-specific design and implementation.

The college's largest capital request is for Ongoing Lifecycle funding, that supports planned repairs and renovations for its existing facilities.

Under this budget, the College will repair or replace fuel tanks in the Qikiqtaaluk and Kivalliq regions. Supported sites include Kivalliq Hall and the Sanatuliqsarvik Trades Training Center in Rankin Inlet; the Whale Cove Community Learning Center; the Baker Lake Community Learning Center; and, in Iqaluit, the Nunatta Campus and student residence. The remaining funds from this budget will be used to install CCTV and Intrusion Alarms in community learning centers across the territory. The College can confirm that 12 Community Learning Centers require these supports.

As is operational practice, the College works collaboratively with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut to confirm operational projects as they arise, and to understand the College needs in the communities.

Nunavut Arctic College continues to expand its use of information technology in program delivery each year. The proposed budget of $300,000 will replace aging assets and support ongoing efforts to maintain Nunavut Arctic College's network infrastructure and technology hardware.

The College can confirm that its Information Technology division is also supported by third-party funding.

This concludes Nunavut Arctic College's proposed capital estimates for 2027–2028. I would be pleased to answer any questions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Just for the benefit of the members and for the public that may be watching our proceedings today, due to the time we're at right now, today we'll just be listening to the Opening Comments from the department which we just heard now and then from the Committee Chair, and then we'll proceed with questions during tomorrow's Committee of the Whole.

Does the Chair of the Standing Committee have Opening Comments? Go ahead. Please proceed, Mr. Mike.

Mr. Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates of Nunavut Arctic College.

(interpretation) The college's proposed capital budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is at $4.24 million, which represents an 84.3% increase over the 2026-2027 capital estimates. This change is attributable to an increase in the college's annual capital budget for ongoing lifecycle improvements and the addition of a new project to migrate the college's financial management system to the government's "Fusion Cloud" Enterprise Resource Planning system. Members continue to encourage the college to include detailed information on its capital expenditures in its statutorily-required annual reports. The Arctic College's 2023-2024 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 19, 2026. Its 2024-2025 along with 2025-2026 annual reports have not yet been tabled.

Nunavut Arctic College's recent business plans have indicated that one of its priorities has been to "develop a plan for Learning Centres upgrades and replacement." (interpretation ends) The documentation also indicates that Nunavut Arctic College "continues to work through the Government of Nunavut capital process to support upgrades to the College's physical assets, through its 'ongoing lifecycle' budget request. On November 5, 2020, the Minister responsible for the Arctic College tabled a *Preliminary Report: Community Learning Centres by Region* in the Legislative Assembly. This report provided a comprehensive description of the condition of facilities. Members note that a number of community learning centres were constructed decades ago. Members continue to encourage the Minister to table an updated report in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

(interpretation) Members continue to recognize the importance of the Arctic College working with industry partners to develop and proceed with infrastructure opportunities for delivering heavy equipment, mines and trades training in communities outside of the regional centres. (interpretation ends) During the Legislative Assembly's sitting of March 5, 2024, the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College stated that "the mine training centre is the focus to build phase 2 of the trade school in Rankin Inlet and the college continues to work with the Department of Community and Government Services for this important mine training centre that will be in development in the coming years … there will be opportunities for other communities outside of Rankin Inlet that will need to be implemented by the government once we identify more financial support. That comes with finding instructors for the Mine Training Strategy." Members continue to encourage the Minister to provide regular updates on the status of the college's work in this area.

Information provided by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure in February of 2026 indicated that an “Inuit Language and Culture Building” for Nunavut Arctic College was being “proposed for approval into the planning stage for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.” (interpretation) Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this project. That concludes my opening remarks on the proposed 2027-2028 capital estimates of the Nunavut Arctic College. The minister indicated that he can entertain questions, now we can give him those questions. Thank you.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Chairman: That concludes our proceeding of this part of the Committee of the Whole meeting. I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witness out of the witness box. Thank you.

And as Chair, I move a motion to report progress. 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. The motion is carried and I'll now rise to report progress.

>> Committee concludes; and House re-convenes at 17:10

Speaker (interpretation): Be seated. Our *Orders of the Day*, Item 20. Mr. Pedersen, Committee's Report?

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The 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 (interpretation): Thank you. We have a motion. Seconder? Mr. Attagutaluk. Those in favour of the motion? Opposed? Carried. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Item 22, *Orders of the Day*. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Clerk: Just a reminder to members, there's a meeting of the Management Services Board at 9 a.m. in the Taqtu boardroom, followed by the meeting of the full caucus at 10 a.m. in the Nanuq boardroom.

Orders of the Day for Wednesday, November 4:

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. As we adjourn for today, I would like to comment concerning the leadership forum. The Nunavut Leadership Forum will convene at 9 o'clock in the morning on Thursday, November 5, 2026 to select a new member of the Executive Council. The proceedings will be televised and live-streamed, and I encourage all Nunavummiut to join us.

This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 on Wednesday, November 4, 2026. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House concluded at 17:14.